



Pictured at the Old AIB Bank in Roscommon Town at the Roscommon Lamb Festival Art Exhibition were (l-r) Eileen Duke and Vivian Clarke. Pic: Andrew Fox.



Pictured at the Old AIB Bank in Roscommon Town for the Roscommon Lamb Festival Art Exhibition were (l-r) Elizabeth O'Rourke, Bláithín O'Rourke and Miranda Leyden. Pic: Andrew Fox.



arts news

■ With Pauline Scott

Harding opens RosArt

Michael Harding, author and playwright opened the Rosart '93 exhibition in front of a full house in the Fortfield Suite at The Abbey Hotel, Roscommon, recently. He referred to the fact that each work had a personal story behind it. There was a great buzz of excitement as the visitors studied the art on display and mingled together in a party atmosphere. The Rosart '93 group were delighted that so many people attended the exhibition during the course of the weekend.

Award for Horne

Huge congrats to Midlands Photography Club member Don Horne for taking a gold medal in colour in the National Club League over the weekend, a fantastic achievement given the high standard of this competition.

The club also did exceptionally well on its first League outing, coming in fifth place out of 24 clubs overall. Also congrats and well done to John Henry, Don Horne, and Brian Kilmartin on getting their licentiateships over the weekend. Well done to everyone involved in the League and huge thanks to everyone who helped out over the weekend - a fab weekend and a great boost for the club!

Agenda for the night is a talk from our guest speaker Carsten Kreiger; followed by the club competition 'Eat Me!' Absolute beginners and more experienced enthusiasts welcome. For more information about the club contact Maresa on (087) 2357147 or Caroline on (086) 3755535.

Glimpse of bygone days in Ballinasloe

A book written by Ballinasloe doctor, Deirdre Mulryan, on the history of the stained glass windows in St Michael's Church, Ballinasloe, received widespread plaudits when it was launched in Gullane's Hotel, Ballinasloe last week.

'Windows to the Soul' is a 140-page hardback, containing the history of the windows and their artists, complimented with full colour pictures of each window in the 150-year-old Ballinasloe Church. It also contains a remarkable insight into the life and times of the saints portrayed, with particular emphasis on the history of the town's patron saint, Saint Grellan. In his memory the town has a national school, a housing estate and the local GAA club named after him.

Launching the book was former teacher and well-known local actor John Boland, who praised Deirdre Mulryan for her exhaustive research in the production of the book. He said while many local people would have a profound interest in the publication he could also see it having a far wider audience appeal, particularly because of the wonderful photography and history it contained.

Among the hundreds who turned up for the official launch was the Bishop of Clonfert, Dr. John Kirby while Fr. John Garvey, Administrator at St. Michael's Church, said the production was a work of art dealing with the historical and religious aspects of the windows in the Church. He complimented all concerned with its production and hoped it would be widely read.

The author, Deirdre Mulryan, enjoyed the time signing copies of her book 'Windows to the Soul' for a long line of patient customers. Costing €20, the book is now available in most shops or from the author, at Kilgarve Park, Ballinasloe.

Date with the Ratpack

'Strictly Swing' is a brand new show by the British-based company Theatre Productions comes to Roscommon Arts Centre on Tuesday 11th May at 8 pm. Theatre Productions are also the same company who produced the highly successful 'Viennese Strauss Gala' and 'Christmas Crooners', both of these shows being very warmly welcomed by Roscommon audiences in recent years.

The inspiration for this show comes from the old American TV specials of the 1950s, where vari-

ous 'swing' legends would appear alongside Bing Crosby and would be heard telling gags and singing songs for the enjoyment of the viewing public.

'Strictly Swing' follows this concept and creates scenarios where the three characters are talking from the hearts about their lives and loves. Frank Sinatra the loser in love; Nat King Cole who has just found love and the father figure Bing Crosby, who has been there, done that and is through with romance! Bing was the god-

father of Swing, Frank emulated his style from the very beginning as Bing was very much his idol. Indeed Nat, along with many of the great swing singers, admired Bing, as a legend to be emulated and admired.

'Strictly Swing' also features The Jazz Belles who all originate in Europe and have been classically trained at the most prestigious music institutes including the 'Lyubomir Pipkov' Bulgarian National Music school. They all have an interest in music of all

genres, but it was their shared love of jazz that inspired them to create the Jazz Belles. Their individual experience includes travelling the world, appearing in different musical groups across the globe including venues in USA, France, Greece and throughout Europe.

If you would like a great night out with some of the best music from the legendary ratpack then book your tickets now at Roscommon Arts Centre (090) 6625824.

Have the Last Laugh

May's Last Laugh Comedy Club present Limerick comedian Karl Spain alongside regular MC John Colleary on Wednesday 12th May at 8pm.

Limerick comedian Karl Spain came on to the scene in 2000 when he was named best new comedian by broadcaster RTÉ, and he is now well established on the UK and Irish cir-

cuits. He appeared as part of the Irish show at the Montreal Just For Laughs festival in 2003 and is a regular at Kilkenny's Cat Laughs comedy festival. In 2005, he made his own RTÉ show, Karl Spain Wants A Woman, trying various ways of meeting a potential girlfriend, and more recently with Karl Spain wants to Rock.

Karl Spain is a droll, mate-down-the-pub sort of a comic; an amiable everyman with a cheery, if cynical, take on ordinary existence. His hometown of Limerick provides much fodder for his act, portrayed as a bit of a backwater where life is generally miserable, and laughing at your predicament is the only way to

deal with it. Unsurprisingly, therefore, there's a strong vein of self-deprecation running through his material, as he cheerily jokes about being a useless, overweight Irishman. Thanks to a keen eye for absurdities and a good-natured, easy-going delivery he is a great storyteller and also likes nothing more to put himself down in true

Irish fashion. He is a naturally funny man, and he describes his less-than-heroic reactions to everyday adventures with an instinctively entertaining style.

If you want a charming, chatty routine, almost certain to cheer up a crowd, Spain's your man. Book your tickets now at (090) 66 25824.



Children from Loughglynn NS pictured in Roscommon County Library recently for the launch of the book 'Changed'. 'Changed' contains stories and pictures produced by parents and children from three National Schools, Abbeycartron (Elphin), Lisacul and Loughglynn. Pic: Glynn's Photography.