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Sonas agus suaimhneas na Nollag le gach éinne
Roscrea People 2012

Roscrea People 2012, the 40th issue since it was founded in 1974, appears for the first time in full colour, beautifully produced here in the centre of Roscrea by our own Walsh Printers. Recognising the difficult economic times, and the retail, commercial and industrial trauma that our ancient, market town is experiencing, Walsh Printers agreed, as a contribution to the community and its ‘good news’ magazine, to help make available the colour reproduction. They, like us, are proud of the pleasing result.

For many years now this provincial firm has been printing books of the highest quality that stand fair comparison with anything printed elsewhere, at home or in foreign lands. How sad, then, to find so many publishers and institutions going abroad, some to the Far East, to have their works printed, many with public funding or State subsidies?

And how sad, too, to find that at a time when our town and its retailers need our custom that Roscrea people travel distances to other shopping areas for goods that are available at the same price and quality here in Roscrea. Shop in Roscrea if at all possible and all things being equal. Support those who have ensured by their advertising and sponsorship that we have a Roscrea People 2012.

Roscrea People of the Year 2012

The 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. Once again Bernies SuperValu are the main sponsors with associate sponsorship coming from Frank Murray Builders and others. The evening will follow the usual format: admission by voluntary donation; CCÉ concert; illustrated presentation on Roscrea; donations of books to St Cronan’s Services, Roscrea Public Library and Scoil Eoin; formal presentations of awards and citations.

The 2012 award winners are:

- **St Cronan’s Church of Ireland community** celebrating the bi-centenary of its church building.
- **Tadhg 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.

Citations

Awarded to people and institutions that have already received a People of the Year award:

- **CCÉ Ros Cré**:  
  - For its 50 years of entertainment and leadership  
  - Darragh Carey-Kennedy, All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil winner  
  - The Scoraiocht 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
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December: Roscrea People 2011 (vol 27, the 39th issue) goes on sale in the town…The end of an era is marked as the sitting Judge, Elizabeth McGrath, rises for the last time from the bench at the local court and the doors of the busy courthouse close forever. Past judges, members of the gardaí, the legal profession and reporters were all remembered; a silent protest by concerned citizens was held outside the courthouse…A very successful Roscrea Comhaltas Lyric Board is held at the Auburn Lounge…The Dean Maxwell stand is among those to prove very popular at the recent Roscrea Craft Fair… Roscrea Credit Union escorts Santa to the local schools and Roscrea fire service makes the Fire Brigade available for his journey…Roscrea Scouts and St Vincent de Paul hold a very successful food appeal…The Oasis Christian Fellowship hold a carol service in the Abbey Hall…Christmas competitions, Christmas concerts, carol singing and Christmas draws abound… Roscrea’s walking Club enjoy a night walk on Christmas Eve to Monaincha…A large group join the Annual Roscrea Hospice, St Stephen’s Day walk…

A sad day: The last court session at our historic building. The protest was in vain.

January: Roscrea Chamber of Commerce thanks businesses who have contributed towards the Christmas Tree lights, but warns funding may be needed if we want lights for Christmas 2012. Jo Jo Cunningham kindly volunteered her time to help the Chamber collect Christmas light funding…St Cronan’s Church celebrates its bicentenary this year and has produced a beautiful calendar to kick off events…Fianna Fáil Cllr. Michael Smith states that the pre-Christmas suspension of pay-for-parking was not observed properly by the council, as it was in surrounding towns…Mr Joe MacGrath, North Tipperary County Manager, announces at a Council meeting that he will be advertising for expressions of interest from community groups and organisations in relation to Roscrea Courthouse…Patsy Treacy and Brian King receive an ACCUP distinction in Credit Union studies. The Awards were presented in Belfast…Anthony Bourke, Vice Chairperson of Roscrea Hospice Fundraising Committee receives a cheque for €600 from musician Mick Murphy from the sales of his CDs – Ireland’s Ace of Clubs and Obama Comes Home to Moneygall…Racket Hall Hotel proposes to launch an exciting new Sunday market when local businesses and traders get a chance to showcase their products and services…Plans are progressing for Roscrea’s 34th Annual St Patrick’s Day Parade, again being organised by RCDC…Roscrea Musical Society has begun preparations for their show, All Shook Up, a new show – a comedy built around a number of songs made famous by Elvis Presley…Mr Joe MacGrath, Manager of North Tipperary Co. Council presents awards at the 25th People of the Year Awards evening. The following received awards, Kevin Carroll, the International…

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Award; Roscrea Tennis Club and its mentor, Emmett Arrigan; Marjorie McCorduck, President of Irish Ladies’ Golf Union; Deirdre Cahir for Roscrea Youth Project, NTLP. Citations were received by Cian Hanamy, Roscrea scouts, Seamus Doran, Dean Maxwell Centre and those involved in the production of their book *The Wisdom of Age*; Mary Arrigan, author, Brian Redmond, photographer, Tim Quinlan, Graphics, Des Walsh, printer. Bernies Supervalu were the main sponsors of the evening and Roscrea Credit Union and Frank Murray Construction were the other sponsors.

**February**: The Winter gathering of H’Artlight is held in Coláiste Phobal. This is their second gathering and forty six people turned up. It is a community Art initiative held through the support of NTLP and Coláiste Phobal. It is a free, fun gathering of people who come together and express themselves through art...Roscrea Lions Club is delighted to see its nominee for the Young Ambassador of the 21st Century win the Regional Final and get as far as the National Awards. Kalen McNamara, a Leaving Cert student at Coláiste Phobal, has an amazing track record in voluntary work. The aim of the scheme which operates throughout Europe is to encourage young people who become involved in voluntary work in their communities...Saturday story time resumes in Roscrea Library for children aged 3 – 6. Free wi-fi is now available in the library...Rumours about the potential closure of Roscrea Railway Station cause considerable anxiety among residents of the town, but conflicting reports that a new early morning service might be added to the Limerick to Ballybrophy line, has left commuters puzzled about what the future holds...Roscrea Credit Union holds its annual school quiz. Winners in the **A** category represented Clonlisk NS: Oisin Keeshan, Benedict Taaffe, Cian McLoughlin and Neil Hennessy. Winners of the **B** category represented Dromakeenan NS. The team comprised Brian Gleeson, Joe Ahearn, Owen Bergin and Ross du Berry...People of Roscrea are asked to attend a public rally as concerns mount about the future of the Dean Maxwell Home and the fact that it may lose more beds...Marjorie McCorduck is special guest at the Roscrea and District Sports Stars awards evening...Romantic Roscrea couple, Elaine and Ger Grimes win a top TV Valentine’s Day competition when Elaine enters a poem. They will be jetting off to a private villa in Kusadasi in Turkey, and will bring their daughter Lauren...Roscrea author, Mary Arrigan, has added another distinction to her highly successful career, as her latest novel, *The Rabbit Girl*, published by Frances Lincoln, UK, has been selected by the committee of...
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the U.S. Board of Books for young people, as one of the forty outstanding International Book 2012 worldwide...Members of the Roscrea Unit of the Red Cross hold a blood pressure and Blood Sugar awareness campaign in Tesco. Free checks were available throughout the day, with results available immediately...Minister Alan Kelly unveils a new Direct Rail Service in Roscrea: an early morning service will run direct to Dublin, serving Nenagh and Roscrea. It will leave Roscrea at 6.38 a.m. and arrive in Dublin at 8.25 a.m. at a daily cost of €24.50 return...Plans are currently at an advanced stage for the opening of an Outreach branch of Pieta House in Roscrea. Eighty per cent of Pieta House income comes from fundraising and the organisation is heavily reliant on volunteers and is presently seeking same...Bernies Supervalu achieves the BIM Seafood Circle Award for the third consecutive year...Roscrea Tidy Towns is embarking on a new and exciting three year programme they believe will bring the town within reach of winning the National Award in the Annual Tidy Towns Competition...

March: Hundreds are expected to support the rally calling for the reversal of the decision to close beds in the Dean Maxwell Home...Rory Delaney, 6th class in the Sacred Heart NS wins the Eason’s Spelling Bee in Cashel...George Cunningham leads a Tree Walk through the grounds of St Cronan’s RC Church to commemorate National Tree Week...Joan Murray graduates from the World Academy of Music and Dance at the University of Limerick with an MA in Community Music...Killavilla Drama Group are rehearsing for the staging of Separate Beds, by Sam Cree. The play is being directed by Roscrea’s Paul Spencer...The knitting circle continues to meet weekly at Roscrea Library...Some 2500 people attend the Public Rally to try to get the decision to reduce beds in Dean Maxwell Home overturned. Organisers were overwhelmed by the support from the townspeople. A public meeting is to take place shortly...The list of people in need of Local Authority housing in the Roscrea area is reaching crisis point according to Fine Gael Cllr, Denis Ryan...Ballaghmore Branch of Fine Gael has been relaunched...Winners in the Roscrea Community Games Art Competition are Kate Short, Niamh Cooke, Sonita Wynne Doran, Tommy Murphy, Nicola Ryan, Clodagh Fitzpatrick, Laoise Loughnane, Alby Clifford, Mia Dowling and Scott Kelly...The official inauguration of the Roscrea Unit of the Order of Malta takes place...Cistercian College students take part in the Annual Inter-Schools’ Music Competitions. Though this is only their second time competing they achieved success at the highest level taking many 1st and 2nd places...St Cronan’s NS wins first place in the St Patrick’s Day Parade. George Cunningham was guest of Honour at a very successful event. He spoke of the different nationalities coming together to celebrate the Irish National Holiday and said the new people of the town are part of the new Roscrea. Liam Shanahan was Parade Chairman...Several hundred people attend the public meeting to discuss the downgrading of the Dean Maxwell Home.
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Home. The three North Tipperary Oireachtas members received a grilling by the townspeople in the packed hall in Damer Court Hotel. The feeling of fury in the hall was palpable and our public representatives were left in no doubt as to the mood of those attending. Fr. Michael Harding, Chairman of the Rescue Committee, was very heartened by the huge attendance and appealed for continued support...A new group is set up to try and address what they see as the planning failures in Roscrea Town Centre. Peter Madden on behalf of the group has appealed to Bórd Pleanála to do all in their power to address the planning failures at the newly developed shopping complex adjacent to the Round Tower and the Black Mills...There are great celebrations in Clontarf as members of Roscrea Comhaltas win the All-Ireland Scóráchtí competition...Aisling Ni Choisdealbha presents the Irish Music programme, Geantraí, on TV4. The programme comes from the Mill House Pub in Roscrea. Aisling has been working in TV3 for the past number of years as a news reporter and weekend anchor...Traders in Roscrea have come together to offer shoppers something extra and to help the flagging economy, by having a pink balloon day. Pink Balloons will adorn premises taking part in this project and there will be special offers for customers for the weekend...The Lions Club hold their first ever egg race, when 90 crème eggs race in three heats down the escalator in the New Tesco Store...Bernie McGinn organises a Mad Hatters Tea Party in the Dragon Inn and a sponsored head shaving event in Kelly O’Rourke’s later that evening as a fundraising event for The Irish Cancer Society. These events resulted in Bernie McGinn handing over a cheque for €21,404 to the Society...Redmond Photographers hold a happy faces day for the Jack and Jill Foundation, where in return for a €25 donation participants receive a mini-portrait session and a folder portrait...Colleen Doyle of Roscrea Education Centre presents the proceeds of a face painting competition to the Roscrea branch of SPCA...Roscrea Unit of the Irish Red Cross congratulates ten of their members from Ballyskenach and the surrounding area, who have successfully completed their Cardiac First Responder Course...Roscrea Speakers’ Club continues in Racket Hall Hotel...Kickback Youth Café is running a number of Easter competitions...The Roscrea Gun Club hold a Clay shoot on Leonard’s Bog and raises €3310, which the Club presents to Roscrea Branch of the Irish Red Cross Society.

April: Hopes of locating a new cinema at the former courthouse in the town have failed as North Tipperary Co. Council turned down the approach made by the Bring a Cinema to Roscrea committee...The posters from the Roscrea Tidy Towns competition are currently exhibited at Roscrea Library...Coláiste Phobal U-16 Badminton team become All-Ireland Champions beating St Gerald’s College, Castlebar. Team members were Andrew Cullen, John McCabe, Tony O’Connor, Darragh Tomlinson and Stephen Tierney...Deputy Noel Coonan confirms representatives of the Dean Maxwell Home are to meet with Minister James O’Reilly at which time they will put forward a strong case on behalf of the Unit and the need to reverse plans to reduce beds...Roscrea Pieta House Committee organise a Darkness into Light Walk to begin at 4a.m...Lisa
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Cunningham is honoured during the 50th Roscrea Conference
youngest entrants as she is in the U-6 category. George
Deimante Karpavieinte of the Sacred Heart NS, one of the
Amanda Pedlow, are invited to Aras an Uachtaráin and meet
afternoon of the conference by the Abbot General of the
Valerie Hall and was presented to George on the Saturday
Cistercian Order, Dom Eamonn Fitzgerald. The 50th conference
hugely successful. The Bernie Colclough Shield was won by
that they held, to Eirene Griffin of CAHPA, the Co-operative for
Artists Handicapped Physically in Abidjan in the Ivory
Coast...Roscrea Tidy Towns Poster Competition, which was
hugely successful. The Bernie Colclough Shield was won by
Deimante Karpavieinte of the Sacred Heart NS, one of the
youngest entrants as she is in the U-6 category...George
Cunningham is honoured during the 50th Roscrea Conference
when a book – *A Carnival of Learning* – was written as a tribute
to him. The book was edited by Professors Peter Harbison and
Valerie Hall and was presented to George on the Saturday
afternoon of the conference by the Abbot General of the
Cistercian Order, Dom Eamonn Fitzgerald. The 50th conference
entitled *From Citeaux to Roscrea*, was an outstanding success
attended by both national and international academics. George
and Carmel Cunningham and the committee of *A Carnival of
Learning*, Dom Richard Purcell, OCSO, Professors Peter
Harbison and Valerie Hall, Jerry Cahir, Maureen Cahir and
Amanda Pedlow, are invited to Aras an Uachtaráin and meet
with President Michael D. Higgins...Angela Jupe’s Tulip Festival
is held when the Bellfield Walled Gardens are opened for the
day. The display is a wonderful sea of colour...The meeting with
Minister James O’Reilly and the Representatives of Dean
Maxwell Home may have assured the long term future of the
Home, but fell short of giving a commitment that beds would
be restored at the Unit...Roscrea Diaspora are to be targeted as
a new business investment drive aims at highlighting Roscrea
as a superb location to work and live. A partnership between
Shannon Development, North Tipperary Co. Council, and
Roscrea Chamber of Commerce unveiled details of the new
investment drive with a brochure entitled ‘Roscrea – a great
place to do business’...Deputy Lowry calls Roscrea the
forgotten Town as there is a recommendation on Minister
Shatter’s desk providing for the complete closure of the
Equality Authority Office in Roscrea...A Festival of Praise in
preparation for the Eucharistic Congress is held in Mt St Joseph
Abbey, including wonderful music and many choirs performing
under the baton of Dom Richard Purcell...Relay for Life, with the
central theme of celebrating cancer survivors, remembering those who have left us and fighting back against
the disease, is be launched in Roscrea by Most Rev Willie
Walsh, bishop emeritus of Killaloe...Spring H’Artlight is
celebrated at Coláiste Phobal, where people enjoy their
creative side.

**May:** *Àll Shook Up* proves a resounding success for Roscrea
Musical Society...Homes in Cois Carrig are evacuated as a
suspicious device is found. An army bomb disposal team found
the device to be viable and the scene was declared safe again
only after a controlled explosion rendered the device
useless...Roscrea Chamber of Commerce wishes local
craftsman Tommy Madden every success with his plan to
develop allotments for Roscrea and its neighbouring parishes.
Situated close to Inane House, Tommy has spent the winter
preparing his land for the project and has a proposal for North
Tipperary Leader. He is confident the allotments will be used in
the near future...The launch of the 2012 Tipperary Fleadh, to be
held in Roscrea, takes place in the Credit Union Offices. Tim
Maher, Chairman of the Organising Committee reminded
everyone of the importance of this fleadh, as Roscré
Comhaltas is celebrating its 50th anniversary...St Cronan’s Feast
day Walk this year has many significant highlights, including
the presence of the Eucharist Congress Bell which was flanked
by local scouts and the Civil Defence. Welcome visitors included
choir members from St Cronan’s Parish, Brackenstown (near
Swords), Co. Dublin. The walk was filmed by RTE and will be
shown on Nationwide shortly. The walk began at the recently
restored Sacred Heart convent cemetery, proceeding to the
Dean Maxwell Home, on to the Castle Gardens and finishing in
St Cronan’s Church, Church Street, the site of the saint’s last
monastery...Local author John Browne, presents a copy of his
new book *Wandering Back and Forth*, to Áine Beausang of
Roscrea Library, ahead of the official launch...Tadhg Kirby from
Roscrea is announced as Limerick/North Tipperary Carer of the
Year. The Award is presented by the Carers Association as part
of its National Carers of the Year Awards 2012. Tadhg gave up
his career and life in Dublin to move back to Roscrea and has
been providing full time care for his mother for over three
years...Leah Edwards wins the Tesco Roscrea Easter colouring
competition...Residents and day care members of the Dean
Maxwell Community Nursing Unit take part in the Bealtaine
Festival. Some of the activities include working with timber
with Pat Moloughney and learning stone sculpting skills from
Jerry Cahir...The 400 people who walked from Darkness into
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Light raised €10000 for Pieta House...Roscrea artist Jerry Cahir stages a solo exhibition at the prestigious Origin Gallery, in Harcourt St., Dublin. His exhibition is entitled *Secrets of the Soul* and will run until the middle of June...More than 500 children from Roscrea and surrounding National Schools get 'Street Smart with Tesco' when Tesco Roscrea invites the Road Safety Authority to Roscrea and work in conjunction with them to promote and encourage awareness in all aspects of road safety...At the Annual Congress of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Kathryn Browne is elected as one of two National Youth members...The first gathering of Sportlité is held in Coláiste Phobal. This is a free event open to the community and over thirty people turned up for an introduction to Zumba...George Cunningham presents fifty acorns to the Sacred Heart NS to celebrate the fifty conferences he has organised at the Cistercian Abbey in the town. To mark this and the 50th anniversary of the Sacred Heart school, George’s junior infant teacher, Mrs Kathleen O’Meara, Dom Laurence Walsh OCSO representing the monastery, Kay Carolan and Evelyn and John Butler, parents of the late Dr Aisling Butler to whom a library has been dedicated in the school, were treated to presentations from different students and classes...There has been a positive indication this week that bed numbers will be restored at the Dean Maxwell Home due to a HSE commitment to put in place seven new nursing posts across North Tipperary...An application has been lodged with North Tipperary Co. Council for the provision of a Medical Centre in Roscrea Shopping Centre...The County Fleadh hosted by Roscrea Branch of Comhaltas has been a huge success...Proinsias Loughnane, who played Chad in Roscrea Musical Society’s *All Shook Up* is nominated as Best Comedian by the Aims Awards’ Committee.

*The castle courtyard really came alive during Ros Cré Beo*

*The President of the GAA, Liam Ó Néill visits Gael Scoil an tSlighe Dhála at Ballaghmore*
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Home takes place with Bill Hanly still project manager... Three Roscrea housing estates, Rossmore, Rosslands and Moneen Court are confirmed as taken in charge by North Tipperary Co. Council. The council agreed to declare the roads in these estates to be public, and to take in charge open spaces, car parks, sewers, water mains and drains within the developments... The Summer gathering of H’Artlight is held at Coláiste Phobal. Many parents and children created art together or simply had fun... The Annual Open Air Methodist Service is to be held shortly in Gloster. Tom and Mary Alexander warmly invite everyone to come to their home, to share in the occasion, to pray and to meet friends and former students of the Salesian Sisters’ Girls’ Boarding School. Music will be provided by John Armitage and the Cloughjordan Community Choir and refreshments will be offered by the Alexanders... The Sacred Heart NS celebrates its 50th anniversary... Plans are at an advanced stage for the relocation of the Roscrea Community Childcare Service to a custom built facility at Tullaskeagh. The service operated by NTLP hopes to move in July in time to welcome the new intake of children to pre school in September. The co-ordinator of the service is Margaret Murphy... U.S. based entrepreneur, Peter Milner, who originally hails from Roscrea, the co-founder of Optivia Biotechnology based in California will be part of 120 strong group of entrepreneurs, one of the largest corporate groups to leave Ireland in such a Competition, attending the prestigious Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year Retreat taking place in Silicon Valley, California. Optivia Biotechnology is one of twenty four finalist businesses to have made it to the competitive final stages of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award Programme... St Anne’s Special School raises its fifth Green Flag, making them the first special school in the country to have been awarded all five. This final flag was for Biodiversity... Kickback Youth Café is a hive of activity. It is cigarette and alcohol free and a safe place for all young people to come. They have Gig nights, games nights, scary movie nights, Soccer tournaments, Wacky Wednesday (9 to 12 year old) during the summer... Thirty three members of the Roscrea branch of Comhaltas participate in an extravaganza of music, song and dance in the Damer House Complex beside Roscrea Castle... A Roscrea native Mrs Jamie Huntingford (nee Nixon) celebrates her 100th birthday in England.

July: Vandals destroy a descriptive plaque at the by pass monument just two days after the Tidy Towns Committee erect it... The Equality Authority which took up residence in Roscrea’s Birchgrove House in 2009 will be re-centralised to Dublin and merged with the Human Rights Commission, resulting in the Roscrea Office being closed despite the state being tied to an agreement to continue paying rent of €152000 annually, for a further seventeen years... Roscrea SPCA Dog Show is held and many dogs were on show... Kickback Café, adorned with fairy lights and candles is packed for its Gig night, which is an outstanding success... Plans to open a branch of Pieta House in Roscrea have received a major boost as NTLP has approved funding of €25000 for the project. This will provide 75% of the cost of refurbishing a building in Roscrea, which is expected can be opened in the Autumn...

At Roscrea Education Centre Colleen Doyle achieved 95% in her Leaving Certificate Applied in 2012. She also won a NTVEC Award in 2011 for Academic Excellence. Here she is pictured with the centre co-ordinator, Ester Mackey.

Ballaghrone RC Church is celebrated... Bernies Supervalu present Tidy Towns with hanging baskets for Main Street... Refurbishment work to Cois Carrig Estate is to begin. Wall foundations are due to be poured and gates are scheduled for installation... A plaque to commemorate the CBS in Roscrea is placed near the Sacred Heart Convent School memorial at St Cronan’s RC Church. The proceeds of a book Lest We Forget: A Roscrea CBS Anthology, edited by Liam Doran, is used for this...
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A GOOD FRIENDLY SERVICE
Also receiving some of the proceeds from the book, were the Abbey Hall Committee, Dean Maxwell Home, Sr Mona Maher’s Ugandan Mission Fund...The St Cronan’s Day Quiz sponsored by the Credit Union is won by Nathan Finnerty, 5th class of Scoil Eoin...Maurice Murphy is the Lions Club incoming President... A new Roscrea Community Site on Facebook, Well Kid I’m From Roscrea is started by Tommy Shanahan of Assumption Park...Cathal McNicholas presents a cheque to Mairead Ramsbottom of Pieta House, for €400, raised by the Slieve Bloom Challenge...Cllr Michael Smith has called on the Government to suspend the non-essential on-farm inspections until the extremely wet weather eases. He also says the Government needs to take a more proactive role and create more practical support for farmers who are struggling...A group of day members and residents of the Dean Maxwell Community Nursing Home participate in silk scarf painting at Shinrone...Roscrea again seems forgotten as it does not make the list for approved towns for Primary Care Centres, despite already having HSE approval and a site ready to house the facility...Roscrea gears up for a new festival at the end of August. Damer House and Roscrea Castle Complex will play host to the first Roscrea family festival in some time. The festival will be called Ros Cré Beo...A sponsored head shave is to take place to raise vital funds for CRY, the registered charity for sudden Adult Death Syndrome...The Class of 1982 of the Sacred Heart Secondary School hold their 30th reunion in Damer Court Hotel. The evening was a great success as memories were shared and old friends met...U-12 girls soccer team win the Munster Community Games title and qualify for the All-Ireland Finals to be held in Athlone.

August: Permanent TSB branch in Roscrea is one of three in Tipperary to close by the end of the year. The news was greeted with dismay by business and the general public...Roscrea needs a defibrillator and we can help if we have an old mobile phone. A local group is in the process of collecting 250 + old mobile phones which will help purchase a defibrillator. Collection points are Bernies Supervalu, AIB, BOI, Credit Union, Roscrea Golf Club...Roscrea Tidy Towns asks that people make an effort to ensure our surrounds look as well as possible as the last four weeks of adjudication have arrived...Pieta House, the suicide and self harm crisis centre is calling on Tipperary women to raise awareness of people by taking part in the mini-marathon...A race night is held in Damer Court Hotel as part of fundraising preparations for Ros Cré Beo Festival. Local traders are invited to have a stall at the upcoming festival...A €70 million wind farm is to be developed at Monaincha...There is a touch of Olympic boxing fever at Dean Maxwell Community Nursing Unit as a highly coveted Olympic jersey, signed by all six members of the Irish Boxing Team, finds its way into the unit. The jersey was presented to CAMP... Members of Roscrea Tidy Towns and people of the town are devastated to discover four of the beautiful hanging baskets on the bridge at the Valley had been pulled down and dumped in the river...Robyn Grimes, Rebecca Williams and Emma Murray receive Recital Medals from the Royal Irish Academy of Music for an outstanding piano recital performance. Their teacher is Theresa Larkin...George Cunningham gives an illustrated presentation on Monaincha and its Heritage at the Black Mills in Church Street to a large and appreciative audience. This was part of the OPWs contribution to Heritage Week. It was followed by the launch of...
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of a New Heritage Audio and Visual Trail to Monaincha produced by Aileen O’Meara and narrated and illustrated by GC. It will be available on a dedicated web site for Heritage Trails in Ireland created by the Producer, Aileen O’Meara...The treasurer of Roscrea Chamber of Commerce, Liam McGath, launches a tax booklet which will be of great interest to business and the self employed...Sword fighting, circus, concerts and céilí are to feature at the Roscrea Beo Festival...About 1000 bikers are expected to descend on Roscrea for the 18th Annual Free Spirit Motorcycle Club Rally. The gathering point is The Mill House on the Birr Road. The Roscrea based club is recognised as one of the most successful in Ireland...A most wonderful flower festival designed by Richard Haslam, with floral arrangements done by people from Roscrea and its hinterland, is held in St. Cronan’s Church called Heralding Our Heritage. Those who missed this festival missed a treat indeed...Brian King announces that consultants have been appointed to help get the Roscrea Town Enhancement Plan underway. The plan will identify a series of proposals for improving the town centre’s public realm, streets, public places and prominent buildings...Tidy Towns propose a Treeway round Roscrea when trees can have display panels with information of age, species, occasion marked ...Roscrea’s Pieta House Banner contains the signatures of all who participated in the Darkness into Light Walk earlier this year...Nuala Madigan, Education officer with Irish Peatland Conservation Council leads a Biodiversity Walk in Roscrea. It provides an opportunity to learn more about our native plants and species, flora and fauna and find out how we can ensure their survival...Michelle O’Dea OPW, gives a talk on the restoration of Damer House and Aighleann O'Shaughnessy OPW recounts work done on buildings including Roscrea Castle and the Black Mills...Darragh Carey-Kennedy wins the U-15 Rogha Ghleas title, playing a Mandola at the All-Ireland Fleadh held in Cavan...RHS, Damer Court Hotel and Ger O’Meara host a concert when a French Choir from Lyon perform a mixture of secular and sacred music and are treated to a show of Irish music, song and dance...

**September:** Ros Cré Beo Festival is deemed to have been an outstanding success, exceeding expectations...Brian King, Chairman of Roscrea Town Enhancement Plan thanks all stakeholders and members of the public who attended two days of meetings and workshops recently, that were critical in forwarding the plan. Specialist Consultants from the Paul Hogarth Co helped facilitate the day. Following further meetings George Cunningham led a walk around the town to familiarize the consultants and team with the area. Afterwards the project leader said that Roscrae had many qualities in its buildings, structure and in the

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**Pictured at the launch of “Harmonies and Grace Notes” a book to celebrate 50 years of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Ros Cré:**

Seated (L/R): Donnchadh Ó Cinnéide (Treasurer Co. Board), Éamon McDonald, Úna Ní Mhurchú, Labhrás Ó Murchú Ardstiúirthóir CCÉ, Mai Bn Uí Ciabhaigh, Mai Bn Uí Chinnéide, May Collins.

Back (L/R): George Cunningham, Pat Flanagan Ard Comhairle agus Roscra Ce, Muireann Flanagan, Dick Conroy, Noreen Brophy, Assunta Uí Chathasaigh (Secretary, Munster Council CCÉ), Nora Troy, County Board, Pat Loughman, Chairman Co. Board, Tim Maher, Chairman Roscra Ce and Pádraig Ó Dubhfaigh, Ard Comhairle CCÉ agus Midlands 103
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people who live and work in the area. The success of the plan is dependent on the collective ability of the people to harness these assets for the good of the town...A very successful Quaker Heritage Seminar is held at Fancroft Mill with talks on Quaker Heritage. Guided Mill tours, rambles through the gardens and traditional music and a cheese and wine reception were all on offer...The Council is being urged to purchase the former convent of the Sacred heart which is to be auctioned at a distressed property sale next month...Seamus Doran has written a song immortalizing Katie Taylor, called Go, Katie Go, and Carmel Minogue is the singer. It can be enjoyed on i-tunes, and by doing this you will also be supporting Crumlin’s Children’s Hospital...Roscrea Scouts attain gold standard at the National Scouting Competition, The Phoenix Challenge. This four day event really tests all skills...Kickback Youth Café holds an alcohol-free event 7 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. to celebrate Junior Cert results. Music is provided by DJ Treacy. A donation of €1 on the door goes towards the development of the café’s back garden...A week-long charity sale will take place shortly in aid of Team Hope Shoe Box Appeal and Church of Ireland fundraisers and organizers are busy collecting items for sale. Last year 594 shoe boxes from Church of Ireland were sent to needy children...There are mixed reactions to Roscrea’s Tidy Town results which increased by four. The town scored 281 points out of a possible 321. While Coláiste Phobal Transition Year students must be complimented on winning the ‘Can it’ award, and Rose Crofton, who collected and segregated the cans and approached Coláiste Phobal to work on the project, the overall mark increase did not reflect the hard work of the committee...Roscrea Enhancement Group gives another chance to the people of the town to have their say in the future of their town. The project team will be in Mullally Menswear (which closed recently) from 10 a.m. until 4.00 p.m. for anyone who wishes to drop by with ideas or ask questions...A special pack of cigarettes sent to Frederick Bennett from Gortmullen, Roscrea, while Frederick was in France during the First World War, is to be sold. The sale will also feature a postcard, antique dealers would call a silk card, sent to his mother. His headstone is to be found in St Cronan’s Church grounds...The Chairman of Roscrea Musical Society, Tadhg Maher states he is very pleased with a successful year. Proinnsias Loughnane won the runners-up prize in the category for which he was nominated by AIMS. The Awards’ evening was held in Killarney. The Unsung Hero Award went jointly to Conor Harte and Conor Abbott...Numbers double on the Nenagh/Roscrea to Dublin Rail Line. A reduction in fares has seen the public responding by traveling...Roscrea Musical Society has announced plans to compile their Memoirs. George Cunningham has been asked to come on board and help them on this great adventure...Members of Roscrea Active Retirement Group enjoy their holiday, this year in Co. Wicklow. They base themselves in the Arklow Bay Hotel...Jo Jo Cunningham and her team are thanked by the Chamber of Commerce for their recent church gate collection, the proceeds of which are to go to help with Christmas lighting in the town...Details of the Autumn Conference at Mt St Joseph are announced. The theme for the weekend is The Annals of Ireland and a new edition of the Annals of Roscrea is being published by Roscrea People and will be launched at the weekend...Roscrea Comhaltas book, Harmonies and Grace Notes goes to print...
Wishing all our customers and staff a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.
Cunningham presents a cheque for €1009 to the Chamber of Commerce, the result of her recent church gate collection. She is now looking for volunteers, to help her with her next venture, as she has organized a collection day in Tesco, Supervalu, Dunnes and the Credit Union... A very enjoyable night is held in Damer Court Hotel when Roscrea Vocational Students of the class of ‘82 have a reunion. Richard Feeney addressed all present expressing his delight at meeting up with friends and teachers. For some it was thirty years since their last meeting. Many pictures from the school archives were on display. Conference calls were taken on the night from some of the missing classmates. Seamus Mullaney spoke on behalf of the staff...Corville NS opens two new tennis courts...A fashion show in aid of Pieta House is held in the Shinrone Community Hall...Kennedy Park hold a very successful and enjoyable ‘mock wedding’. This was organized by a committee set up to get a playground for the estate, and to organize activities and outings for the children of Kennedy Park, Cois Carrig and Brophy Terrace...A parish mission takes place in

Roscrea in St Cronan’s RC Church. All are welcome...Roscrea Youthreach have been nominated in five categories of the ‘Songs from the Youth 2012’ Competition. Their song The stars are blinking, has been nominated in the ‘best song’ category. The Awards are sponsored by the Irish Music Rights Organisation (IMRO). They will travel to Dublin to take part in the CraftZone Songs from the Youth Awards...Roscrea Speakers’ Club holds an evening of comedy speeches that are very much enjoyed...The Country Market continues to take place every Friday at the Abbey Hall from 10.15 a.m. until 1.15 p.m...Roscrea Chamber of Commerce has issued a press release appealing to local businesses to support them. It lobbies on behalf of businesses and is a voice with the local authority, as the town has no Town Council. The Chamber also sends best wishes to Jo Jo Cunningham...A Group of Venture Scouts from Roscrea, Durrow and Killaloe, are to hold a Fair in the Scout Hall Abbey Street, in aid of CAHPA as part of their preparation for their Gaisce (President’s Award) and their Chief Scout Award, which must include an intercultural experience. This follows a talk Eirene Griffin founder of CAHPA (a Co-operative for Artists Handicapped Physically), has given on her experience with the handicapped in Abidjan and how CAHPA helps these people live with dignity and hope...The Credit Union launches its Annual Art Competition...Comhaltas hold their 50th AGM in Damer Court Hotel. A book on the history of Roscrea Comhaltas is to be launched shortly...Each October the Children’s Book Festival is held and Roscrea Library host two main events for the festival. The first was a book-making workshop facilitated by the national Print Museum, when fifty pupils from Corville NS took part, and each child got their own book to take home. The other event was ‘Petal People Art’ with Gerardine Wisdom showing twenty children from Scoil Eoin Naofa how to make dolls and princesses out of pipe cleaners, beads and material...Kickback Youth Café has mid term fun covered with a wide variety of activities organized for the Hallowe’en Midterm break. Each day something different takes place, including pumpkin making in Damer Court Hotel; scary story telling in the library; Wacky Wednesday; Drop in at the café; Firework extravaganza and fancy dress party at the Roscrea GAA grounds; Busking around town; Cinemamobile at the town centre car-park; and Kickback Drop in and scary movie night...Roscrea Branch of the Irish Red Cross are to donate an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to the community of Roscrea following numerous enquiries from the public...
MICHAEL SMITH M.C.C.

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November: Michael Hutchinson, Youthreach, takes home the best male solo performance from the CraftZone Songs at the Youth Award night...Roscrea’s 51st conference is attended by top national and international scholars. Its theme is the *Annals of Ireland*...Cllr Michael Smith officially opens the Boxing Club in Roscrea. All who attended witnessed the tremendous work carried out by the local committee over the last number of weeks. The new club and fitness gym is on the Ashbury Estate. The club has seventy five members – forty-five children and thirty adults, and is already proud to boast three Munster Champions, two Munster Finalists and two County Champions among many other medalists...A draft of Roscrea Enhancement Plan is published. The plan is on public display in the window of former Mullally’s Menswear and can also be downloaded at [www.tipperarynorth.ie](http://www.tipperarynorth.ie) or [www.paulhogarth.com](http://www.paulhogarth.com). Chairman of the group, Brian King encourages people to familiarize themselves with this plan...Roscrea Ventures complete their Chief Scout Awards tests. This included holding the CAHPA fair, pricing all handcrafted products and setting up stalls to display products...Noel Coonan TD, welcomes the news that the Sacred Heart Primary School has been successful in having their English as an Additional Language, (EAL), post retained...A Roscrea Enhancement Plan meeting for the public is deferred, as a mark of respect to the late Niall Doherty, son of Eileen and Michael. Eileen is one of the most active members of the group...At the opening of Roscrea Boxing Club at Ashbury...A not so gentle Moneen ....a scene several times repeated during the Summer...
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Cistercian College present their show, *Chess*, by Benny Andersson, Bjorn Ulvaeus and Tim Rice... This month Ger Hogan, Mr Brogue Locksmith, is thirty years in business. When Eoin Ryan, Rosemary Square, was a baby he used to call into Ger’s shop regularly and he got the nickname Brogues, so Ger called the business Mr Brogue. Ger also fondly remembers the late Tom O’Dwyer, Rosemount, who taught him so much and also loved calling into the shop... Some Scoil Eoin Naofa students have been selected to take part in a research programme called ‘Step it Up’, which is looking at physical activity in young people. The research is being overseen by Dublin City University. The progress of the students will be followed on RTE’s *Operation Transformation*... Coláiste Phobal Transition Year students have chosen *Oliver*, as their show this year, running for three nights... And so, another year draws to a close. Despite all the national gloom, lack of sensitivity and leadership on vital issues, failure to deal with the banking scandals, obscene pensions and unvouched-for expenses allowed to our politicians, the resilience of the Roscrea people once again lifts the spirit. Recent tragic events have shown just how strong our sense of community is. Roscrea has given a modern example to the revered Irish proverb: *Ní neart go chur le chéile* (the strength of a community is its togetherness). Long may it be so... Joy and contentment to all Roscrea people at home and abroad.

The modern Annals of Roscrea are compiled by Carmel Cunningham from the relevant local provincial papers and other modern ephemera. Particular thanks to Roscrea Public Library and Anne Ralph, The Midland Tribune.

**Honouring St Cronan**

*Pilgrims on the St Cronan’s Day Walk leaving the grounds of the Castle Complex*

At St Cronan’s, Church Street, a tree was planted to commemorate the bi-centenary of the building of the parish church of the COI. Here Joe Ryan prepares the ground with water from St Cronan’s well in Inane.

**Arriving at the early monastery in Church Street on the St Cronan’s Day Walk with the Eucharistic Bell**
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The Eucharistic Congress Bell was brought around all the schools in the parish and to various institutions. Here Corville pupils are enjoying the occasion.
The Historic Graves project is a community focused grassroots heritage project. Local community groups are trained in low-cost high-tech field survey of historic graveyards and recording of their own oral histories. They build a multimedia online record of the historic graves in their own areas and unite to form a national resource. The project outlines a system and sequence which helps to co-ordinate and standardise an historic graveyard survey.

- Community groups are trained to use digital cameras and smartphones to survey historic graveyards.
- Both new and old survey records are combined with locally recorded audio and video stories to form a multi media record of a graveyard.
- By curating and publishing the survey records centrally the individual community graveyard surveys combine to form a national resource where the value of each survey is compounded by its association with others.
- The website allows visitors from Ireland and across the globe to freely explore and search the growing database of multimedia records and stories.
- It allows communities to self publish historic graveyard surveys and the related multimedia stories.
- The surveys are being funded by a number of Local Development Partnerships through LEADER funds and are supported by Local Heritage Officers, County Archaeologists and Local Authorities.

The website and survey methodology have been designed and built by Eachtra Archaeological Projects.

In the autumn, Kennedy Park residents staged a mock wedding to raise funds for community needs; 'Newly weds', Colman Carey and Elaine O'Rourke are pictured with their guests at the wedding reception in the Auburn Lounge.
Junior members of Roscrea Comhaltas perform at a concert in St Cronan’s Church of Ireland, at the launch of the flower festival titled ‘Heralding our Heritage’ to celebrate the church’s bicentenary: George Harding, Eimear Teehan, Áine Gleeson, Katie Ryan, Kevin Deegan, Neil Scott, Danielle Bowe, Eimear Gleeson, Leona Bowe.

Interesting expressions at the opening of the NTLP art exhibition in Damer House

All aboard at the Roscrea Vintage Rally in aid of Chernobyl Lifeline in May

Artists and guests at the NTLP art exhibition in Damer House during April

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The young and the young at heart at the nighttime story time reading at Scoil Eoin in May

Damian and Isabelle Coonan proudly display their Scrúdú Ceol Tíre certs

It's all getting a little bit boring!

Tidy Towns Poster Competition Presentation to SH Primary (L-r): Francis De Lewis, Liz Fletcher, Mary Kelly and Elaine Mounsey

Front Row: Reka Baranya and Zuzanna Wowrzynk

Reading Tree Week at Roscrea Public Library
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Tidy Towns Art Winners

Aífe Dalton, representing Class 2 St Anne’s over-all winners in the Tidy Towns Art Competition collecting the John Lupton shield on behalf of Class 2 on the night with her proud teacher Marion Flanagan (Centre), and Tidy Town committee members, Mary Heffernan and Mary Conroy.
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Memorable moments relating to the 50th Roscrea conference

President Michael D. Higgins signs a copy of A Carnival of Learning on the Marie Antoinette suite at Áras an Uachtaráin where he received the principals involved with the book (see pages on the Fiftieth Conference).

Cardiologist, Dr Brian Maurer, says hello to Dom Colmcille O’Toole at the 50th Roscrea conference. Dom Colmcille was Abbot of MSJ for thirty-five years when he was succeeded by Dom Laurence.

Four Abbots and an editor at the 50th Roscrea Conference: Dom Peter Garvey, (then Abbot of Bolton Abbey), Dom Richard of MSJ, GC, Abbot General Eamonn Fitzgerald and Abbot Emeritus Dom Laurence.

Fiona Rigney, Lally Dennison and Marian Hayes at the launch of A Carnival of Learning at MSJ.
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Every little helps
The following is just a brief synopsis of another extremely busy and productive year for Roscrea Chamber of Commerce.

Officers For 2011/2012: President - Seamus Browne (Seamus Browne Auctioneers); Treasurer - Liam McGrath, (Liam McGrath & Co), Secretary - Brian King (Roscrea Credit Union Limited).

New President: Seamus Browne took over as President from John Guilfoyle in November. John served as President for three years and he thanked the Chamber Secretary, Brian King for his support during that time. In reply, Brian King said that John Guilfoyle had dedicated a tremendous amount of his own time to the Chamber, and said it was unfortunate in some ways that John was President during three of the most difficult years in the country’s history, but that he had achieved much during his term in office, most notably the Roscrea “a great place to do business” brochure, hopefully making its way around the globe, attracting more business interest in the town.

Meeting With Sinn Féin TD: Chamber delegates John Guilfoyle, Michael Madden and Brian King met with Sinn Féin TD, Mary Lou McDonald and local representative Seamus Morris during the summer. The meeting focused on a number of issues, particularly the difficulties facing small businesses, and the vacant Shannon Development Business and Technology Park on the outskirts of the town. The Sinn Féin TD agreed with many of the Chamber’s arguments which focused on rates and incentives for local businesses. Also discussed was the more or less abandoned Taro Pharmaceutical Plant and the necessity of a replacement industry, to help bring new jobs to Roscrea.

Shannon Development: Roscrea Chamber of Commerce has requested a meeting with Dr Vincent Cunnane, CEO of Shannon Development to discuss the implications regarding the future of Shannon Development and how it will affect Roscrea. With the technology park ready for occupancy, it is vital for Roscrea that companies are familiarised with the site and convinced to invest in the town.

Roscrea Town Enhancement Group: Chamber Secretary and Chairman of the Town Enhancement Group, Brian King, has worked hard to help bring the plan to fruition and is working hard to ensure a project officer is put in place to help the town deliver on the various objectives of the plan.

Convent Building: Brian King tried last September to get the Council to purchase the Convent building and grounds for the people of Roscrea, but funds were not available. The Chamber is now trying to work with the new owner to help ensure trees and certain areas of the complex, sacred to Roscrea are protected.

Tidy Towns: The Chamber of Commerce is calling on all businesses to acknowledge the tremendous work carried out each year by Roscrea Tidy Towns, who make the biggest positive difference to our town each year. The Chamber thanks Brian Colclough for sponsoring and caring for the hanging baskets which make such a great difference on Main Street. While some members of the Tidy Towns were disappointed with the marks received this year in the National competition, the reality is, Roscrea never looked as well as it did this summer.

Tennis Club: The Chamber Of Commerce congratulates Roscrea Tennis Club for the great success that they have enjoyed in their first year at their new location.

Roscrea Festival: Congratulations to all those involved in the Ros Cré Beo and the Taste of Roscrea Christmas Festival.

Get Well Soon Jo Jo: Roscrea Chamber of Commerce sends its best wishes to Jo Jo Cunningham who is very ill at present and wish her a speedy recovery. Jo Jo is a wonderful supporter of the Chamber and for the past number of years has immersed herself in many different projects. Without doubt Jo Jo is one
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of the hardest working volunteers in the town. Her leadership has inspired many and the outpouring of sadness at her recent illness is testament to the respect she has. Roscrea can’t afford to be without people like Jo Jo Cunningham.

Roscrea Chamber has represented and lobbied on behalf of local businesses on many issues for over thirty years. While often open to criticism, the reality is the Chamber gives Roscrea a serious voice particularly with the local authority. Over the last few months the Chamber has launched Roscrea’s first business brochure, aimed at encouraging investment to our town. It continues to work with groups like Tidy Towns and Roscrea Heritage Society trying to increase our tourism potential.

As a voluntary organisation, without funding, Roscrea Chamber depends solely on its members for its survival. It is actively looking for new members and encouraging their loyal members to stay committed. The annual subscription rate has been cut by over 30%. Membership is now just €95.

To raise any item on the Chamber agenda or to become a part of Roscrea Chamber Of Commerce, please contact Chamber Secretary Brian King in Roscrea Credit Union (0505) 23601 or email bking@roscreacu.ie Your support, contributions and suggestions are more than welcome.

Roscrea Chamber Of Commerce would like to wish local craftsman and entrepreneur Tommy Madden every success with his plan to develop allotments for Roscrea and its neighbouring parishes. Brian King, Patsy Treacy (Chairman Roscrea Credit Union), Tommy Madden, John Guilfoyle.

Members of Roscrea Chamber Of Commerce were delighted recently to accept a cheque from Jo Jo Cunningham who raised over €1000 recently with a team of volunteers to help with the cost of the annual Christmas lights bill. (L/R): Brian King, Jo Jo Cunningham (Christmas Lights Fundraiser), Michael Madden.

Pictured at the launch of the Roscrea “A Great Place To do Business Brochure” were (L/R): Joe MacGrath (North Tipp County Council), Brian King, John Guilfoyle, Eleanor Forrest (Enterprise Board), Dom Richard Purcell, Dr. Vincent Cunnane, Chief Executive, Shannon Development, Michael Madden (Roscrea Chamber Of Commerce) and Brendan O’Meara (Roscrea Chamber Of Commerce). The Chamber would like to thank Shannon Development and Denis Duggan in particular for all their support on this project.
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For every €10 you spend we will stamp your VIP card. eg: spend €30 and receive 3 stamps. When the card is complete, use the €10 value against your next purchase.
Hopefully by the time you are reading this review, the Credit Union will have announced or will be close to announcing a date for the 2010/2011 AGMs. Once these take place, it is envisaged that the 2012 AGM will take place in mid 2013 and that the 2013 AGM will go ahead next December the traditional time of the year for Credit Unions’ AGM.

Roscrea Credit Union apologises to its members for the delay since its last AGM but the intervening two years have been the most challenging in our history for many reasons. Tough and difficult decisions have been made and the CU has had to reenergise itself, refocus and work long hours to help manage the institution through the most turbulent period in its history.

Roscrea Credit Union is safe, secure and strong. Savings at Roscrea Credit Union are safe and secure. All members of the Roscrea Credit Union are covered by the state guarantee scheme, which safeguards savings to the value of €100,000.00. In addition, credit unions, unlike the banks, have their own savings protection insurance. The Credit Union would encourage all members to save and to save regularly. The recession has resulted in a “back to basics” approach by financiers whereby a member’s savings record will now be extremely important when he/she makes a loan application to their credit union.

To equip the credit union with the necessary skills to manage the changes and the challenges that all credit unions and financial institutions will face over the coming years, our CU recently completed a three year strategic plan, in addition to the extensive training and review of policies and procedures that have already taken place. The highlights of this plan include a gradual easing of the lending restrictions which is fundamental to Roscrea Credit Union’s future growth and development.

Credit Control is now the key area in Roscrea Credit Union. A team of professional debt collectors works closely with the Credit Union to recover outstanding debts. In addition the CU has in place an experienced Credit Controller who works with staff on a daily basis to help ensure that the Credit Control function in Roscrea Credit Union is run as effectively and as efficiently as possible. Roscrea Credit Union will continue to work with any member that is experiencing difficulties as long as that member is upfront and honest with the credit control team. What the Credit Union will not tolerate is a small minority of members refusing to honour their debts and

Tom Douglas was the winner of the Roscrea Credit Union Summer Cash Draw. Tom was represented on the night by Marie Carroll who is pictured here with Credit Union personnel and all the other winners on the night.

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.

L/R: Joan Murray, Brian King, Sarah Kennedy, Liam Phelan, Aisling O’Hanlon, Kayleigh Guidera, Nathan Finnerty, Adrian Hewson, Lilly Cummins, Mark McLoughlin, Peg Caverely, Patsy Treacy.
making no effort to repay loans given to them in
good faith. To those members we say, “Roscrea
Credit Union will use the full force of the Irish legal
system to retrieve the money that you owe to your
fellow members”.

We live in challenging times and for credit unions in
particular we are living in times of great change. New
legislation, the impending publication of the new
Credit Union Bill and the push towards structural
change in the credit union sector all mean that the
challenges ahead are vast. Roscrea Credit Union will
embrace those changes and more than anyone
welcomes the establishment of a proper legislative and
regulatory framework in which credit unions can operate
prudently. Roscrea Credit Union has tightened its lending
policies, its credit control as already discussed, its governance
and the way the Credit Union is managed. The Credit Union
looks forward to working more closely with its members and
continuing the serve its community just as it has done for the
past forty five years.

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 sponsor of the
RosCré Beo festival and the SCP coping-on-awards and
affiliated sponsors of the Roscrea People of the Year 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 Kinitty
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 brings great social and economic
benefits to the town on Friday nights in the build-up to Christmas. Roscrea

**Captain of the Coolderry Hurling team, Brendan O’Meara, accepts a presentation from Coolderry native and Roscrea Credit Union’s Tracy Hynes in recognition of the team’s great success over the past twelve months.**

L/R: Patsy Treacy (RCU), Tracy Hynes (RCU), Brendan O’Meara (Coolderry) and Brian King (RCU).

Credit Union continues to be the main sponsors of Roscrea Juvenile GAA Club. It continues to 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 own 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 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.roscreacu.ie](http://www.roscreacu.ie). Alternatively please contact Brian King on (0505) 23601 or email: bking@roscreacu.ie

**Children from the Sacred Heart Primary School were delighted to meet Santa Claus last December. Santa was visiting the school as part of his annual trip to Roscrea Credit Union.**
Roscrea Credit Union sponsored a number of events to help celebrate Roscrea Comhaltas hosting the 2012 County Fleadh. Credit Union personnel are pictured here at one of those events with a number of young supporters of the County Fleadh.

Celebrating International Credit Union day in Roscrea last October were L/R: Ber Coleman, Helen Baggott and Eddie Conlon.

Roscrea Credit Union was pleased to be part of the Sacred Heart National School 50th anniversary celebrations.
L/R: Brian King, Tracy Hynes, John Devitt and Patsy Treacy.

Roscrea Credit Union was delighted to launch the 2012 County Fleadh which was hosted this year in Roscrea, as a mark of respect for Roscrea Comhaltas, who are celebrating their 50th anniversary.

The spring cash draw was a lucky evening for the McEvoy family. Betty McEvoy walked away with €5000 while her grand-daughter Aisling was the winner of the Easter hamper.

It would be a very rare occasion for Dromakeenan National School not to feature in the schools’ quiz final as either A or B category winners. Once again they did their school proud and after a close battle emerged as the “B” category winners for 2012.

L/R: Patsy Treacy (RCU), Brian Gleeson, Joe Ahern, Owen Bergin, Tracy Hynes (RCU), Ross Du Berry and Brian King (RCU).
This plan is about the future of Roscrea

The Draft Roscrea Town Centre Enhancement Plan has been developed by local people for local people. It is for all those who live, visit, work and play in Roscrea and will help guide anyone with an interest in improving the town centre, including council, local community groups and businesses.

Spearheaded by North Tipperary County Council and the Heritage Council, with total co-operation, involvement and commitment from the relevant state and voluntary institutions of the town and the support of its citizens, the Roscrea Town Centre Enhancement Plan is nearing final completion. The draft proposals have been on public display for some time and feedback received to date has been very positive.

Chairman, Brian King, says “The Roscrea Town Enhancement Plan will be owned by the people of Roscrea, it will be driven by the people of Roscrea and its success or failure will ultimately depend upon the people of Roscrea”. A clear vision statement aims to re-establish Roscrea as an important market and shopping town that capitalises on its rich heritage, with the community working together to ensure that the town becomes a welcoming tourist destination, creating a vibrant, safe town centre in which to live, visit, socialise and conduct business. In outlining their vision, consultants The Paul Hogarth Company aim to give Roscrea people a sense of what may be achieved. It is important to emphasise that this is work in progress and as consultation is ongoing, content of the plan may have to be revised to reflect the comments of local people.

All those involved in the preparation of the Plan are committed to its delivery. But to be successful, it will require the collective input of everyone in the town. The important issue is that we have a feasible plan and one which is capable of being implemented.

This is your plan and its implementation over future years depends on how well you buy into it and support it. Together we can help realise this exciting vision and with this Plan, Roscrea will be given the chance to become one of the truly noble towns of Ireland.

Further information and copies of the Plan can be viewed online at:
www.tipperarynorth.ie
www.paulhogarth.com
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WISHING ALL OUR CUSTOMERS A PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR
Local Government Reform....these and other reflections
by John Lupton

For many years RCDC have sought parity with other towns in terms of Local Government Structures and Statutory Representation. Now it appears, under what the Government proposes as “Local Government Reform”, we will have parity in the context of the proposed abolition of Town Councils. This, however, is not the parity RCDC sought!

The void created by the proposed abolition of Town Councils is surely the opposite to local democratic reform. However, there is an opportunity for local democratic reform in the government’s proposal but it must be facilitated through new formalized structures.

RCDC was set up in 1995 in the absence of a Town Council with the objective of facilitating people to empower themselves in participative democracy and to facilitate voluntary and community representation on community and statutory structures. RCDC went on to play a role in the setting up of a County Community Development Structure. In turn this was to become the existing North Tipperary C.A.V.A. (Community and Voluntary Association), which in turn represents the Community Development Councils and Community interests. This work is carried out by the community on a voluntary basis.

In every Community there are many voluntary organizations and many able and willing to participate in their respective communities and who could take an active role in participative democracy. At present participative democracy, is for most people, going to the polls every five years and having no involvement in the democratic process in between. This certainly does not lend itself to a healthy democracy, but rather, to a representative democratic model, remote from the people. Instead of “democratic reform”, we are told by our body politic that we require “political reform”, denoting a political view that “Politics” and “Democracy” are synonymous thus excluding any role for participative democracy.

There is a very urgent need to realise that democracy has two organs, (a) representative democracy and (b) participative democracy.

Therefore, by all means abolish Town Councils and save money but replace them with statutory Voluntary Community Development Councils which costs no money. Give each community parity by allowing them, to set up a statutory community development council on a voluntary basis, and allow it to feed into Representative democracy at the new, proposed, municipal district level and at County Council level, in a structured manner. Then allow these structures to feed into national policy and decision-making in a statutory and orderly way. In this regard I would propose that the duality of democracy would be recognized in two Houses of Parliament, i.e. a House of Representative Democracy (i.e. Dail Eireann) and a House of Participative Democracy (i.e. Seanad Eireann).

Do not therefore abolish Seanad Eireann. Let it be a House of Participative Democracy. Let the membership of the Seanad be drawn exclusively from the community and voluntary sector, the vocational and educational sector and the social and sporting sectors. Bring about the necessary constitutional reform to ensure that 25% of the membership of government must be drawn from the Seanad.

However, one cannot help but think that the body politic are as likely to bring about such radical change as turkeys are likely to vote for Christmas! Thus, people must set about to create a new political force, as a catalyst to bring about radical democratic reform which would find expression in the duality of representative and participative democratic structures.

RCDC supports Town Enhancement: RCDC compliments the work of the Roscrea Enhancement Committee under the chairmanship of Brian King and the direction of Marion Carey, Heritage officer with North Tipperary County Council. It also welcomes efforts which have been made in the past year to open up OPW controlled property in the town to the Roscrea People and hope that this process will continue. RCDC urges Roscrea People to take ownership of the enhancement plan for the town and would encourage the agencies to facilitate this process at every stage. Tidy Towns have done enormous work in enhancing Roscrea and this Enhancement plan, must inject new impetus and life into the Tidy Town’s efforts, supported in a structured way by the various communities of Roscrea, with a view to the Town of Roscrea and the Roscrea People winning a major National Tidy Town’s Award.

RCTLC Tennis Club: The Board of RCTLC are delighted that a vibrant tennis club is now in place and are anxious that the members of the Tennis Club should look after their own affairs and ensure the provision of facilities for tennis on an inclusivity basis in Roscrea. In this regard the RCTLC Board have written to North Tipperary County Council and are now awaiting incorporation of the Tennis Club and the inclusion of provisions to ensure facilitation for the inclusive use of its tennis facilities by the community. It is felt that the continued availability of tennis together with other recreational and sporting facilities in the town would help create a tourist industry in Roscrea, which is very much needed in shaping Roscrea’s economic infrastructure.

Sympathy: The community of Roscrea, including the many members of RCTLC have been numbed and shattered in recent weeks following the tragic death of Niall Doherty in an aviation accident. Niall’s mother Eileen, for many years, played a pivotal and central role in RCTLC as its project manager and the heartfelt sympathy of all at RCTLC are with her and her husband Michael and family as they cope with their great loss.
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Roscrea’s 35th Annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade being planned

Roscrea’s 35th successive annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade is now being planned and organised by R.C.D.C. Chairman Liam Shanahan is joined again this year by Marie Tooher – Secretary, Steve Crofton - Treasurer, John Lupton – P.R.O., Arthur Crawford – Chief Marshall, Brendan Keeshan, Sean Delaney, Jo Jo Cunningham, Spruce Lynch, Mary Heffernan and Paddy Collison.

Parade Entrants: The Organising Committee are appealing to clubs, organisations, residents associations, industrial and commercial interests in the town to participate in the parade on the day and bring their talents and messages onto the streets in a colourful, amusing and entertaining way. As usual there will be a parade narration from the Review Stand which will facilitate float entrants in advertising their businesses or promoting their organisations’ objectives. The Parade Committee are also appealing to groups and individuals who may have musical or other such talents to enhance the celebrations on the day by performing on the streets.

George Cunningham, Guest of Honour, presenting St. Cronan’s National School with Best Overall entry in the parade with Brian King representing Roscrea Chamber of Commerce (sponsor of perpetual trophy), and Liam Shanahan, parade chairman.

Offers of Support: Without the assistance of the entire community it would not be possible to continue organising a Parade in Roscrea, as annually the cost increases and fund raising becomes more difficult for a small number of people.

Those seeking details of this year’s parade, wishing to include floats, offers of support and any other help should contact Parade Secretary Marie Tooher at the Abbey Hall - telephone 0505 23183 / 23185.
**The Plan**

The restoration plan is on a three-phased basis. The first phase which included repairing of roof and windows has been done and has been funded with the help of North Tipperary Leader Partnership and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

The second phase will include the upgrading of the heating and lighting system together with insulation of the walls and floor of the main hall. The third stage will include a contemporary style extension to the hall to facilitate a coffee shop and information office, together with the addition of retractable seating and new stage facility in the main hall.

**SECONDHAND BOOKSHOP, GREAT SUCCESS**

The Abbey Hall Company continues its clothes recycling initiative and the second-hand bookshop. The Board of Directors are extremely grateful to the public for donating clothes and other material for the Clothes Recycling Initiative.

The second-hand bookshop is located at Crawford’s shop in Main St. This shop is open every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 11 am to 5 pm. All proceeds go towards the Abbey Hall Restoration Fund. There is a huge stock and variety of books catering for all ages and interests, all in excellent condition for sale at very reasonable prices.

Lilian Delaney, co-ordinator and secretary of Roscrea Abbey Community Centre Ltd, wishes to thank, on her own behalf, and on behalf of the Company all those who have donated books and in particular George Cunningham who has donated a large quantity of new books; also Arthur Crawford for the extremely generous use of his shop premises, and to those who have volunteered to ‘man’ the shop. Volunteers are always needed to help out. If you are interested call in and collect an application form from Lilian.
Roscrea Abbey Community Centre Ltd (Abbey Hall) offers the following services to the community:

**Hall Hire**

The community hall is available to the public for classes, sports, and events to hire at very reasonable rates.

**Meeting rooms**

These rooms with kitchen facilities adjacent to room are used by community organisations. If you wish to have your meeting in the Centre please contact the office for more details.

**Stand Up Tanning Unit**

For a fast and effective tan!

100 minutes - €40.  200 minutes - €60.  €7 per session.

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<th>Monday</th>
<th>Zumba</th>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Yoga</td>
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<td>Ken’s Kettlebells</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Browne Ryan School of Irish Dancing</td>
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<td>Dance Kraze</td>
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THE OFFICE IS OPEN MONDAY TO FRIDAY –
Mornings from 9am – 1pm and
Monday, Thursday and Friday evenings from 7pm – 9pm.

For further information on the above telephone Marie Tooher or Pat Kennedy on 0505 23183.

Anyone wishing to make any contribution to the Abbey Hall is asked to contact
Marie Tooher or Pat Kennedy at the Community Office in the Abbey Hall or any of the present Directors of Roscrea Abbey Community Centre Ltd: John Lupton – Chairman, Lilian Delaney – Secretary, Paddy Collison – Treasurer, Paddy Bergin – Asst. Treasurer, Eamon Phelan, Brendan Keeshan, Teresa Bowe, John Guilfoyle, Ger Coughlan, or Emmet Arrigan.
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APPLICATION FORMS AVAILABLE

It is thirty-five years since Citizen’s Information Service opened its doors in Rosemary Street, Roscrea. Since then many thousands of citizens from town and the surrounding areas have availed of the free, private and confidential services provided. During that time some of the volunteers have passed to their eternal reward, but the friendly service continues to be available at Rosemary Street, Roscrea.

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Sports Stars 2011

Lily Slevin accepting the Contribution to Sport Award which was awarded posthumously to her husband Gerry from Guest of Honour Marjorie McCorduck with sponsors Pat O’Halloran and Vincent Kinnane of Rosderra Meats

Special Achievement Award recipient Martin J Byrne with John Lupton

L - R: Pat Hartnett, David Power, Brian King, Therese Dooley, Francis Coleman and Pat McGee.

L - R: Gerard Horan, Ray Dempsey, Norman Carter and Seamus Dennison.

Back: Pat Sheedy, Paddy Bergin, Michael Lorrigan, Liam Shanahan, Steve Crofton.
Seated: Marie Donnellan, Marie Kennedy, Marjorie McCorduck and Eleanor Ryan Carroll.

The Sporting Evening

Stars, guests and sponsors at the Sports’ Stars Award evening in Racket Hall Hotel in February, 2012.
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P35 RETURNS – FILING DEADLINE

If you are an employer, please remember that your P35 with respect to your employees must be submitted on or prior to February 15th, 2013.

Sonas agus suaimhneas na Nollag dar gCliaint uilig
People of the Year Awards

The award winners, guests, sponsors and organiser at the Gala Evening in January 2012.

ILGU President Marjorie McCorduck (congrats to her on a second great year as President) receives her award from North Tipperary Co Manager, Joe MacGrath with main Sponsor, Brian Colclough, Bernie’s Supervalu.

The team behind the Wisdom of Age with their awards Des Walsh, Tim Quinlan, Brian Redmond Mary Arrigan, Anne Keevey. (We wish Anne well in her new role at Mount Carmel Nursing Home)

Patricia Gleeson and Mary Heffernan enjoying the RPYA.

Enjoying a cuppa at the RPYA were Martin Carroll, Vivienne Crawford and Denise O’Dwyer.
CIVIL DEFENCE

SERVING THE NEEDS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

WHY NOT BECOME A VOLUNTEER MEMBER OF CIVIL DEFENCE

Volunteers are multi-skilled and the main programmes of activity undertaken by the organisation are:

Casualty: Provision of a first-aid and ambulance service
Rescue: Urban rescue, open country search for missing persons and water based search and recovery
Auxiliary Fire Service: Pump and ladder drills, pumping floodwaters and supplying water to the Community
Warden Service & Radiation Monitoring: Radiation detecting and monitoring
Welfare: Provision of hot meals, drinks and psychosocial support
Communications: Operation of two independent radio systems

Are you up to the challenge?

If so, contact your local Civil Defence Officer at North Tipperary County Council, Mr. Anthony Graham, at 067 44503 or agraham@northtippcoco.ie

To learn more about Civil Defence you can log on to our website www.civildefence.ie
Civil Defence has continued to serve the local communities and support the primary response agencies since the move to Benamore, Roscrea over seven years ago.

Civil Defence Volunteers from all over the country come to Roscrea to be trained in a wide variety of programmes. When trained, instructors return to their respective local authority areas and pass on the benefit of their knowledge and experience to the Volunteers based there. The College is recognised as a training institution by the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) and is registered with FETAC as a provider, offering programmes leading to FETAC awards. The Roscrea Headquarters continues to serve as a National Control Centre for the organisation and forms a crucial hub for the Civil Defence national communications network.

North Tipperary Civil Defence is a voluntary organisation which trains its members to assist in time of crisis. Roles of Civil Defence include searching for missing persons, providing ambulance cover at events, providing a back up service to the statutory bodies such as the Local Authority, HSE and Gardaí.

Training is conducted in First Aid, Rescue, Auxiliary Fire Service, and Radio Communications. Each year North Tipperary Civil Defence responds to many events and callouts. Activities during 2012 to date included:

- Assisted in searches for missing persons.
- Provision of Rescue and First Aid cover at the Nenagh Walking Festival.
- Provision of Ambulance cover at Point to Point races.
- Provision of Ambulance and Safety Boat cover at Terryglass Arts festival.
- Participation in Major Emergency Exercises with statutory bodies.
- RTÉ Nationwide Feature, CD Headquarters.

A series of six Regional Exercises were held during 2012 to test and evaluate the skill level of volunteer members countrywide. A team from North Tipperary travelled to Clare to compete in the fourth regional competition on Saturday 6th October and emerged as winners of the competition. This marks a wonderful three-in-a-row for North Tipperary and great credit is due to the members for giving such a commitment to a voluntary organisation.

North Tipperary Civil Defence Volunteers displayed their ‘Open Country’ search capabilities as part of an RTÉ Nationwide programme, which was filmed at Civil Defence Headquarters and aired on 17th September.

The headquarters for North Tipperary Civil Defence is situated in Nenagh. Other centres across the county are situated in Rearcross, Thurles, Clonmore and Littleton. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer with North Tipperary Civil Defence should contact Mr Anthony Graham, Civil Defence Officer, at North Tipperary Civil Defence, Civic Offices, Limerick Road, Nenagh, or on the following Website link:


North Tipperary Civil Defence team – three in a row winners!
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Gaelscoil an tSlí Dála: Beatha teanga i a labhairt a deirtear agus sin an sean-focal atá ós comhair na scoile agus le feiscint go soiléir i mBealach Mór. Nil aon dabht ach go bhfuil an scoil ag dul ó neart go neart, bhuiochas dos na múinteóirí agus do mhuintir na h-áite leis. Is breá an rud an teanga is ansa linn go lamh a chloisint i gclós na scoile lá i ndiaidh lae agus páisti óga ag stealladh Gaeilge chun a chéile go nádúrtha,

Ní neart go chur le chéile agus i rith na blíana bionn réimse móir leathan d’imeachtaí ar siúl – ceol, seinteanna, snámh, iomaint, peil, cispeil agus Go leor eile nach iad. Ní bheidh na h-imeachtaí sin indéanta marach na h-ócáidé éagsúla a eagarraí sa pharóiste gura fada baean an tréan iarraidh atá idir láma i mBealach Mór.


Aisling agus Lisa Ni Choisealbha

Dúchas: Bhí Dúchas Thiobraid Árann ar siúl le déanaí agus árd chaighdeán de leáchtaí le chló is ansa linn. Mar do cheoil den scoth. Tá sé beartaithe ag an gConradh an fhéile seo a bheith ann go rialta ins na blianta romhainn amach.

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The County Tipperary Historical Society was founded in 1987 to gather and publish new material relating to the history, archaeology, genealogy, folklore and geography of County Tipperary and to foster and encourage new research in these fields. The Society now has a worldwide membership and the annual Tipperary Historical Journal has established itself, both here and abroad, as an authoritative source of new research on the history of County Tipperary.

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**Happy Holidays!**
In 2011 Roscrea Musical Society was proud to present its first Pantomime, *Sleeping Beauty*, staged in December, under the capable hands of Director, Louise Handy, Musical Director, Margaret Moloney and Music Coordinator and Keyboards, Tadhg Maher. It was an outstanding success and indeed the profits helped fund our main show *All Shook Up*.

Roscrea Musical Society was thrilled with the huge success of this year’s show, *All Shook Up*, staged in the Abbey Hall Roscrea from 28th April to 5th May 2012. Again this year we were delighted to have Director/Choreographer Peter Kennedy and the very talented Musical Director, Mary Rose McNally, put the cast through their paces. Roscrea Musical Society is so lucky to have so many talented people on board, including our two Dance Captains – Margaret Comerford and John Coss.

The Show was very popular with young and old alike – The Elvis songs had everyone rocking in their seats and indeed at the end of each night the audience were even out in the aisles dancing with the cast.

And each night the cast received a standing ovation - no mean achievement. The Principals were Chad – Proinnsias Loughnane, Natalie Haller – Louise Handy, Dennis – John Coss, Lorraine – Rachael McMahon, Miss Sandra – Aileen Quaid, Sylvia – Heather Colohan, Dean Hyde – Tadhg Maher, Jim Haller – Paul Spencer, Mayor Matilda Hyde – Siobhán Bowe, Sheriff Earl – Colin Williams, and Henrietta – Gillian Wallace.

This year again we were fortunate to have a great back stage crew:-

Stage Manager, Mark McLoughlin and his crew Kevin Moloney, Harry Wall, Pat Bourke, Noel Ryan, Paddy Elbert, Ml. Talbot, Louis Cooley, Dick Conroy, Mackie Dooley, Seamus Mullaney and Enda Moloney.

Some other fundraising PR included *Strictly Fun Dancing*; this was run by the Lions Club and enjoyed greatly by participants and audience alike.

RMS also took part in this year’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade and there was a great turn-out of members, including ‘Elvis’ (Proinnsias Loughnane) arriving in his open top convertible along with some of the cast members and giving the huge crowd a taste of what was to come in the production of *All Shook Up*.

We would like to thank all the sponsors and Patrons and a huge thank you to Ivan Hastings, Abbey Street, who so kindly gave us a place to store all our materials.

To Bernie and Brian Colclough, Supervalu who generously sponsored the Raffle each night. To all, your continued support and participation no matter how small or great, is very much appreciated.

In 2013 RMS will stage *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, (27th April – 4th May, 2013) a wonderful show, with great scenes and musical numbers such as *Bless you beautiful Bride, Wonderful, Wonderful Day*, and *Spring, Spring, Spring*, to mention just a few.

Please come along to our rehearsals which start on 16th January, 2013 in Coláiste Phobal. Everyone is welcome. For further information don’t hesitate to contact our PRO Andrew Walsh, e-mail andrewwalshbus@gmail.com or 087 6781575 or any of Roscrea Musical Society committee members.

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**Roscrea Musical Society Honour Four Heroes**

On Friday 5th October Roscrea Musical Society bestowed honorary life membership on four of our true heroes: Eileen Moloney, Margaret Lyons, Mary Pyne and Marie Walsh who have all given a lifetime in helping to mould Roscrea Operatic/Musical society into what it is today. These ladies have given unselfishly of their time and talents over many years in many different capacities in the life of our society.

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**The Illustrated Story of Roscrea Musical Society 1940 to the present day. In early Summer RMS will publish its full story in glorious colour and with hundreds of pictures, edited by GC. Sponsors and Patrons are being sought for this venture. Contact any member of the Committee for details.**

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**THE CAST and CREW OF “ALL SHOOK UP” – 2012**
Time out: relaxing in the Full House are Joe Abbott, Cormac McMahon, John Walsh and Stephen King.

Joey and Caroline wish a happy Christmas and peaceful new year to all their customers.

The attractive outdoor area of the Full House

All Parties Catered For

Special Party Deals for 2013
Roscrea Youth Centre annual holiday to Kenmare

Our numbers were small this year for our annual holiday to Kenmare, due to the recession, and also to the change over from junior club to senior club, as some were too young to go and some of last year’s seniors had left the club. But a holiday is never judged by the numbers who go, but by how they enjoy themselves, and boy did we have a ball!

The group left the club on Sunday at 3 p.m., and with the usual stops in Limerick and Killarney, it was about 10.45p.m. when we arrived in Kenmare. We went into the houses assigned to us (we had four houses) and unpacked. After night prayer and a leaders’ meeting the young people got their supper and then we went to bed at about 1a.m.

On Monday we went to the Eclipse Centre where we did Horse riding, Archery, Team Building, and the Assault course. We also got our lunch in the centre and Fr. Lorcan said Mass. Thanks to Athos and his staff for looking after us so well. After a night swim at 9 o’clock, there was a very tired bunch of young people!

After resting on Tuesday morning we visited Killarney after dinner. Everyone got €10 for something to eat, and afterwards we went to the cinema.

On Wednesday there was the excitement of a trip to Dingle to see Fungi, and after two days of rain Fr. Lorcan was asked to have a word with his boss for some fine weather, and we all came back with sunburn. Well done Fr. Lorcan! After seeing Fungi we went to the Aquarium and afterwards got our usual €10 for food. Then the whole group went to the Carnival in Dingle and had a late night.

The following day after another sleep in, it was off to Tralee for our shopping day and then to the Aquadome for a swim. Later we ate and went to the cinema.

On Friday after dinner we went deep sea fishing. Every one caught a fish or two, or more in some cases. Thirty fish were caught in total and we took some home and had them for supper. Thank you to our captain Mick for a great day. Our night swim was at 9 o’clock, and our Mass at midnight. Our young people prepare our Mass on this last day.

On Saturday we had to start the long journey home, sad to leave, but happy to be going home. A big thank you to all the leaders, Fr. Lorcan, Anne, Deirdre, Gloria, Mark, Padraig and Sean, who give up a week of their holidays to take our young people on this holiday. And also thank you to all the people who supported us in any way throughout the year because without you this holiday would not be possible.

Irish Countrywomen’s Association Roscrea

Roscrea Guild founded in 1953, is still going from strength to strength and always encourages new members. Every March, Oiche Gealach is celebrated with music provided by Comhaltas. The Guild has organised Daffodil Day for the past twenty years and continues to support the Shoe Box Appeal and organise the Pink Ribbon Day in aid of Breast Cancer Research.

Our Arts and Crafts window display won the best window prize in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in 2011. A knitting circle, started by a member in the local library three years ago, has been knitting caps, scarves and mittens for the Irish Heart Foundation and is now knitting jumpers for African Aid babies.

We launched the Message in a Bottle scheme which was sponsored by Roscrea Lions Club and helped with the Church of Ireland’s Heralding our Heritage Flower Festival.

Each monthly meeting includes interesting talks and demonstrations, and the year is concluded with the annual dinner which is always held locally.

Lila Carroll, Roscrea Guild President, Cepta Murphy, First Prizewinner in the National Love Irish Food Competition, Anne Marie Dennison, National President of the ICA and Heather Evans, President North Tipperary Federation.
Happy faces at the Ros Cré Beo festival
In 2012 we held a festival of fun
We called it Ros Cré Beo.
It really was a huge success.
Big crowds to it did go.
Located in the castle grounds
Oh what a beautiful spot.
Such rich history has it got
Its been some time since the town has held
Such a festival of fun.
But now we’ll have it yearly.
Our day in the summer sun

You created a great festival of fun
Who planned for this great show
So thanks to those few people
And stories from their youth
T’was sometimes hard to separate
And with all their foot servants
They also came along
They entertained the mighty throng

A wide variety of people
All willing to lend a hand
When the call for help was given out
Together they did stand

Everyone in their own way
Helped keep moving the plan along
A helpful hand or encouraging words
To keep the people strong

All kinds of arts and crafts
And lots of musicians as well
Football, rugby and darts to throw
(To get the darts to stick was hell)

A special circus for the kids
And old photos to be seen
A hive of activity
In a setting so serene

Ros Cré Beo
by Joe Moloughney

In 2012 we held a festival of fun
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Located in the castle grounds
Oh what a beautiful spot.
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Its been some time since the town has held
Such a festival of fun.
But now we’ll have it yearly.
Our day in the summer sun

Church of Ireland was the setting for an ambient musical experience.
Inside the historic walls of the church a ‘Sacred Space’ was underway.
Triona Walsh, Nicole Robinson, Adam McDonagh, Marie Power and Fiona Baldwin sang/played classical pieces with gusto, eloquence and style. A special thanks to Rev. Leslie Robinson, Fr. Richard Purcell and Joan Murray and St. Cronan’s Cluster Choir.

That night a Céilí in The Damer Court Hotel, run by Danny Webster was a huge success. Thanks to Ann Feehan, Carol Thompson and Deirdre Bergin.

A huge thank you to all our sponsors, for their belief and generosity and to all who ensured it happened: Roscrea and Thurles Gardaí; The Order of Malta, Youth Café and the energetic staff of Damer Court Hotel; Mary Dillon and Leona Percy; Ger O’Meara (sound and many other things); stewards and participants who tirelessly entertained, greeted, charmed and wowed visitors; colleagues Triona Walsh, Chairperson, Tadhg Maher, Vice Chairperson, Mary Brennan, Secretary, James Marks, Treasurer and other committee members.

Most of all thanks to YOU for coming to our festival. We are busy planning for next year already. We hope to make RosCré Beo bigger and better. It is my belief that this will happen. So here’s to RosCré Beo arís in 2013.
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Roscrea Tidy Towns

Yes, We Can!

Since early spring, Tidy Towns members had been extremely busy preparing Roscrea for its “summer look” with clean-ups and floral displays and other plantings the order of the day. But that high visibility work is only part of what Roscrea People do.

The new artwork that has appeared on the public toilet wall in the car park over the summer owes its origins to a Tidy Towns competition entitled “Can It!” currently in its fifth year and sponsored by Alupro Ireland. The Tidy Towns “Can It!” Award is a special art competition sponsored by The European Aluminium Association (EAA) to find the most novel artistic design made from used beverage cans and foils.

Roscrea Tidy Towns discussed the project with an enthusiastic Coláiste Phobal, and especially Mr. David Leahy and his transition year students. It was their design and execution that has produced this marvellous work, helped by Rose Crofton of Roscrea Tidy Towns, and some staff members, who collected the cans.

Four members of the teaching staff at Coláiste Phobal, two members of Roscrea Tidy Towns and twenty-four Transition students were involved in the project.

Approx. 242 cans were used in the finished design. Students were delighted with, and took pride in, their work, and finished product. The idea that they could sign their work gave them a sense of ownership of it.

They had included etchings of Roscrea in their submission. The following appeared in a newspaper at the end of an account of the project. “Congratulations to all those involved – know that Roscrea is proud of your workmanship and we hope that following a safe and enjoyable summer break, good news may follow in September when the competition results are announced!”

How delighted the committee were to discover that Roscrea’s “Can It!” received an All-Ireland Award, thus ensuring national recognition for the town.
Roscrea Tidy Towns AGM

Back (l/r): John Byrne, Oliver Egan, Brendan Keeshan, Sean Delaney, Joe Ryan, John Buckley, Barney Hogan, Ginteras, Steve Crofton.

Front (l/r): Angela O’Dwyer, Mary Buckley, Mary Conroy, Rose Crofton, Mary Heffernan

PRIZEWINNERS 2012

TIDY TOWNS POSTER COMPETITION

Age 6 and under
1st Karpaviciute Deimante
2nd Ruby Mitchell
Reka Baranya
3rd Orla Kruse
Zuzanne Waurzynek

Age 7 – 9
1st Mollie Dooley
2nd Emma Mooney
Marcus Dunne
3rd Eva Wallace
Aisling Moloney

Age 10+
1st Louise Wallace
2nd Rebecca Williams
Laurynas Valaika
3rd Luke Wright
Vincent Dillane

SPECIAL CATEGORY
1st Class 2
2nd Aoibhneas

JOHN LUPTON SHIELD
Karpaviciute Deimante

BERNIE COLCLOUDH SHIELD
Sacred Heart N. S.
Corville N.S.
Sacred Heart N. S.
Corville N.S.
Sacred Heart N. S.

Corville N.S.
St. Cronan’s N.S.
Sacred Heart N. S.
St. Cronan’s N. S.
Dromakeenan N. S.
St. Cronan’s N. S.
St. Cronan’s N. S.
Sacred Heart N. S.
Corville N. S.
Scoil Eoin Naofa
St. Anne’s Special School
Dromakeenan N.S.
St. Anne’s Special School
Sacred Heart Primary School
Roscrea Tidy Towns was awarded First Place in the Templemore Electoral Area at the Tiobraid Álainn Environmental Awards Ceremony held in the North Tipperary County Council Offices on Monday November 19th 2012. The Awards were presented by the County Manager Mr. Joe MacGrath. The Committee are overjoyed to once again be awarded First Place as the Best Kept Town in North Tipperary. For several consecutive years now, they have maintained the high standard that has seen them remain in First Place.
We wish all our customers a Happy Christmas and New Year
Roscrea Ramblers was formed in January 2010 and has gone from strength to strength since with a membership this year of eighty. The club caters for walkers of all levels and ages.

Most Sundays we run two walks. The long walk usually takes place on our mountains such as Sliabh Bloom, The Galtees, Comeraghs and/or the Knockmealdowns, ranging from four to six hours and catering for and challenging the more active and fitter members. The short walks are usually from one and a half to three hours and are mainly on forest roads and some of our gentler hills. They are suitable for anybody with a moderate level of fitness. Once a month then we combine both groups and have an intermediate walk suitable for most members. All walks are lead by competent leaders, some of whom have spent the last twenty five years hillwalking in Ireland and abroad.

One of the highlights since we started was when twenty-seven of our members climbed Carrauntoohill, many of whom had never been on a mountain before the club started. Other highlights were a weekend walking in the Burren with local guide Mary Howard, a trip to Garrykennedy by boat and a walk back along The Lough Derg way to Dromineer where a barbeque was ready and a great evening was had by all. Another popular event is our Christmas night-time walk which finishes with a social night in the local hostelry.

Membership is open to all ages (under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian) and you will find all the information and contact numbers and a list of walks at www.roscrearamblers.com
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Proprietor Margaret Sheedy wishes all her customers a very happy Christmas and a great new year
The year 2012 was a special year in the Comhaltas calendar marking 50 years since the branch was founded. Having done their preliminary work, the inaugural meeting of the branch took place in the Central Hotel, Roscrea and the promotion of traditional music and culture has continued since then. The surviving members of the original committee are Pat Shanahan (now living in Clifden) and Eamonn Stafford, Dungar. A number of special events were organised to mark the 50th celebrations. Most notable were:

(a) a bi-lingual Mass broadcast from the RTE studio
(b) the launch of a commemorative calendar
(c) presentation of plaques to office holders
(d) celebration of a Mass for deceased members
(e) the recording and launch of a branch CD (Óg is Aosta) involving all age-groups
(f) the hosting of the Tipperary county fleadh cheoil

In addition, the branch provided musical entertainment at the turning-on of the Christmas lights, Roscrea People of the Year Awards, St Patrick’s Day parade, Irish night on St Patrick’s Night in Roscrea Golf Club, ICA Oíche Gháelach, St Cronan’s Day march, Hospice walk at Fancroft Mills on St Stephen’s day, Clareen trad-fest, the flower festival in St Cronan’s church, the recording of a programme of Down Your Way with Eamonn O’Dwyer of Tipp FM, the recording of a further programme involving Roscrea Golf Club and participation in Heritage week and the Ros Cré Beo festival.

The branch achieved All Ireland honours in winning the Scoraíocht title in 2012. Scoraíocht is a group competition of up to forty-five members where a light entertainment show of forty minutes is presented to demonstrate the best of music, singing, dancing, entertainment and production. The branch was awarded the highest marks in all categories.

Branch members competed at Fleadh Cheoil competitions at county, provincial and Fleadh na h-Éireann levels and also at Ceol an Gheimhridh, Scór na n-Óg, Scór na bpáistí and community games competitions. Daragh Carey-Kennedy continued his winning streak achieving gold while Mick Ryan, Clonakenny whistled his way to bronze. Five grúpaí ceoil from Roscrea competed in this year’s fleadh as well as entries in the céili dancing competition.

Kathryn Browne was elected to the Ardchomhairle (governing body) of Comhaltas as an ‘Óg-bhall’ (young member), a position previously held by Tadhg Maher.

Comhaltas in Roscrea continues to enjoy widespread community support. This was evident during July when weekly sessions were held in Damer Court Hotel. We were delighted to be joined by neighbouring Comhaltas branches from Camross, Killea, Ballyboy and Nenagh. Branch members also travelled to Killea and Camross to return the favour. Roscrea was one of a number of branches that participated in National Music Day on June 21st and on Culture Night on September 21st. To mark the first 50 years of Comhaltas in Roscrea, a branch history, titled Harmonies and Grace Notes edited by Dick Conroy, was launched during November. All in all, it was a great year for Comhaltas in Roscrea. Ar Aghaidh leis an gceol.


Front Row (seated): Eimear Teehan, Killian Roche, Keelan McGrath, Diarmuid Ryan, Jennifer McAuliffe, Thomas Deegan, Darragh Carey-Kennedy.

Above at Fleadh Cheoil Thíobraid Árann senior Grúpa Ceoil in Ros Cré
Brock Row: Tadgh Maher, Rose McAuliffe, Carol Thompson, Mairéad Fitzgerald, Diarmuid Fitzgerald, Billy Hynes, Mick Ryan, Sarah Fitzgerald.

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*Wishing all our customers a happy Christmas and prosperous 2013*
One of the highlights of the year was The Roscrea Miscellany event hosted by the Society at Damer Annex – a wonderful evening of music and song, laughter and nostalgia, fact and mind-boggling cosmic science. RHS also assisted with Ros Cré Beo, the Roscrea conferences, RP heritage publications, the Enhancement Plan and other research into our historic district. A full programme of events is planned for 2013 and RHS hopes to move into their new headquarters in the east tower of the castle.

Des Walsh helps John Gunnell hang out his 1979 washing during Roscrea Miscellany.

Taking part in Roscrea Miscellany
Seated: GC, Des Walsh (chairman, RHS), John Feehan
Standing: John Gunnell, GP Maher, Michael Costigan, Adrian Hewson

Aileen O’Meara introduces the Monaincha A/V Trail at the end of GC’s talk in the Blackmills during Heritage Week.
Producer Aileen O’Meara teamed up with GC (narration and visuals) to produce a detailed trail to and on The Holy Island. It may be freely downloaded from www.heritagetrails.ie (hit explore on the options and go to Monaincha; it follows the Martello towers trail). This follows the launch last year of the audio trail on the town.
Next page shows the map of the trail with the various stops; each stop may be listened to and viewed independently.
Maps and Trail Stops on next page.
The Monaincha, Co. Tipperary Heritage Trail

1. Cronan - The story of Cronan, and his monastery here on the Slighe Dhálá.

2. Sean Ross - The cradle of Roscrea’s Christianity.

3. Lady’s Island - The 31st Wonder of the World.

4. Monaincha - Saints Cronan and Canice, and a place of pilgrimage.

5. West Door - A truly peaceful atmosphere in an unique place.

6. Chancel - Cromwell’s searches turn bread to stone.

7. Prior’s Apartment - Superb masonry work and beautiful windows.

8. Birchgrove - The Birch family and Roscrea Whiskey.
Yes, a report by archaeologist Colm Flynn on the extensive excavations at Camlin (the official spelling is without the ‘b’) has been published by the NRA in a chapter, ‘Camlin: the archaeology of a townland in County Tipperary’, (pp31-48), in a volume entitled Encounters between Peoples. It reveals the astonishing story of 6000 years of settlement and burial in this one townland. The excavated area, carried out to allow the building of the M7 motorway, roughly corresponds to the land around exit 22 at the Roscrea/Templemore road junction. None of these sites showed any physical evidence above ground before excavation nor had any archaeological monument been recorded thereon. As only 2% of the townland was excavated and yielded such evidence, one can only wonder at the extent and continuity of settlement here over thousands of years. The results certainly bring a new and awesome dimension to the story of the Roscrea district, forcing us to rewrite the history books yet again. What a story we now have to tell.

Evidence of Neolithic (New Stone Age 4000-2200 BC) emerged with two early buildings and associated pottery, suggesting according to the excavator, ‘migrants from western Europe’. By Bronze Age times (2200-600 BC) the settlements were considerably bigger. Excavated on the site with radiocarbon dating from the 18th to the eighth century BC were ‘three large enclosures, 10 buildings, nine fulachtí fia (burnt mounds), two pit complexes and a flat cremation cemetery’. But, as with much of the rest of Ireland, Iron Age (600BC- 400AD) material was scarce...no evidence of continued occupation or large-scale human activity’ for this period before the coming of Christianity. But in the Early Medieval Period (400AD-1169) the settlements had increased again, producing goods, trading and observing Christian burial rites. Nine of the skeletons in one of the cemeteries produced dating evidence from the seventh to the 11th century showing that the cemetery was in use over 400-500 years. Later medieval evidence from Camlin ‘saw the unexplained return of small, low-status farmers living in unenclosed farmsteads’. The archaeologist commented that down the centuries the evidence pointed to ‘peaceful agrarian communities’ not engaged in warfare.

This report along with being of huge importance to Roscrea is also a model of what an archaeological report should be: readable, informative, well-illustrated and with reasoned conclusions. The book is available from the NRA, St Martin’s House, Waterloo Road, Dublin 4. ...GC

A 6000 Year Story…. Cam(b)lin Excavations

The Annals of Roscrea
Roscrea People in association with Roscrea Heritage Society at the 51st Conference at MSJ published a limited signed edition of the Annals of Roscrea, (75 copies only) edited by Dan McCarthy and Bart Jaski. This new edition is an important addition to Irish scholarship. There are a few copies remaining at €30 each.

Summing up the importance of the Roscrea Annals, Dan McCarthy said at the 51st Roscrea conference that they represent:

• an abbreviated and lacunose copy of the now lost annals compiled at the monastery of Clonmacnoise over AD c753-1227.

They preserved unique and invaluable details of the Annalistic version of the Irish origin legend. They preserve earlier and better versions of some entries and chronological data than other annals. Their exemplar, the Historia D. Cantwelii, appears likely to have been associated by O’Connor with Roscrea because of the account of the scholarly relationship between Cronán’s monastery at Roscrea, and the monastery of Clonmacnoise over the period ADc.760-1212.
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Fiftieth celebrated in style at Roscrea

While the presentation of a Carnival of Learning to conference organiser and director George Cunningham was certainly one of the highlights on a memorable April Saturday afternoon in 2012 the whole weekend of the 50th Roscrea Conference was a triumph of friendship and scholarship all set within and permeated by true Cistercian hospitality in the hallowed grounds of Mount St Joseph. Owing to the numbers attending, the proceedings had to be transferred to the Centenary Room at Cistercian College.

With the joint theme of From Citeaux to Roscrea and Celebrating 50 conferences, the occasion was truly honoured by the presence of the Abbot General of the Cistercians, Dom Eamonn Fitzgerald ocso, the first Irishman ever to hold that position. Dom Eamonn is a former abbot of Mt Melleray, Co Waterford (1989-2008) before being elected Abbot General.

Dom Richard also delivered an illustrated presentation on the Cistercians of the Isles. This was followed by an introductory brief talk and a full lecture on Saturday morning by Dr Padraig Hogan (NUIM) who explored the relationships between Fr Luke Wadding and the medieval Cistercians. The morning continued with Fr Uinséann O Clabaigh ocso on the return of the Cistercians to Melleray in the 1830s and Sr Lily Scullion ocso Glencairn Abbey on the Cistercian Nuns of the Isles.

A young scholar from Holycross and UCD Dr Ben Hazard explored the relationships between Fr Luke Wadding and the medieval Cistercians. The morning continued with Fr Uinséann O Clabaigh ocso on The return of the Cistercians to Melleray in the 1830s and Sr Lily Scullion ocso Glencairn Abbey on the Cistercian Nuns of the Isles.

Dom Richard and Dom Laurence Walsh told the story of MSJ in two sessions – Saturday and Sunday. Before dinner two further books were honoured: A Monastic Landscape by Breda Lynch and Willie Hayes’, Holycross – the awakening of the Abbey.

Following the conference dinner in the guesthouse George Cunningham did a tour de horizon on Celebrating 50 conferences which brought back many memories.

Sunday continued with the story of MSJ Roscrea and then of its daughters houses – a tour de force by Dom Peter Garvey ocso, then abbot of Bolton Abbey. Former governor of the Central Bank Tomás O Cofaigh (a brother in law of the late Fr Nivard) and who has attended almost all the conferences chaired the first Sunday morning session.

Concelebrated Mass was a joy with a choir of over eighty, organ and brass ensemble and the principal celebrant the Abbot General. The gifts were brought to the altar by Cunninghams: granddaughters Abby and Rachel carried the ‘book’ both in its vellum binding and the ordinary copy; and Carmel and George presented the bread and wine.

Following the inspirational Mass, four international scholars, professors Peter Harbison, Valerie Hall, Padraig Ó Riain and Dáibhí Ó Cróinín rounded off the formal proceedings with various apt contributions, in a session chaired by the Head of Collections at the National Museum of Ireland, Raghnall O Floinn. Conference director GC then summed up the conference in an appropriate manner.

The book fair at the conference ably supervised by Jerry Cahir has become a conference must; Carmel Cunningham and Maureen Cahir dealt with registration. The Roscrea Conferences are run by Roscrea People in association with Roscrea Heritage Society.

Honorary Degree from NUIG: To the great joy of the conference Professor Dáibhí Ó Cróinín announced on that April Conference Sunday that NUI Galway were to confer a degree of Master of Arts (honoris causa) on George Cunningham. The conferring took place on 23rd November.

A Cistercian Colophon: George Cunningham had a monastic surprise to round off the Friday events at the 50th conference: he presented a manuscript book of psalms (created in 1978 by calligrapher Tim O Neill as an exercise as he prepared to write the Roscrea missal, which was presented to MSJ for its centenary that year) to Dom Richard and MSJ. Tim created a new colophon for it which records the presentation.

He also presented to Dom Eamonn a manuscript book done ‘by command of the Lord Abbot of Mt Melleray to the Presentation Sisters Clonmel in 1845’, a 366 page translation by a Melleray monk of a discourse on spiritual retreats. It too has its own new colophon recording the presentation in honour of the 50th.
Honoured by Uachtaráin na hÉireann: The recipient of the festschrift and his wife Carmel, the editors of the volume (Peter Harbison and Valerie Hall) and the other members of the working committee (Maureen and Jerry Cahir, Dom Richard Purcell and Amanda Pedlow) of A Carnival of Learning were invited to Aras an Uachtaráin to meet President Higgins to honour A Carnival of Learning.

A specially signed copy was presented to the President during a most pleasant and memorable ceremony. The President signed The ‘special’ that had been presented to George Cunningham at the launch on the previous Saturday.

Treaslaím leat and gach moladh faoi do iarrachtaí ar son oidhreacht na hÉireann.

Mícheál D. Ó hUigínn
Uachtarán na hÉireann

(Incidentally this special copy is now signed by not only the President of Ireland but the Abbot General of the Cistercians, Peter Harbison and Valerie Hall.)

A Carnival of Learning

‘Local historian, bibliophile and social campaigner George Cunningham was honoured during a moving event in Mount St Joseph Abbey last Saturday afternoon. A visibly moved Mr Cunningham was presented with a collection of essays, ‘A Carnival of Learning’, which was edited by Peter Harbison and Valerie Hall. ‘A Carnival of Learning’ features a number of essays on medieval Ireland, topics largely explored at the weekend conferences held in Mount St Joseph Abbey. It is a beautifully produced book and is fascinating reading. George was presented with a unique edition of the book, boxed in local oak from the monastery with calligraphy by Tim O’Neill. The vellum binding imitated a style popular in Italy in the 16th century’.

Derek Fanning (Midland Tribune, 21st April 2012)

The inscription on the special copy to GC from President Higgins signed at the Aras: (I applaud you and every praise for your efforts for the heritage of Ireland...Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland)
The Annals of Ireland explored anew at Roscrea

‘The Irish Annals are treasures unequalled in Europe and compare to the rich annals and historical records of the far east…. We don’t credit ourselves enough or shout loudly enough about these national assets, the envy of other European nations.’ So stated Professor Dáibhí Ó Cróinín of NUI Galway at the recent 51st Roscrea conference held as usual at the Cistercian Abbey on the weekend after Hallowe’en. Its theme, ‘The Annals of Ireland’ proved most suitable as a capacity audience was treated to international scholarship and a wonderful feast of learning and cultural entertainment from leading academics in the field. The conference was opened on the Friday evening by Dr Dan McCarthy, TCD, author of the definitive ‘Irish Annals’. Harvard academic, Dr Francis Ludlow, who came over especially from the USA for the event had three talks on the environment and weather as recorded in the Annals. Salutary to say among the gems he recited was one, ‘that on only six occasions in 1200 years of annals was good weather recorded for Ireland.’ Nothing changes. Other scholars, Nollaig O’Muraíle, Bernie Cunningham, Tim O’Neill and our own John Feehan all gave exemplary talks with Dr Feehan leading a field trip to Golden Grove on the Saturday. Tim O’Neill also gave two practical sessions on calligraphy. The new limited edition (75 signed copies only) of the Annals of Roscrea was also launched; only a few copies are left. The 52nd Roscrea Conference, Friday 5th -7th April 2013 takes as its theme: Roscrea and the Irish Midlands at the beginning of the 13th century; celebrating the first formal record of parliament in Ireland at Roscrea 1213.
Michael Ryan, Manager of Centenary DIY Roscrea

Staff at Centenary DIY Home and Garden: Niamh Ryan, Lorraine Loughnane, Kathleen Crowe and Seán Grimes

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Who is this well known Lion preparing to be a one man float in the Patrick’s Day Parade to help publicise the Great Cream Egg Race?

The year got off to a good start and plans were already in place for the annual charity walk and the Seniors trip to Trabolgan. While the charity walk location was a novel one it attracted fewer walkers and sponsorship. Consequently for 2013 there will be a radical overhaul of the walk, its location and timing as well as the type of fundraiser it will be.

The excitement of the race down the escalator!!
Lions Charity Walk 2012
The Lions Club of Roscrea annual holiday trip for senior citizens took place last Friday from Damer Court Hotel. Pictured are Lions members, Liam Spooner, Bill Hanly, Project chairman and Jim Dwyer Club President with holidaymakers Maureen O’Riordan, Sara Landy, Patricia Ryan, Marie Healy, Maisie McGrath, Sid Greene, Gordon Greene, Ann Flynn, Ann Russell.

Club President Maurice Murphy and his wife Cepta with outgoing President Jim Dwyer and his wife Grainne at the annual changeover dinner in Damer Court Hotel.

Lions President presents Mark Rowland Chair RYC with proceeds from volunteers who raised sponsorship at the 2012 Charity Walk. €960 was presented.
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Tommy Kiely and Chris Murphy finish a game of pool at the Lucky Dip

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2012 has been a year of change and challenges, and like all families in these times it has brought us closer, made us stronger and reminded us how good our neighbours in the community are to us. The year started with the retirements of our longest serving member of staff Nurse Margaret Hennessy and our Matron Anne Keevey. Their commitment and service to the Dean Maxwell down the years has been invaluable and we wish them every success in the future with much health and happiness. In February staff ensured that high standards which we pride ourselves on were maintained with a week’s full intensive training in all the mandatory courses.

In March as a result of proposed changes to our home, the Dean Maxwell CNU Action Group was formed and organised a rally to support the Dean Maxwell and its residents. The people of Roscrea and surrounding areas were not found wanting. Over 3000 people turned out in one of the largest shows of support for any cause ever seen in the town and because of this and other public meetings the proposed bed cuts were overturned. As a result we currently have 25 beds open including 1 respite and 2 palliative care, as and when required.

As confirmation of the Dean Maxwell’s high standards the very next month in April we passed with flying colours another HIQA inspection.

May saw the residents and staff participate fully in the Bealtaine Festival. There were demonstrations of Stone Sculpting and Wood Working held by both Jerry Cahir and Pat Moloughney. Music was composed by Joan Murray and the residents while Swingabella entertained everyone with a fantastic day of song and dance. We also welcomed the St Cronan’s walk which stopped in at the Dean Maxwell, and residents rang the Eucharistic bell.

In June, local artist Hazel Greene completed a work shop on silk hand painting with the resident and day centre members who produced a selection of beautiful coloured scarves.

July saw our annual family day take place. There may have been rain outside but inside there was no dampening the spirits of the residents and their families with a magician, music, ice cream, not to mention fun and Irish dancing. Later in the month we also enjoyed the day out when we were invited to join The North Tipperary Community Service Annual Pilgrimage to Holycross.

Dean Maxwell Community Nursing Unit, moving forward together

Anne Keevey Retirement:
Front (L-R) Catherine Timmons, Marie Healy, Anne Keevey, Kathleen Quirke, Maureen O’Riordan, Don Ryan.
Back (L-R) Mary Doughan, Angela Nolan, Fidelma Carroll, Frankie De Lewis, Josie Cahill.

Great Fun:
Margaret Hennessy and many of her Dean Maxwell friends enjoying celebrations

Art Work:
Madge Kenneally and her granddaughter Aoibhinn
In August as Olympic fever swept the country, we got to see a signed Irish boxing jersey, but to boxing fan and resident Angela Keeshan this was just the start. So with great determination she invited Olympian John Joe Nevin to visit the Dean Maxwell and sure enough in September John Joe Nevin turned up at the door and visited everyone all thanks to Angela and her determination. To get over the excitement we also went to Bunratty and spent a very sunny and very enjoyable day with a quick detour to Durty Nellie’s. In October the Children from St Cronan’s School visited us and delighted everyone with their beautiful singing. We look forward to their return during the Christmas period. We welcome babies Ben Lawlor and Shane Grimes to our growing family in the Dean Maxwell.

In November Bishop Kieran O’Reilly celebrated our annual remembrance Mass in St Cronan’s Church and as Christmas approaches we will hold our Christmas party in the Racket Hall Hotel. The day will commence with Mass followed by Christmas dinner and afterwards music and dancing.

2012 has seen many changes and challenges but also a lot of laughter, happy memories and friendships. It is with this in mind we look forward to 2013 with a sense of optimism and positivism.

On behalf of the residents, day centre and staff members of the Dean Maxwell Community, I wish you all a very happy Christmas and thank all those who supported the Dean Maxwell during 2012.

Bróna Brophy, Acting Director of Nursing
To our families, friends and community.

Thank you all for your generous support in 2012.

Wishing you a Happy Christmas and New Year

From everyone in the Dean Maxwell Community Nursing Unit.

At the Mass for the residents of the Dean Maxwell Centre were: Fr Michael Harding, Fr Damien Nolan, Bishop Kieran O’Reilly, Rev Lesley Robinson (partly hidden) and Rev Brian Griffin.
Live Bands at Weekends

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This year St. Cronan’s has taken a major leap forward into the digital age. On the 1st of September 2012 www.cronans.ie went live online. We opened our doors to the digital world. The website will be updated regularly so everyone is urged to check in from time to time and catch up with any news. Feel free to pass on the address to those who might be interested in the work we do here at St. Cronan’s.

Staying with technology, St. Cronan’s also invested in 3 i-pads to be used as part of its training. Products such as screen magnification and voice-over allow access for people with visual impairments or those with literacy difficulties.

The familiar keyboard takes a back seat to the futuristic touch screen. Learning apps are downloadable literally at our finger tips. St. Cronan’s hopes that by using this technology it will make it easier for our service users to learn.

During the year street collections were held in Roscrea, Nenagh and Birr in addition to Church gate collections in Templemore, Clonmore and Killea. The total amount raised was €5669.00, an example of the support we receive from our friends and supporters, without which our service users would be unable to participate in the many activities that are necessary to enhancing their quality of life. Examples of these activities include training for independent living, personal care skills, work skills and skills to promote social inclusion and active citizenship.

On the sporting front, service users in Roscrea are currently involved in the North Tipperary Boccia League, running over the next couple of months in conjunction with the North Tipperary Sports Partnership.

Other events of note this year included our service users photographic exhibition in Birr theatre. Service users received instruction from staff in digital photography and building on these skills they mounted their compositions of flowers, scenery and animals in frames which went on display in the Birr Theatre during November.

Helping others has always been central in the minds of our service users and this year everybody has been kept busy organising the shoe box appeal. Happy with their work is this year’s group of volunteers.

Excitement continues to build with service users involvement in ‘A Taste of Roscrea’ which runs in December and will be based in the grounds of Roscrea castle. St. Cronan’s have secured a stall at this event and over the period of the festival intends to display for sale a range of country style Christmas crafts. These include yule logs, fresh wreaths and dry wreaths, bird feeders and cheese boards, Christmas cards, jewellery and bird boxes.

St. Cronan’s Service voluntary Board of Directors under the stewardship of Ms. Mary Smith (Chairperson) has over the last year continued to steer the services through the difficult challenges of recent times and our grateful appreciation is extended to all its members for their work in ensuring the services are maintained to the highest standards.

Chairperson, Mary Smith accepts the formal presentation of books from Fr Lorcan on behalf of Roscrea People. RP has been making an annual presentation to St Cronan’s Services since 1987.
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The Irish Wheelchair Association continues to provide services over five days a week despite the restraints of the current economic situation. This is largely due to a dedicated team of flexible and diverse people who adapt well to change and work with a positive outlook finding ways to overcome adversity.

2012 was another action-packed year for IWA. Training courses took place in Personal Development, Self-Advocacy, Drama and Internet Skills. Resource Centre activity included various forms of Art and Craft, Exercise Programmes, Swimming, Boccia tournaments and various outings when the weather was kind. Some of the places visited included the Access and Mobility Exhibition at City West which is a ‘must see’ for anyone wishing to know what Assistive Technology is – becoming available for people with physical and sensory disabilities, to make life a little easier; a trip to the Dublin Horse Show; the Delta Sensory Garden in Carlow; the Lucan Fishing Competition; Newbridge Silverware. This year’s annual Respite break took place a little later than usual in November, when the grounds of Dunamon Castle were at their most beautiful with the autumn leaves turning their forty shades of gold.

The association continues to provide training and employment opportunities for people who wish to obtain work in the Care Sector through its Community Employment Scheme.

**Why join IWA?** People with disability often feel isolated and alone. By coming together as an association, we can support each other in dealing with many issues. As an association, we become a stronger force in advocating for positive changes in society. Membership is open to all people with limited mobility (whether or not you are a wheelchair user). For further information, contact Edel on 0505 23229

The members and staff of IWA would like to take this opportunity to thank the People of Roscrea for their continued support and extend good wishes to all for 2013.

*Irish Wheelchair Association ... Roscrea Reports*
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PROMPT SERVICE AND DELIVERY

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2012 has been another busy year for Roscrea SPCA.

Last December the Society received a very generous grant from the Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries and The Marine for €11,000 which helped it to continue its work. **The total expenses this year exceeded €23,300.** Because of the numbers neutered by the Society in the past number of years (4,411 animals) the numbers of strays and unwanted litters has been drastically reduced in the Roscrea area and its environs.

**In March** Roscrea SPCA entered the *St Patrick’s Parade* and was delighted to retain the *Cup* for ‘Best Entry from a Local Club or Organisation’.

**Subsidised Neutering:** In the year 2011 - 2012 the Society neutered 439 animals at a cost of €12,000. As always, we urge people to avail of the scheme.

**Feral Cat Neutering Scheme:** The Society provides a ‘trap, neuter, release’ (TNR) scheme for feral (wild) cats. During the year we paid for the complete cost of neutering 32 cats (€1,600). The Society has a number of neutered cats that would be suitable for farms or stables. They are safer and cleaner than using poisoned bait. Please call 086 3582440 for further information.

**Rehoming:** Roscrea SPCA re-homed fifteen dogs and eighteen cats in the past year and every dog re-homed is now microchipped by the Society.

The Society ran its second **Fun Dog Show on the 1st July** in Coláiste Phobal Sports Field, which, unfortunately, turned out to be one of the wettest days of the summer. The proceeds from the day were just over €1,000. Thanks to all who supported it.

The **Annual Sponsored Walk** took place on 23rd September in Golden Grove. The Society held a bag-packing day in Tesco’s in October and a **Church Gate Collection** in September. Thanks to all for their encouragement and generosity.

**Thanks:** The Society wishes to acknowledge the continued hard work of its Chairperson, Lorraine and Secretary Rosie and all its members who work tirelessly to keep the Society going in these difficult times.

In October/November Roscrea SPCA produced a pack of eight **Christmas Cards** for sale locally. Pick up a pack or two today!

**Table Quiz:** The Society ran its first Table Quiz on Thursday 8th November which was enjoyed by all who attended.

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**Check us out:**

**New website:** [www.roscreaspca.ie](http://www.roscreaspca.ie)

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**Table Quiz:**

L-r: Ashling Nolan, Brendan Dowling, Noelle Russell, Linda Pender

**Visitors of recent Table Quiz**

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- Faxing
A Busy Year for the Church of Ireland in Roscrea

It’s been a busy year within the Roscrea Group of Parishes, especially as St. Cronan’s Church, Church St. celebrated its bicentenary in 2012. The church bells rang in the bicentenary year as the clock struck midnight on New Year’s Eve and our final celebratory event will be a performance of Handel’s *Messiah* in the church on 15th December. In-between was a major Service of Thanksgiving in April, and a magnificent Flower Festival in August. These events will be detailed in this chronological review of the year.

The year started with a great note of excitement due to the production of a beautiful calendar to mark St. Cronan’s 200th anniversary. With stunning photography by Brian Redmond, these limited edition calendars quickly sold out and became collector’s items. We celebrated the arrival of Josh Pearson, a second son for Gillian; and mourned the passing of our oldest parishioner, Bob Dunne, late of Fancroft, Brosna and Roscrea. Bob passed away peacefully in Mount Carmel Nursing home in his 92nd year. A veteran of the RAF he served during the Second World War as an aircraft engineer in such far flung places as Burma, India and West Africa.

We were thrilled to learn that Marjorie McCorduck had been awarded a Roscrea People of the Year Award for the honour of being elected President of the Irish Ladies’ Golf Union. Also in January around fifty parishioners and friends joined in the fine food and festivities which comprise the annual parish lunch. Once again, Damer Court Hotel provided a delicious meal which was enjoyed by the assembled gathering on Sunday 22nd January in addition to the obligatory quiz and lots of chat, laughter and fellowship. On 25th January, Adrian Hewson, Marjorie McCorduck, Charlotte Roe and I took part in the service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which was held in the Methodist Church.

On 11th February, little Abbie Young, daughter of Colin and Aoife, was baptised by Fr. Tom Corbett assisted by myself in a beautiful ceremony in Camblin Church.

We kicked off our Lenten observance on Ash Wednesday with service in Roscrea. Guest speaker was Andrew Coleman from Christian Aid. Over the course of Lent, the magnificent total of €1,741.78 was raised to go towards the work of Christian Aid’s programmes in the developing world. On 2nd March, Mai Clare, June Wallace, Charlotte Roe, and myself all took part in the World Day of Prayer service, held this year in the Methodist Church.

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.

On Palm Sunday, Henry Stuart Hodgins, son of James and Madeleine, Camblin, was baptised in St. Cronan’s Church. On 14th April Amy Pamela Colclough, daughter of Tara Colclough was baptised into the family of God in Christ Church, Corbally, and on 22nd April Luke and Isla Jennings, twins of Mandy and Leighton Jennings and grandchildren of Robert and Doreen Roe, were baptised, also in Corbally.

Also on 22nd April, St. Cronan’s played host for the first time to the Midland’s District Boys’ Brigade Regional service. On April 29th, a congregation of around 350 people attended the Service of Thanksgiving to celebrate St. Cronan’s Bicentenary – a service which has been widely lauded as joyful and uplifting. The Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Rev. Michael Jackson, gave the address and Bishop Trevor Williams celebrated the Eucharist amid a host of visiting clergy and Lay Readers which included Bishop Willie Walshe, Dom Richard Purcell, Fr. Tom Corbett, Rev. Brian Griffin, and Archdeacon Wayne Carney. The church was resplendent with stunning flower arrangements by Liam Maloney All the parish organisations took part in the rousing opening procession, proudly carrying their colourful banners: Mothers’ Union; GFS; Boys Brigade; St. Cronan’s NS; St. Cronan’s Youth Club; Sunday School and Healer Prayer Union. After the opening hymn various symbols representing church life over the past two hundred years were brought to the front of the church: the original church key symbolising the opening of the church 200 years ago, and the continuing ministry of openness and welcome; a cross symbolising our Christian identity and the salvation which Christ has won for us; a Bible, symbolising the centrality of the Word of God in our lives and in our worship; a hymn book and prayer book, symbolising the worship which has been offered in the current building for 200 years and continuously on the ancient site for fourteen hundred years; water from St. Cronan’s well, symbolising our monastic beginnings and the enduring Christian values of service and hospitality; a portrait of Mark the Evangelist from the 7th century Book of Dimma, written on the site, symbolising our ecumenical fellowship and common Christian heritage; parish registers, symbolising the generations of people who have been baptised, married and buried in St. Cronan’s: a poppy wreath in remembrance of those who died in war; and our commemorative calendar, symbolising our bicentenary celebrations this year, and our faith in the Eternal God, the Alpha and Omega, as we look towards the future. The communion elements were brought forward during the
offertory by our oldest and youngest parishioners: Alice Harvey (who celebrated her 93rd birthday two days later) and Josh Pearson. There were beautiful musical contributions from Roscrea Community Choir, Virtuoso Chamber Choir and Nicole Robinson.

This year’s annual St. Cronan’s Walk took place on Sunday 6th May, starting from the Nun’s Cemetery at 3pm and ending at St. Cronan’s, Church St. via the Dean Maxwell Home and Roscrea Castle Garden. The organising committee presented a mountain ash tree to St. Cronan’s Parish to commemorate the church’s bicentenary, which was planted in the churchyard by yours truly with help from my ecumenical colleagues Fr. Tom Corbett, Rev. Brian Griffin and Dom. Laurence Walsh. The Eucharistic Congress Bell accompanied the walkers throughout and was brought into St. Cronan’s for the short ceremony at the end of the walk.

The Mothers’ Union held its ‘Mums in May’ tea party in Corbally Hall on 15th May, when there were lots of tempting treats to enjoy with a cup of tea or coffee while the children were busy making play dough creations and the obligatory jumping of the stream in the churchyard!

On 17th June, Cara Yvonne Parr, first child of Gary and Yvonne, was baptised into the family of God in Bourney Church.

Our annual fundraising BBQ and Family Fun Afternoon was held in the Rugby Club on 10th June: thanks to all who supported us, particularly our sponsors and suppliers Stapleton’s Bakery, Tesco, Roscrea Credit Union, Supervalu, Fresh Fields, Young’s Garage, Fayles of Birr, Corrib Oil, Centenary DIY, Madden’s Pharmacy and Jade’s Hair Salon. Thanks to everyone who attended on the day or bought Splash of Cash Raffle Tickets, and to Roscrea Rugby Club for the use of its splendid facilities.

An ICA Coffee Day and Sale in Roscrea Hall organised by Heather Evans raised the wonderful total of €1,045 for the Breast Cancer Research Unit in Galway.

Our first ever (hopefully annual) Pet Blessing took place in Bourney Churchyard on Sunday 24th June and proved to be a great success with around sixty people in attendance and numerous animals including several dogs, a kitten, some goldfish, a pony, a calf, hens and pheasants!

Congratulations to Lavinia Read and Trevor Kenny who were married in St. Cronan’s Church, Roscrea, on 19th July, and to Jean Stanley and Damien Cunningham who were married in St. Cronan’s on 11th August.

Zak Wallace, Son of Cecil and Lynn, Roscrea, was baptised in St. Cronan’s, Roscrea, on 12th August, and Ella Austin, daughter of Trevor and Michelle, Bourney, was baptised in St. Burchin’s, Bourney, on 19th August.

Kyle Parish had a very successful fundraising coffee day, sale and raffle in the home of Eddie and Mai Clare, Ballaghmore: thanks to everyone who supported them.

Our annual Parish Picnic in Corbally was a great success again this year with around eighty parishioners joining in our worship on 29th July which included live music, dance and drama led by our friends Icthus from Dublin. Following the service parishioners of all ages enjoyed a picnic lunch downstairs after which the young people had the choice of an art workshop led by Icthus or a team challenge led by the United Diocesan Youth Council, while the adults exercised their intellects with brainteaser puzzles. The collection at the service was in aid of the Swaziland Farm Project and brought in almost €400.

The much anticipated Flower Festival in St. Cronan’s, ‘Heralding our Heritage’ received rapturous plaudits from all who visited. Superlatives such as ‘wow’, ‘breathtaking’ ‘overwhelming’ were in abundance as the many visitors to the church over the four days tried to take in the scene of immense beauty which surrounded them. On Friday 17th August a large crowd were treated to a wonderful evening of music before Bishop Trevor Williams officially opened the event. Many thanks to all who supported this venture and to Richard Haslam, designer; the talented team of arrangers; the musicians and singers; and all who helped with stewarding, cleaning, etc. A donation of €750 was made to the Laurels Hospice Unit of the Dean Maxwell Home.

Flower Festival Team

Front Row L-R: Joyce Meredith, Cepta Murphy, Bridie Coughlan, Amanda Pearson, Maureen Hayes, Richard Haslam, Liz Watkins, Kay Eades Mary Fogarty.

2nd Row: Ethel Mitchell, Bishop Trevor Williams, Doreen Roe, Rosie Gee, Pat Grogan, Liam Moloney, Sarah Carr, Rev. Lesley Robinson.
St. Cronan’s Church was delighted to host a concert of sacred classical music on Sunday 26th August as part of the Roscrea Beo festival, and proud that our very own soprano, Nicole Robinson, topped the bill!

Matthew Thompson, son of Stanley and Rebecca, was baptised in Shinrone Methodist church on 2nd September by Rev. Brian Griffin, assisted by myself.

A good size congregation attended the service of Healing and Wholeness organised by the Diocesan Mothers’ Union in Roscrea Church on 1st October. The lessons were read by Mrs. Ina Blackwell, Diocesan Mothers’ Union President, and Rev. Ruth Gill, Diocesan MU Faith and Policy Co-ordinator. Jessica Stone, Ministry Co-ordinator of the Church of Ireland Ministry of Healing gave the address. Many of the congregation came forward for prayer and anointing.

Heather Evans and Vivienne Wallace and their team of helpers ran a charity shop on Main St. from 2nd-6th October in aid of the Team Hope Shoebox appeal and parish funds. The amazing total of over €3,500 was raised.

On 13th October, Rebecca Mary Connor, daughter of Andrew and Kate, Spruce Hill, was baptised in St. Cronan’s. On 27th October Clive Davis, Corbally, and Mary Ryan were married in a beautiful ceremony in St. Mary’s Church, Drom by Fr. Martin Murphy, assisted by yours truly.

At time of writing, there is still lots to look forward to between now and the New Year. Corbally parishioners are busy selling raffle tickets and making plans for the monster draw in Fitzpatrick’s Lounge, Clonmore on 23rd November. An ecumenical Service for Swaziland is being held in St. Cronan’s on 25th November at which the music will be led by the choir of Foundation Ministries, Ennis, to add an African flavour. Proceeds from the collection at that service will go towards the Luyengo Farm Project. And the culmination of St. Cronan’s bicentenary celebrations will be on Saturday 15th December when the East Cork Choral Society and East Cork Orchestra will perform Handel’s timeless masterpiece, *Messiah* at 7.30pm.

We give thanks to Almighty God for all his blessings during the past year, one of which is surely the excellent ecumenical friendship we enjoy within this community. We continue to uphold in prayer all who are sick or suffering, and to celebrate with those who rejoice. We congratulate *Roscrea People*, and wish its readers everywhere a very happy Christmas and a prosperous 2013.

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**A Life Illumined** by Michael Egan, Roscrea

When mortal-kind that hand extends,  
To mortal-kind in need,  
That mortal kindness seldom ends,  
The kindness of the deed.

Its consequences outward spread,  
Tho' languid be life’s pool,  
Whose ripples give new life instead,  
Where death o’er life would rule.

Thro’ one kind deed a seedling bloomed,  
And blossom’d in life’s sun,  
And gave to life which it illumined,  
A life, where there was none.

A prescint insightedness,  
The soul in him did see,  
Eliciting a learnedness,  
Inert since infancy.

A feeling did pervade a doubt,  
And life that moment changed,  
A reject number’d as of nought,  
And whom chance had estranged.

Life’s circumstance to him unknown,  
Unknown by him to sight,  
Alone when met, a word was sown,  
Where wisdom shone its light.

A glimmer in life’s darkness there,  
A stir of dormant kind,  
Insight to see and be aware,  
The self thro’ study find.

A chrysalis, an interlude,  
The warmth of nature’s rays,  
On hibernation to intrude,  
Where life would idly laze.

No more to fall, no more to crawl,  
Nor would it now that state to change,  
No more to fall, no more to crawl,  
Nor would it now that state to change.

No more to fall, no more to crawl,  
No more a grub of earth,  
Nor would it now that state to change,  
No more a grub of earth.

Nor would it now that state to change,  
From beauty borne on wings,  
Nor would it now that state to change,  
From beauty borne on wings.

Humanity can change impress,  
From moulded state to be,  
No more to fall, no more to crawl,  
From moulded state to be.

Now and the New Year. Corbally parishioners are busy selling raffle tickets and making plans for the monster draw in Fitzpatrick’s Lounge, Clonmore on 23rd November. An ecumenical Service for Swaziland is being held in St. Cronan’s on 25th November at which the music will be led by the choir of Foundation Ministries, Ennis, to add an African flavour. Proceeds from the collection at that service will go towards the Luyengo Farm Project. And the culmination of St. Cronan’s bicentenary celebrations will be on Saturday 15th December when the East Cork Choral Society and East Cork Orchestra will perform Handel’s timeless masterpiece, *Messiah* at 7.30pm.

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*Dedicated with gratitude to Mr. Tony Garrihy (teacher) and encouragers everywhere*
Saturday 3rd November was a big day for Scouting Ireland in Roscrea. The new “One Programme” is progressive through all Sections and at Scout, Venture and Rover Scout level, and it is possible to do the Chief Scout Award together with the Bronze, Silver and Gold Gaisce Award. As part of this award scheme, Venture Scouts are required to complete a residential/intercultural shared activity … and this is how Venture Scouts from Roscrea, Durrow and Killaloe met Mrs Eirene Griffin, founder of the charity CAHPA. Eirene came to the Roscrea Scout Hall and presented her work in the forming of the charity. Her on-going work with CAHPA is in La Cote d’Ivoire. Eirene’s husband is Minister of the North Tipperary Circuit of the Methodist Church.

A pin dropping would have been heard so moved were these young adults by Eirene’s stories and they admired her inspiration and bravery in reaching out to touch the lives of men and women condemned to begging on the streets of Abidjan, simply because they were handicapped. Eirene’s slides and talk showed how just one person, prepared to work hard and never give up, can achieve much and make a difference in the lives of others. Through the work of making and selling crafts, CAHPA Artists live in dignity, with hope.

RTE’s Nationwide programme were also about to feature CAHPA and in support of Eirene the Venture Scouts agreed to run a “Fair for CAHPA”. These young people worked incredibly hard organising the event. Their enthusiasm was infectious as adult Scouters and Venture Scouts worked side by side. All felt it a privilege to be in a position to help people thousands of miles away.

The support for the Venture Scouts from within the Scouting community, the local people of Roscrea and surrounding areas was outstanding. The Fair was a huge success. On the day the adults in attendance stood back in awe of a group of young people who showcased the talent, energy, goodwill, creativeness and willingness to help, that exists in our young people the length and breadth of this country.

The total amount of crafts sold comes to €1,919 the picture shows a cheque being presented to Eirene by Caroline Marks, Scout Leader who worked so hard with the Venture Scouts to make the event the enjoyable exciting time it was. For Eirene it was an emotional day, as these young people entered into the ethos of the Charity CAHPA … working so that others have the chance to work and so, to live. The work of the Scouts goes on, week in and out with faithful leaders like Caroline, never counting the cost. SCOUTS we salute you.

The programme will be broadcast on RTE 1 Nationwide on December 3 at 7.00 pm.

Open Air Service at Gloster House: The sun shone on a large congregation for what is now an annual service here on June 17, 2012. Former students from the Girls’ Boarding School which was run by the Salesian Sisters from 1958–91 were present to give thanks for happy years spent in the school and to re-unite with friends from those days. The Guest Speaker was the Rev Bill Olmsted from Iowa USA currently serving on the Port Laoise Circuit.

Methodism was “born in song” and this featured well through an introduction to new hymns from the new hymnal “Singing the Faith” by John Armitage and the Cloughjordan Community Choir. Tom and Mary Alexander always extend a warm welcome to everyone and provide light refreshments in the old school Chapel and an opportunity to relax in the grounds.

Festival of Harvest: It is traditional in Methodism, to decorate our churches to celebrate Harvest and each year those with floral skills make it a memorable occasion. This year, there was Mr

God in the Surf at Lahinch: young people learning about God through new experiences.

The display during the Cloughjordan Heritage Festival of ‘Flower 2012’.
Scarecrow himself ... stuffed with straw and seated in a prominent position, he was a big hit with the children. The theme of Rev Bill Mullally (guest speaker) was: saving faith through which Jesus equips us for service; promises his presence, gives us peace together with both present and eternal awards. Rev Bill was looking out for his ancestors and was ably helped by Susan Chadwick genealogist and the Catholic Parish Office where he examined the Clonakenny archives.

Spruce Krier, an Irish American spent a year in Roscrea housesitting for Susan Crawford. She brought a new dimension to worship and in April addressed the Methodist Women on “wellness not sickness”. Spruce is one of these people who easily gets involved and she managed to serve on the St Patrick’s Day Parade committee as well as helping out at the Abbey Hall bookstore in Main Stree.

On Thursdays at 8.00 pm there is an open Bible Discussion group in the Methodist Hall, which is attended by members of the community. Sessions have included “can we trust the bible” and a study in the seven Letters to the Churches to be found in Revelation chapters 2 and 3. The new season started in November and is looking at difficult subjects such as abortion and assisted suicide. More opportunity for learning provided by the Irish School of Ecumenics was available in Birr for five evenings during September and October. Well-attended (70 plus people) the topics were: Worship; Justice and Politics; Faith and Ecology; Theology and Reading the Bible.

Roscrea, Borrisokane, Cloughjordan and Shinrone, make up the North Tipperary Circuit. All contributed to the Cloughjordan Heritage Festival with their own “FLOWER 2012”. Roscrea depicted the history of Methodism in Cloughjordan in the Cloughjordan Church.

The Midlands and Southern District has 10 Circuits, North Tipperary being just one. Mr Edgar Lee represented the Roscrea Church at the District Synod which met in Portlaoise in March. At that meeting Rev Brian D Griffin was nominated for a second term of three years to the office of District Superintendent. This was ratified by the Methodist Conference in June.

The Methodist Church is widely spread over huge distances and small in numbers, so it is important to create opportunities for fellowship with other churches on the district. These have included: Praying with the Bible in Kilkenny; meeting Rev Joyce Torres, from Brazil in Birr in her role as Secretary of the Latin American and Carribean region Methodist Church; God in the Surf, Lahinch, young people learning about God through new experiences; Women’s seminars in Killarney and Carlow; Harvest Home in Mountmellick; District Teen Event (hosted by Roscrea) where thirty young people did a sleep over and enjoyed fun, food and fellowship.

Annual service of Prayer for Christian Unity and the World Day of Prayer were both hosted by Roscrea Methodist Church in January and March respectively. Good Friday Walk, now an annual event was very moving as Christians from all denominations walked together to each other’s churches. The Annual St Cronan’s Day Walk terminated with tea and goodies in the Roscrea Methodist Hall and was televised by RTE Nationwide. Whitsun Eve Celebration which followed a pilgrimage to Holy Island in Lough Derg, was held in Tuamgraney Church. Rev Brian Griffin as District Superintendent was in attendance with Bishops Trevor Williams and Kieran O’Reilly. Nativity Live will feature again outside the Roscrea Methodist Church on Saturday 15 December from 3 – 5 pm. Special welcome to children and young people. Ecumenical Carol Service will also be in the Church on Thursday 20 December at 8.00 pm featuring special music by Roscrea Community Choir and the Nenagh Folk Choir.

RTE Television Service will feature the North Tipperary Circuit on Sunday 23 December, and will be conducted by Rev Brian Griffin with musical contributions by the Cloughjordan Community Choir under the direction of John Armitage, Cloughjordan organist.
One of the most beautiful areas of Roscrea is the treed landscape of the RC parish grounds, situated as it is beneath Convent Hill or ancient Knockbrack, also known from the late 1700s as Chapel Hill or Priests’ Hill. I have written about these areas in the appendices to the *Modern Story of St Cronan’s* (2001) but this illustrated feature aims to highlight once again the wonderful heritage of trees that the grounds possess. These, indeed, are not only one the most important ‘lungs’ of our town but visually give a spiritual lift as one stares in awe at their god-given majesty.

The little river, now becoming known as the Bunnow hereabouts (it was the Moneen as it entered the town and then became the Mall), adds much to the impact of the landscape whether it is flowing gently or thundering over the waterfall.

Up to the early 1900s an avenue of horse chestnuts (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) lined the front avenue from the belfry to the river bridge. One such big tree, according to tradition called the ‘Luck Tree’ stood in the middle of the avenue and was festooned with medals and pieces of cloth for good fortune.

Today, this avenue is lined with Lawson Cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsonia*) planted in the 1950s. Most of the other cypresses (and it probably is the most common tree in the grounds) are one form of Lawson Cypress or another….these were the big decorative planted trees of those times.
Three sycamores (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) dominate the graveyard to the west (left as you walk towards the belfry from the river), and young pines struggle to mask the massive modern stores. We need more cypresses and other conifers here to soften the stores’ big walls and roof.

Majestic horse chestnuts do survive on the other side of the river. The one to the east of the bridge (left as you walk towards the church) is a superb example with spreading branches of majestic dimensions. To me it is ‘the’ Roscrea tree: indeed, as the traveller commented on another tree in another place, ‘sink down yon traveller on your knee, God stands before you in that tree’. Two other chestnuts are along the bank beside the waterfall below the cypresses with their clinging, climbing clematis.

The sloping ground between the sacristy and river hold a small grove of native common yew (*Taxus baccata*, also called English yew but one of the native coniferous trees of Ireland), some laburnum and a really fine example of weeping ash (*Fraxinus excelsior pendula*). Of outstanding interest, beside the noticeboard, almost framing the northern side door of the church are two Hiba Arbor Vitae (*Thujopsis dolabrata*, one of the trees of life). One wonders who planted them? We say a silent prayer for him (or}

The gentle Moneen becomes a roaring giant when in flood

The old gas lamps, presented by the S.H. Society in the 1880s, have modern uses on the bridge
her?) thanking the planter for the legacy we now enjoy. Alongside the walk to the carpark is the yew more commonly associated with churchyards, the upright Florence Court Irish yew (Taxus baccata fastigiata) now dominating a small bed of heathers and prostrate juniper (Juniperus prostrata) and a young pine. The hillside behind the church is dominated by yews and cypresses (all various strains of Lawson Cypress).

On the way up to the upper graveyard again cypresses and native yews catch the eye, as does the stately copper beech (Fagus sylvatica purpurea). Native whitethorn, ivy and some snowberry make up the hedge, below which the hillside down to the river has been reseeding with young beech, sycamore, ash, holly and elder. Even young elm is making a comeback here. Along the river bed new plantings have not been too successful.

In the upper graveyard the common yew is a major feature. A lone sycamore guards the entry to the modern cemetery. Overlooking the S.H. Nuns’ cemetery (now thankfully presented in a fitting manner) some stately trees stand tall: lime (Tilia), a truly majestic beech and an old warrior of a very mature macrocarpa cypress (Cypressus macrocarpa). The mature chestnuts and beeches of the former convent grounds are local treasures. A line of fast growing poplars (Populus nigra) define the boundary wall between the cemetery and the former hockey field, still dominated by the horse chestnut planted in 1869 by the Mother General of the Sacred Heart Order, Mother Goetz to honour her visit to Roscrea.

The trees and woodlands of St Cronan’s and the adjoining properties are now the most extensive in the town area and are of incalculable value. Many thanks to Fr Tom Corbett PP for his concern, love of them and help with this feature.
Pictured under the yews and the copper beech, following the unveiling of a plaque at St.Cronan’s Church to commemorate the 38 years, 1961-1999, of the Christian Brothers School.


Recent view of the Sacred Heart sisters’ cemetery, showing some of the caring work done on the part of the small committee and with the help of some volunteers, and the County Council and FÁS staffs. The old clematis on the top arch has rejuvenated itself and almost completely embraces the arch once more. The majestic beech, still resplendent with deep copper tones, was holding on to some of its leaves, even into late-November.

Thanks to St Cronan’s RC for the enthusiasm and support for this feature.
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Wishing all our customers a merry Christmas and a prosperous new year
The Country Estate

Gary McEvoy reports briefly on some of his research into some of our 'Big Houses'

Roscrea is a town rich in historical interest and while many people know of its fine heritage sites such as the castle, round tower and its various churches, little is known of the many country house estates that grace the local landscape. Most of these estates were the results of vast tracts of lands being offered to men who served in the various English armies of the 1600s up to the time of the Cromwell, when much of Tipperary, Offaly and Laois became the scene of the Plantation of Ireland. At this time Offaly became known as King’s County and Laois became Queen’s County.

These ‘planters’ went on to build mansions, outbuildings and formal landscapes from the mid 1700s to the 1798 rebellion when the golden age of Irish architecture blossomed. The early 1800s saw an acceleration of the building of these great estates and our local area also benefited from the building boom of its day.

Dungar House: In the early 1830s James Hutchinson Esq., commissioned the architect Thomas A. Cobden to design a villa for his lands at Dungar. Hutchinson was a member of the Hutchinson/Vaughan family who had vast tracts of land in the area. Cobden, after much changing of design came up with an Italianate style mansion, which was completed in 1839 and was considered to be one of the finest in the area. The owner and his family lived there for a number of years and it is believed that an Evans family then occupied the house until the 1860s. The estate was then bought by Turner Read who was involved in the malt and milling industries. The Read family added extensive outbuildings and embellished the house further. They remained there until later in the 1920s when it became extremely expensive to maintain country houses of this size. A smaller family home was built close to the Gate Lodge and they have remained there to the present time. Peter Read, a grandson of Turner, was instrumental in saving Dungar, at a time when taxes were being imposed on the larger country estates. The estate was eventually sold to the Milner Family who are now owners of Dungar and have restored it close to what Cobden must have planned. The architect’s drawings commissioned by Hutchinson still remain at Dungar almost 200 years after they were first put on paper by Cobden.

Gloster House: The central mansion at Gloster dates from c1680, although it incorporates a much earlier manor house possibly from the early 1600s. The Lloyd family acquired Gloster through the marriage of Rose Medhop (whose family were granted 500 acres in Glassderrymore on the Roscrea/Birr Road) to Capt Trevor Lloyd in 1639. The Lloyd name remained associated with Gloster until the 1950s. Trevor Lloyd did some extensive remodelling in 1730. He employed architect St Edward Lovett Pearce to carry out these works and Pearce added wings and a sandstone parapet to the main house. He also embellished the gardens with statues, ponds and a more formal layout.

East of the main house he also constructed a folly arch with obelisks. To the West and North stand two gate lodges, one with a tree-lined formal entrance. The Lloyds were also connected through marriage to the Parsons of Birr and the Vaughans of Golden Grove. The house was sold by the Lloyds in 1958 to the Salesian Order of Nuns who added a school to the rear of the main house. They remained until the 1990s and today the mansion is in the care of Tom and Mary Alexander, who are in the process of restoring it to its former glory.

Cangort Park: This was designed by architect Sir Richard Morrison for William Trench and was completed in 1807. Though it is a relatively simple building externally it is the interior of Cangort that amazes the visitor. Vaulted ceilings, bowed rooms and domed lobbies all add to the ingeniously planned interior. The cantilever staircase was also of particularly high quality. The Trenches were a powerful family holding over 6000 acres in the area in the 1870s. They had connections to Sopwell Hall in Ballingarry and Loughton House in Moneygall along with many other estates. The mansion stands today with its many outbuildings still intact.

Cangort House: Less than a mile from Cangort Park lies the ashlar-limestone-built Cangort House. The present Jacobean style house was built in the 19th century on the site of an earlier 17th century castle. The Atkinson family came to Cangort at the time of James 1 and upgraded the property to the fine mansion we see today. They also added an entrance avenue with gate lodge, a walled garden and elegant outbuildings to form a magnificent demesne.

Timoney Park: The great Gothic style mansion of Timoney Park was built in the 1840s by the Hutchinson family. The demesne they created had extensive stables, workers’ quarters and a
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large walled garden which would have provided the estate with fruit and vegetables throughout the year. In 1845 the church at Timoney was opened by the Hutchisons, after they had taken over the building which previously operated as a mill, run by the Ryan family. They altered the interior and added the spire to one gable. Close by to the Timoney Estate the family also built the now demolished Rockforest House.

After the last family, Parker Hutchinson left the area the property lay dormant until in 1930s the Duggan Brothers Building Firm purchased it and stripped the house of its valuable interior woodwork fittings and removed the roof and windows. It remains in this state to the present day, an imposing ruin on Knock Hill.

Golden Grove: The Vaughans built a fine three storey over basement mansion of limestone along with service out buildings, walled gardens and an ornamental pond. They also added numerous entrance avenues with lodges and wrought iron gates. Successive Vaughans lived in Golden Grove throughout the 18th and 19th centuries and also had connections to Gloster House through marriage.

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They built Glenalbert House close to Golden Grove which was occupied by an Albert Maxwell in the 1830s and also the impressive Dungar House near Fancroft. William Peisley Hutchinson Lloyd Vaughan gave lands at Dungar cemetery to the people of Roscrea. He went on to marry Elizabeth Darby of Leap Castle. The family remained at Golden Grove until the 1920s when the property was attacked, resulting in a fire causing extensive damage. Although the house was restored by Vaughan it was purchased by the Land Commission in the 1930s and the house was eventually demolished. Its fine conservatory was purchased by Mr George Fasenfeld and moved to his Monaincha property.

Shavogue House: The main creators of Shavogue Estate were Francis Hastings and his son who succeeded him as the 13th Earl of Huntington; They built a fine Tudor style mansion in the early 1800s with extensive formal gardens and parklands on the Birr road we know today. The 14th Earl Francis Power Plantagenet Hastings inherited the property in June 1910 tragedy struck Shavogue, when a gas explosion resulted in the death of two of the service staff. At the time of the explosion the property was being rented from the Earl by a sister of Captain Lloyd of Gloster House. Another fire ripped through the property in the 1920s and after the Earl returned to England the property was demolished and the lands were divided by the land commission. A gate lodge is still occupied today.

Glasshouse: The Rolleston family acquired the property from descendants of Capt Joshua Smith and added outbuildings, gardens and tennis courts. In 1857 internationally renowned poet T.W. Rolleston was born in Glasshouse and by 1891 had founded the Irish Literacy Society in London, whose members included W. B. Yeats, and Sean O’Casey. A branch of the family assumed the Spunner name after the inheritance of Milltown, and Glasshouse remained in the family until the death of Henry Rolleston in 1910.

The property changed hands numerous times in the following years until it was bought by the land commission. In 1930 the monks at Mount St Joseph bought the property and re-used the stone. The cut stone blocks were brought to the monastery where they were used in extensions to the buildings there, including the spire of the Church. Inside the Guesthouse the ceramic tiles on the floor were also salvaged from the mansion at Glasshouse.
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Margaret and James Mulvey
Roscrea in 1942
by Tom Lupton

January: Once again Christmas Mass was broadcast from the church at Mount Saint Joseph...The late Fr. Tuohy was remembered for the efforts he made in bringing the lands of the Franciscan Abbey back into parochial ownership...At the annual general meeting of the local branch of the CYMS it was reported that they raised £300 and that they had a total of £27 in credit at the end of 1941...On one particular Saturday Roscrea Meat Products slaughtered 463 cattle, which was necessary due to the demand for canned meat. This gave much needed extra employment to the area.

February: At a meeting of North Tipperary Board of Health it was estimated that repairs to the local fever and district hospitals would cost approximately £3000...At the annual general meeting of the Roscrea branch of the Red Cross, Rev. T. O'Reilly was elected president and David Rea MPSI, treasurer...In the first round of the Garryowen Cup Nenagh defeated Roscrea by five tries to one...The secretary of the Workers' Hall called a meeting to discuss whether to repair the building or to facilitate its disposal...At the local market, eggs were selling for two shillings per dozen, butter 1s 4d per lb and potatoes 8d per stone...A donkey load of turf could be bought for six shillings.

March: A ceremony took place in the Abbey Hall in which first aid certificates were handed out under the auspices of the Order of Malta. This included twenty three ladies and twelve men...Roscrea Meat Products Limited had to employ an extra twenty workers because of an extra busy period...A large number of people representing both the L.D.F. and the Red Cross paraded through the town on Saint Patrick’s Day...There was a general feeling of well-being among the farming community as exceptionally good weather proved a major boost to tillage production...Roscrea Bacon Factory bought a farm at Monahinchina for £1000 for the purpose of raising pigs and growing potatoes.

April: A four acre field at Chapel Lane was sold for £300...North Tipperary County Council gave employment to approximately sixty men in Timoney Bog...Roscrea Meat Products Limited set a new record when it manage to slaughter 504 cattle in one day for the continuously growing canned meat industry...A house on the Mall was sold for £175.

May: Preparations were commencing for the celebration of the centenary of the Roscrea House of the Sacred Heart Order, the first house of the order in the United Kingdom and Ireland to achieve such an event...A local nun, Sister Mary Michael Sharpe from Limerick Street died in India where she had spent many years...During the previous season Roscrea Meat Products Limited had dealt with between 1200 and 1700 cattle on a weekly basis...It was reported that a large number of workers from Roscrea Bacon Factory were engaged in cutting turf at Birch's Bog...At a meeting of the Workers’ Hall it was decided to accept an offer of £125 from the Roscrea – Athy Cinema Co. for the hall...For three nights Roscrea Operatic Society’s production of Patience attracted large numbers...Because of recent very heavy rain, County Council staff, employed in saving turf in the area, had to stop working.

June: At Roscrea District Court a man was sentenced to three months in prison for stealing a bicycle worth £8...Lieutenant Brophy carried out a general knowledge test on members of the local L.D.F. before their deployment in providing weekend guard employment to the area, had to stop working...

for the general area...As part of the centenary celebrations of the Sacred Heart Convent the praesidium of the Legion of Mary presented a thurible to the Order, while at the same time a tableau was presented to the students...Under the auspices of the Gaelic League a camogie club was formed in the town...

July: Roscrea Fire Brigade fought a huge fire at Birch’s Bog...An athletic club was set up in the area...A number of local hurling supporters decided to cycle to Cork for the Munster Hurling Final...A small house on twelve acres of land was sold for £650...There was an increase in the number of deaths from cancer in North Tipperary for the year 1941. It rose to seventy-five from fifty-eight the previous year. The number of deaths from tuberculosis for the same year was eighty-one...Thirty young men from the area were employed by the E.S.B. to paint poles at the rate of 1s. per hour...There were many complaints from the farming community that turnip and mangold crops in the area were being destroyed by crows...Grave concern was expressed at the loss of water from the pump at Ballyhall...The Department sanctioned the building of twenty-four new cottages for Roscrea.

August: W. Moloney M.C.C. a long time supporter of Fianna Fáil decided to stand as an Independent...Roscrea Meat Products Limited opened after a three month closure...The number of employees stood at around four hundred...Roscrea C.Y.M.S. held its first ever American doubles tournament...Work on the Limerick Street cottage scheme got under way...

September: Businesses and shops in the town closed for an hour on 2nd of September as a mark of respect to the execution of Thomas Williams in Belfast...Father Vincent Shiel, who was ordained in 1941, and with family members living in Rosemary Square, left for the missions in Australia...Taoiseach Eamon de Valera had lunch in the town on his way back from a trip to Cork – he commented on how well he thought the town looked...Newtowen House in Kinnitty which comprised twenty-three acres was sold for £487.

October: The Australian tenor Alfred O’Shea visited Mount Saint Joseph where he sang Pange Lingua at Benediction...Dr. Ryan, Minister for Agriculture visited the town where he spent some time at Mount Saint Joseph and Roscrea Meat Products Limited...At a meeting of the Roscrea Licensed Vintners and Grocers' Association it was decided to send a letter of protest to all the political parties expressing their concern over the new Licensing Bill...As 1619 cattle were slaughtered in one week Roscrea Meat Products had to take on extra staff...At the annual general meeting of Roscrea Rugby Club it was decided to carry on despite travelling difficulties and very little success...Firewood of beech and ash was sold on Golden Grove estate for 6s. per ton...The oldest resident of Roscrea District, Miss Anna Bourke, died at the age of one hundred and six...Due to bad weather Chapel Lane had become impassable...

November: A Roscrea trader was fined £13 for a breach of the Tea Control Order...Several dwellings in Limerick Street, which were described as being unsightly, were demolished...Coolderry and Ballyegan schools were closed for a short period because of an outbreak of infantile paralysis...The well-known figure Sean O'Broin, a prominent member of the Gaelic League, died...Children in Shinrone were given a week off school to help with the picking of potatoes...The spread of disease in the town gave rise to calls for better sanitation in several houses...

December: At a meeting of Roscrea Labour Party, local man Martin Cunningham called for greater unity among Labour supporters...At the retirement of local postman Michael Condon, it was estimated that he had walked approximately 70,000 miles during his career...
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From the slightly quieter state of retirement I can look back across my career with the Department of Foreign Affairs and ask where the first seeds of interest and preparation may have been planted. In my case, and placing the very considerable influences of both parents to one side, startlingly clear indicators emerge from my early schooling in Roscrea. Two years of kindergarten at the Sacred Heart Convent and six years at Dromakeenan (1952-1958) provided a life-long interest in foreign languages and a firm grounding in my sense of Irishness, through the Irish language, history and geography.

From the first day at the convent there were new and exotic words which culminated in singing rhymes and Christmas carols in four languages – English, Irish, French and German. I understood nothing of the last two but liked the sounds and this was enough to get me really interested at secondary level. I was also taught to read English by Mother Day who later went “on the missions” to Tokyo and counted among her pupils a young lady who is now the wife of the Emperor of Japan.

History and geography were started in 4th class at Dromakeenan. This brings back memories of one schoolroom, two teachers (J Collison/K Fallon), four rows of desks and five classes! There was also a small arrangement of benches and a high stool for Kate Fallon at the front. Perched on her high-stool she taught History and Geography to which ever class was “rotated” to the benches, and over the course of three years imparted more detailed information on both than I later encountered even for the Leaving Cert! A truly remarkable and unforgettable experience. The amount of Irish taught was pretty good too, so much so that on arrival at Gormanston I was assigned to the class where every subject - except English - was through Irish. This in turn meant that Fr Cronan Torpey OFM (formerly of Limerick St) was my first Latin (or more precisely Laidin!) teacher; and, strange as it may appear, Latin grammar was still very useful when I was learning Portuguese and Persian twenty and forty years later respectively.

Another feature of my career was that either at home or abroad Roscrea people or “neighbours” kept appearing. Mairín Gantley, as part of the then tiny Irish community in Lisbon, many visitors/pilgrims to Rome, Seamus Purcell (Birr) very active in the beef trade with Libya, where I had to travel frequently as part of my then “commercial brief” (1983-85) and where I was involved in restoring this trade not once but twice. Then in Bonn (1988-92) I often worked with Nuala Spooner (Bord Fáilte, Frankfurt) at Irish promotional evenings. Marina Moloney (Bridge Bar, Limerick St again!) was one of the first of the Irish community to welcome me as Ambassador to Tehran. Periods at home included providing briefing on Anglo-Irish or other international matters for TDs, or appearing before Dáil committees, and in this way I had various contacts with the three Michaels – O’Kennedy, Smith and Lowry. Noel Coonan, as head of an Oireachtas delegation came to visit in Tallinn, from where I actually retired and hung up my ambassadorial spurs.

A conclusion I can draw from these experiences is that it might literally have been “a long way to Tipperary” from foreign vantage points, but Roscrea as a foundation or a running commentary was never far away. No way!

My own Ballaghmore by the wandering Nore,  
With your mountains and mire lands so airy,  
May the sun always shine where the three counties join,  
At Offaly, Laoighis and Tipperary.

Way back in my prime, up Cooleshill I’d climb,  
And gaze on the scenes, there are many,  
From the rock where I’d sit, I’d view the great Devil’s Bit,  
And the blue mountain range in Kilkenny.

The big ‘forked lough’, the village of Knock,  
The farm-lands of Skirke and Rathdowney,  
Bawn, Boulerea, the town of Roscrea,  
And the Cross that lights up Knocksheegownie.

Sheehills, Derrymore on the banks of the Nore,  
Courganeen, Camblin and Clonan,  
And the famed Carrig Lane where the girls stoned the Dane,  
And the Abbey and Tower and St. Cronan.

Along the old dusty road that passed our abode,  
We would go when the humour would stir us,  
And walk mile after mile to Camross or Kyle,  
Getting refreshed at Kelly’s in Borris.

Then on the way back, we’d call at the ‘Shack’,  
And there leave the last of our money,  
Cold comfort at Carrolls, we sat on old barrels,  
And chatted with Paddy and Honey.

We had no City Hall, but to each Christmas Ball,  
Each girl would arrive with her ‘fella’,  
To sing and to dance, play cards and romance,  
At the school in ‘Downtown’ Killavilla.

Well time marches on, though some old friends have gone,  
The scenes never alter nor vary,  
I can still see the sign where the three counties join,  
At Offaly, Laoighis and Tipperary.
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On the seventh of January 1922 the Anglo-Irish Treaty was passed in the Dáil by 64 votes to 57. Eamon De Valera, Cathal Brugha and Austin Stack resigned and the country was divided. This was the start of a tragic civil war that was to pit brother against brother. People who had fought shoulder to shoulder now found themselves on opposite sides in this bloody conflict that was to leave 1250 Irish men and women dead. Seventy-seven of these were executed. Among those were Four Tipperary men executed in Roscrea by the Irish Free State.

On the 23rd of December 1922 Frederick Burke, Martin O’Shea and Patrick Russell, aged 17, held up and robbed a mail car on the Nenagh to Borrisoleigh road. The driver of the mail car told them that the military were close behind, but they didn’t believe him.

They took refuge in Ross cottage which was close by but soon the Free State Army were upon them. The commander of the troops on the day was a local man and was a personal friend of all three and had fought side by side with them previously. He said that he alone would approach the cottage and that no one was to fire until he gave the signal - a single shot in the air.

“I will give you five minutes to escape and then I will inform the troops that this house is empty,” he told them. He waited the full five minutes before returning to the road and just as he did, in their hurry to get away, one of the fugitive’s guns went off. Thinking this was the signal, the troops opened fire and following a four hour battle, the troops stormed the house and overpowered the men. They were taken to Templemore and charged with possession of two rifles, 100 rounds of ammunition, a Thompson sub-machine gun and bomb making equipment. They were found guilty and sentenced to death by firing squad.

The carrying out of the sentence was delayed: feelings were running very high locally and efforts by the local clergy and bishop to save the men came to nought. The bishop of Cashel and Emly, Dr Harty, in a last ditch effort to save the men, gave a directive to his priests to refuse them absolution. The Free State authorities transferred them to Roscrea, in the Killaloe diocese. It has been said that Roscrea at the time was seen as a very conservative town and pro-treaty. But this could be said of most towns in Ireland. The main reason for the transfer was twofold: to remove the men from their own locality and the strong secure centre that Roscrea castle provided.

About this time Patrick McNamara and Michael Kennedy from Nenagh, both members of the first Tipperary brigade, were captured with arms near Portroe. They were taken to Roscrea barracks where they were tried and sentenced to death (alleged brutality at their interrogation has never been proven). Michael Kennedy got a reprieve by the intervention of a Free State officer.

During their detention the men were allowed no visitors except Father Moloney, the local priest, who said Mass with...
them and heard their confession and gave Holy Communion the evening before their executions. The execution date was a closely guarded secret. The firing squad was drafted in from other areas and wore no badges of identification.

On the morning of January 15th 1923 the four men were taken out to the small courtyard before 8 a.m. A soldier who had witnessed the execution said many years later that they went quietly and gave no trouble.

The firing party consisted of eight men, two assigned to each prisoner with one gun having blanks and one having live ammunition.

The shots rang out around the town as the bell for eight o’clock Mass was ringing. The four men were pronounced dead shortly afterwards. The bullet holes can still be seen in the wall of the small garden where they were shot. They were taken away and buried between the wall supports in the back garden of the castle. In October 1924 when the civil war was over the bodies were exhumed and reburied in their respective parishes.

Written in the toilet (demolished in the ‘80s) beside the cell where the men were kept were the words:

Shea, Bourke, McNamara, and young Russell after tomorrow there will be R.I.P after our names.

Martin O’Shea’s last letter:

Dear Josie,

I feel it hard for the last time to pen these few lines. Fred, Patrick and myself will be executed tomorrow morning at eight o’clock. From the bottom of our hearts we thank God for the long day we are getting and we are very glad that we weren’t killed in Ross. We offer ourselves to Almighty God this night, that by our deaths it may bring peace and happiness to the land we are about to leave and hope our executions will be the last for Ireland’s freedom. We are quite satisfied with God’s will. Tell our friends we send them our last love and blessing also our comrades.

I ask you to have no spite for those who arrested us. We forgive every one of them. We forgive those who signed our executions. We forgive those who are about to execute us. To Mrs Ryan and family, to all our neighbours and friends we send our love. I will pray for you all in heaven. I feel very much for our people. May God comfort them in their hard trial. I feel quite happy in every other way. We hope to meet you all in heaven. Goodbye dear Josie. Get all our friends to pray for us. We only have a few more hours when we will be standing before our God.

Martin.

(Ed’s note: Kathleen Moloughney has more detail on these tragic executions in her book Roscrea, My Heart’s Home (RP, 1992), pp 31-33. I have reproduced an actual copy of Patrick Russell’s last letter to his mother in my The Modern Story of St Cronan’s (RP, 2001), pp 52-54.)
The signal box, and its surviving equipment, at Roscrea is of tremendous interest to rail enthusiasts all over Europe.
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The road from North Tipperary - Irish Emigration to Canada

Eamonn Horan recounts a tale of murder, mayhem and massacre over land and squatting: The Black Donnellys, Canada’s most notorious family of Legend.

One of the most talked about events in Canadian folklore, even to this day, is the murderous feud which occurred on the night of Feb. 3rd, 1880 in Biddulph Township, near London, Ontario. On that infamous night five members of an Irish family, the Donnellys were viciously murdered by their neighbours in a vigilante-style attack. Known thereafter as "The Black Donnellys", that night’s mayhem ensured their place in Canadian mythology.

What was known at the time was that the family were recent emigrants to Canada from Ireland. They were of obscure and humble background and hailed from Tipperary, then considered the most violent county in Ireland. Much was written of that night’s events, but for the next hundred years many sought to establish where exactly in Tipperary this infamous family had their exact beginnings. All attempts failed until very recently and now with some certainty it has been determined that the Donnellys have their origin in the Roscrea area, particularly in the civil Parish of Rathnaveoge.

Evidence of this is laid out by the researcher and author Bruce S. Elliott (see Irish Migrants in Canada, in Roscrea Library, in the George Cunningham Collection and an article in Roscrea People 2010). Bruce Elliott’s recent research in Salt Lake City, Utah, led him to learn that Roscrea born Fr. Willie Walsh, while still Bishop of Killaloe had lifted access restrictions on the few registers for his Diocese, which were filmed by the Utah-based Church of the Latter day Saints, the Mormons. So the search for the Donnellys reignited and here is what he found.

Moneygall and Banna, Offaly (Kings Co.) Parochial Union (R.C.) also includes the civil parish of Rathnaveoge in North Tipperary and it was here the researcher found the Donnellys. (R.C. parish - D. of Killaloe - Baptism & Marriages 1820- 1873 - LDS film 979695). Here is recorded in 1840 the marriage of James Donnelly and Judy Magee (witnesses James Howe and Mgt.Burns). And then in 1841 in the baptism register, there is recorded the arrival of James’s son, James (Jr.) (witness James and Cath. Magee of “Castletown”).

Castletown, their place of residence is a mystery as yet unresolved. Where then in those years was the locality of ‘Castletown’ in the Parish of or surrounds of Rathnaveoge? Maybe the people of Rathnaveoge can say where is the ‘Castle’ ruin - which gives rise to the placename? We know of Castleroan, Dunkerrin and Castle Division, Ballinakill and even Castletown-Ely. Further evidence comes with the recorded birth of James Donnelly’s wife, Judith Magee. Her birth is registered Sept. 27th, 1820, her parents being James Magee and Cath. (nee Flannery), witnesses John Stoney and Ann Tobin, also listed as Castletown. Is it possible that Castletown was a sub-nomination of Lisduff?

James Donnelly emigrated to Canada in 1841 to be later joined by his family there being, at that time, a large pattern of emigration to Canada from the N. Tipperary parishes, (see Barack Obama - Roscrea People 2010). They settled in the London, Ontario region where earlier emigrants from the parishes of Roscrea, Dunkerrin, Templeharry, Cullenwaine had gone and were established and were protective of their rights to land and ownership of same. It was there that possibly ‘old country’ feuds were reignited at that time. In 1847, James Donnelly ended up squatting on a parcel of land which he didn’t have the money to buy, hoping no one would ever come to claim it. In 1856/57 another Irish emigrant, Patrick Farrell, purchased the land from the Canada Co. and to his surprise and annoyance he found James Donnelly and family squatting on his land, so he set in motion an eviction order. The dispute was settled to nobody’s satisfaction, but Farrell allowed James to keep 25 acres, much less than the Donnellys had cleared of trees. Terms of the settlement would have been arranged by two other earlier emigrants from this Roscrea area, Col.Thos.Talbot and Wm.Hodgins.

Patrick Farrell was bitter and this bitterness came to a head on that infamous night of June 27th 1857. While building a barn, a community effort, the pair of antagonists came to blows in a drunken brawl. Donnelly threw an iron bar which floored Farrell. The Police were called but the assailant had gone missing and was nowhere to be found. Patrick Farrell died two days later. It was much later discovered that Donnelly had been living and hiding in his barn, working his fields dressed in his wife’s clothes!! About two years later he turned himself in to Jim Hodgins (North. Tipp), a sympathetic Justice of the Peace. He was sentenced to be hanged but it was later reduced to seven years in prison.

The year 1873 saw the ‘Donnelly Stagecoach Line ’ being very successfully run by four of James’s sons. It was so successful, in fact, that the opposition (begun 1838) was forced to sell to another Irishman named – Patrick Flanagan, who was determined to drive the Donnelly's out of business. More feuding ensued. Stages and stables were burned; horses beaten and killed. All blame was heaped on the Donnelly’s. There were charges but few convictions. There followed accounts of assault, arson, trespassing, attempted murder, and of course, the murder of Patrick Farrell. Nowadays we would call the Donnellys “neighbours from hell “. But it seems it wasn’t all the Donnellys doing.

Enter the so called “Biddulph Peace Society”, a vigilante group hell-bent on mischief-making. The scene was now set for massacre. The Peace Society gathered at the Cedar Swamp schoolhouse on the night of Feb 3rd 1880. Constable James Carroll tried to arrest James and Tom Donnelly at their home. But before he could do his duty the mob arrived and with blackened faces, proceeded to brutally attack the family and set the house ablaze. They then attacked another Donnelly house nearby shooting a John Donnelly. The gunmen were alleged to be Martin McLaughlin and James Ryder.

Deaths on that infamous night in Canadian history were James (1816), his wife Johannah (nee Magee), John (1847), Thomas (1854), both sons and Bridget Donnelly (niece) from Ireland.

In 1880 there were two trials and both ended in a hung jury. But an 1881 trial indicted the “Peace Society “ and also the Parish Priest, Fr. John Connolly. The so-called ‘Whiteboys’ confessed but were given monies to relocate, which they did across the border to the U.S.A. Before they could be extradited the Prosecutor had second thoughts, especially with the Parish Priest as a suspect, and the matter was dropped.

Today, this story of land-strife, feuding, murder and mayhem is still the legend of folklore, especially among the farmers of that region and throughout the whole of Canada. My own Canadian born wife, Theresa, was raised on this story and lived within easy driving distance of that area.
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Wishing all a Happy Christmas
Especially if March ‘went out like a lion’ and blasted its icy roar in early April, we noticed the turf-clamp at the end of the house diminishing rather rapidly and realized, that once again, the time was right to replenish supplies.

When April showers renewed the grasses and coaxed them to greater heights, the time was ripe to enlist help from willing neighbours and sally forth to the turf band, equipped with shovel, sleán and spade.

Neddy the donkey would be tackled to the cart and the creels added to accommodate the transportation of wheelbarrows, extra forks, planks of timber, lengths of rope and buckets for bailing water.

First of all the site had to be made ready for cutting. The hole from which the turf was cut last year was filled to overflowing with bog-water. So, the men went up on the high bank and cut large boulders of whitter turf that they called ‘fouls’ and let them roll, one by one, into the gaping brown bog-hole with a great commotion, noise and squelch and splash. When the hole was well packed and quite safe to walk on without fear of sinking, a sizeable space would have been secured and the work proper began.

Before the men began clearing the high bank it was the practice to gather the heather that grew in tall spindly profusion. Tied in bundles with binder-twine, they were known as ‘bosoms’ and were used to sweep the ashes for the open hearth into the ash-pit under the hearthstone.

Now the work would commence in earnest. The first few spits were still only the white heather that grew in tall spindly profusion as in causing a hurried blaze, to boil the kettle for a quick breakfast, but there wasn’t much lasting in it and it left mounds of soft white ash, whereas the harder type of turf won from deeper down kept its heat consistent all-year-round firing.

One could watch the sand-martins come and go to their homes, discreetly burrowed in the sandpit face, and all the time one was enveloped in the mingled fragrance of unpolluted pine, heather, gorse and wild-flower delightfulness.

Meanwhile the turf cutting was progressing to the underground stage and that became the serious matter of hard work. At home about a mile away my mother was boiling gallons of strong sweet tea. From her bastible on the hearth piled with red ‘greiseach’ emerged apple and rhubarb cakes that would satisfy the discerning palates of the gourmet gods. When they were cooked to a golden tan and the juice had melted as caramel toffee, they were transported to the bog to be cut in mouth watering triangles on the site. Other willing hands carried the meat sandwiches, thick skelp of bacon slathered with mustard and laid between two slices of well-buttered soda cake. No one thought of calories. The handles of sweet gallon cans were bandaged with torn flour bags to save the hands of willing carriers. Maybe an old cardigan would be a king of eiderdown to keep the tea hot. No wonder there would be wolf whistles and shouts of joy when we were spotted coming.

“You’re a sight for sore eyes” my father said. As she spread a flourbag cloth on the turf-brown ground, thirsty men held out their mugs. Mother accepted their compliments, blushing pink to match her dress and over the bog-land came the smell of soft white ash, whereas the harder type of turf won from deeper down kept its heat consistent all-year-round firing.

Meanwhile, the bog-hole was getting deeper and deeper, spit by spit. Someone had to remain ever watchful, lest a sudden water pressure burst in at the walls. One man kept busy bailing out stray water. Two men dug furiously, throwing up sods off the bone shard sleáns. Other helpers waited to fork them into wheelbarrows. As two moved out with full barrows, two more moved in with empty ones and the tempo increased to save the last few spits of black stone turf that was equal to coal. The very final layer was just a useless ‘marl’ core. If I was lucky I would get down the ladder to stand briefly on earth’s core. It was wonderful to stand in a place that existed when the layers of bog started perhaps in the time of Methuselah himself!

Well of course there was still the footing and heaping and clamping to be done. But the very fact that winter fires had been won from the bowels of the earth called for joyful celebrations and the helpers were invited to our ‘rambling’ house that night. My father would return a helping hand to each man who had assisted him and no money ever changed hands. It was hard but satisfying work and even though we suffered aching limbs and the onslaught of carnivorous midgets, I look back on the experience with deep gratification.

Later there would be spits to the bog with Neddy and the cart. The heap of seasoned turf at the end of our house would grow until it resembled a twin house.

Snow would fall and maroon us from the outside world, but we were snug and warm within our tiny paradise. In that inaccessible wilderness of moor and bog-land we were self-sufficient and remained with the soul of nature. It was an education not to be captured in text books, a grind in the university of life that has stood us in good stead down all the years.

---

**Turf Time Nostalgia**

by **Yvonne O’Connor**

Oh! For goodness sake, Mr Clown
Your colour scheme is upside down
Your purple eyes and ping pong nose
Seem too radical for us to choose

But there you are with soul so free
Or a leader of a swing time band
Anonymously like me!

---

**Mask**

by **Yvonne O’Connor**

Oh! For goodness sake, Mr Clown
Your colour scheme is upside down
Your purple eyes and ping pong nose
Seem too radical for us to choose

But there you are with soul so free
Or a leader of a swing time band
Anonymously like me!

---

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What a surprise we got in Mount Saint Joseph on Thursday 11th October when we received a phone call asking if thirty two priests of the Diocese of Cologne in Germany, together with their Auxiliary Bishop, Heiner Koch, Titular Bishop of Ros Cré (sic), could offer Mass in our Church the following afternoon. Come they did, and thirty three German clergy concelebrating round our altar lifted the roof with the chant in their native tongue.

Auxiliary bishops who don’t have a diocese are traditionally given titular sees, bishoprics which once existed, but do not exist nowadays. Many of these would be in North Africa and such places where Christianity once flourished. Back in 1971 Rome “remembered” that Roscrea was for a short period, after the synod of Kells in 1152, a diocese in its own right. So when Bishop Dominic Conway was made Auxiliary of Elphin, he became Titular Bishop of Ros Cré.

The next to have the title was Bishop Kennedy, Auxiliary of Adelaide in Australia, 1973-83. He too visited Ireland during these years and figured in the “Roscrea People”. 1983-1991 saw Bishop Patrick Walsh, Auxiliary of Down & Connor, carry the title. The titular see was vacant for two years, until in 1993 Bishop Ramon Cabrera Arguelles, Auxiliary of Manila in the Philippines, became our Titular. He too visited us. Bishop Koch was appointed Auxiliary of Cologne 17th March 2006.

After the German Mass in the monastic Church Abbot Richard welcomed the group and especially the Bishop, and they both exchanged gifts. The group was particularly interested in the three light stained glass window high up over the main door of the Church. It depicts a vision that an old Cistercian monk had of heaven, where he found Our Lady with the Cistercian family, monks and nuns, safely tucked away under her mantle! The story was the fabrication of Caesarius, the novice-master of the Monastery of Heisterbach, (in the year 1198). Heisterbach is in Cologne diocese, and the visiting clergy knew it well.

Unfortunately George and Carmel Cunningham were overseas, so the visitors did not get a proper tour of Roscrea and its diocese. Incidentally it is customary for the Archbishop of Cologne to lead a pilgrimage of his clergy to some “holy place” each year. Fortunately this year the Archbishop was attending the Synod of Bishops in Rome, so it fell to his Auxiliary to lead the pilgrimage. What other “holy place” would Bishop Koch choose but Roscrea? It is great to know that our Titular See of Ros Cré is alive and well.

Dom Laurenceocs o

You could smell the smoke
Long before the creaking gate
Was pushed against the fully fledged
Small-garden, wild-grown hedge,
Anticipation felt, as feet trod over the uneven flags
Leading to the half-door.
The old high-pitched voice
Inviting us to “come in, let ye”
And standing in the spotless kitchen
Filled with the smell of turf smoke.
The wrinkled face, so furrowed
The dirt outlined a thousand creases,
And opening her mouth, her cackling laugh,
Shaking the one off-centre tooth along
With her body, at the joy of seeing us –
Sitting around the open smoke filled fire,
The bread baking on the skillet
Almost done, so that we could
Slather it with butter that would melt
As we ate it, and drink tea
Out of the cracked patterned mugs –
Nothing else tasted like it.
And as we sat round the now smouldering
Sods and she threw a fresh one on,

We listened in spellbound, terror-filled awe
As the ghost stories, all true, filled the kitchen
Swirling round our heads like grey wispy vapour.
Knowing darkness would have fallen
When we left, and she would close over the full door
Leaving us find our steps, filled with trepidation
And wonderful panic, the fifty yards back home,
In the pitch black of the always moonless night.

The aged gait was at an angle so acute,
The shoulder where an elbow should have been,
The arthritic body almost looked obscene.
The shoe was worn from dragging gritty stone,
The head hung heavy, tired of looking out
At a world unfriendly, distant, without tone,
Wherever he looked or what he was about.
Sitting on a bench beside the children’s park,
He struggled with assiduous care to part recall
A time, when freedom saw him fly down slides,
And cling to ropes knowing that he could not fall,
And so much more, the carefree cycle rides –
Remembering a time when he too could walk tall.
The Glebe Field - By Joe Moloughney

The Glebe field is a special place
That with fondness I recall
I remember it was featured once on
The Pictorial Weekly with Frank Hall
The Moloughneys and the Carmodys
Aherns, Hartnetts and Burkes also
They all lived in Rosemary Street
And to the Glebe Field they loved to go.

The Kielys, Ryans and McCabes
They were always there
With the Meaghers and O’Rourke’s
They all came across from Rosemary Square.

The Treacys came from Abbey Street
Their name upon the wall
And also the O’Connells
From beside the Abbey Hall.

The Dooleys, Walshs, Graces,
The Kealys, Hogans, Careys and Delaneys too
They came from further down Abbey Street
With the Feehans from Burgoo.

People came up from Beechwalk as well
More Delaneys, they lived there
The Carrolls would often come up also
In the fun and games to share.

A chap called Hensey from Rosemary Square
He too would often go
And others from the White House
Their family name was Keogh.

The Ryans and O’Reillys
Neighbours good and true
A couple of steps across the road
And they were there with you.

The Ryans came down from the Dublin Road
The Carrolls, Connollys and Campions did as well
Everybody was made welcome
Trouble-makers knew they could go to hell.

The Rigneys often would come down
From No.7 Market Square
And their neighbours Fergus Maher and
Dermot with his head of curly hair.

The O’Mearas came from the middle of town
We call it the Main Street
No matter where you travel
Nicer people you would not meet.

Ger Mulrooney and the Mullally lads
From Main Street would often call
They often ran the riverside
Before our ball reached the waterfall.

Other names I do recall
Some younger and some older
Some O’Gormans, Luptons, Burkes and Dunnes
(I better take a minute now, my mind is getting colder).

Three families of Martins
(If my memory serves me well)
The Ryans of Cosy Corner
And the Harveys from the Mall.

The O’Callaghans and O’Hallorans
Are other names I do recall?
The Rafters also would come over
Good times were had by all.

The Heffernans, Geaneys, Englands
And Aidan Guifoyle too
The Douglas’s, Coughlans, Kevin McCormack
And Fitzpatrick family number two.

The Rigneys were in the Welcome Inn
And the Dempseys down the way
Wouldn’t it be great if we could all meet again?
If only for a day.

Others were slightly older
But their names I’d like to add
The Hennessy’s were our neighbours
And better one’s no one had.

We played so many games there
Such great fun we always made
To remember our childhood playground
May the memories never fade?

Sometimes we’d sit under the big palm tree
Beside the river wall
I remember the ‘big lads’ built a dam
And the river they tried to stall.

Special praise for some great women
Before the bullies, they wouldn’t yield
Thanks to them we still have our park
Our beautiful Glebe Field.

To anyone I have left out
I apologise here and now
It was not my intention
That is my solemn vow.

Other names that I now realise were not
Included are the Newmans, Morans, Mitchells,
Tobins, Breens, O’Dwyers, Maddens and
O’Connors
Feel free to add to this list.

Just add your name to the list
And there forever it will stay
Along with all our childhood memories
From the Glebe Field, where we did play.
Since the launch of my first book ‘Remembering Yesterday, Living Today’ I have continued with my writings. 2012 saw the launch of my second book ‘Wandering Back and Forth’ on the 17th May last in Damer Court Hotel during Tipperary County Fleadh week. The book consists of short stories, poems, and songs compiled by myself and others and is strongly influenced by a generation who moulded in me a love of the simplicity of life, a sense of place and a pride in our heritage and culture.

The book was launched by my good friend and ever popular Nora Butler and the packed audience appreciated the depth of talent who performed on the night including those featured in the book with some reciting my poems and singing my songs. It was a memorable occasion for me and I thank everyone who helped make the night such a success and all who attended the launch.

Putting the book together has been a great experience for me and I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped me in any way. The book would have been impossible but for the enormous work of the book committee as pictured below - Joe Moloughney, Kathryn J Browne, Cáit de Brún and Dick Conroy – your help was invaluable.

A limited number of books are still available which can be purchased in SuperValu, Roscrea, Byrne’s Dunkerrin or from myself at 087 9185705. If anyone wants a DVD of the launch night I have a very limited number available.

There was an old saying which was frequently used when I was growing up ‘They’ll all go as far as turn back.’ I have often thought did the older generation get the meaning of life just about right, have we now gone as far as turn back?

In my youth the shopping was done once a week and it went without saying that every farmer was just about self sufficient and any extra produce was taken to town and sold. In our house great care was taken to collect the fresh eggs, wash them in cold water or with a cold cloth, dried and individually wrapped in newspaper and placed in a box. Butter was churned on Wednesday or Thursday which was the richest and healthiest with a flavour to die for. Surplus butter was weighed into pound slabs always allowing a few extra ounces for luck, then shaped with two ’butter bats’ and placed in greaseproof paper or as we called it ‘butter paper.’

On Friday Delia, my foster mother always baked a supply of brown bread and scones. I can after all these years still taste the fresh butter on the homemade brown bread. The brown bread was placed in strong brown paper; if this was not available the bread was carefully placed in a canvas bag. The scones were placed in a large sealed biscuit tin. We always had a surplus supply of turnips and cabbage and also rhubarb and cooking apples when in season.

So it was off to town on Saturday morning. Delia’s big shopping was always done at George Moloney’s of the Bridge Bar. George had an abundance of customers looking and waiting for the country women to come to town with their fresh produce and George always knew that the country folk would require a good list of messages (groceries). The price of the messages jotted down no calculators back then and the price of the fresh produce was bartered against the bill for the messages. When both prices were fixed often very little money changed hands for a good weeks’ messages.

Every few weeks or so one of the items on the list was the four stone bag of flour for baking. When all the flour was used there was a purpose for the bag which was washed, starched, ironed and sometimes a fancy flower design embroidered on and even some lace stitched on to it and it was then used as a pillowcase. An old saying went ‘everything in its place and a place for everything.’

I am certain the EEC would frown on such a thing as a barter system now. Surely in so many respects we have gone as far as turn back. Perhaps there is scope for the revival of the barter system in a limited way. Then we could save money and enjoy the simple pleasures of life once again. Shopping was treated as an art; I often now look back and think it was a ritual.
The Sniper by John Browne

Tom like so many of the poverty-stricken people of rural Ireland had seen the cruel hand of the British Empire dish out punishment. Retribution was swift and cruel on anyone who dared to challenge the might of the Empire. Tom’s longest memory of this callous and cruel army went back to when he was sixteen years old. He had witnessed on an autumn evening his neighbours Jim and Gertie Doyle evicted from their little thatched home. It was set alight and Jim executed in front of his wife and two month old infant.

This memory haunted him and soon he joined the local militia to fight and disrupt the enemy at every opportunity. The military training of the flying column, as it became known, was crude but effective. After several weeks training in the local woods it became clear that Tom was an excellent marksman with a hand as steady as a rock and an eye as keen as a hawk. To his comrades who fought side by side with Tom he became known as ‘the sniper.’ Right through the war years Tom was ordered to extract revenge on the enemy which often meant lying in wait for several days and nights in dense undergrowth. Tom stalked his enemy waiting like a lion in the jungle - one split second and the snipers deadly aim left another lifeless victim. Like the shadow of a ghost Tom slipped back to civilian life.

As the war ended and was recorded in the annals of history, Tom’s life as a civilian was as much a struggle as the war he had left behind. He had endured the hungry thirties and now black forty seven had brought misery and hunger to an already desolate people. Tom’s military training was now needed more than ever, a bounty of two shillings a head was better than an alternative hunger.

Hunger for Tom’s wife Tessie and three small children was unthinkable. The long cold nights of winter lying beneath the banks of the Brosna river in the cold December frost and snow had brought his memories of the war to life again. It was down to patience, a steely determination, and as ever his keen eye observed where his target had passed. He viewed several passes where his prey had used the high bank over the county bounds on the North Tipperary, South Offaly border through Kinches and Doyle’s fields. Tom waited and stalked his unsuspecting prey as the moonlight glistened its sparkly light over the snowy terrain. The only voices heard through the dead of night were the vixens as they called the fox.

Silently, patiently, not the slightest movement of body, Tom’s limbs were as relaxed as if in a trance; nothing moved but his eyes piercing the undergrowth.

The moonlight would soon reveal the silhouette of a head. Trigger snapped suddenly; the body slumped, kicking snowflakes like confetti as it lay silently.

Tom approached, his footsteps so light as not to dint the snow. Just a crimson pool in the snow marked the spot where his victim had fallen. At home in the little thatched house his wife Tessie nursed their children and in the inner silence of her heart prayed for his safe return.

There was just one chance, no second chances were given; failure to strike a mortal blow was as good as a death sentence. There was always danger in rough and unfamiliar terrain. Tom lived all his life in danger; the two shillings, head bounty was all the incentive he needed, his simple motto was killing is a way of life, the end justifies the means.

As the dawn broke on the bitter December morning the neighbours who were on their way to the First Friday Mass in the Monastery watched in amazement as Tom drudged his way through the packed snow to Roscrea, the handlebars of the bicycle laden down with fresh rabbits. The long bitter night waiting, stalking his prey was about to pay off handsomely, two shillings bounty on each rabbit was the difference between life and death. Hunger was kept from the door, Tom the rabbit catcher was back.

Roscrea Speakers Club

The Roscrea club, more commonly referred to as Toastmasters, was formed in January 2007. Its aims and objectives are well known and have been recounted in previous issues of Roscrea People. Simply put, they foster self confidence and personal growth, encouraging oral communication and leadership skills in a place of positive learning. Make that New Year’s resolution and join Roscrea Speakers Club every second Thursday night in Racket Hall Hotel at 8pm. Contact John Browne for more details.
Willie Costigan was born at Castlepark, Clonakenny, in April 1912. His father, James Costigan, was from Garrett’s Mills, Killea, and his mother, Mary Costigan, was from Steelspark, Clonakenny. Their marriage, on February 18, 1901, was the first in the new Church of St. Brigid in Clonakenny.

His initial schooling was at Longford Wood National School, later going to Shanakill N.S. He would later celebrate it in one of his poems:-

_Often I think of a rare old school,_
_That’s by the end of a lane…._

And he would recall also:

- _How teacher drilled us on the road_
- _Or songs and sounds of our little choir;_
- _Jackstones and the marbles we rolled,_
- _The witty mending of the teacher’s tyre_

It was at Shanakill Willie acquired his fine handwriting. As a youth he started music under the tutelage of a neighbour, Jim Gleeson. Music was to be a great part of his life; he loved to play the violin. His godson, Monsignor Jim Costigan, recalled at the Funeral Mass how even on his visit home in the summer of 2001 Willie “took out his ever abiding friend and played a few tunes. His fingers were stiff and he found them hard to place on the strings, but our visits were always special, and he wished to grace the occasion with his own special gift”. With Dinny Brereton from Oldcastle (accordion), Din Treacy, Montore (do.) Mick Bohan, Sragh (violin), Jim Williams, Gurteen, (drums) he formed a band which played at many local dances during the 1930s. The war years, in which Willie served in the LSAP, meant there was not much opportunity for that. Later he would play with Costigans from College Hill and Jim Kennedy at dances in Clonakenny hall in the 1960s.

Willie started work at Cody’s sawmill. Around 1936 he started out on his own as a cabinet maker, and was self employed for the rest of his working life.

In 1954 a great privilege came his way. Canon Hayes and Muintir na Tíre wished to express gratitude to Pope Pius XII for his Apostolic Letter sent to the 1954 Rural Week held at Cistercian College. Muintir’s thanks was expressed in a message on silk produced from the silk farm established by Fr. Dermot Ó Colmain at the monastery. Some 20,000 threads of silk were needed. The work of weaving was done by Padraig Breathnach in Elliotts, Dublin. The wording was in classical Gaelic lettering; this and illumination was done by Anna Kennedy. The scroll had the Muintir crest at the top, and that of the Abbey at the bottom.

For its journey to Rome the scroll was enclosed in a special casket. This was superbly carved in an Australian hardwood called Jarrah by Willie Costigan. The project was completed in March 1955, and the casket brought to the Papal Nuncio for transmission to Rome. I think Liam S. Maher, teacher at C.C.R., a great Muintir man, and himself a native of Shanakill, asked Willie to do this work. It was a great tribute to Willie’s craftsmanship. After working a few years at Cody’s, Willie bought a bicycle. This was a Raleigh Golden Arrow. Usually accompanied by Joe Costigan, he cycled to neighbouring towns on a Sunday afternoon. Once he rode as far as Arklow. “Willie was the epitome of the social being”, Monsignor Jim recalled in his panegyric at Willie’s funeral. “He loved to visit (cuardaíocht) the neighbours’ homes for conversation, which always involved story telling, cards, or music. He was part of many a card school around the neighbourhood. Willie loved to travel. As soon as the dark clouds of winter cleared, and up to the Fall, every Sunday Willie was off to some place of interest. In summer Tramore was one of his favourite places.

Indeed, one of his favourite stories was of a trip there when he, Dan, Joe and Matty harnessed up two donkeys, and with a makeshift caravan on a four wheel wagon made off for a week long trip. It was a story glittered with anecdotes - getting milk from cows as was needed on the way, being the subject of local care from people on the way, and being awakened in the middle of the night with a ruckus under the wagon. Fearing an attack, they jumped up and ran outside with sticks to beat off the attacker, only to find one of the asses had got under the wagon to sample their store of oats”.

In 1950 Willie bought a car, a prewar Austin Ten, and there were more places to be visited. His travel range extended further when he bought his first new car, a Volkswagen, from Joe Spooner, in 1955. In his poem, The Rover, Willie recalled these days;

_I still see our campfire burning_
_Far away in a spot by the sea;_
_Tonight my thoughts are returning,_
_There I yearn once more to be with ye,_
_This memory is joy to remember_
_I know twill never again be._

_How our fires burned low to an ember,_
_My boyhood was then happy and free._
_All gone, all past and over;_
_Blue mountains, busy streets and true friends,_
_This spot was home to a rover,_
_We travelled with unpredictable trends_

I don’t know when Willie started writing poetry. Early in 1989 Fr. James Meehan, P.P. New Inn, a friend of Willie’s, brought some of Willie’s poetry to Liam Maher, asking him to read them and see if they could be published. He did so, and was impressed, arranging to have the collection of 50 poems printed as a paperback by Walsh Printers, and entitled “Under the Shadows of the Bit”.

In his foreword, Liam wrote that Willie was no Patrick Kavanagh, “but as Kavanagh made memorable the placenames and hills and marshes of his childhood in Monaghan, in similar fashion Willie celebrates Shanakill and Rathnavogue and Harolds Bend, and the beginnings of the River Suir. He could have added Clontaffe and Clonakenny, Killough and Longford wood, and Gurtanaoona... but they are all there - in the fields, the church, the streams, the flowers, the moors, the bogs...Willie celebrates them all, and celebrates them memorably”.

“Under the Shadows of the Bit” was officially launched at Cistercian College on August 26, 1989, by the College President, Fr. Kevin Daly, O.C.S.O. It was the first ever book launch to be held in the college, and the first to be launched by a college President.
As I write this article, I have the copybook in which Willie wrote those poems in his fine handwriting, and marvel their quality. Willie was truly a craftsman with words. They reflect his boyhood and days at Shanakill school:

You were there with me, dear friend,
We played and learned and graded;
With me you rushed round Harold’s bend,
Round the old school we paraded"
The changing seasons:—
“Uninvited winter, now our guest,
Can its demanding whims be duly met?
Can small wild animals withstand the test
As they scamper bare fields in silhouette?”
His love of places:
“To Rathnavogue I’ll set my track,
High hill of gentle people……

There is also the deep spirituality in poems such as “Resurrection”:

“Where dark slim yew trees point the sky
And drape long shadows far,
Bearing the message to all there nigh.
You’ll walk with Morning Star;
And though the night be hushed and drear,
God’s great glory is coming near,
In hope we’ll swell the throng
There whispering winds may strive to tell,
Of Easter’s glorious day,

In 1991, at the age of 79, Willie came in to reside at the Dean Maxwell Home. He was very happy in that wonderful and caring environment. He liked to play the violin, and to make things easier for his stiffening fingers, his nephew, Jim Kennedy, fitted new and better quality strings.

On October 7, 2001, Willie passed away at the Dean Maxwell. His funeral Mass was in his beloved church in Clonakenny where he had been baptized 89 years previously, and which was so integral a part of his long life. He would have been very happy that the principal celebrant of the Mass was his godson, Monsignor Jim Costigan, who had come home from Augusta, Georgia, and who shared such great memories of Willie with us.

After the Mass he was laid to rest in the family grave in the adjoining cemetery.

Soon my given rest ‘neath given name
Upon a given stone;
Beside my church, there I’ll be lain
From where my name hath flown……..

(Thanks to Jim Kennedy, nephew and godson, for his help with this article).

Roscrea Bridge Club plays weekly on a Tuesday night from October to May at Damer Court Hotel.

Bridge is a very social card game providing mental stimulation and fun!

New members are most welcome to the club. All standards are catered for and people who have never played before could avail of lessons in Birr or Roscrea.

Anyone interested in joining the club or taking lessons should contact Ann Liffey on 0505 47251.

O’Connor Cup
Prizewinners
Mrs Sheila Sheedy, Evelyn Hennessy (President), and Mrs Eva Harvey.

When God’s great purpose bursts the shell
That hath hidden His joys away;
As golden sunrays light the path
Where new life will speed upon
To take their prize as Heaven hath
From all concealed life long

This poem was written to commemorate the fifty years of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eireann in Roscrea. Well done and long may it continue

Pride in culture and in heritage
Pride in people and in place
The rocks on which we are formed upon
The foundation of our race
Stories and music
Or maybe a poem
Will provide much warm comfort
In our hearts home
To sing out a song
Or to step out a dance
Such grace and such beauty
Our lives does enhance
Thanks to all those people
Who keep it so strong
Who keep the torch burning
And pass it along
They deserve great thanks
That comes straight from the heart
Just to let them know
We appreciate one and all for playing their part

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6th Tipperary Roscrea Scouts 2011 / 2012 Scouting Year

2011 / 2012 has proven to be another action packed and momentous year for scouting in Roscrea with many highlights to note. The year began in very positive fashion with the Group receiving a Roscrea People of the Year citation for its contribution to the community of Roscrea over the last 40 years. The Group was very proud and honoured to be recognised in this way as it comes from the people and community which it has served and will hopefully continue to serve for a very long time.

Scouts Annual Camp London 2012 Olympics:
The highlight of the year for the Scout, Venture and Rover sections was undoubtedly this year’s Annual Camp which took place in Gilwell Park & Gradbach in the UK. The largest travelling party on an Annual Camp in the Groups history (57 in total) got a unique once in a lifetime opportunity to soak up the atmosphere at an Olympic Games, taking in events such as football, volleyball and hockey with most of the Group getting the opportunity to have a photo taken with the Olympic torch something which will remain in their memories for a lifetime. The camp took place between July 26th and August 5th, and through-out the week our traditional best patrol on Camp competition took place with the Patrols being assessed on their Camping Skills; Cooking Skills; Log Books and Uniform, this year’s Best Patrol on Camp was the Swifts and the Patrol of the Year was the Badgers. Other awards presented on camp were Scout of the Year, Ciara McCabe, and Venture of the Year, Eoin Cooke.

Phoenix Challenge:
For the second year running a patrol representing the Group achieved the gold standard at Scouting Irelands annual Scoutcraft competition with this year’s event held in Larch Hill in Dublin. The team representing the Group at this year’s challenge consisted of Ciara Lupton (Patrol Leader); Padraic Marks (Assistant Patrol Leader); Ciara McCabe, Rebecca Toohey, Fergal Flanagan, Ben Spencer, Ciara Moloney and Luke Moloney. The patrol finished in 15th place overall out of 67 teams competing from all over Ireland.

Pieta House:
The Group were delighted to be able to assist in the very successful ‘ Darkness into Light’ walk in aid of the Pieta House Project. The Roscrea event began and finished at the Scout Hall in Abbey Street with members of the Group assisting in registration of all those taking part in the walk and also in preparing food for those who took part when they finished the walk. The sight of 400 people in the Scout Hall was fantastic to witness.

St Vincent de Paul:
In December of 2011 the Group led by Tuesday Beavers organised a very successful food appeal with all the items donated going to the local conference of the St Vincent de Paul. It was great for the Group to be able to be involved in a project like this especially in the lead up to Christmas with more and more families being affected by the recession. All the items collected were warmly received and put to very good use by the Vincent de Paul.

Tidy Towns:
A number of the sections in the Group were involved in various projects with the local Tidy Towns throughout the year, with Thursday Beavers donating and planting a mountain ash at the corner of The Mall and Rosemary Square. Cubs, Scouts and Ventures were involved in a river clean and planting river plants and Beavers involved in litter picks. The Group was supported in its Environmental projects by the local County Council Local Agenda 21 Grant programme.

Scout Section Chief Scout Awards:
In April the Chief Scout Michael John Shinnick paid a visit to the Scout Hall to present two members of the Scout Section Sinead Flanagan and Shane Culleton with their Chief Scout Awards. Sinead and Shane became the 10th and 11th members of the Group to receive the award. A very enjoyable evening was had with representatives from County, Provincial and National Level all in attendance. Sinead and Shane also got the chance to launch a programme partnership between Scouting Ireland and Iarnróid Éireann with Minister Alan Kelly in Heuston Station Dublin.

Beaver Section Chief Scout Awards:
Nine of the Tuesday Beavers and fourteen from the Thursday Beavers were presented with their Beaver Chief Scout Awards on October 6th, the Beavers to receive their awards were Sophia Bolger, Ella Bourke, Niall Calvert, Greta Dollard, Caioimhe Dooley, Dylan Dwyer, David Maher, Sophie Rowland, Meagan Seanor, Cally Dooley, Kailyn Egan, Faye Morton, Sarah O’Donnell, Oisin Browne, Leo Condron Reid, Kate Moloney, Matthew Pietras, Stephen Lown, Sophie Pearson, Diarmuid McLaughlin, Clodagh Grimes, Neil Ryan and Krzysztof Noj. This brings to twenty-seven the total number of Beaver awards to be held by members of the Group to date.

Bronze Merit Award for Sophie Rowland:
One of the Tuesday Beavers, Sophie Rowland, was awarded a Youth Member Bronze Merit Award by the National Awards’ Committee and this was presented in October. Sophie was given the award in recognition of her struggle with illness but still continuing to participate fully in all activities from overnight to 10km hikes with her Section. The Presentation of Youth Member Bronze Merit Award by Francis Minogue County Commissioner
whole Group are extremely proud of Sophie for having been recognised with this rare and special award.

**Woodbeads and Service Awards:**
Woodbeads marking the completion of a Scouters training were presented to Conor Abbott and Paul Spencer during the course of the year and service awards were presented to Joan Morrison, Lorraine Shaw and Mark Lown. Group Leader Francis Minogue was also presented with his third Woodbead marking his service to Adult Leader Training.

**Beaver and Cub Camps:**
This year saw our Beaver Sections all hold camps in Srahan, Roscrea Scouts campsite situated in the Slieve Blooms near Camross, with Tuesday Beavers sharing a camp with Beavers from Durrow and Thursday Beavers with the Mountrath Group. Tuesday Beavers also held a two night annual camp in Dundrum Campsite in South Tipperary. Tuesday Cubs held their annual camp in Castlegregory in Kerry with the Thursday Cub pack going to the National Cub Camp in Larch Hill campsite in Dublin. Both Cub Sections also held overnights in Srahan.

**Srahan Campsite:**
A huge amount of hard work in Srahan working with Laois Partnership to further develop our hostel and campsite continued apace in 2012. Significant internal redevelopment has taken place; and the centre now boasts an excellent wet weather shelter and storage container. Further developments are planned for next year and it is hoped that an arrangement with an Outdoor Activity provider will increase usage of the centre into 2013.

**Family Bicycle Hike Day:**
In June, supported by the North Tipperary Sports Partnership, the Group held a family bicycle hike day for National bike week in Srahan. With members of all sections and their families setting off from Camross and cycling to the Scout centre, a wonderful family day was had that also included a bar-be-que at Srahan.

**St Patrick’s Day Parade:**
The Group once again took its annual place in the towns St Patrick’s Day Parade with large numbers from all sections Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Ventures together with leaders all taking part.

**Eucharistic Congress Bell:**
The Eucharistic Congress Bell paid a visit to the town on its tour of the Country in October 2011 and Tuesday Beavers provided a guard of honour as it was brought to the Church. The bell paid a return visit in early 2012 for the now annual ‘Friendship Walk’ with Tuesday Cubs providing the guard of honour and leading the walk on its journey through town.

**Other highlights:**
There were many other highlights throughout the year which included:
- Kalen McNamara coming second in the Lions Club Young Ambassador of the year
- Scouts visiting the Air Activities Centre in Shannon
- Scouts taking part in a canoeing trip on the River Barrow
- Scouts taking part in hiking trips on the Devil’s Bit, Slieve Blooms and Galtees
- Ventures taking part in a weekend hiking challenge in Achill as part of their Chief Scout Awards
- Tuesday Beavers climbing the Devil’s Bit
- All the Beaver Sections visiting Santa in Larch Hill
- Thursday Cubs taking part in a flying activity at Birr Airfield with all the Cubs getting a short flight
- Four of the Ventures taking part at the Phoenix festival as members of staff
- Ventures and Scouts working on their Chief Scout Awards helping out in the younger sections Beavers and Cubs
- Beaver and Cub Sections holding slumber nights in the hall

So it has been another very busy year for all eight sections in the Group with membership now currently standing at 200 youth members and fifty adult leaders. We are all looking forward to another great season year in 2012 / 2013 with some big plans already in place such as Annual Camp for the Scout Section in 2013 which is going to be at the National Jamboree to be held in Stradbally in County Laois. It should be a great one.

The Group would like to thank the community of Roscrea for its continued support throughout the last year and would like to wish everyone a happy and peaceful 2013.
It has been another very busy year in Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré. Much work was carried out on the school grounds and internally, and the school has now been completely networked and wi-fi is available throughout the school. Mr. O’Brien congratulated all our Leaving Certificate students on their results and our Junior Certificate students proved themselves in September with excellent results also. We would like to thank the Board of Management and Parents’ Association for their hard work during the year, and everybody who supports Coláiste Phobal in any way.

PLC COURSES: The PLC sector of the College has expanded dramatically and this year eighty students enrolled for courses in the Coláiste.

Many adults, given the downturn in the economy, are taking the opportunity to return to education and train or up-skill and gain new qualifications. Mature adults and/or school leavers are now using the PLC route as a stepping stone to further education. A FETAC level 5 qualification may be used to access many courses in Universities and Institutes of Technology through the Higher Education Links Scheme or Pilot Project. VTOS, Back to Education and Further Education allowances/grants are available to eligible candidates. The College at present offers the following courses at FETAC Level 5: Business Administration with Technology, Nursing Studies, Healthcare Support, Criminology and Social Studies and Early Childhood Care and Education. At FETAC Level 6 we offer a course in Advanced Administration and Human Resources. This course is ideal for candidates who have taken a previous FETAC Level 5 Award and now wish to enhance their qualifications and work in supervisory roles in small to medium enterprises. This year the College introduced the FETAC Level 5 Healthcare Support Award as a direct response to national labour market demands and feedback from local Employers/Agencies in Roscrea and its hinterland. The course is designed for those who wish to pursue a career in the caring profession and work as a Healthcare Assistant in a variety of Healthcare, Community and Agency Settings. The FETAC Level 5 Healthcare Support Award is now the recognised qualification for work as a Healthcare Assistant in this field. For more information on our courses visit the school website www.cpr.ie or phone or call to the College.

Transition Year: Congratulations to the 2011-2012 Transition Year group in association with Roscrea Tidy Towns on winning the “Can it” category in the National Tidy Towns Competition. Mr. David Leahy (Metal Work Teacher), Mr. Dennison (TY Co-ordinator), Ms. Rose Crofton and the Transition Year students made this exceptional work become a reality, and the winning piece can be seen displayed on the wall of the public toilets near the rear of the Garda Station. (see photo and article in Tidy Towns). Transition Years were also busy all year with fund raising committees, including car washing and cake sales. They also had numerous information days called “Woman Days” and “Man Days” which both boys and girls alike found most interesting.

VEC Awards 2012: The annual VEC awards were held on Thursday 3rd May at 7.30pm. Coláiste Phobal students as usual won awards in all categories. Music Award:-Emma Conroy, Personal Writing Award-Erin Doyle, Individual Sports Award:- Chloe Kirwan, Team Sports Award:- U16 Badminton All Ireland Champions, Information and Communications Technology Award-Eva Quinlan and Janet Lewis, Gaeilge Award:- Darragh Ó Conghaile, Personal Achievement Award:- Paulina Zuracouska, Academic Achievement Award:- Jamie Carroll(Highest Junior Certificate Results).

Awards Ceremony: Our School Awards is a whole school event and the following are the award recipients:

Home Economics Senior Award - Ciara Murphy, Junior award- Mairéad Williams
Geography Senior Award-Miriam Crampton, Junior Award- Paul Scully
Chemistry Senior Award- David McAuliffe; D.C.G Award- Paulina Zurakowska
Art Senior Award- Nikita Oakley and Deirdre de Feu; Certificates of Merit- Clodagh O'Reilly, Brigitta Kirsteine, Katrina Crampton;
Junior Award - Paula Quinlan; Certificates of Merit- Daniel Tynan, Jack Delaney, Aofie Bulfin, Jim Collison, Sean McG Hugh.
History Senior Award- Niall Minnock; Junior Award-Mark Bergin
German Senior Award-Charlotte Roe; Junior Award-Alison Delaney-Fletcher
English Senior Award- Tara Dwyer; Junior Award-Niall Devitt
French Senior Award-David McAuliffe; Junior Award-Rachel Kirwan;
Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré
Roscrea, Co. Tipperary

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Staff: 0505 – 21261  
Fax: 0505 – 23933  
E-mail: roscrea@cpr.ie  
Web: www.cpr.ie

We provide the following curriculum

- Junior Certificate  
- Transition Year  
- Leaving Certificate Applied Programme  
- Leaving Certificate  
- Repeat Leaving Certificate Course  
- Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme  
- Leaving Certificate Applied  
- Post-Leaving Certificate – FETAC Level 5 and 6
  - Information Technology with Business Skills  
  - Office Technology Skills  
  - Advanced I.T. and Management  
  - Nursing Studies / Health Care  
  - Early Childhood and Education  
  - Criminology and Social Studies  
- Adult and Continuing Education Courses

For further information on any of the above courses contact:-

Mr. Gerard O’Brien, Principal  
Mr. John J. Haugh, Deputy Principal

Irish Senior Award- David McAuliffe; Junior Award- Rachel Kirwan.

Maths Junior Award- Fergal Flanagan.

Physics Award- Shane Davis; Biology Award-Maeve Williams.

Junior Science Award-Daire Murray; Accounting Award-Niamh Ryan.

Ag. Science Award-David Conroy.

Business Senior Award- Niall Minnock; Junior Award- Niall Devitt;

Certificates of Merit-Jack Doherty, Brian Davis, Mark Bergin, David Kenny, Paula Quinlan.

Music Senior Award-Emma Conroy; Junior Award- Eoin Hobbs;

Certificates of Merit- Fergal Flanagan, Máiréad Teehan, Declan Cleary.

Materials Technology Award- Jack Delaney. Construction Studies Award- Colin Hassett; Metalwork Award- Patrick Quinlan; Engineering Award- Brendan Quinlan.

International Students- Ieva Staponkute; Certificates of Merit-Khushbu Santu, Tehmina Sadiq.

L.C.V.P Award- Paulina Zurakowska

School Prefects Award- Maeve Williams, Miriam Crampton, Rachel Hogan, Mary Ellen Hutchinson, Amanda McQuaid, Nikita Oakley, Niamh Ryan, Luke Bevans, Brian Brussells, Darragh Connolly, Keith Doheny, Eithan Flynn, Mark Teehan, Shane Wall.

Student Council Award- Cathal Nash, Niamh Larkin, Tom Aherne, Róisín Scully, Declan Cleary, Lisa Costello, Cian Rigney, Ursula Breen, Michael Campion, Megan King, Brian Brussells, Nikita Oakley and Shannon Brennan.

Anti-Bullying Poster Award- 1ST Year: 1st Prize Saqlain Sadiq, 2nd Prize Ieva Staponkute, 2ND Year: 1st Prize Khushbu Santu, Emma Murray.

V.E.C. Awards Recipients- Paulina Zurakowska, Janet lewis, Eva Quinlan, Chloe Kirwan, Emma Conroy, Erin Doyle, Darragh Connolly, Jamie Carroll, Andrew Cullen, Darragh Tomlinson, Tony O’Connor, John McCabe, Kalen McNamara.

Camogie Player of the Year- Mairead Teehan.

Camogie Senior Award-Aoife Maloney; Camogie Junior Award-Stephanie Kenny.

Rugby Senior Award- Steven Simmons; Junior Award- Joseph Maloney.

Hurling Junior Award- Jamie O’Meara; Badminton Player of the Year-Andrew Cullen

LCA Student Of the Year- Shannon Brennan;

Cultural Day Winners: Our students travelled to Thurles on Tuesday 27th March with Ms. Egan to the annual Cultural Day competition and yet again swept up prizes galore. Drama- the cast of “Jane Eyre” won a certificate of acting merit. They were Jamie Carroll, Sarah Quigley, Ursula Breen, Maeve Collier, Tara Dwyer, Rebekah Conlon and Maeve Murray. Sarah Quigley won Best Actress award and Jamie Carroll won Best Supporting Actor.

Cultural Day winners- (L to R) Sean McHugh, Erin Doyle, Ursula Breen, Jamie Carroll, Maeve Collier, Rebekah Conlon, Sarah Quigley, Anna Higgins, Mairead Teehan, Catriona Murray, Tara Dwyer, Hugh Bulfin, Rachel Kirwan.

Chess- Ursula Breen and Hugh Bulfin both reached the final of the chess tournament.

Creative Writing- In the short story and Poetry competition the following were the winners- Erin Doyle First Prize Senior Poetry, Sean McHugh First Prize Junior Short Story, Kushboo Santu Second Prize in Junior Poetry, Mairead Moloney was a Prize winner in both Short Story and Poetry.

Irish Competition- Eoin Hobbs First Prize in Junior Short Story.

Public Speaking- Anna Higgins First Prize in Junior Competition; Rachel Kirwan Second Prize in Senior Competition.

Irish Public Speaking- Tara Dwyer Second Prize.

Coláiste Phobal Golf Classic 2012: A sincere thank you to all our patrons and sponsors who supported our Annual Golf Classic on Saturday, 19th May in Roscrea Golf Club.


Camogie: Saturday February 4th saw Coláiste Phobal Junior Camogie team begin their campaign for an All-Ireland Title, playing at the Ragg, Thurles in the Quarter Final against St. Dominic’s College, Cabra, Dublin. A sigh of relief could be heard on the final whistle as we knew we had overcome a very strong and determined Dublin team. All roads led to “Eirns Own G.A.A. in Castlecomer on Wednesday 22nd February to contest the All-Ireland Junior C Semi-final. Though Castlecomer made a last ditch attempt to catch us scoring two goals in the dying seconds, it was too late. The atmosphere at full time was electric as we realised we had reached an All-Ireland Championship Final. The final vs Kinvara was played on March 24th. After a hard battle unfortunately this was not to be our day but we live to fight again!

Hurling: Coláiste Phobal’s Junior hurlers played Causeway in the Munster Junior A hurling final in Croagh, Co. Limerick. Just when it looked as Roscrea had victory in their sights, a shot from out the field ended up in the Roscrea net in injury time. This was a devastating blow for Roscrea and lifted Causeway who got two further points to secure victory. Daryl Ryan-Roscrea, Lee Cashin-Roscrea, Brian Larkin-Coolderry, Tomas Duane-Moneygall, Joe Maloney-Roscrea, Daniel Doughan-Shinrone, Declan Cleary-Shinrone, Anthony Devereaux-Moneygall, Adrian Cleary-Shinrone, Sam Conlon-Roscrea, Cian Rigney - Roscrea, David Murray-Coolderry, Jamie Dooley - Borris-In-Ossory, Sean Fogarty-Moneygall, Jordan Fogarty-Shinrone, Shane Sampson-Shinrone, Brian Loughnane-Shinrone, Eoin Hobbs-Roscrea, Ciaran Cleary-Shinrone, JP Cleary-Shinrone, Evan Fitzpatrick-Roscrea, Aaron Kirwan- Shinrone, Padraig Smyth-Shinrone, Brian Davis-Roscrea, Diarmuid Cleary-Shinrone, Enda Maloney-Roscrea, Chris Moloney-Coolderry, Jamie Carroll-Roscrea, Jamie Ryan-Roscrea.

Roscrea’s first year hurling team played Causeway, Kerry on Friday 20th April in Croagh Limerick. Though the score showed a draw at full time, Causeway took the advantage in extra time and Roscrea eventually lost by 8 points. Good games were had by Goalkeeper Bob Kenny, Full back Jamie O Meara, Wing back Thomas McCarthy, Centre back Eoin Whyte, Midfield Jason Gilmartin, Wing Forward Cathal Hogan, Centre Forward Liam Doran and Full forward Cian O Meara. Well done to all the panel and hopefully they will learn from the experience gained this year.

Rugby: Giles Shield: Coláiste’s U-16 team hosted SMI Newcastlewest in the first round of this competition on Friday 27th at Roscrea RFC. Having dispatched Newcastlewest in the opening round, it was the turn of Rice College Ennis to face the Coláiste in the last sixteen on March 9th. The game was drawn to take place in Roscrea, and it was plain to see from the outset that the Coláiste were determined to make home advantage count and the gulf in class was evident as Coláiste Phobal powered their way to the quarter final with a 32-0 victory. A much sterner test faced them as they were drawn against Tarbert Comprehensive in the quarter final. Twelve minutes remained, and once more character was required to ensure victory. Eventually, the final whistle sounded. Final score, 15-12.

On Tuesday 24th April, the Coláiste Phobal Junior rugby team travelled to Cashel for the Giles Shield Munster final against Carrigaline Community School of Cork. However, with the very last play of the game, the Carrigaline winger stole in at the corner for a try to leave the score 33-31. Coláiste Phobal had come agonisingly close to their first Munster title. The lads were disappointed, but there can be no doubting their skill, talent and pride in their school throughout this campaign.

Badminton: The strong tradition of badminton in our school continues with our U16 boys having much success recently. The
County Championships were held in Templemore on January 19th. Three teams represented the school. The U14 lost to Templemore in the final. Both U16 teams performed exceptionally well and an all Roscrea final looked possible. However the U16 B team narrowly missed out on a final appearance. The U16 final saw a repeat of the U14 final with Coláiste Treasa of Kanturk recording a comprehensive victory over Templemore securing a place at the Munsters. And so, all roads led to the University of Limerick. Killaloe proved to be a huge test and Coláiste Phobal narrowly escaped with victory. With the Kerry representative failing to show up, victory over a fancied Coláiste Treasa of Kanturk would guarantee the Munster Title. All of the boys performed extremely well. The turning point came with John McCabe coming from 28-22 behind to take the game 30-29. Coláiste Phobal took the match 4 games to 2 thus securing a place at the All-Ireland.

**U16 A Team** - Andrew Cullen, John McCabe, Tony O’Connor, Darragh Tomlinson, Stephen Tierney

**U16 B Team** - Eoin Hobbs, Conal Teehan, Paddy Quinlan, Paul Crampton, David Williams

**U14 Team** - Shane Fletcher, Padraig Marks, Jack Finnegan, Owen Dooley, Dylan Maher.

On Wednesday 28th March, the U16 badminton team made history by being the first team since the schools amalgamation to win an All-Ireland in badminton when they competed against the cream of Connaught, Leinster and Ulster. Congratulations to all team members Andrew Cullen, John McCabe, Tony O’Connor, Darragh Tomlinson and Stephen Tierney.

**Athletics:** The County Track and Field Championships were held in Templemore on Wed. 25th April. 11 students from Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré took part in a range of activities, including the 100m sprint, the 800m race, the long jump and relay races. Despite the cold, wet, windy weather conditions, a large number of athletes from the county took part, especially in the minor and junior events. In the Junior girls 100m, Anna Duane, Mary Teehan, Tara Mc Donnell and Gemma Woods all ran well in their respective heats. Anna Duane ran particularly well and finished 6th in the final. In the minor boys long jump, Sam Quealy finished 12th with a jump of 3.64m. Another 30cm and Sam would have finished among the medal winners. Ben Spencer also took part in this event and his best jump was 2.99m. Rachel Donovan was only 2 places behind her with a jump of 3.05m. Sara Earley, Rachel Gilmartin and Katie Ryan also jumped well in this event. Both the minor and junior girls fielded relay teams, and though both teams ran well, they finished outside the top three places.

**Easter Golf Competition (12 Hole Stableford):** On Friday 30th March our Golf team played an Easter Competition at Roscrea Golf Club accompanied by Ms. O’Egan.

*Winners in the Senior Section* - 1st Conor Ryan (30pts), 2nd Michael Rosney (28pts), 3rd Jack Finnegan (27pts)

*Junior Section* - 1st Scott McDonnell (27pts), 2nd Ben Spencer, 3rd Shane Fletcher (24pts)


Mr. G O’Brien and Mr. J Haugh with the Coláiste Phobal All-Ireland Badminton winners (L to R) John McCabe, Darragh Tomlinson, Mr. Freddie Williams coach, Front (L to R) Stephen Tierney, Andrew Cullen, Tony O’Connor.

Lough Mask Vulture Gang
Middle (L to R) Mr. G O’Brien, Jack Delaney, Luke Keeshan, Fergal Flanagan, Hugh Bulfin, Rachel Kirwan, Danielle Daly, Courtney Lally, Mr. Matt Dillon (Vulture Gang Founder)
Front (L to R) Ciara Lupton, Nikki Murphy, Anna Higgins, Mr. Jim McMahon, Sarah Heaney, Robyn Kiely, Lauren O’Gorman, Áine Lee.

Leads from Peter Pan Musical
(L to R) Jamie Carroll (Peter Pan), Maeve Collier (Wendy), Cian Rigney (Hook).

(L to R) M. Teehan, D. Maher, A. McQuaid, Ms. S. McEvoy, L. Bevans, D. Mortimer - Gaisce Award (absent Ms. A. Rice and Mr. D. Haugh)
Roscrea Education Centre

Roscrea Education Centre is part of North Tipperary VEC, a centre that provides second-chance and further education to the town of Roscrea and surrounding areas. The centre moved in recent years from the Temperance Hall to the old CBS school, a building that is ideally suited for the purpose as it was designed for education. A number of renovations and improvements were undertaken during 2011 and 2012 to enhance services to students, such as painting, providing a new Horticulture facility and installing inter-active white boards.

Roscrea education centre provides a range of programmes. Its main programme offers second chance education (students aged 15 – 20) on the Youthreach programme as an alternative to mainstream education. The centre provides students the opportunity to do Junior Certificate, Leaving Certificate Applied and FETAC accredited courses. Education options are also available to adults who want to re-engage with education or want to upskill or re-skill and get accreditation. This is funded through a Back to Education Initiative and the European Social fund with a selection of FETAC level 3, 4 and 5 courses.

In addition to this, a Jobs Initiative course in Computer Skills started at the beginning of November 2012. This option is open to adults who want to upskill in information technology in order to become more employable. Free English classes are also available for those who are not native speakers of English. This is a service provided and co-ordinated by the local parish.

Please feel welcome to drop in at any time for information on courses and options that might suit you!

We are proud to celebrate some achievements of 2012:

**It’s a long way from Tipperary:** Dillon Treacy and Donna Donoghue of Roscrea Education Centre won a scholarship from the Sweetman Trust for their excellent work in their Social Education Tasks. They had to investigate a contemporary issue and include a European slant on the topic. Donna chose to look at Care of the Elderly and the work of Sue Ryder. Dillon researched national, European and international gangs: their activities, links and impact on society. The scholarship meant that Donna and Dillon travelled to the European Parliament in Strasbourg as part of an Irish student delegation. This was a very interesting, exciting and educational experience for them. We are proud of their achievements and grateful to the Sweetman Trust for allowing them this opportunity.

**NTVEC Awards:** Four more students received NTVEC awards during 2012 in the categories of Art, Academic Excellence, Educational Achievement and Personal Achievement. These students excelled in their field or achieved their potential against considerable odds. Students like Lisa-Marie, Dillon, Donna and Danni act as role models for our other students and show them that success is achievable. Donna Donoghue was subsequently voted as our Student of the Year and received a plaque of recognition at our Graduation Service.

**Presidential Candidate visit:** A highlight of our year was when Sean Gallagher chose our centre as one of his sites to visit during his presidential campaign. Donna Donoghue presented him with a mask created by one of our students. The mask was created as part of the “Identity” module of Art and was painted in the colours of the Irish flag. It symbolised Irish identity.

**Student of the Year:** Colleen! Roscrea Education Centre tries to combine culture, sport, practical subjects and academic excellence. Colleen Doyle, a student on the Youthreach programme at Roscrea Education Centre, achieved 95% in her Leaving Certificate Applied this summer. She had already received a North Tipperary VEC Award for Academic Excellence in 2011 and then showed that she deserved it by achieving such an exceptional percentage overall in her Leaving Certificate Applied.

**Michael Hutchinson won the Best Male Solo performance in the 2012 Craftzone “Songs from the Youth” competition.**

The young people from Roscrea had never written a song prior to this, but created the music and words for two songs, *The stars are blinking* and *The best days of our lives* and made a music video to go with each song. These songs were nominated in the categories for **Best Ambassador for Youthreach, Best New Youthreach Centre, Best Group Vocals, Best Male Solo Performance and Best Song.** This was a very proud achievement and to crown being nominated, Michael Hutchinson, a student at Roscrea Education Centre, won the **Best Male Solo Performance category**! And so did Colleen! Roscrea Education Centre tried to combine culture, sport, practical subjects and academic excellence. Colleen Doyle, a student on the Youthreach programme at Roscrea Education Centre, achieved 95% in her Leaving Certificate Applied this summer. She had already received a North Tipperary VEC Award for Academic Excellence in 2011 and then showed that she deserved it by achieving such an exceptional percentage overall in her Leaving Certificate Applied.

**Donna Donoghue was voted as the Youthreach Student of the Year for the 2011-2012 Academic Year. Here she is pictured with the centre coordinator, Ester Mackey.**

**Roscrea Youthreach:** Youthreach Roscrea was nominated in five categories of the Songs from the Youth 2012 competition run by Craftzone and sponsored by the Irish Music Rights Organisation (IMRO). Youthreach centres from across the Republic of Ireland participated in Craftzone workshops. During these workshops the young people used music as a means to create, share and connect and the results are inspiring.

**Donna Donoghue and Dillon Treacy visited the European Parliament in Strasbourg as part of the Sweetman scholarship that they won.**

**Michael did it for Roscrea Youthreach!:** Youthreach Roscrea was nominated in five categories of the Songs from the Youth 2012 competition run by Craftzone and sponsored by the Irish Music Rights Organisation (IMRO). Youthreach centres from across the Republic of Ireland participated in Craftzone workshops. During these workshops the young people used music as a means to create, share and connect and the results are inspiring.

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**NTVEC Awards:** Four more students received NTVEC awards during 2012 in the categories of Art, Academic Excellence, Educational Achievement and Personal Achievement. These students excelled in their field or achieved their potential against considerable odds. Students like Lisa-Marie, Dillon, Donna and Danni act as role models for our other students and show them that success is achievable. Donna Donoghue was subsequently voted as our Student of the Year and received a plaque of recognition at our Graduation Service.

**Presidential Candidate visit:** A highlight of our year was when Sean Gallagher chose our centre as one of his sites to visit during his presidential campaign. Donna Donoghue presented him with a mask created by one of our students. The mask was created as part of the “Identity” module of Art and was painted in the colours of the Irish flag. It symbolised Irish identity.
Roscrea/Birr School Completion Programme

Throughout the last school year SCP has facilitated Afterschool Groups, Socialisation Groups, Class Socialisation groups, Breakfast Club, Individual sessions, Copping On Programme, Summer Programmes, Birthday Card Scheme and the Transfer Programme. A new chairman of the Board of Management, Mr. Seamus Mullaney, follows out-going chairman Hazel Delahunt.

Let’s Read Pal: In conjunction with Roscrea Library and Coláiste Phobal’s Transition Year, a new programme Let’s Read Pal was availed of by twelve students from fifth and sixth class in the three participating schools.

The sixth class students participated in the coping on programme and were presented with certificates of completion in the Damer Court Hotel. The winners of this year’s crime prevention poster competition received gift vouchers, sponsored by Roscrea Credit Union.

Summer Programmes: The School Completion Programme focused on two programmes in Roscrea during the summer holidays. Twenty four pupils between the ages of five and eight attended a week of Carol Thompson’s summer programme.

Transfer Programme: The transfer programme took place in August, implemented in partnership with North Tipperary Leader Partnership, RAY, Coláiste Phobal and SCP with 105 students participating in this year’s Transfer Programme. The Cairdes are an essential part of this programme.

Presentation of Let’s Read Pal Awards at Roscrea library:
Students from Scoil Eoin Naofa, Scoil Iosef Naofa, Sacred Heart Primary School, Principal Mr. Mark McLoughlin, Teachers Miss Claire Dillon, John Hogan and Colm McGrath, School Completion staff, Mairead Keevey and Samantha Fennelly, SCP Chairman Mr Seamus Mullaney and Mr. Brian Colclough Supervalu.
We welcomed our new Junior Infants in September; Michael, Eoin, Aisling, Lucy, Josh and William and said goodbye to pupils in sixth class; Louise, Leyla, Rebecca, Debbie, James, Mark and Philip.

**Carol Singing:** Pupils took part in Carol Singing around town. They were made feel very welcome in Tesco and Supervalu. They also received much praise from The Dean Maxwell Nursing Home and the Mothers’ Union Senior Citizen’s Party, ably guided and accompanied by Miss Veighey.

**Heritage Project:** In January it was announced that 5th and 6th Class pupils came third in the Heritage Project called “The Monastic Sites of Roscrea” and third in the Essay Competition. Pupils were very interested in learning lots about Roscrea’s Spiritual Heritage; many thanks to our tour guide, Adrian Hewson.

**Our Lenten Project** consisted of two fundraising events: the Annual Pancake Morning and a “Roald Dahl’s” musical version of “The Three Little Pigs”, proceeds of which were donated to the Dean Maxwell Nursing Home.

**Fundraising:** We also raised €500 for North Tipperary Hospice and €400 for Down Syndrome Ireland.

**St. Patrick’s Day Parade:** Another wonderful occasion was our first entry into the St. Patrick’s Day Parade with the children decked out in an array of colour as farmland animals, woodland animals and city slickers and the magnificent float carrying the pigs’ three houses. The icing on the cake was the announcement of St. Cronan’s entry as winners in the school category and as overall winners as well.

**St. Cronan’s Church Bicentenary:** St. Cronan’s Church celebrated its Bicentenary in April. Pupils in the Senior Room in conjunction with the Craft Ed Project produced a magnificent quilt commemorating the bi-centenary of the church. The quilt was carried in the opening procession at the bicentenary Service and parishioners are looking forward to having it hanging in the church permanently.

**National Tree Week:** highlights were a walk through Templemore Park, with well know media personality Eanna Ní Lamhna and her day long visit to the school. These along with a visit from Dale Treadwell enhanced our Green School Renewal flag Application.

**Green Schools Flag:** Focusing on Biodiversity, the school was awarded our 4th Renewal Flag or 5th Green flag Award. Parents painted a Biodiversity Mural to the front of our school; we have also won an award in the North Tipperary Tidy Schools Competition, focusing on Litter and Waste Management.
Outing: Pupils from the various classes in the school all had memorable outings.

Sports Evening: Our Parents’ Association provided a delicious BBQ for everyone during the evening. Many thanks to Peter, Alan, Gail and Sylvia for all their help during the year. One of the high lights of the evening was the raising of our 5th Green Flag.

Garda Visits during the year were most welcome and informative. We were delighted to welcome Garda Ciaran O’Gorman back for our Annual Hallowe’en visit.

School Website: Many thanks to Gwyn Wallace for all the photo shoots for our website, www.stcronansnsrosemout.ie

Christmas Shoe Box: Yet again we had a wonderful response supporting Team Hope by filling Christmas Shoe Boxes.

Christmas Nativity Play in St. Cronan’s Church on Thursday 6th December at 7.30pm and Carol Singing on Monday 10th December.

Enrolment: As a small school we continue to face severe cuts by the Government. The greatest impact we face is losing a teacher if we do not maintain our numbers. Please consider a visit when deciding where to send your child to school in Roscrea. Visit our website or find us on facebook.

Staff: Welcome to Mr. John Hogan who has joined the staff of St. Cronan’s this year as a Learning Support Teacher shared with his base school of Corville N.S. and Ms. Violet Barnwell from Oxmanstown who will join us following her Maternity Leave. Best wishes to Miss Veighey, Junior Infant teacher who is marrying Mr Andrew Hogan on 13th December. We wish them both good health and happiness for the future.

Special Year for St Anne’s

Another Green Flag for St Anne’s
Noel Coonan TD, Charles Stanley Smith, An Taisce, Sr Margaret, Andrea Hynes, D’Arne O’Sheil, Josephine and Niall, Jim McMahon, Principal and Fr Tom Corbett, PP.

Jason Healy rings the Eucharistic Bell

Happy Class 5 with many Olympic winners: Emma O’Rourke, Jason Healy, Michael Delaney, Celine Bailey, Amy Whelan and Ciarán Enright.

Declan, Jason and John are happy firefighters

Caoimhe Campion, Class 2, made her First Holy Communion this year in what was the last ceremony in St Michael’s Church in St Anne’s. Caoimhe sang solo at this ceremony.
Enjoying the Opening Ceremony of the Special Olympics:
In front are Amy, Josephine, Celine and Charlene. Behind are Aaron, Daragh, Jason, Mikey, Conor, Emma with Niall at the rear.

Brid (SNA), with Josephine and Aaron at the Munster Special Olympics

Special Olympic Winners; Jason Healy, Celine Bailey and Amy Whelan

Class 2, St. Anne’s SNS were joint 1st prizewinners in the Super Valu Hallowe’en Art Competition. Photo shows Deirdre and Paudie from Super Valu with Gabija, Aífe, Jamie, Ciarán and Caoimhe with Teacher Marion and SNA’s Jacinta and Catherine. Following the prize presentation, class 2 were treated to refreshments in the Cosy Kitchen, thanks to Lourda and Super Valu.

Mikey O’Brien taking part in the Munster Special Olympics in June

Conor Heaney had high hopes at the Munster special olympics
2012 has been a year of joy and celebration at the Sacred Heart Primary School. The whole school community has enjoyed the 50th birthday of our current school building.

In May, George Cunningham presented 50 acorns to the school representing his fifty history conferences at the Cistercian Abbey, accompanied by Mrs Kathleen O’Meara, his junior infant teacher who was a most welcome guest for the day. Dom Laurence Walsh, also a past pupil presented a copy of his *Lumen Christi*. Evelyn and John Butler added many volumes to the library dedicated to the memory of their daughter and our past pupil Aisling.

On the 8th of June we were joined by past pupils, past staff, neighbours and friends for the official celebration of the birthday party. We had a wonderful ecumenical service directed by our school chaplain Fr Pat. As on all school days we began with a roll call of 50, a representative from every year of the school. Mrs Kathleen Leahy our guest of honour congratulated the school on its fourth green flag and spoke fondly of her days as principal in our school.

Our celebrations continue until the end of the year. Caoimhe Arrigan, a past pupil is our current Artist in Residence. We were awarded our first Blue Flag for European Studies this year and hope to have another celebration when that is raised. Academically we continue to reach and surpass the targets set for literacy and numeracy in our school. Our children are as busy on the sports pitches and on stages as they are in the classrooms. We will launch a new website this year so our work in its many forms will be on display for everyone to see.
Caoimhe Arrigan Artist in Residence with Senior Infant Pupils

Parents and Grandparents day for Artist in Residence Mrs Slattery and her mother Mrs Bergin sharing moments with Senior Infants

Mr John Devitt Principal with Rachel O’ Brien presenting her award for 100% attendance for her primary school years

Mai Bean Uí Cinnéide, Sr Nora Burke and Sr Maria Brady at the 50th Parents and Grandparents day for Arjigdlsfst in Residence Mrs Slajgdlsery and her mother Mrs Bergin sharing moments with Senior Infants

Hallowe’en fashion in Sacred Heart L-R Wiktoria Niznik, Emily Walsh, Sharon Shanahan, Emma Synnott, Paul Walsh

Mr John Devitt Principal with Cameron Dunne winner of bicycle for attendance

6th Class with the pumkins they carved for Hallowe’en with Mr Colm McGrath Teacher and Teresa Ryan SNA

Front Row Left to Right: Samko Pols, Emily Walsh, Enrika Reinyte, Laurynas Valaika, David Toth, Barbara Leginski, Simona Staponkute

Back Row: Colm McGrath Teacher, Jason Murphy, Cameron Dunne, Martin Pratt, Brendan Hutchinson, Michael Doyle, Teresa Ryan SNA
Corville National School in pictures

Paul O’Connell Visits Corville
BR: Ms Tina Ryan, SNA, Ms. Jennifer O’Connell, Ms. Eamhair Kirwan, Peter O Donoghue, Jamie Korok, Jodie Morgan, Tara Nolan, Ava Fairbrother, Cameron Fairbrother, Leon O Meara.
FR: Thomas Sheehan, Faye Morton, Josh Moloney.

Digital Schools Award
John Slattery, Principal, Paul O’Connell, Munster and Irish Rugby Captain, receive Digital School Award from Ann Phelan, N.C.T.E.

Opening of Tennis Courts
Lauren Egan, Aoife Spendlove, John Slattery, Principal, Jed Feehan, Adam Dooley, Glynn Loughnane, Richard Fairbrother, Gail O Meara, Robbie Fairbrother, Claire Kiely, Mark Koczian, Ms. Claire Dillon, Class Teacher.
Dara Carney, Martin Cussen, Cody Moloney, Ally Clifford, Conor Ryan, Kaylagh Feehan, Antonia Curtis, Dylan Carroll.

New Uniforms for Corville.
Cody Moloney, Nathan Carroll, Lauren Egan

Lucy Lee and Robyn Loughnane meet the Credit Union Santa.
**First Day**

Patrick Delaney, Ms. Julie Kirwan, Class Teacher, Sean Nolan and Declan Walsh

**Bookmaking Workshop in Roscrea Library**

Kelly Reynolds, Nicole Shestavina, Grainne Browne, Leigh Hoare, Daniel Murphy, Katia Shestavina, Meadhbh Fletcher, Michael Walsh, Joseph Bergin, Jack Flynn, Kenny Lee, Ben Loughnane, Leah O Donoghue, Ciara Kennell, Nathan Lynch

**Going Swimming – Sports Day**

BR: Kayla O Brien, Grainne Browne, Nicole Shestavina, Ciara Whelan, Ciara Kennell, Shannon McNamara, Paige Loughnane, Leah O Donoghue, Lauren Mulhall

FR: Fr. Harding, Gary Sheils, Taylor Bergin, Vitalij Borsak, Dylan Carey, Ben Simmons, Daniel Murphy, Jessie O Donoghue, Shauna Morgan, Caitlin Maher
Boys’ National School, 1953/54, at Gaol Road

This happy group of 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th classes at the old BNS (now the Youth Centre; the school is now Scoil Eoin on the Golden Grove Road) was probably taken after they made their Confirmation – a ceremony which only happened then every three years.

The group is photographed down from the school in front of the adjoining cottage, nearly opposite the courthouse.

How many of the group can you name?
Scoil Eoin Naofa – The Year In Pictures

Scoil Eoin Naofa Cumann na mBunscol U-13 Roinn D County Camogie Champions
Back L to R Mr. Kelly, Mr. McLoughlin, Mr. McGrath, Mr. Coghlan. Middle L to R Niamh Moloney, Clodagh Fitzpatrick, Emma Kealy, Liga Lataviece, Rachael Lynch, Tori Foyle, Leah Wright, Karen Hogan, Shannon Moloney, Ciara Wynne, Sonita Wynne-Doran, Kathleen Delaney (Capt.)
Front L to R Victoria Spyra, Chloe Keneally, Sommer Byrne, Katie Shanahan, Danielle Carson, Amy Donoghue, Lauren Landy, Jessica Mitchell, Chloe Hutchinson, Catherine O’Connell.

Scoil Eoin Naofa Cumann na mBunscol U-11 Roinn B County Champions
Back L to R Mr. Coghlan, Mr. Kelly, Mr McGrath, Mr. McLoughlin.
Middle L to R Vojtek Spyra, Maurice Walsh, Bradley Neville, Vladislav Bodrov, Rian Lee, Martin Murphy, Tadhg Nash.
Front L to R Conor Donovan, Jamie Ryan, Owen Tynan (Capt), Dean Pyne, Darragh Tynan, Jamie Boland.

Christopher Neville presented the school with a new set of jerseys
Back L to R Paddy Kelly, Rory McGrath, Christopher Neville, Mark McLoughlin, John Coghlan.
Front L to R Darragh Tynan, Owen Tynan, Bradley Neville, Karen Hogan, Kathleen Delaney, Danielle Carson.
Rory McGrath(l) and Patrick "Bonnar" Maher make a presentation to Bertie Fitzpatrick who sponsored GAA equipment for the school.

Tori Foyle and Jessica Mitchell beachcombing on the 5th class tour to Dingle.

Mr. Coghlan made a presentation to Karen Hogan who was selected on the Tipperary Primary Game Camogie team.

Scoil Eoin Naofa will feature on RTE’s “Operation Transformation” in January. Picture shows programme producer Yvonne Kinsella getting the views of some children in Mr. Kelly’s class.

Aioife Dillon and Patrick McCarthy who will both feature in "Clever Patrick and the tale of the Golden Grove Leprechaun" written by Canadian author Pat Harrison.

Canadian author Pat Harrison, who visited the school to write a book with the children, reading one of her own books to first class.

Audience enthralled as Fr. Corbett reads "The Enormous Turnip" at our story reading session.
Young Scientist: This year for the first time the school joined forty other primary school in exhibiting their project at the Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition. Sixth Class pupils, Ms Hogan, Mrs Kenny and Principal Mr Hanamy attended in Dublin where their project “Vegetable Forensics” was well received. The pupils and teachers were very proud to receive such positive comments along with the beautiful trophy which will have pride of place in the school. No doubt the highlight of the day was the interview done by Aidan Kelly for Network 2 News.

Retirement: February 29th was an emotional day as Mrs Kenny retired after teaching here since 1999. Mrs Kenny, with two of her sons, brother and sister, friends, parents, pupils and staff – past and present, attended a Mass celebrated by School Chaplin Fr Michael Harding and Fr Tom Corbett with children bringing up gifts representing different aspects of Mrs Kenny’s school.

Mad Hair Day: Mad Hair day saw pupils and staff in March with an array of hairstyles and colours. A cheque for €500 from our charity fund went to Today FM’s Shave or Dye Campaign for Cancer Research.

That’s Entertainment: All classes put on professional performances under the expert guidance of Eddie O Neill.

Whats the Story?: We were one of six schools invited to take part in “Whats the Story?” – a radio programme for RTE Radio Junior. Jade Campion’s (5th Class) story “Alex’s Big Adventure” was chosen by RTÉ to be the feature story in one of the programmes. On Sunday April 22nd Jade and Orla Corbett went to RTÉ to have Jade’s story recorded with friend Orla the “voice over” for her story.

Aidan Moloney making a presentation to Mrs Kenny

Mr Maher and Mrs Harding along with pupils Brian Bergin Cantwell, Cathal Mulrooney, Dearbhaíl O'Meara, Orla Corbett, Oisin Kennedy, Orlagh Phelan, Ben Pearson, Conor, Eoghan Kelly and Lucy Delaney

Abbie Meagher, Aoibhe Brophy and Caragh Harnett, and the pupils of 3rd and 4th Class performing onstage.
Offaly County Football Champions: Our football team won the U13 Cumann na mBunscol Offaly Football Final against Birr in St Brendan’s Park with a score of 3 to 12 to 6 points.

Sport in School: We got to two county hurling finals - in both Tipperary and Offaly but were beaten in both finals. Liam Seacy represented Offaly in the Mini Sevens at the All Ireland Semi Final and Jay Culleton was chosen to play in the Primary Games but unfortunately broke his arm in a schools’ match the previous Tuesday and was unable to play. Aaron Loughnane, Liam Seacy, Eoghan Bergin and Conor Booth came second in the North Tipperary Skills qualifiers, and the boys went on to come fourth in the county.

In tennis Conor Booth, Eoghan Bergin, Dearbhail O’Meara and Grace O’Donnell won the 6th Class competition in the local schools’ tournament and Gavin Meagher, Jack Lee, Orla Corbett and Megan Brophy from 5th Class came second in their competition.

Our girls were narrowly defeated in the final of the Local Schools Soccer competition which went to penalties, but did very well in the Tipperary FAI Five Aside for primary schools in Two Mile Borris, but were beaten by the eventual winners.

Rugby: We enjoyed our rugby coaching sessions with David Farrelly and were delighted with our performance in the Blitz organised by David.

Mrs Eimear Feehan returned to the school for gymnastics again this year. Niall de Burca and the Slieve Bloom Story Tellers visited the school on Friday 12th October. The U-16 Offaly Camogie All-Ireland winners visited the school on the same day. Two of our past pupils were involved with the panel – Amy Ryan as a player and Sean O’Meara as selector. Garda Declan Ganley made his annual visit to the school to talk to the pupils of Fifth and Sixth Class about the dangers of fires and fireworks at this time of the year.

Jennifer Dillon from the Offaly Arts Council visited Fifth Class to give a workshop entitled “Thinking outside the Box”.

Autism Awareness Day: Aoibhneas pupils Jamie Bradley, Brendan Johnson, Rory Corcoran and Oisin Kennedy along with Angela Ryan, Enya Carroll, Veronica Crowley, Yvonne O’Toole and Josie Morrissey.
As 2012 comes to an end it is a time to look back on the work of Scoil Mhuire over the past year.

Sporting activity is highly rated in our school and community, G.A.A. Gaelic football and hurling along with tag rugby, tennis, soccer, dancing, both traditional and hip hop. The children take part in many competitions, Cumann na mBunscol, Gaelic Football and Hurling, Futsal Soccer, Art and Quizzes. Last year our boys’ team won the Futsal Competition and Aoife Devlin was our school’s winning entry in the Moneygall Obama Poster Competition. Music is extremely well catered for in Scoil Mhuire. All the children learn the whistle from 1st to 6th class. At Christmas time we are proud to show off the talent of the children in our Carol Service. One of the highlights of last year was our visit to the local nursing homes where the children sang for the residents and we thank Patersons and Villa Maria for having us.

The Drive for Five means something very special to us, as we are busily working on our 5th Green flag; the theme is biodiversity. We continue to develop our interest in the environment by planting trees and flowers. Last spring we grew a butterfly garden to enhance the children’s appreciation of wild life.

At First Holy Communion in May the Parents’ Association provided refreshments for all. They also provided a wonderful night out for all in Racket Hall last December where Ailish and Enda Hennessey, Fiacri House put on a fabulous Cookery Demonstration. The night was a huge success both as a fundraiser and as a social evening. Our school actively participates in Maths Week (October) and Science Week (November) and in June we organise our own Literacy Week and had the annual School Tour. Last year we raised over €600 for charity, for Trocaire, Our Lady’s Hospital Crumlin and the Children’s Shoe Box.
This year’s AGM has seen a changing of the guard as follows: Chairperson Richard Feeney, Secretary Shauna Walsh, Treasurer Irene O’Meara, PRO Teresa O’Neill. The subcommittees are largely unchanged from last year, though responsibility for new members falls to Vivienne Crawford. Mairead Keevey continues to deal with child safety issues. The first major project, thanks mainly to Richard Feeney, was the provision of steps from clubhouse to court-side. The contractor was Anthony Middleton whose artistic work is now appreciated by all.

With the blessing of our parent body RCTLC, Roscrea Tennis Club is seeking to be a fully independent club with responsibility for its own finances and structures. This involves the Co Council transferring the lease of the grounds to The Tennis Club, and to facilitate this we are taking steps to becoming a limited company. Moves to appoint directors are ongoing. If this change happens it will mean, of course, that the office in the Abbey Hall will no longer deal with membership payments. The staff there have been brilliant over the years, and our thanks especially to Pádraig and Marie for their consistent efficiency and courtesy.

The Midland League: We entered 11 teams in this competition with varying degrees of success. Our div six team contested the final against Killaloe and seemed to be in deep trouble when they lost the first two sets of the match. To stay in the competition they needed to win the next two, and so face a playoff set. This they narrowly failed to do. Both final sets went to tie-breaks with Killaloe winning one and Roscrea the other. The team deserve compliments for their fighting spirit and no little skill: Bridget Compton, Marian Flanagan, Karen Quinlan, and Pauline Deegan.

Of four teams in Div five, one team was narrowly beaten by Puckane in the semi-final. Birr subsequently won that competition. The team: Deirdre Bergin, Leah Bergin, Teresa O’Neill, Siobhan Kirby. Division four continued to be our Achilles heel but our div three team reached their final, having dropped only two points in the group stages. The team was Margaret Feeney, Maeve Delaney. Michael Breen and Peter Hogan. Michael and Margaret, as a mixed combination, were unbeaten in all of their games.

We had mixed fortunes in Div two. A 3/1 loss to a very strong Abbeyleix team meant that Roscrea would only qualify if Abbeyleix inflicted the same score-line on Nenagh. As it happened Abbeyleix, of necessity, had to field a weakened team which went down 4/0 to Nenagh, so our goose was cooked. Our team: Niall Crofton, Frank Smeaton, Shauna Walsh, and Aoife Davey. At the time of going to press our Div one team have qualified for their final against Birr. On the domestic front we have had many competitions too numerous to detail, but our thanks to the organisers of the Spring League: Una Teehan, Deirdre Bergin and Irene O’Meara.

A very successful Primary School competition was held with Corville NS winning the fifth year section, and Dromakeenan NS the sixth year competition. Organisers were Gail and Kim O’Meara, with umpires Val Feeney and Eoin Hobbs. The three hard-courts are situated beside the swimming pool and can be accessed through the car-park. The Club’s membership rates are as follows; single €100, couple €130, family membership €150, primary school pupils €25, all other students €35. New members can join the Club by calling to the Abbey Hall between 9.30 a.m. and 12 noon, Monday to Friday or from 7p.m. to 9p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The courts are available for hire by the public at the swimming pool reception area. Lights’ tokens can also be purchased there.

Inter-primary schools tennis tournament - 5th & 6th Class

5th Class Winners - Corville
Gail O’Meara, Adam Dooley, Conor Nolan, Lauren Egan, Aoife Russell, Shauna Walsh

5th Class Runners-Up - Dromakeenan
Gavin Maher, Jack Lee, Orla Corbett, Megan Brophy with Gail O’Meara and Shauna Walsh

6th Class Winners - Dromakeenan
Eoin Bergin and Conor Booth with Gail O’Meara
(missing from photo Grace O’Donnell and Dearbhla O’Meara)

6th Class Runners-Up - St. Cronan’s
Leyla Sanli, Rebecca Willaims, Mark Dunne, Philip Gee with Gail O’Meara
A review of some Roscrea teams from the early 1960s with two classic black and white photographs to complement the narrative.

**Minor Hurling team 1962:** The Minor Hurling team of 1962 celebrated their Golden Jubilee this year. The team won the North and County titles in great style – the club’s fifth consecutive victory in both competitions. Roscrea had been a supplier of talent to Tipperary Minor teams over the years, but after their first County title win in 1958 (captained by Mickey Phelan) more players earned recognition at a higher level. In 1959 Mickey Nolan was a member of Tipperary’s All Ireland winning Minor team while Billy (Liam) Cummins, Liam Bourke, Noel (Barney) Hogan, John Dillon, Tommy O’ Meara, Francis Loughnane, Philip O’ Rourke, Owen Killoran, Paddy Delaney, Donie Moloney, Ambrose Fayard and Jimmy Cummins were involved across the 1960, 1961 and 1962 teams, all winning provincial honours, but losing to Kilkenny on All Ireland final day. In 1962 Roscrea had an incredible seven players involved on the Tipp Minor panel and the long-serving club Secretary, John Joe Maher, was a selector.

The hurling club’s AGM on February 27th featured a warm welcome from outgoing Chairman, Mr Larry Lyons, to the Christian Brothers, who had moved to the town in preparation for the opening of the Secondary School, ‘Ard Mhuire’ in September. The meeting elected the following officers and committee: President - Rev. Bro. Scully, Chairman - Mr. L. Lyons, Vice Chairman – Mr. M. Abbott & Mr. M.Loughnane, Secretary / Treasurer - Mr. J.J. Maher, Committee: Kieran Carey, Joe Delaney, Paddy Bourke, Jackie Hannon, Mick Hogan, Paddy Delaney, Jack Collison and Ciaran Mac Nioclais. The expenditure on hurleys and sliotars for the previous year (1961) was reported as costing £66-16. (Sixty six pounds and sixteen shillings).

The 1962 North Tipperary Minor championship had eight clubs affiliated. By virtue of their dominance over the previous four years, Roscrea received a bye to the last four. The opening game was against Lorrha whom they beat by 3-7 to 2-1, in the semi final at Mac Donagh Park, Nenagh, on Sunday August 19th. The heavy rain rendered the pitch very slippery and Lorrha, aided by the wind, dominated the first half. Their control came from the half back line, which was very impressive and Roscrea found it hard to settle. The conditions didn’t suit their hurling style and performances were less convincing than expected. Despite a generous supply of possession, the Lorrha forwards didn’t make it pay and a combination of inaccuracy and splendid goalkeeping by Ambrose Fayard kept Roscrea in the game. Lorrha led by 1-1 to 1-0 (scored by Seamus Feehan) after fifteen minutes, but Donie Moloney’s goal turned the game in Roscrea’s favour. The Reds led at half time by four points, 2-2 to 1-1. Sean Carroll finished the contest with a 1-1 scoring burst just after half time and then Paddy Delaney and Jimmy Cummins took over at midfield. The scores followed albeit slowly – three points from Francis Loughnane frees and one from play by Michael Maher. A late Lorrha goal was nothing more than a consolation score. Other key men in this hard-earned win were Owen Killoran (centre back), Philly O’Rourke (full back), Paddy Landy (right corner back) and Seamus Feehan (left corner forward). Francis Loughnane was the top scorer with 0-5 - all from frees. The referee was Philly Ryan (Borrisoleigh).

The final against Toomevara, who beat Newport by 1-12 to 1-2 in their semi final, was played at Mac Donagh Park, Nenagh, on September 16th. Roscrea faced the wind in the first half, but only trailed by a point at the break. Sean Carroll levelled in the opening minute of the second half and followed with a goal. Francis Loughnane added another goal two minutes later and it was easy enough from there to the finish. Roscrea won by 3-15 to 2-5, with Francis Loughnane in top scoring form on 1-8. The other Roscrea scorers were – Sean Carroll 2-1, Michael Maher 0-4 and Donie Moloney 0-2. Toomevara’s best player was Roger Ryan who scored 1-3. After the match, Philly Ryan from Borrisoleigh, a member of the County Board presented the Monsignor Hamilton Cup to the team captain Owen Killoran. Philly also refereed the final – surprisingly the only time he took charge of a North Tipp Minor decider. Impressive displays were given by Owen Killoran (centre back), Donie Moloney (midfield), Francis Loughnane (centre forward) and Michael Maher (full forward).

The next step was the county semi-final against the West Champions, Cappawhite, which was played at Thurles, on September 30th. Roscrea won by 10-8 to 3-7. Cappawhite did much of the early attacking but made little headway against a determined Roscrea rear guard, which was without goalkeeper Ambrose Fayard, who had also been an absentee for the North Final. Roscrea gradually took control and were heading for victory before half time. The performance was impressive – even if there were concerns about the concession of 3-7. Alas there wasn’t a report of the game in the Tipperary newspapers, so the scorers are not available. The game was refereed by Billy Sweeney (Moyne Templezhou).

The county final was fixed as a curtain raiser for the Senior decider between Thurlres Sarsfields and Moycarkey Borris, at Thurlres Sportsfield (now Semple Stadium), on Sunday, October 14th. Roscrea’s opponents were the Mid Champions, Na Fianna (Templetuohy/Moycarkey Clonakenny/Drom) who had been comprehensively defeated by the North’s best in the 1961 final. The Mid champions beat a Ballingarry / Mullinahone combination in the county semi final, by 4-7 to 2-6, at Thurles, on October 7th. General admission to the finals was 2/6, Sideline 2/- extra and Stand 1/- extra. The Minor game was timed for 2-15 pm with the Senior decider to follow at 3.30 pm.

A clash of colours saw Roscrea lining out in the blue and gold, but there was no inconvenience in the change, which had also been made the previous year when victory was achieved against the same opposition.

Despite being without Paddy Delaney, who started the season as captain but emigrated after the Lorrha game, Ambrose Fayard and Jimmy Cummins, Roscrea settled in quickly and led at half time by 0-5 to 0-1. A scoring blitz, which followed nine scoreless minutes, yielded 3-2 and put Roscrea on the road to victory. Despite conceding a brace of goals before the end to Willie Smith and Frank Egan, the defending champions were in no danger of being caught and ran out comfortable winners, by 3-9 to 2-1 with Francis Loughnane closing the scoring from a free.

Roscrea set a new record for the County Minor championship by winning their fifth title in a row. Owen Killoran, who won his fourth county medal, captained the team to this historic achievement. Team & scorers: John Feehan, Paddy Landy, Philip O’Rourke, Martin Bourke, John Maher, Owen Killoran, Francis Dooley, Donie Moloney (0-2), Donie Ryan, Sean Carroll (2-1), Francis Loughnane (1-5), Micheal Loughnane, Liam Brussels (0-1), Michael Maher, Seamus Feehan.

The final saw excellent displays from Owen Killoran, Donie Moloney, Donie Ryan, Sean Carroll, Francis Loughnane and Michael Loughnane.

The final was refereed by Tipperary senior hurler Theo English, from Marlfield.
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Roscrea Minor Hurling Team, North & County Champions 1962

Back Row l to r: John Joe Maher (RIP), Willie O’Reilly (RIP), John Conlon (RIP), Joe Dooley, Michéal Loughnane, Dessie O’Meara (RIP), Philip O’Rourke, Francis Loughnane, Seán Carroll, Donie Ryan, Martin Bourke, Seán Loughnane, Billy Brussels (RIP), Martin Loughnane (RIP).

Front Row l to r: Frankie Dooley (RIP), Liam Brussels (RIP), Séamus Feehan, Donie Moloney, Owen Killoran, John Maher, Paddy Landy (RIP), John Feehan.

Senior hurling team 1961: Roscrea hadn’t won the North Tipp championship since 1954 and with Toomevara and Kilruane Mac Donaghs, the twin powers in the Division, the 1961 campaign was awaited in hope rather than with confidence. A total of thirteen teams affiliated for the North Championship, which was played on a knock out and losers’ group basis. The North Board had replaced the Murphy Cup, which served as the prize for the winners since the 1930s, with the new Frank McGrath Cup, which had been donated by the former Toomevara Greyhounds legend Roscrea’s first outing against St Flannan’s (Moneygall/Knockshegowna) was played on a double bill at St Cronan’s Park, Roscrea, on May 14th. In the other game, Kilruane Mac Donaghs beat Borrisoleigh by 4-7 to 3-5. There were no reports or specifics on the Roscrea v St. Flannan’s game, but it was noted in The Tipperary Star that “The game was on the rough side and a player was sent to the line. Roscrea were deserving winners”. The victory put Roscrea into the winners’ group and a meeting with Kilruane Mac Donaghs who had been county finalists in 1959. The game was fixed for Sunday June 11th, at Mac Donagh Park, Nenagh. The winners would qualify for the Divisional semi final.

Played in front of an estimated 2,000 attendance, Kilruane’s more recent achievements ensured that they entered the game as favourites. Despite a two goal start (Barney Hogan and Willie O’Reilly) against the wind and the run of play, Roscrea were soon under pressure as their opponents got to grips with the challenge. Having dominated the game for ten minutes, Jimmy Gibson’s ‘65’ put Kilruane ahead 2-2 to 2-1 at the end of the first quarter. Three goals from Tom McLoughney, Sean Williams and Charlie Moloughney stretched the lead as Kilruane Mac Donaghs headed into the break leading by twelve points, 5-5 to 2-1. The early minutes of the second half saw a spirited Roscrea effort; a goal from Jackie Hannon’s and three more points reduced the lead to modest proportions. Hugh Tooher steadied Kilruane with a goal. Mick Minogue pointed and Leo Dooley crashed a free to the net, as hopes rose. Sean Williams goaled again but Jackie Hannon cancelled it with another - only two goals between the teams now. Sean Williams struck again, Tommy Carey raised a green one – four minutes left. Williams finished with another goal and late Roscrea points from Tommy Carey and Leo Dooley were not enough to save the day. Although Roscrea finished with an impressive tally of 6-8, their opponents had managed to score 9-7. The score line provides the clue – Roscrea’s problems were in defence rather than in the attack. Four forwards and both midfielders scored for Roscrea. The Tipperary Star match report named Mickey Phelan “many fine saves”, Mick Hogan, Pat Dynan, Jackie Hannon, Mick Minogue, Leo Dooley and Willie O’Reilly as Roscrea’s best performers, while The Guardian noted that Noel (Barney) Hogan was “outstanding”.

The pre match photograph is unusual as it doesn’t include all of the team and one player (possibly Jack Collison) seems to be looking for the rest of his colleagues, before the camera clicked. The players are instantly recognisable. Sadly, many of them are now deceased.

The scorers from that high scoring game over half a century ago were Mick Minogue (0-2), Leo Dooley (1-2), Noel (Barney) Hogan (1-2), Willie O’Reilly (1-1), Jackie Hannon (2-0), Tommy Carey (1-1), Sean Leamy, Paddy O’Meara.

The referee was Philly Ryan (Borrisoleigh).

Toomevara beat Kilruane Mac Donaghs in the semi final 2-19 to 3-4 and went on to lift the new cup, on a scoreline of 4-14 to 3-4 for Borrisokane.

Roscrea had to wait until 1963 before they regained the North title and received the Frank McGrath cup for the first time.
It has been a long time since Inane Rovers had a year like 2012. In an area of hurling dominance the young men of Roscrea this year have proved their talents with the big ball. No fewer than six titles have been captured in a year that was more successful than anyone in the club could have wished for. Our U-10 footballers captured their 3rd County Community games title in a row. Inanes U-14 B footballers captured a first ever title at this grade defeating Borrisokane in a closely contested North final, but losing to Ardfinnan in the County Semi.

The U-16s this year delivered both North and County B championships. This team played a lovely brand of football throughout the year but it was their determination and appetite for hard work that saw them overcome a strong Holycross/Ballycahill team in the County final after extra time. 1999 was the last time Inane won a U-16 County title which makes this group’s achievement all the better. The 3rd County title for the club was delivered this year by our Minor B footballers. After a hard fought one point win over Borrisokane in the North final the lads transformed a two point half time deficit into a ten point win over a fancied Drom & Inch side in the County Semi. The County final against South champions Cahir was played in wet and windy conditions. In a low scoring match Inane battled to a one point victory. Indeed 2012 will live long in the memory for all in Inane Rovers.

In addition to all this success, 2012 was the second year of the club’s Liam Carson Memorial Primary School Blitz. Corville N.S., Dromakeenan N.S., Scoil Eoin and Sacred Heart with Corville N.S winning out worthy winners. Well done to all students and teachers for taking part. Inane would also like to congratulate six of our players who were on the Thomas McDonoughs team that contested the County Senior football final. Defending their title won last year the lads represented the club with distinction coming up just short in the final against Clonmel Commercials. Well done to Liam England, Jim McDonnell, David Buckley, Joe Carroll, Aaron Ryan and Keith McMahon. The club would also like to thank Bernie’s SuperValu for their long standing and continued sponsorship; their commitment to Inane Rovers has been immense. On a sadder note Inane lost one of its great servants in 2012. Leo Dooley was a legend of the club and will be missed by all. Ar dheis dé go raibh a anam.

A fantastic year for Inane Rovers in 2012

Brian Colclough (Bernie’s SuperValu) presenting minors with socks and shorts

Front l-r Cian Rigney, Enda Moloney, Conor Sheedy.
Back l-r Alan Fogarty (Sec.), Michael Campion (Capt.), Brian Colclough (SuperValu), Declan Russell (Chairman),
Inane Rovers Minor North and County B Football Champions 2012
Front (l-r) Peter Wright, Joe Moloney, Alan Tynan, Chris Neville, Enda Moloney, Michael Campion (Capt), Riely Collins, Robbie Ryan, Fergal Flanagan, Niall O’Connor.

Inane Rovers U-14 North B Football Champions 2012
Front (l-r) Darragh Loughnane, Shane Fletcher, Fionn Ryan, Daryl Ryan, Cian Fletcher, Ben Spencer.
Middle (l-r) Liam Seacy, Graham Hogan (Capt.), Conor Booth, Ray Fuller, Michael Fletcher, Philip O’Rourke, Sean O’Rourke.
Back (l-r) Emmet Fitzgerald, Kevin Fitzgerald, Sam Queally, Jordan Donovan, Coleman Treacy, Jake Carey Cunningham, Thomas McCarthy, Jason Gilmartin, Daniel Ryan, Josh Neville, Aaron Moloney.

Inane Rovers U-10 County Community Games Gaelic Football Champions 2012
Front (l-r) Nathan Cummins, Enda Moore, Eoin Wynn-Young, Callan Byrne, Joe Brooks, Michael Fitzgerald, Dion Carney.
Middle (l-r) Jack Flynn, Sean Harnett, Conor Phelan, Kenny Lee, Nathan Carroll, Dara Lee, Aaron Delahunty.
Back (l-r) Jamie Boland, James Treacy, Jamie Ryan, Conor Shanahan, Josh Moloney, Dylan Hogan, Conor Dooley, John Donovan.
Back (Mentors) Gregory Carney, James Boland, Damian Carroll.
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2012 was a great year for the club, with adult and under age teams putting up great performances, without quite hitting the top.

The 1st’s team, after a great Autumn campaign found themselves in third position in the league and a great win away in Kilkenny lifted them to 2nd. However, Portarlington just could not be caught and Roscrea had to be content with runners-up spot which meant that they were in a play off with the team who finished 2nd from the bottom of Division 1. Unfortunately, they were beaten by Tullow in the play-off in a great match in Portlaoise. The same team, Tullow, also defeated them in the quarter final of the Towns’ Cup, and subsequently reached the final. Well done to captain Paul McNamara, coach John Lillis, team manager Micheal Quailey and assistant manager Robert Alexander.

The 2nds with Brian O’Rourke and John Douglas also had a good season. They won the Midland League and lost to eventual winners Birr in a replay. Roscrea and Birr had joined forces at U-19 level and put a very strong team in the field known as the Roscrea and Birr Rebels (R&B Rebels). They had a very successful year and were beaten in the Leinster Premier Final. The U-17s, under coach Robert Dempsey and team manager, Liam Tierney, had been the outstanding team in the club and had reached the League Final. The Honours Cap for season 2011/2012 went to Joe Smith, a hard-working forward who has played in every position in the pack and has always given 100%. Paddy Cody was succeeded as president by Michael Talbot.

This season the 1st team have made a magnificent start, winning their first three matches, and with bonus points, were top of the table in October. But there is a long season yet to come, with many tough matches. Hopefully they will be up to it and go one step further than last season. Paul McNamara is club captain for the second season, with John Lillis once again as coach and a new team manager in David Abbot.

Unfortunately they lost the next three matches and have slid down the table. They cannot afford to lose any more if they want to gain promotion.

The 2nds have not made such a good start but there are a lot of new players and they will improve. Once again Roscrea and Birr have combined at U-19 level and play as R&B Rebels.

The youth section, with Terry Farrelly as co-ordinator, has been doing very well every week. All the teams from U-8’s to U-17’s are togging out every week and producing some good results. The U-15’s appear to have the best chance of winning some silverware.

The Old Tipperary Exile … by Pat Joe Whelan

I left old Ireland long ago, New York is now my home
In dreams I see my native land, when I am all alone,
This place where I’m an exile now, sure causes me to sigh
For my home among Tipperary hills, where I roamed free as a boy.

I see the lovely golden vale, old Cashel there in view
The grand old hills of Killenaule, the home of hurlers true,
My thoughts go back to by gone days, by the Anner waters clear
And the town of famed Tom Semple, Thurles proud and dear.

I was working in an old folks home, one day on old Broadway
When I heard the voice of Michael O’Hehir, ’twas All-Ireland hurling day,
I stood there in amazement, as memories did unfold
When an old man, who was ninety-three, shouts up the blue and gold.

I knew then I was not alone, in this far and distant land
I slowly walked across the room, took him gently by the hand,
I said you are from the dear old sod, I am indeed my son
From a little place called Golden, beneath the shades of Slieve na Mon.

We talked about our native Tipp, the place he held so dear
’Twas sixty years when last he saw, her hills and valleys there,
He named great hurling men he knew, so many years ago
Like the undaunted skill, of ‘Reddin’s’ men, in the fifties long ago.

He spoke with joy of great Dan Breen, Sean Treacey bold and true
The rescue of Sean Hogan, a man that he well knew,
He mentioned Dinny Lacey too, with sentiment and pride
And the brave and gallant man, Liam Lynch, the Galtee mountain boy.

How proud was I in that old folks home, that day on old Broadway
To hear that golden voice so clear, twas All-Ireland hurling day,
When I stood there in amazement, as memories did unfold
As that man who was ninety-three, shouts up the blue and gold.
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Founded 1892

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CLUB LOTTO UP AND RUNNING – PLEASE SUPPORT
Roscrea Golf Club

Like all aspects of Irish Society our Club has not escaped the recession. However the Club and Management Committee are working hard to keep the Club going. To raise funds, a Lotto is being run by a committee headed by Martin King; a number of members have each given a €1,000 loan over five years to the Club; a Club weekend competition is run under a committee headed by Conty Cunningham; each item of expenditure is scrutinised and cost cutting measures are being implemented. Hopefully with all our members’ support we will be able to ride out this recession and continue our role as a great and popular Golf Club.

**Winter League:** - Many members play in the Winter League, sponsored by Roscrea Credit Union. The winning team was Fergal O’Connor, Seamus Feehan, Damian Shanahan, Paul Delaney, Ian Wright and Donal Hogan. Also, the Wednesday Golfers bring a buzz around the place during the long winter months.

The season started on the 19th February when our two captains, Michael Lorigan and Nora Kennedy, had their Drive-In. There was also a team event and the winning team comprised the Dooley family (Michael, Des and Pauline) and Martin Moloney.

On 29th of April we had our Club Classic, kindly sponsored by AIB, Roscrea. Overall winners of the team event were:- Tadhg O’Connor, Kevin O’Connor, Tony Mason and P. Carroll (ESB). Lady winners: – Josie O’Grady, Breda Sharpe, Rosario Cullinan and Noreen Hanrahan.

The Open Scratch Cup, sponsored by Centenary DIY Home & Garden, was held on 7th June, and the winner was Joe Lyons, Galway, a previous winner. The Junior Scratch Cup, sponsored by Tipperary Water, was won by Derek Lynch, Castlecomer. Also in June we had the Millpark Cup, open to Men and Lady Members, and sponsored by Mulrooney Oil and Gala. The overall winner was Seamus Feehan (10) 64 nett, while Kathleen Phelan was the leading Lady.

In July the Intermediate Scratch Cup, sponsored by Michael Hayes Car Sales, Moneygall, was won by our own Declan Hearns (11) 78 gross.

And so to the ‘Majors’: Our new President Liam Shanahan held his prize on the weekend 21st/22nd July and attracted an entry of 137. Winner was Michael Gleeson (20) 98 nett and the gross was won by David Dooley 73 gross. On the weekend of 18th/19th August we had the opening round of our second ‘Major’, Michael Lorigan’s Captain’s Prize and it attracted an entry of 150 players. Donal Hogan led after the first round with an excellent 64 nett. However, after the second round and the 9 hole play-off there was a tie between Martin Moloney and Martin Donnellan, both on 166½ shots. But after a count back Martin Donnellan was declared the winner. Martin, for the last number of years has been the Subs. Secretary, (a difficult job which is getting harder all the time in these severe economic conditions), a most popular winner.

Thanks to Steve Crofton and his committee the All Ireland Captains’ Winners Competiton attracted an entry in excess of 200 players from all over Ireland.

**Lady Winners:** Mary Holligan - Killarig Golf Club; Orla Darcy - Tramore Golf Club; Mary Kelly - Castle Barna Golf Club; EPP Koemets - Nuremore Golf Club.

**Men Winners:** Pat Kelly - Cill Dara Golf Club; John McNicholl - Millicent Golf Club; Michael Sullivan - Tramore Golf Club; Darren McNamara - Kilkenny Golf Club.

All these winners will be traveling as usual to the finals in the ALGARVE, trip led by Tour Organiser, John Cahill.

**Club Championship:** – All during the summer we play our Club Championships, creating much talk especially if there is a surprise win in any of the rounds.

**Scratch Cup:** – David Dooley won his 9th Scratch Cup when he defeated Damian Shanahan last Sunday. As the saying goes “Class is permanent”.

**Summer League (Fourball):** – Donal Hogan and Kevin O’Connor proved too strong (helped by Kevin’s Hole in One on the 8th) for John Geary and Peter Kiely.

**Monaincha Cup:** – You cannot keep the “Kilkenny Cats” down! as

Joe Warren and Mai Phelan triumphed against Offaly opponents Martin Moloney and Pauline Dooley.

**Dooly Cup:** – This year’s final was between P J Wright and Damian Shanahan and Damian emerged the winner of this prestigious Cup.

**Golfer of the Year:** – James Masterson was a runaway winner of the Men’s Golfer of the Year Competition, played over 9 rounds with 7 to count. He had a 21 point lead over the second highest. Our Wednesday Opens started on 28th March and continued to 31st October. We thank our many visitors to the Open (and all our Open Events) and hope to see them back next year.

Well done to Bernie Colclough and his Committee who organise a 12 Hole competition for mainly Senior and Friendly Golfers every Monday morning. And also to the Ladies who organise Social Golf every Friday morning.
Club, a huge debt of gratitude goes out to all our sponsors of juvenile competitions throughout the year and to the Juvenile prepare the aspiring enthusiasts for a busy 2013. On behalf of the During the winter we hope to continue our coaching scheme and August under the instruction of Nenagh professional Eanna Jones. also ran lessons from January to March and a Summer Camp in Proinnsias Loughnane.

Juvenile Section: This golfing year has proved to have been an extremely successful and progressive one, with numbers up to an all time high. At present the club has eighty-one registered juvenile members, although all are not regularly active on the course; the competitions during the season have been catering for up to fifty young golfers at any given time. The structure of the juvenile section incorporates three distinct categories, Senior, Intermediate and Junior. Every year, as golfing prowess improves, the golfers of the future are seamlessly moving through the categories towards their holy grail, the acquisition of a senior handicap. This year proved momentous for eleven such contenders, as they all received their senior handicap: Michael Rosney, Darragh Tomlinson, Rodi Ryan, Andrew Robinson, Jack Finnegan, Eoin Fitzpatrick, Tom Ahern, Conor Sheedy, Enda Moloney, Seamus Fuller and Shane Fletcher. Getting a senior handicap is not only an acknowledgement of a player’s ability but also of their integrity to uphold the rules and etiquette of the game and to represent themselves and their club in an appropriate manner in the future. Another juvenile making great strides for the girls is Clodagh Jones, whose current senior handicap is 6. Clodagh was part of the Munster Girls’ U15 coaching panel this year and was also a reserve on the Munster Girls’ U18 Inter-Provincial Team. Let’s hope the Irish Team beckons. Congrats to Michael Rosney who also lowered his handicap this season from 24 to 7. The Club ran competitions during all mid-term breaks and continuously every Thursday during the summer.

The winners of this years’ Captain’s Prize were:- Senior - Clodagh Jones; Intermediate-Shane Fletcher and Junior-Gavin Dooley. We also ran lessons from January to March and a Summer Camp in August under the instruction of Nenagh professional Eanna Jones. During the winter we hope to continue our coaching scheme and prepare the aspiring enthusiasts for a busy 2013. On behalf of the Club, a huge debt of gratitude goes out to all our sponsors of juvenile competitions throughout the year and to the Juvenile Officer in the Club, Damian Shanahan. Looking forward to next year and for more kids to be putting the tee down between the reds and whites.

Two leading juveniles golfers; Clodagh Jones & Michael Rosney

Proinnsias Loughnane

Retirements – Thanks to our Captains, Michael and Nora for all their hard work on behalf of the Club during their term of office. Best of luck to incoming Captains, Paddy Bergin and Eleanor Ryan-Carroll and to their Vice-Captains, Pat Nevin and Joanne Mann.

Bereavements – In June the Club lost one of its famous members namely Leo Dooley, Corville Rd. Leo had a distinguished career as a GAA player, playing on both Munster football and hurling teams. He then took up Golf and was always a low handicap player, playing on our Senior Cup and Barton Shield teams and winning the Dooley Cup on numerous occasions. He acted as Hon. Treasurer for a period and his advice to the Club Finances at AGM always received respect.

Mary O’Meara, formerly Rosemary Square and former Lady Captain way back in 1948. Other members who passed away include Bob Long, Sheila Delaney, Michael Abbott, and Nora Kelly. May they all Rest in Peace.

Staff – The Club wishes to thank all our Staff including Kathleen, Office Admin.; Bar Manager George, Mary and David; Competition Starter Sean; Course Manager John and his Course Staff. Thanks for all your help and co-operation. The club also thanks Danny and his Restaurant Staff.

Steve Crofton

Ladies Club

Lady Captain: Nora Kennedy
Lady Vice Captain : Eleanor Ryan-Carroll
Committee: Chris McDonnell, Rose Ryan, Joanne Mann, Mary Carroll, Carmel Maloney.

The year commenced on 19th February with the Captain’s Drive-in, Four Person Scramble and attracted a good turnout. The 18 Holes (Tuesday) Competitions commenced on March 20th and in keeping with tradition “Past Captain’s Prize” was sponsored by last year’s Captain, Sinéad Holland. The 18 hole competition continued until October 9th, then followed with 9 hole competitions for the winter months. All competitions were well supported with some of the Tuesday competitions and re-entry competitions run as fund raisers for charity, such as Conquer Cancer, 3T’s (Turning the tide on suicide), Rumble for Crumlin Children’s Hospital and NBCR.

Ladies teams were entered into the ILGU Inter-Club Competitions, The Finn Trophy, The Glenns Trophy, and the Tipperary League.

Matches commenced in March with only the Tipperary League Team under Manager Rose Ryan, getting to the final, travelling to Clonmel GC to take on our neighbours Thurles who emerged winners after some tough matches. Team members: Noreen Brophy and Joanne Mann, Monica Dooley and Marion Bergin, Eleanor Ryan-Carroll and Margaret MacMahon.

Ladies also represented the Club in the Diageo Mixed Team and the Irish Mixed Foursomes.

On 21st October the ladies travelled to Nenagh to compete in the Inter-Club match and were narrowly beaten with Nenagh taking home the cup.

Ladies Captain’s Prize
Lady Captain Nora Kennedy presents her prize to Patricia Rowland
The highlight of the year was our Lady Captain Nora Kennedy’s Prize which was played over two days with 18 Hole Stroke Competition on both days. After the first 18 holes Patricia Rowland was leading the field with a great score of 66 nett. Play commenced on the 2nd day at 11 o’clock but unfortunately rain stopped play for about an hour. By mid afternoon Patricia Rowland emerged as the winner with 141 nett: 2nd Mai Phelan 147 nett, 3rd Joan Buckley 148 nett. Gross Orla Egan 171.

The second major of the year was Mr. Liam Shanahan’s Prize to the Ladies, an 18 hole Stroke Competition with a 9 hole playoff for the leading 15 players. The winner was Marita King, 2nd Monica Dooley and Pauline Dooley 3rd.

Our ladies also represented the Club during the year at a number of competitions around the country including: - The Granard Cup – Maureen Murphy and Mary Fitzgerald: Australian Spoons – Ann Parlon and Deirdre McCarthy; Peugeot Coronation Foursomes – Orla Egan and Ruth Cryan-Wright; Valerie Doyle Trophy - Marjorie McCorduck, Joan Buckley, Marie Carroll. Our Hi-Low competition was won by Mai Phelan and Kathleen Tynan.

The “Golfer of the Year” title went to Monica Dooley. The ILGU Silver Medal winner for 2012 was Orla Egan and the Bronze Medal winner was Margaret MacMahon. Mai Phelan and Joe Warren won the club Mixed Match Play Competition, The Monaincha Cup.

Our Ladies’ Captain for 2013 will be Eleanor Ryan-Carroll and Vice Captain will be Joanne Mann both of whom are wished every success. Huge thanks also to outgoing Captain Nora.

Joanne Mann

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**Lady Captain’s Prize**

Front (l/r): Marian O’Connor, Joan Buckley, Nora Kennedy (Lady Captain), Patricia Rowland (Winner), Mai Phelan, Orla Egan, Joanne Mann

Back (l/r): Marie Donnellan, Marie Kennedy, Marita King, Margaret MacMahon, Michael Lorigan (Men’s Captain), Marjorie McCorduck (ILGU President), Liam Shanahan (President), Ann Parlon, Marie Carroll, Margaret Collison, Mary Tynan.

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**Men’s Captain’s Prize**

Front (l/r): Liam Shanahan (President), Marjorie McCorduck (ILGU President), Michael Lorigan (Men’s Captain), Martin Donnellan (Winner), Nora Kennedy (Lady Captain), Eleanor Ryan-Carroll (Lady Vice-Captain), Martin Moloney

**Roscrea People 2012**

*Roscrea People* sympathises with the families of the recently deceased from the Community.

William (Billy) Feehan  
Baby Jayden Derek Christopher Moroney  
Geoffrey Gray  
Josie Feighery  
Mary Middleton  
Katherine (Kitty) Downes  
Marie Rowland  
Molly Byrne  
Robert Longe  
Bob Dunne  
Debbie Carney  
Betty Delaney  
Sheila Delaney  
Nora Kelly  
Kathleen Hourigan  
Liam Coughlan  
Dickie O’Brien  
Kathleen (Kitty) O’Toole  
May Brussells  
Breda Kirwan  
James Cunningham  
Madge McGuire  
Mary Ryan  
Leo Dooley  
Madeleine Creegan  
Michael Abbott  
Dave Carter  
Seamus Brennan  
Michael Moloney  
Peter Fletcher  
Kathleen Doherty  
Peg Coughlan  
Gary O’Regan  
Francis Minogue  
Lucy O’Sullivan  
Josie Daly  
Helen Moloney  
Sr Justin (St Anne’s)  
Margaret (Peggy) O’Meara  
Margaret Molloy  
Niall Doherty  
Joe Kiely

**A date for Roscrea**  
Saturday 6th April 2013  
Commemorating the first known parliament in Ireland  
At Roscrea Castle 1213  
An afternoon of celebrations.

**PEOPLE OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2012**  
Thursday 17th January 2013  
Music, Heritage, Books  
Presentations  
Admission by voluntary donation in aid of Roscrea People book projects at St Cronan’s Centre.

**Abbey Hall Secondhand Bookshop**  
Main Street  
New stock and local publications, including back issues of Roscrea People.  
Great Christmas stocking fillers

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**Limited edition of seventy five signed copies, €30 each. A few copies still available from the editor.**

**See page 127 for details**

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**ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS**  
The normal contribution now arrives in electronic form. Please do not send images in word documents. Please send as jpgs to georgencunningham@eircom.net.

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