

Letters to the Editor

Send your letters to: **Roscommon People**

Abbey Street, Roscommon Town.

Fax: (090) 66 34303 or email: news@roscommonpeople.ie

Despair of Mental Health nurse

Co. Roscommon

Dear Sir,

I work as a nurse with the Roscommon Mental Health Services, part of my role is to be an advocate for the people in my care. People who suffer with mental illness are the most vulnerable and voiceless in our society. The very nature of any mental illness can make it very difficult for any person to cope with daily living on a short or long-term basis.

Currently in Co. Roscommon we are experiencing what can only be described as the dismantling of our Mental Health Service. While change is always welcome if it adds to the improvement of the service, change for the sake of balancing budgets at the cost of patient care cannot be acceptable.

As a nurse it is becoming increasingly difficult to deliver the level of care I feel all our patients deserve. At the heart of psychiatric nursing is the 'therapeutic rela-

tionship' with our patients, which is built on trust, empathy and mutual respect over time. Now unfortunately as a result of on going staff shortages, having the time to spend with any individual is being compromised. When these issues are brought to management their response is to 'provide a certain level of care'. This I feel is an absolutely scandalous and disturbing insight into how management view the very people who depend on this service to care and protect them. Why should I have to go into work and decide who needs more care today? This is resulting in the development of a pecking order, where the patients with the most immediate needs get priority. As a nurse and a human being this is soul destroying and demoralising. Think how this is impacting in our patients.

In every health facility in the country there are shelves weighed down with manuals directing Standards of Nursing Care,

Health and Safety, lovely words like quality, autonomy, dignity, justice, respect and truth roll off the pages. But now we are in a situation where these words are meaningless. I am not in a job where you can turn off caring for another human being like a switch on a computer. On a daily basis I am humbled and privileged to be working with the people entrusted in my care, as I see individuals strive for recovery.

Mental illness is not selective of age, class, creed or colour. The people we care for are mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers. It could be you or your family tomorrow, think about where you can turn to?

Unfortunately the bottom line with this Government and the HSE is money, but at what cost and to whom?

Yours sincerely,

Name and address with editor.



Dismay over twist in cinema saga

Dear Sir,

I feel at this time I need to write to you regarding this whole cinema issue in Roscommon.

A facebook campaign was started some months ago by Roscommon cinema committee – to try and rally people behind the idea of getting a cinema back in Roscommon after 20 years or so of not having one.

I found the story in another Roscommon paper this week to be unfortunate in that it paid no respect to the obvious groundwork Robbie Dwyer and Paul Kane put into the whole campaign. It cannot be by sheer coincidence

that all of a sudden 'big business' is suddenly interested in Roscommon town. And one man seems to be taking all the credit.

It is also widely known that a planning notice entered a local paper last week for a cinema in Roxboro, Co. Roscommon. Deals involving millions of euro are not done over-night – and so I have to ask the question: when the first public reference to a mooted cinema for Roxboro was put forward, why did this multiple idea then come to the forefront? Why did it make front page news when local business people were trying to bring the same facility to

Roscommon? Why weren't the Roscommon cinema committee contacted? It seems that some members of our society would rather herald an 'outsider' because of their bank balance rather than get behind a native Roscommon man who is trying to make a better Roscommon for us all.

I hope people can understand my frustration at this time. I find the situation is full of injustice.

Yours sincerely,

John Farrell
(full address with Editor).

Remembering a Castlerea Fenian

A Chairde,

It has been brought to the attention of the National Graves Association that the large Celtic cross erected over the grave of Castlerea Fenian John Lavin and unveiled by Maud Gonne in 1901 has fallen into a poor state of disrepair. Sometime back the cross fell during harsh weather conditions and broke into several pieces and has remained this way, we believe for approximately ten years.

John Lavin was a very well known and respected man, he was a member of the Young Ireland Society, a nationalist literary society whose President was veteran Fenian John O'Leary, and he was also leader of the IRB in Co. Roscommon. Professionally he was president of the West of Ireland Egg Shippers' Association. Lavin, born in Co. Mayo lived most of his life in Castlerea and was just 43 years old when he died. He was survived by his wife, his three sons John, Michael and Patrick and also his father, John senior.

The National Graves Association has made a commitment to ensure this monument is returned to its original condition and we aim to have this project completed by September next. We have been in contact with some descendants and would appreciate other family members or interested parties getting in contact with our association.

The Association is not affiliated to any political party and is not in receipt of state funding, therefore we depend entirely on donations from nationally minded people at home and abroad. If anyone would like to make a donation towards the John Lavin project we can be contacted at the address below or log on to www.nga.ie. All donations will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

Is mise,

Aidan Lambert
National Graves Association
Box No. 7105
74 Dame Street
Dublin 2.
Tel: (087) 6202680; Email: donations@nga.ie



Trócaire appeal to People readers

Dear Sir,

This weekend marks Easter Sunday and the end of Trócaire's annual Lenten campaign. Last year the Irish public spent over €30m on Easter eggs to celebrate this important occasion.

As people from Roscommon prepare for the weekend and shop for Easter eggs, we would appreciate if they could support our Lenten appeal in any way they can. For those who have already made a donation, a sincere thank you.

Roscommon has always shown immense generosity to Trócaire during Lent. We're extremely grateful for this, as are the thousands of people we help across the world. We hope you will support Trócaire in the final days of this year's Lenten campaign and wish a Happy Easter to all.

Yours sincerely,
Justin Kilcullen
Director,
Trócaire

Did you know Charlie Satchwell?

Dear Sir,

I am trying to find out about my late uncle Charlie Satchwell, who passed away in 2007. I was hoping to find out which hospital or home he was in. If you can help me in any way, please contact me at satchwell.john@yahoo.co.uk or 0044 790 1698688.

Thank you,

John Satchwell

In search of Mona O'Neill

Dear Sir,

I wonder if you can help me? I am trying to trace a lady named Mona O'Neill, who I believe to be living in the Castlerea area of Co. Roscommon. She previously lived in the Shankill area of Co. Dublin. She has previously contacted my sister Mrs. G Grehan who lives in Streatham, SW London. But after she moved, although she has sent my sister Christmas cards, there is no address. The postmark is Castlerea, which leads me to believe she is living in the area. Mona is my cousin who I have never met but would like to get in touch with and I would appreciate any help you may be able to provide.

Any information can be passed on to my postal address below or to Pauline Scott, Roscommon People, Abbey Street, Roscommon, on (090) 66 34633 and she will pass it on.

Yours faithfully,
Mr. Colum Brennan,
124 Sidcup Road,
Lee,
London SE12 9AJ,
England.

Seeking information on Leo Fallon

Dear Sir,

I am trying to find Leo Fallon from County Roscommon. He was born in approximately 1938 and so should be 72 or 73 years of age. He worked in Birmingham in approximately 1957.

Any information can be emailed to Natalie_bentham1990@hotmail.co.uk or can be passed on to Pauline Scott, Roscommon People, Abbey Street, Roscommon, on (090) 66 34633 and she will pass it on.

Regards,
Natalie Bentham