

Tarmonbarry Macra drama success

Macra na Feirme is a voluntary organisation, aimed at young people between the ages of 17 and 35. The organisation has clubs all over the country,

which take part in events in agriculture, sports, travel, public speaking, community involvement and performing arts.

Tarmonbarry is home to a very

active Macra na Feirme club. Some of the activities members take part include indoor soccer, public speaking and stock judging – and recently the club had

great success with their drama group.

Lyndsey Roddy, chairperson of the drama group, told the Roscommon People about what is involved in their activities. Drama was already a huge past-time in Tarmonbarry, long before Lyndsey got involved, and the area has a long history in this activity.

The Macra na Feirme drama group has been hugely successful over the years, reaching the All-Ireland Amateur Drama Competition final several times, and placing each time.

On the occasion of their first involvement in the national competition, the group achieved third place, and they have come second for the last three years. In order to get a place in the national final, the team first had to compete at a county and then regional level, with two groups from Tarmonbarry gaining a place in the regional final last year. This year, however, there was no county round, the group being the only one in Roscommon competing in the competition.

The regional final took place in Tuam and the group earned a place in the national final along with a team from Tipperary. The national final took place on the 23rd and 24th of April in Waterford, where the Tarmonbarry group lost out on first place by

just a point. Their production was a one-act comedy.

The drama group consists of four members, two men and two women, who take part in the actual performance, but there are many more members of the local Macra na Feirme club that help out behind the scenes and with directing. Although the drama group is not practicing at the moment, practice for the national final started six months before the event, in October, and as it drew closer to the competition, the group were practicing almost every day.

Drama isn't the only area where Tarmonbarry Macra na Feirme have seen success. The club try to enter as many competitions as possible, and have seen members competing in in-

door soccer and stock judging, and reached the regional finals in public speaking.

The club is also involved in the 'Know Your Neighbour' initiative. The fifth annual 'Know Your Neighbour' weekend takes place on the 24th and 25th of July. The aim of the event being to encourage people to organise events in their communities to help them get to know their neighbours.

Tarmonbarry Macra na Feirme would like to encourage as many people as possible to become involved in the club, not just in drama but in all aspects of it. With such a wide range of activities available, there is certainly something for everyone.

Contact Lyndsey on 086-0808880.



The Tarmonbarry Macra na Feirme Drama team who took part in the National Finals of the Amateur Drama competition in Waterford last April. Back row (left to right): Stephen McGuinness, Lyndsey Roddy, John Leonard, producer. Front row (left to right): Carol Ann Wilson Bennett and Paul Kelly.



people news

Young FG congratulate Feighan

The recent decision by Fine Gael Leader Enda Kenny to appoint local deputy Frank Feighan to the new Fine Gael frontbench has been described as "a tremendous result for the people of Roscommon-South Leitrim" by Mid-Roscommon Young Fine Gael.

The branch has expressed a huge amount of excitement at the new frontbench as a result of Enda Kenny's re-shuffle last week which also seen promotions for two other West of Ireland Fine Gael deputies, including Mayo TD Michael Ring and Sligo-North Leitrim TD John Pery.

Chairperson of the branch Mr. Keith Hoare said; "On behalf of Mid-Roscommon YFG I would like to congratulate Deputy Feighan on his new role as frontbench spokesman for Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs. I have no doubt Frank Feighan will continue his huge work ethic in being a strong and effective frontbench member and I wish him the very best of luck with his important new role."

On a broader view, the local

YFG branch also noted that the new frontbench announced by Enda Kenny had a hugely symbolic importance for the people of Roscommon-South Leitrim in ensuring the constituency remained with full representation at top level within Ireland's largest political party. "We are delighted that Enda Kenny has once more shown the people of the West of Ireland and in particular Roscommon-South Leitrim that our community is at the heart of Fine Gael. It is our full belief that after the next general election this constituency will have ministerial representation and this time it will be ministerial representation that addresses the most important issues which concern us. Let it be known, Roscommon-South Leitrim remains just as much on the Fine Gael agenda as it was before, on the agenda of our next Taoiseach, Enda Kenny," said Mr. Hoare.

In conclusion, Mr. Hoare stressed the significance of the new frontbench, "There is a perfect balance between experience and youth which will continue to



Deputy Frank Feighan pictured with Sinead Corrigan and Marian Frawley from Roscommon at the disability protest outside the Dáil on Wednesday.

carry the Fine Gael characteristics of energy, vibrancy, hunger for government, real results and leadership in each portfolio. These are very exciting times not just for Fine Gael but for everyone in this region and throughout the country who wants Fianna Fail out. There is now a real and effective sense of the beginning

of a new chapter within the party; a chapter that will see Fine Gael win the next general election. Now is the moment to re-instate the pride and joy of being Irish to everyone. It is time to get this government out and thrown to the opposition benches. That task is now the main goal of our new and unified frontbench."

news at a glance

Opportunity for property owners

Clr. Paddy Kilduff this week advised property owners of houses that they are unable to sell or rent, to avail of one of the new government-sanctioned accommodation schemes.

"Roscommon County Council is now operating a Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) and long-term and shorter-term lease arrangements. Further information on the various schemes is available on the internet at www.housing.ie/leasing.

"In Roscommon County Council there are two key personnel to contact regarding the schemes. John O'Rourke is presiding over the leasing arrangements and is available at jorourke@roscommoncoco.ie or at (090) 66 37240. Catherine Finlay is presiding over the rental scheme and is available at cfinlay@roscommoncoco.ie or at (090) 66 37242."

Donate books for Donamon picnic

Now is the to gather books, CDs and cuddly toys in advance of the annual Open Family Picnic Day at Donamon Castle on Sunday, July 25th.

Books, CDs and cuddly toys can be dropped in to the Castle any day. The event on Sunday, July 25th is free and is an ideal day out for al the family, with music, pony rides, face-painting, bouncing castle, plants for sale and a grand prize draw.