

### Leyden welcomes Roxboro boost

Senator Terry Leyden has this week welcomed the announcement that temporary further accommodation is to be provided at Roxboro NS, Derrane.

"It is understood that the accommodation will consist of a classroom and signals further the growth of Roxboro NS and the continued investment in education," said Senator Leyden.

### A taste of Percy French in Library

Roscommon Drama Group and guests will perform a medley of Percy French songs and recitations at the Co. Library on Wednesday night next, 14<sup>th</sup> July, following the official opening of the Percy French Summer School.

Entitled 'A Taste of Percy French', the performance will commence at 9 pm. All are welcome.

## Best street performers to feature at Castlerea Parade

Castlerea Festival will once again host their Annual Arts Parade on Wednesday 28th July at 8 p.m. with a line-up of Ireland's best street performing groups coming together to give an unforgettable performance on the streets of Castlerea.

This could not happen without the participation of many local groups and National Schools. Internationally renowned street carnival group 'Luxe' will take part with their winning designs as showcased in this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin. Their props will include many giant inflatable castles and they will also show off their latest creation – a giant bicycle with a performing trapeze act on board! This is the first time they will perform with these props in the West of Ireland.

'Inishowen Carnival Group' will also take part with many colourful costumes and a giant 18 foot clown. They will also bring 'Giants from the Jungle' which will create a colourful



spectacle. 'Artastica', a frequent visitor to the Castlerea Parade, will also participate with a wide variety of costumes including liquorice dancers, giant doll puppets, chirping birds and candy floss hairdudes!

This year's parade will also include many bands, vintage cars, motorbikes, local floats and the defence forces with their armoured vehicles. The Festival Commit-

tee would like to thank the Parade sponsors who have helped to make this annual event one of Ireland's finest parades. This year all participants in the performing groups will get free tickets to the i102-104 concert, which will take place on Saturday 31st July.

This concert will also feature 'The Tuam All stars' from 'Ireland's got Talent' fame.

Any groups wishing

to take part in this year's Arts Parade can contact parade organiser Paschal Fitzmaurice on (087) 2299980.

The Festival Committee are appealing to people to support the 'Pig Race Night' on Thursday 29th July at 7.30 pm. This event helps to defray the enormous cost of running the Festival. Tickets will be on sale in the coming weeks from all committee members.

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# Kelly selected at Labour convention

Cllr. John Kelly was selected as the Labour Party candidate for Roscommon/South Leitrim following the holding of the party's selection convention in the Abbeyfield Hotel, Ballaghaderreen on Friday night last.

Cllr. Kelly was the sole nomination and he was duly proposed by Willie Tiernan, Boyle and seconded by John Feely, Carrick-on-Shannon. The selection convention was chaired by the party's spokesperson for Justice, Mr. Pat Rabbitte TD.

In proposing Cllr. Kelly, Mr. Tiernan said that Mr. Kelly was a man who would get votes in Roscommon and South Leitrim for the Labour Party. He said that party members in Boyle will be out in force to assist and help in Cllr. Kelly's campaign. "We will be knocking on every door to ensure Cllr. Kelly is elected," he said. "It's vital that Labour is involved in a major way in the next Government, otherwise there will be nothing left in the country for anyone."

In seconding Cllr. Kelly, Mr. Feely said he was honoured to do so. He spoke of how he became involved in politics due to the influence of Noel Browne and Jack McQuillan. "They both inspired me to become involved in politics and having listened to them both, I knew it was the party I wanted to become involved with," he said. "I'm delighted to support Cllr. Kelly nomination and do my bit in returning a Labour TD to Dáil Eireann after the next general election," he said.

Deputy Rabbitte, after completely the formalities where Cllr. Kelly signed the Party Pledge, said he was delighted and honoured to be in Ballaghaderreen for the selection convention, reminding those present how he originally hailed from the area.

He said he had a particularly empathy and affinity with this part of the country and he recalled how he was delighted and thrilled on learning that Cllr. Kelly was joining the party.

Deputy Rabbitte acknowledged that while Roscommon/South Leitrim was not a traditional Labour Party stronghold in recent years, he was very confident that Labour would take a seat here at the next general election because of the calibre of candidate in Cllr. Kelly.

He added that in John Kelly, the Labour Party had a candidate that is respected by the people. "But there is no easy way for the Labour Party to win a seat, there never has been. It's painful work but we've never had the wind at our back so much and people are clearly looking for change," he said.

South Leitrim at the Abbeyfield Hotel, Ballaghaderreen on Friday night last.

After being selected as the Labour Party candidate for the constituency, Cllr. Kelly said he was delighted to be carrying the flag for Eamon Gilmore in Roscommon/South Leitrim as the Labour leader was the people's choice for Taoiseach.

Cllr. Kelly pointed out that his proposals on social welfare were about restoring dignity to people. "I really believe there is need for a radical look at our social welfare system," he said. "A person should be allowed to keep their social welfare allowance and for an employer to top it up. This will allow people to return to work, contribute tax and PRSI and have all the benefits of being back in the workplace."

"Our social welfare system should be used in a more positive way, rather than forcing people to sit at home and do nothing," said Cllr. Kelly. "It's demoralising and over time, anyone work-



POINTING THE WAY...Labour Deputy, Pat Rabbitte showing Cllr. John Kelly his political future, along with John's brother, Kevin, at the Labour Party selection convention for Roscommon/South Leitrim in the Abbeyfield Hotel, Ballaghaderreen, on Friday night.

ing in the health service sees at first hand the damage it does to an unemployed person's mental and physical well-being. In the long term, it costs the state much more to have people sitting at home rather than having them back in the workforce."

He recalled the radical politics of Jack McQuillan, the last Labour TD for Roscommon. He was delighted to be carrying that legacy forward into the next general election. "Now more than ever in 2010, radical change is needed," he said.

Cllr. Kelly recalled the successes of his previous elections and now hoped that he could double his 2007 general election vote of 4,500 first preferences. He had every confidence that he could do this with the help of the Labour Party. "The reason I am confident is that people know I am worker and that I get things done for them," he said.

He noted that when he joined the Labour Party he had sought and got, two commitments from Mr. Gilmore – that of the retention of services at Roscommon County Hospital when Labour goes into Government, and the retention of turf-cutting on the affected bogs in the area. He said the turf-cutting issue could only be solved by a party in Government and not by any independent.

Cllr. Kelly said that the current Government was again looking West to implement cutbacks. "Whenever there are cuts to be made, the Government always looks West. If I get elected, I will have the ear of the Government and the rural voice of the West will be heard at the Cabinet table. I will be in the ears of the policy and decision makers every day on issues that effect our rural constituency. Those who have followed my career know that I have a deep passion for rural Ireland," he added.