

Council honours civic stars!

■ Paul Healy

Roscommon Arts Centre was the venue for a gala civic reception recently at which various high-achieving individuals in the locality were honoured. The reception was hosted by Roscommon County Council.

Cllr. Tony Ward, Mayor of Roscommon, paid tribute to all those being honoured. He told the award recipients that they were representing their "village, parish and county" and were being rewarded for the time, effort and discipline they had put into their various activities.

Cllr. Ward said that the support of "managers, coaches, their families and the community" should also be acknowledged. He also felt it was appropriate to remember the generations that had gone before, people who had built community centres and other facilities and who were "unsung heroes" who had never been honoured.

The Mayor also acknowledged that it was elected members of Roscommon County Council, people who know what's happening "on the ground", who had nominated the various award recipients for recognition.

Mayor Ward said that the achievements of those being recognised had brought great pride to the people of the county and he concluded by urging

the young recipients in particular to continue to give to their local community in the future.

County Manager Mr. Frank Dawson said the civic reception represented the celebration of a partnership between the political establishment, the local authority and the community.

Complimenting those being honoured, he said that community achievement was being celebrated. The fact that one award recipient was aged "under ten" was inspirational.

Broadening his address, Mr. Dawson said that "we are all trying to provide leadership and optimism at this time." The Manager said that he was hopeful that we are seeing the signs of recovery "like spring." "There are signs of life, signs of a renewal of growth...we've been through this before, and we are resilient."

Mr. Dawson said that all strains of the public service were committed to the development of our country and that the emphasis in Roscommon was on creating jobs and sustaining the quality of life here. The County Development Board and politicians were supporting businesses and promoting Roscommon as a destination for inward investment. Meanwhile Mr. Dawson believed that the ambitious target of increasing Roscommon's tourism numbers by 50% over the next five years could be realised.



Cathy Dervan who was honoured for winning an All-Ireland in the senior solo singing category at the 2010 Readoiri Final in University Concert Hall, Limerick. Also in picture are her parents, Mayor Tony Ward, Frank Dawson (Co. Manager) and Cllrs. Kilduff & Fallon.

The Manager urged community leaders present – and the wider community – to "take a fresh look at their own place" and see what ongoing improvements could be made. "Take a 'stranger's look' at your community and see what malfunctions can be corrected. Let's all work closely together."



Ballinameen Scór na nÓg who were honoured for winning an All-Ireland title. Laura McDermott is pictured with Mayor Tony Ward, Frank Dawson (Co. Manager), Maura McDermott & Cllrs. Keenan & Cummins.



Sionann O'Reilly Collins who was honoured for her outstanding multidisciplinary sporting achievement and for winning the All-Ireland Pentathlon Championship held in Kilkenny in 2009 and for winning the Irish International Tetrathlon held at Bedale UK also in 2009. Pictured with Sionann are her parents, Mayor Tony Ward, Frank Dawson, Co. Manager & Cllr. Kilduff.



Deirdre Donohue, Aifric Naughton & Lauren O'Riordan were honoured for their victories at the Waterford Crystal Handball Championships in Oregon, USA. Lauren O'Riordan is pictured with Mayor Tony Ward, Frank Dawson (Co. Manager), Michael & Ann Naughton & Cllrs. Connaughton, Fallon, Kilduff & Connolly. Missing from photo is Deirdre Donohue & Aifric Naughton.



Shane O'Brien who was honoured for winning the young Ambassador of the 21st Century for Ireland and the British Isles while representing Roscommon Leo Club. Shane is pictured with family and friends, Mayor Tony Ward, Frank Dawson (Co. Manager) & Cllrs. Connolly, Kilduff, Connaughton & Fallon.

Emerald Revellers in Kilbride

Kilbride Community Centre, Fourmilehouse is no stranger to quality performances of Irish music and dance. But Friday, 16th April will be the first time for them to play host to The Emerald Revellers, an outstanding performance of Irish dance and music.

The Emerald Revellers show is performed in two parts, the first part a formal exhibition of Irish dance combining a range of Irish dance styles with traditional and

modern routines. This is combined with vibrant music, song and story telling. The second part of the show is more informal, perhaps better described as fun and mayhem, with the dance master and a light hearted and colourful performance which welcomes audiences into the home of Peggy and Joe for a ceilí.

The Emerald Revellers are a Leitrim-based group with members from Cavan, Sligo and Fermanagh. The group first came

together in 1995 and since then have performed both at home and abroad.

Produced and choreographed by Clare McMorrough, (Farragher School of Dance), The Emerald Revellers bring together a host of very talented musicians, dancers and singers, many of whom have individual accolades at national and international level and of course some of the performers will be familiar faces who travel the country enjoying ceilis and

informal pub sessions.

The enthusiasm, sense of fun and genuine love of the music and dance exhibited on stage creates an energy, which transmits itself to audiences all over the world. This show is very much a living expression of culture and heritage celebrated by performers both on and off stage. It is a show that is equally at home on the world stage or knocking the sparks from the flags in your grandfather's kitchen! To quote

Marion Fitzgerald, Ocean FM, "It is wonderful to see our Irish Heritage living on through this special group of people and performed to such a high standard".

This is a wonderful performance, a show not to be missed! Doors will open at 8.30 pm and tickets can be purchased in advance by contacting Joe on (086) 8363887.

For more information on the Emerald Revellers www.emeraldrevellers.com

