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Mary Hoey, Siobhan Lynch and Frances Greene pictured at the launch of The Roscommon Rose of Tralee Selection Night 2010 held on Friday in Regan's Bar Roscommon. Pic: www.hursonphotography.com

East Galway craters will cause crashes – Connolly

Fianna Fáil councillor in east Galway, Cllr. Michael Connolly, has described the craters to be found on roads in east Galway as “a tragedy waiting to happen”.

The councillor this week slammed the NRA for the delay in making funding available to carry out pavement work to national primary and secondary roads in East Galway.

“Several locations in the east of the county are in urgent need of attention

where pavements are damaged and need repair or in many cases overlay, to make them fit for traffic. It is a tragedy waiting to happen, where traffic on both side are swerving to avoid pot holes and other craters on the road on both lanes.”

Areas of East Galway like Ballygar, Ballymoe, and areas of the N63 between Abbeyknockmoy and Ballyglunin Railway Bridge are in urgent need of attention,” said Cllr. Connolly.

Naughten happy with u-turn on farm spouse pensions

Local TD Denis Naughten has welcomed the decision of the new Minister for Social Protection Minister Éamon Ó Cuív to reverse the Government decision to remove the farm spouse pensions from up to 80 women throughout the country.

“I would like to congratulate all involved in this campaign, including farm women throughout the country and my colleague Olwyn Enright TD who I worked closely with on having this unjust decision overturned,” stated Denis Naughten.

“The previous Social Welfare Minister Mary Hanafin had been savagely pursuing farming families for the return of contributory old age pensions from farm spouses. These pensions had been awarded retrospectively, only for the Government to demand their return.

“Fine Gael has been campaigning from the start for the rights of farm spouses to be protected and recently secured cross-party support from the Oireachtas Social Affairs Committee on this matter. I would like to sincerely thank Minister Ó Cuív for his eleventh hour intervention to reinstate pension entitlements to farm spouses who had made claims after the age of 66.

“This issue again highlights the need for farm spouses to act now to protect their entitlement to a contributory state pension. Recent changes to the way farm businesses are treated for PRSI purposes now mean that many farm spouses, mainly women, can buy back their old age pension entitlements.”



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Seminar on care of historic graveyards

A seminar on the care and conservation of historic graveyards will take place in King House, Boyle, on Friday, 23rd April, from 1.30 pm to 6 pm.

“Historic graveyards provide an insight into the skills, crafts and lives of those who built them and are buried within them; they often contain a rich natural heritage, which may have been relatively undisturbed for years, providing a valuable habitat for insects, birds and mammals; many contain within them a wealth of archaeological and architectural heritage,” said Nollaig Feeney, Heritage Officer with Roscommon County Council.

Graveyards in County Roscommon are cared for by voluntary committees, whose interest and dedication is invaluable in presenting these

sacred spaces to the public. To support the work of these committees, a seminar on the care and conservation of historic graveyards will take place in King House, Boyle on Friday 23rd April from 1.30 pm to 6 pm. Four expert speakers will give talks on different aspects of historic graveyards.

Talk 1 is ‘Best Practice for Care and Conservation of Graveyards’ by Dr. Victor Buckley, Senior Archaeologist, National Monuments Service; Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Victor is co-author of the Archaeological Survey of Co. Louth and is an expert in best practice for the care and conservation of graveyards.

The second talk is entitled ‘Biodiversity in graveyards’, by Will Woodrow of Woodrow Sustainable

Solutions. Will is an experienced environmentalist and has provided training and information to many local authorities and community groups on how to care for and enhance nature and wildlife all around us.

‘Recording historic memorials and graveyards’ is the title of a talk by Caimin O’Brien, Survey Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of Ireland; Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Caimin has spent over 20 years studying and researching graveyard memorials, he is widely published and has recently written guidelines for the care, conservation and recording of historic graveyards for Waterford County Council.

The final talk is entitled ‘Best Practice in Conservation of Historic

Stone Structures and other Features’ by Katriona Byrne, Architectural Conservation Specialist. Katriona has nationwide experience of best practice for the care and conservation of historic structures and stonework and in provision of advice to community groups.

This seminar will provide practical, appropriate and easy-to-understand advice and guidance on how to care for historic graveyards, whilst ensuring that no damage occurs to their historic fabric and character. Attendance will equip cemetery committees, community groups, Rural Social Scheme supervisors and workers, FAS supervisors and workers, historical societies and interested individuals with knowledge of the legislative requirements for working in historic

graveyards and with best practice guidance on how to plan and proceed with caring for graveyards and recording memorials in graveyards.

Information gained at this event should help ensure smooth grant/scheme applications and help rule out unforeseen problems. There will be time for questions and discussion.

The seminar brochure can be downloaded from www.roscommon-coco.ie or obtained from the Roscommon County Council Customer Service Desk. Admission is free, but booking is advised. Please contact the Customer Service Desk, Roscommon County Council, Courthouse, Roscommon for information or to book your place, phone 090 6632500 or email customerservice@roscommon-coco.ie.