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**Fun for all the family
at Rooskey Spraoi**

All day indoor and outdoor entertainment for everybody is promised at the Rooskey Spraoi, which takes place on Sunday July 25th.

In 2003 Rooskey Development Group founded 'Rooskey Spraoi' and each year since, the Spraoi takes place on the last Sunday in July and provides a great day of family entertainment.

Until this year events were limited by the available space but the new community centre in the village ensures that the family fun day will be bigger and better, with lots of fun, games and enjoyment.

The programme of events gets underway at 1 pm and new events offered this year

include a bungee run, giant slide, rifle range, carnival stalls, hook the duck, children's soft play area, sumo wrestling, fortune teller, rodeo sheep, children's magician, a new dunk tank and much more. Old favourites making a return include the bonny baby competition, the dog show, guess who, barbecue, arts and crafts, live music and dancing.

Tuam All-Star Gymnastic Club, finalists in the All-Ireland talent show, will perform at 2 pm and the day will conclude with Re-Seisun performing in the new community centre between 9 pm and 11 pm.

A hard working committee through their dedication,

innovation and commitment have endeavoured to put this programme of events together and hope that everybody will support the event. Organisers would like to extend their sincere thanks to all sponsors, without whom this event could not take place. For further details on the festival or any other information regarding the reservation of the new Centre, log on to www.rooskey.ie

Rooskey Spraoi is a community festival, so come out and rediscover your community, embrace it and help it grow. Mark your calendar for Sunday the 25th July. Rooskey is the place for the best entertainment around!

**Kilduff slams 'populist babble' from opposition**

"I am sick and tired of the populist babble coming from opposition parties at local and national level," Fianna Fáil councillor Paddy Kilduff said this week.

"The most recent example involving Fine Gael demonstrates quite clearly that our opposition parties are willing to do and say anything to garner popular support. I am referring to the plight of turf cutters throughout the

country whose plots are to become protected habitats under an EU directive. Fine Gael representatives have slammed the government for this outrage and have stated publicly that if in power they will endeavour to block this directive.

"I would like to make the public aware of some interesting facts regarding this directive: It was signed into law on the 26th

of February 1997 by the then Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht, Michael D. Higgins under the European Communities Natural Habitats Regulations 1997; Michael D Higgins of the Labour Party was in coalition with the Fine Gael party during this period with John Bruton as Taoiseach. The current leader of Fine Gael, Enda Kenny was a Minister during this period and would

have been aware of this directive at cabinet level; when Fianna Fáil came to power in the latter half of 1997 they sought and received a derogation, extending the rights of turf cutters to the listed bogs for a number of years; This derogation period has expired and the state is liable to hefty fines if the terms of this directive, enacted by a Fine Gael/Labour coalition, are not honoured.

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(086) 8738546**Meningitis collection**

Meningitis Research Foundation will be holding a church gate collection at the Sacred Heart Church in Roscommon on the 31st July and 1st August.

If you have any loose change at home you can put it to good use by donating to the charity. Every cent counts in the fight against meningitis and septicaemia, diseases that can kill in hours. As a charity the Meningitis Research Foundation does not receive any government funding and so relies on donations for all its income

There are currently around 300 cases a year of meningitis and septicaemia (the blood poisoning form of the disease) with about two deaths per month and a further 56 per year left with severe after effects such as brain damage, hearing loss and amputations. Meningitis and septicaemia kill more children in Ireland than any other infectious disease.

Meningitis Research Foundation currently funds 26 research projects into the prevention, detection and treatment of meningitis and septicaemia. They have spent €19.2 million on research since the Foundation's inception in 1989.