

Veteran reporter: 'Invite Tom Cruise to Roscommon'

The 2010 edition of the Roscommon Yearbook – 'Roscommon Life' – was launched in Roscommon County Library on Wednesday, May 26th last. The launch was performed by former Roscommon Herald reporter Brian Cunniffe, who has had a long association with the yearbook.

In his address to guests in the County Library, Mr. Cunniffe said: "I am honoured to have the privilege of performing the Roscommon Launch of the 30th Anniversary edition of Roscommon Life.

"I have contributed articles to 28 or 29 of the publications over the years and I must say they have all been worthwhile publications.

"An annual reflects newsmakers and events over the past year, while local county newspapers record the news happenings as they happen on a weekly basis.

"This publication, overseen

by Paul Healy and Michael Lennon, truly reflects the newsmakers and events of the county and its native sons and daughters from Dublin to Boston. Being the 30th annual edition it also reflects back over the events over the decades of Roscommon interest.

"Looking back on articles I append for the publication I recall receiving some flak from political parties over a profile on Eithne Quinn in the mid 80's. Paul has paid a nice tribute to Eithne in this edition. Community activists need to be appreciated and we have many of them in County Roscommon and elsewhere.

"About eight years ago I penned a story for the Annual on a family who had allegedly returned from Dublin to live in Rahara, County Roscommon. The male in the family had found a teaching job in Roscommon town and his wife was a civil servant who got a

transfer to the Department of Education in Athlone. Their children were involved in the local GAA and soccer scene, and they were delighted they had made the move back.

"Such a scenario is now a reality for many. Decentralisation has come to Roscommon town. In the Roscommon area there are currently 248 civil servants in various offices and departments. They include 73 in Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, 84 in Justice and 64 in Social and Family Affairs.

"On the exiles front I am familiar with Roscommon Associations across the world and this publication has always given due prominence to their activities. Our exiles are, and will continue to be, our most frequent tourists.

"I not also that Paul Healy has referred to Tom Cruise being of Roscommon origin. I broke that story locally in the Herald, pointing out that Tom

Cruise had Kiltewan family associations. Patsy McGarry was down in Ballaghaderreen that weekend and picked up the story for that Monday's Irish Times. Maureen O'Hara has come to Boyle, Gabriel Byrne to Elphin, James Drury of Virginian fame to Frenchpark. Why not invite Tom Cruise to the Roscommon Lamb Festival and give him nine months' notice. If we don't ask he may not consider coming and giving him plenty of notice may mean he will consider the invitation favourably.

"On the sporting front I found the article by Liam Byrne on match programmes of great interest.

"I am proud to be a Roscommon native and I have had the privilege of working largely in my native county for 33 years. I want to laud Paul Healy and Mike Lennon on a job well done and also (laud) the founding editor of the publi-



County Librarian Richie Farrell, Mayor Tony Ward and Paul Healy, Editor, Roscommon Life magazine, pictured at the launch of Roscommon Life magazine in the Roscommon County Library. Pic: www.hursonphotography.com

cation Michael Fitzmaurice of Ballinlough. Michael is now also deserving of this accolade."

'Roscommon Life 2010' launched in County Library

The 2010 edition of the Roscommon Yearbook – 'Roscommon Life' – was launched in Roscommon County Library on Wednesday, May 26th last.

The magazine, now celebrating 30 years in existence, is going on sale in selected outlets around County Roscommon this week (price €10).

At last week's launch the Editor of Roscommon Life, Paul Healy, thanked contributors and advertisers for their ongoing support and said that he was delighted that it had been possible to publish for a 30th consecutive year (bearing in mind the difficult economic climate). Founder of the magazine Michael Fitzmaurice was present with his wife Attracta and Mr. Healy paid tribute to Michael's vision and work over the years.

Mr. Healy also paid tribute to Contributing Editor Mike Lennon. Mr. Healy thanked Brian Cunniffe,



Pictured at the launch of the Roscommon Life 2010 were (l-r) Cllr. Domnick Connolly and Jim Callery. Pic: Andrew Fox.

long-time (now retired) reporter with the Roscommon Herald for formally launching the publication.

He also thanked the Mayor of Roscommon, Cllr. Tony Ward, for his kind words on the night.

In words of welcome to guests, County Librarian Richie Farrell said that he was delighted to support a publication which he felt was an important cultural contribution to life in Roscommon.

Cllr. Tony Ward, Mayor of Roscommon, paid tribute to all who had helped ensure that this year's edition was published. He spoke of the vital role of the book in chronicling the various happenings and events in Co. Roscommon over a 12-month period and also acknowledged that this 30th anniversary edition contained some reflections on life in the county since 1980.

Contributing Editor Mike Lennon (of the Roscommon Association in Dublin) paid tribute to Paul and Fiona Healy who took over as publishers of the yearbook in 2004.

He too commended contributors and advertisers.



Michael Fitzmaurice (Founder and Editor for 21 years of Roscommon Life magazine), Paul Healy (Editor, Roscommon Life magazine) and Mike Lennon (former Editor of Roscommon Life magazine) pictured at the launch of Roscommon Life in Roscommon County Library. Pic: www.hursonphotography.com



Jim Ganly and Cllr. Paddy Kilduff pictured at the launch of Roscommon Life magazine which was held in Roscommon County Library on Wednesday evening, May 26th. Pic: www.hursonphotography.com



Patsy and Ruairi Ó Brádaigh (Galway Road, Roscommon) pictured at the launch of Roscommon Life magazine which was held in Roscommon County Library. Pic: www.hursonphotography.com



Pictured at the launch of the Roscommon Life 2010 were (l-r) Cllr. John Kelly and John Sherlock, Lecarrow. Pic: Andrew Fox.



Albert Siggins, Ballymurray, Cllr. Paula McNamara and Seán Neary pictured at the launch of the Roscommon Life 2010. Pic: Andrew Fox.



Pictured at the launch of the Roscommon Life 2010 were (l-r) John Boyle, Ballintubber, Cllr. Tony Ward, Mayor of Roscommon and Colm Hannelly, Castlereagh. Pic: Andrew Fox.