

Fleadh launch in Ballagh



Details of the County Roscommon Fleadh Cheoil, which is being hosted by Ballaghaderreen, will be announced at a launch night in Spells, Pound St., Ballaghaderreen on Tuesday, March 16th at 9.30 pm. All are welcome.

The launch will be followed by a reception and Seisiún. The Fleadh is held over the Easter Weekend. There will also be a presentation on the night of a Comhaltas Medallion and Certificate to Frank Jordan, well-known Roscommon flute player, in recognition of his

immense contribution to traditional Irish music.

Ballaghaderreen has all the facilities necessary to make the Fleadh a great success and the organising committee looks forward to welcoming many musicians and visitors to the town for what promises to be a fantastic weekend of ceol agus craic at Easter 2010. Latest date for receipt of adverts for the Fleadh Booklet is Thursday, March 18th. Full details regarding same from Mary Devine O'Callaghan on (086) 8272300.

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New Consultants at Hospital

Two new Consultants have joined the team at Roscommon County Hospital. Dr Katherine Finan is a Consultant Physician with an interest in Respiratory Medicine and Dr Marcus Simmgen is a Consultant Physician with an interest in Endocrinology.

Dr Katherine Finan is a graduate of NIUG and subsequently trained in Respiratory and General Medicine in Ireland. She undertook further training in South Australia to expand her interests in respiratory services. Dr Finan has worked in the HSE West for a number of years and she hopes to maintain links with respiratory services in Galway University Hospital while providing an excellent standard of care in Roscommon County Hospital.

Dr Marcus Simmgen graduated from Frankfurt Medical School in Germany in 1993. He began working in the UK directly after qualification and undertook his postgraduate training in London. His specialty interest is in Acute Internal Medicine, Diabetes and Endocrinology. In addition to the clinical training, he obtained an MSc and PhD from the University of London, both in the fields of Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism.

Dr Simmgen has been a consultant since 2006 and most recently worked at St George's Hospital in London. There he led the expansion



Dr Marcus Simmgen, Consultant Physician; Dr Gerry O'Mara, Consultant Physician; Dr Katherine Finan, Consultant Physician and Elaine Prendergast, General Manager, Roscommon County Hospital.

of the Acute Medicine Unit and implemented changes towards an Acute Physician-led admission process. He also established a multidisciplinary team to improve the care of inpatients with diabetes foot ulcers, bringing expertise from vascular surgery, orthopaedics, microbiology and pharmacy to the diabetes chiropody department. For

outpatients, he provided most Diabetes, Endocrinology and General Medicine services.

Commenting Elaine Prendergast, General Manager, Roscommon County Hospital said, "I am delighted Dr Finan and Dr Simmgen have joined our team here in Roscommon. We are delighted that we can attract Consultants of their calibre and look forward to working

closely with them to further develop services at the Hospital for our patients". The two new Consultants will be joining Dr Gerry O'Mara, Consultant Physician with an interest in the Elderly in the Department of Medicine. Both Consultants will also have links with Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe and University College Hospital Galway.

Young Fine Gael AGM on Friday

The Mid-Roscommon branch of Young Fine Gael will hold their AGM this Friday, March 12th in Gleeson's Townhouse, Roscommon, at 8.30 pm sharp.

On the agenda for the night will be the election of officers for 2010/2011 along with other topics including the growing popularity for the need for a cinema in Roscommon Town. The current chairperson of the branch, Mr. Keith Hoare stressed the importance of young people getting involved in politics. "It has never been more important in the history of Irish politics for young people to get actively involved because the future for us has never been so uncertain. It is the young people of this country who are suffering hugely from the effects of unemployment and emigration in particular and the only way to address these issues is for young people to stand together and vigorously campaign against the lack of employment opportunities for them under this lame government who fail to listen to us."

Newly-appointed chairperson of the Fine Gael Economics and Business Affairs Committee Deputy Denis Naughten will also be in attendance. All members are urged to attend the meeting and anybody interested in getting actively involved within Young Fine Gael is more than welcome to come along. Anyone who cannot make the meeting and who wants to get involved can feel free to email keithh07@hotmail.com

Meanwhile the recent decision by Fine Gael leader Enda Kenny to appoint local TD Denis Naughten as the new Chairperson of the Fine Gael Economic and Business Affairs Committee has been warmly welcomed by the Mid-Roscommon branch of Young Fine Gael.

Chairperson of the branch, Keith Hoare, said: "This is a tremendous endorsement of Denis Naughten by Enda Kenny, who recognises the huge input and hard work which Deputy Naughten has brought to national politics since his first Dáil election in 1997.

"This new key economic role is one of great importance in these tough times with Denis Naughten now leading the Fine Gael Economic team responsible for major economic policies which, when implemented after the next election, will see Ireland on the road to swift recovery.

"The decision by Enda Kenny to allocate this crucial portfolio to Deputy Naughten is testimony to his ability, experience and knowledge which has been evident throughout his political career to date." He added that the possibility of Denis Naughten being allocated a ministerial portfolio after the next general election had "strengthened significantly" and that the benefits of this new role for the people of Roscommon-South Leitrim were "huge-ly advantageous".

FG plans would reverse hospital management transfer - Naughten

Denis Naughten TD has confirmed that Fine Gael policy would see a reversal of HSE plans that are to result in Roscommon Hospital being managed from Galway.

Speaking as unions prepare to meet with the HSE over the issue Denis Naughten said: "The fact that the HSE plans to change the management structure so that decision making will take place away from the hospital, in a regional situation, is only in the interest

of downgrading our local hospital.

"It has been on the agenda of the HSE to downgrade services at both Roscommon and Portiuncula Hospitals since its establishment and current changes to the management structure at these hospitals is the thin end of the wedge. The real agenda behind this process is to move accident and emergency and surgery departments from both hospitals to Galway."

Deputy Naughten added: "Under Fine Gael health policy, decisions regarding Roscommon Hospital will be made locally. Under these proposals the specific services offered by local hospitals will then become the responsibility of local hospital boards in line with local needs and demand.

"While Roscommon County Hospital will continue to be owned by the State, it will be governed and managed by a Local

Hospital Trust so that it is managed to best respond to meet the needs of the local community and its patients. So instead of the HSE determining the future of a local hospital, its future will be in local hands.

"In Government, Fine Gael has no intention of closing small hospitals and is fully committed to genuinely investing in our health services, to give the people in County Roscommon the health services they deserve."



Deputy Denis Naughten.