

Over €2 million paid in forestry programme

More than €2 million has been approved under annual forestry premiums for forestry owners in County Roscommon, according to Minister for Housing and Local Services, Michael Finneran TD.

Welcoming the confirmation

of the funding from the Minister with Responsibility for Forestry, Sean Connick TD, Minister Finneran said that the vast majority of the recipients of the payments are farmers.

"Almost €53 million is being

paid to more than 11,000 forest owners throughout the country this year, with some €2,089 million of that going to County Roscommon forest owners," Minister Finneran confirmed. "It is estimated that the total paid out in forest premium

payments will exceed €60 million by year-end. The forestry industry is important to Roscommon and to the entire country. I am glad to see the Government supporting this indigenous industry," concluded Minister Michael Finneran TD.



Haiti fundraiser

An auction will be held on Saturday night, April 17th, in the Tusk Inn to raise funds for Haven's work in Haiti. Pictured are Bernie and John Higgins from Tusk, who are preparing to travel to Haiti on April 25th, pictured with Ray Mullen of RM Tool Hire, who recently donated a mobile display unit for a recent toll day for Haiti on the bridge in Tarmonbarry.

Sleep out for Simon

On April 20th, a group of mature students from Athlone Institute of Technology are taking to the streets of Athlone, to raise awareness and much-needed funds for the Midlands Simon Community.

They are fasting and sleeping rough from 4 pm to 10 am on Church Street, to highlight that homelessness is much more than a housing problem.

As homelessness does not always take place on park benches or doorways, society seem to forget there are still people without homes, through no real fault of their own. There is a general misconception that alcohol and drug abuse are the main reasons behind homelessness, un-

fortunately there are many diverse factors ranging from socio-economic to mental health issues.

There is no illusion that spending one night on the streets of Athlone could come anywhere close to truly replicating the harsh reality as experienced by the homeless community. However there is hope that by creating awareness, attitudes may change and the stigma of homelessness may be lifted. A change in the hearts and minds of the people of the midlands today may lead to a change across Ireland tomorrow.

Donations may be pledged by calling (087) 2493489.

Tusk man is new sales manager with Alltech

Cathal McCormack from Tusk has been appointed national sales manager for Ireland with animal health and nutrition company Alltech.

Established in 1980 by Dundalk man, Pearse Lyons, Alltech is a global leader in animal nutrition with over 2,000 employees and offices in over 120 countries.

Mr. McCormack joined Alltech over three years ago as regional sales manager for Connacht. Prior to this, he held the position of Training & Development Officer with the young farmer organisation, Macra na Feirme. He is the third generation involved in the family business of Steil Angus Pedigree cattle and holds a Bachelor of Agribusiness and Marketing Degree from the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology.

In his new role, Mr. McCormack will manage a team of five sales people. His primary focus will be on helping customers to improve their overall profitability as well as creating new sales opportunities.



Clíodhna is Rose of St. Faithleachs

On Saturday night last a fantastic night was held in the St. Faithleach's clubhouse for the 2010 St. Faithleach's GAA Club Rose entry to the Rose of Roscommon Competition.

Chairman of the Organisation Committee, Derek Thompson welcomed the ten Roses along with the large crowd of supporters on the night. He thanked our main Sponsor, Beauty HQ, Cloonadra and Sponsors of our Roses. Judges, Myra Glennon, John Ward and Mairead Hanly Casey had a tough task to decide the winning Rose from such an outstanding bunch of young ladies. MC for the night was Eugene Murphy.

Tisrara cake sale

Tisrara Parents Association are holding a cake sale on Sunday, 18th April in the Community Centre in Four Roads after 11 am Mass. Any parents wanting to help can bring cakes along to the community centre from 10 am onwards. Your support is wanted and appreciated. Details can be sought from any committee member of the Parents Association.

RosArt '93 exhibition opens on Friday night

RosArt '93 are holding their 17th annual exhibition of new paintings and photography in The Fortfield Suite at The Abbey Hotel, Roscommon, commencing with the official opening by Michael Harding on Friday, 16th April at 8 pm. The exhibition will continue on Saturday 17th April and Sunday 18th April from 10 am each day all are welcome and admission is free.

Sad passing of Mary Rowlands

Mary Patricia Rowlands, 77, of Lunenburg passed away on Sunday February 7th 2010 at the Fishermen's Memorial Hospital, Lunenburg.

Born in Kiltewan, County Roscommon, she was a daughter of the late Michael and Mary (Quigley) Kilmartin. Mary worked as a midwife and nurse in Ireland. Upon her immigration to Canada in 1958, Mary continued with her career, working in Burin, NFLD and it is during this time that she met her husband, John. In 1959 they moved to Lunenburg where she raised her family. From 1969 until retirement in 1994, Mary continued nursing in the Obstetrics Unit of the Fishermen's Memorial Hospital. However, this vibrant and gifted woman would not be retiring her skills for very long. Within a year she responded to a call from God and through the Scarboro Foreign Mission Society, travelled to Kanyanga, Zambia to work at a hospital in the Kanyanga Zonal Health Unit as an obstetrics nurse from 1995-1998.

She is survived by daughters, Attracta, Teresa, Margaret, son Adrian and grandchildren, Natasha, Megan, Angela, Jonathan, Steven, Taylor, Travis, Patrick and Alison, sister Anna Beirne, Ireland, brothers John Mass., William, Joseph and Michael all of Ireland, several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband John, sons Kevin and Michael and brother Patrick.



Michael, Padraig, Eithne, Sean, and Joe Beirne, Fionnuala, Myra, Francy, Deirdre and Fidelma Beirne pictured with Francy Beirne who celebrated her 90th birthday recently in Tully's Hotel, Castlerea, with members of her family.

Stephen Croghan – the last blacksmith of Roscommon

The death occurred recently of the well-known patriarch of the Croghan family, Stephen Croghan, who passed away peacefully in his own home in St Ciaran's Park, Roscommon, on the 29th March 2010, surrounded by his family.

Stephen was born on 12th July 1925 in his family forge in Goff Street where his forefathers were blacksmiths and farriers since Roscommon town was conceived. Stephen was the youngest of ten siblings and the last of his generation to pass away.

Stephen was known in his youth for his tenor voice and won many prizes. He continued in his family tradition and became a qualified blacksmith, whitemith and Master Farrier. His skills in wrought iron work and his diversity of ability varied from needles for sewing canvas to an anchor for a boat on the Shannon. Some examples still grace the town in the

form of hanging brackets for flowerers, Fireplaces in Timepieces and the Abbey Hotel to the lamppost at St Coman's Church corner, as well as many gates, garden benches etc. scattered around the country.

In the early 50's Stephen went to England – an event captured by Catherine Dunn in her book – 'The Unconsidered people', where he met and married Mary and had their first child. They returned to, as he described his 'Savage Love, This Native Shore', and four more children were born.

Stephen's Forge was at the centre of Roscommon's community until his retirement in 2000 and its sale. Stephen also gave 33 years as course farrier at Roscommon Racecourse and 30 years as a volunteer fireman. He was also an active member of the Goff Street Association.

Stephen was many things, from an artist to a singer, but perhaps his



most memorable trait would be his storytelling ability. His 'Will of the Wisp' among many other stories was captured by the Irish Folklore department and published in 'Bealoideachas'. He lived a long, happy and honest life. He was known by many for his

good humour, generosity and neighbourliness. I am sure that at least one of his stories or acts of kindness has touched us all in one way or another.

While studying the horses from Paidins to Valentines to B&V's to Tully's to Paddy Powers, he loved a soothing smoke and a healing cup of tea. His love of chat, family and animals lives on. He was a talented man who inspired the many people he met.

Apologies for the quick funeral arrangements which were due to the Holy week celebrations. Stephen's month's mind will be celebrated on the 25th of April at 12.15 pm Folk mass in the Sacred Heart Church, Roscommon Town. All are invited and welcome, especially those who missed the opportunity previously.

Stephen is predeceased by his wife Mary who passed away suddenly on 15th October 1995. He is sur-

vived and will be greatly missed by his children Maria, Eileen, Pat, Derek and Conan and a large extended family and friends.

The following is a blacksmith's epitaph accredited to the Vicar of Crich, Derbyshire, on the 27th August 1837.

Son of Vulcan

*My Sledge and hammer lie reclined,
My bellows too have lost their wind,
My fire's extinct, my forge decayed,
And in the dust my vice is laid,
My coal is spent, my iron gone,
My nails are drove, my work is done,
My fire-dried corpse lies here at rest,
And, smoke-like soul soars up to be bless'd*