

Official opening of extension at Cloonfour NS on Monday

News that an extension to Cloonfour NS, Rooskey, will be officially opened on Monday next by Bishop Christopher Jones was welcomed this week by Minister for Housing and Local Services, Michael Finneran TD.

He said: "I have a long association with the Board of Management of Cloonfour

National School. In March 2006 I obtained devolved status under the former Minister for Education Mary Hanafin TD for this school.

The Board of Management applied for an extension and was granted funding in August 2007 for a staff office, meeting room, and resource room, this cost in the region

of €293,000." The Minister added: "I take this opportunity to wish the Chairman of the Board of Management Fr. Éamonn O'Connor, Principal Ms. Riona Lynch, teachers, pupils and parents every success for the opening. I was delighted to be in a position to assist in all aspects of this project."



Maeve Brennan, Shauna Mulry and Alison Garvey (TY Students at Roscommon Convent of Mercy) who took part in the Garda Road Safety Talk which was held at Roscommon Convent of Mercy recently. Pic: www.hursonphotography.com.



**KILRONAN CASTLE
ESTATE AND SPA**
Ballyfarnon, Co. Roscommon.

SPECIAL OFFER

*Bed & Breakfast
including 2 Treatments*

From €69.50 PER PERSON
Sun - Thurs

Treatments of the Month

January:
Thermal Suite

February:
Warm Stone Back Massage

March:
Invigorating Full Body Sugar Scrub

April:
Bright Eyes, Eye Treatment & Scalp Massage

May:
Deep Tissue Back Massage

June:
Warm Oil Therapeutic Face,
Scalp & Shoulder Massage

July:
Revive & Renewing Facial

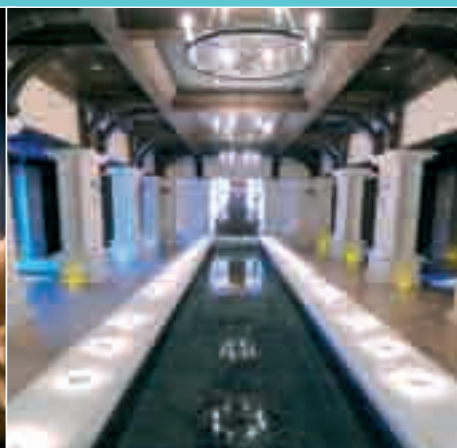
August:
Refreshing Foot & Leg Ritual

September:
Rasul, Exfoliation, Mud Steam Experience

October:
Hot Poultice & Oil Back Treatment

November:
Fresh Lime Spa Foot Remedy

December:
Warm Wax Therapeutic Spa Hand & Arm
Treatment with Warm Basalt Stones



For more information 071 96 18000 www.kilronancastle.ie

Interest rate hike will 'cripple' people – Kelly

The decision by AIB to raise interest rates by half a percent the day before the Government made the announcement on the future of Irish banking is an example of cynical news management at its worst, according to Cllr. John Kelly, right.

The Labour councillor said, "Either the announcement was made in the hope that it would become buried in a flurry of banking related stories, or the increase is part of the game-playing that is going on between AIB and the Government, in which mortgage owners are the big losers."

He added: "We already know that tens of thousands of homeowners are under immense pressure with their mortgages, with many of them falling into arrears, and an increase in interest rates, such as the one announced by AIB can only exacerbate this problem."

"While official figures suggest that there are somewhere in the region of 28,000 homeowners in arrears, an additional 30,000 have been forced to switch to interest-only payments. Many of these families are on the edge, and AIB's announcement may well push them over."

"Labour has consistently called for meaningful action from the Government to tackle this burgeoning problem, but these pleas have fallen on deaf ears. The Government has displayed absolutely no sense of urgency about this whatsoever. Almost two years after the banking crisis first blew up, the best plan they have come up with is to set up an 'expert group' and even that will not report back until after the summer."

"Banks have been bailed out to the tune of tens of billions of euro, courtesy of the Irish taxpayer, and one might have expected them to act in accordance with their social responsibilities. Sadly, this is far from the reality."

"It is patently clear that we need an independent body such as a National Home Mortgage Service to set out the criteria and rules as to how mortgage difficulties would be addressed and managed and would identify the obligations of government lending institutions and borrowers. The NHMS could set out the eligibility factors to qualify for assistance taking into account factors such as capacity to make some payment, fairness to the lender and the borrower's true circumstances."

