

# Strokestown prepares for Easter Parade

The scene is set for this year's Strokestown's Easter Parade, which takes place on Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm.

The parade is held under the auspices of Strokestown Community Development Association and has become a major annual event in the town over the past ten years. Up to 40 floats are expected for this year's event, with the vast majority coming from the voluntary and community sector. All voluntary clubs in the area are keen to take part each year and already for this year's event a number have indicated they will be participating. All voluntary and community floats are free of charge and commercial floats cost just €30. All groups must register their floats this week for the event at Strokestown Community Development office at Bawn St.

Once again this year the committee are relying on the goodwill of the community in the Strokestown Area and all who give very generous sponsorship. The committee also want to thank the other business people and individuals for their support for their recent support for the table quiz ran to defray costs of parade.

All floats must be in town no later than a quarter to three and the parade will commence on Booreen road as usual. It takes the usual route down Elphin St., through the Square past the reviewing stand, down Bridge St, out Dublin road

to Westward Scania, back up Bridge St and on to Church St, where the parade will end in the vicinity of Brogan's garage.

Diversions will be in place on the N5 with traffic coming from the West diverting in Tulsk village and at Fourmilehouse. Meanwhile traffic coming into Strokestown from Dublin will divert at Westward on to Fourmilehouse and then on to Tulsk. Strokestown Community Development Association ask the motoring public for their co-operation as well as the hundreds expected in town for the event. The committee want to express their thanks to the people who help steward the event as well as the local Gardaí for their help.

Finally Strokestown Community Development Association appeal to all business and voluntary groups to participate in Sunday's event which commences at 3 pm sharp. The Easter Parade is open to all community groups and business groups throughout Co. Roscommon and adjoining counties. All voluntary groups are free and business floats just cost €30. The committee appeal to all those entering the parade as a business float to pay the €30, as all of this money is needed to offset the cost of parade.

For further details contact (071) 96 33759, (086) 2507590, (087) 1385821.



Seamus Hannon, Sales Manager, Connacht Gold, Judges Amanda McCloot, Celebrity Chef Neven Maguire and Feargal O'Donnell and Mary Fox General Manager, Connacht Gold with Michelle O'Connor, Presentation Secondary School, Galway, Winner, Gerard Farrell, Scoil Mhuire, Strokestown, Co. Roscommon, and Keara Summerfield, Collaiste Mhuire, Ballymote, Co. Sligo Runners-up at the first ever Connacht Gold Junior Master Chef Competition, held at the weekend as part of the inaugural So Sligo Festival at St. Angelas College, Cloghereevagh, Sligo. Photo: James Connolly.

## Gerard highly commended at junior master chef event

Gerard Farrell, a student at Scoil Mhuire, Strokestown, was one of two finalists highly commended at the Connacht Gold Junior Master Chef competition, which was held on Saturday, 20th March as part of the inaugural 'So Sligo' Festival.

Michelle Connor, a student at Presentation Secondary School, Galway, was declared the winner by judge, Neven Maguire, and Keara Summerfield from Colaiste Mhuire, Ballymoate, Co. Sligo was also highly commended.

Gerard just missed out on

first place despite cooking up a mouth-watering starter of crunch and creamy tarragon mushrooms, a main course of salmon and prawn filo pie and a delicious black forest trifle desert.

He was one of 13 finalists selected from over 100 entrants from schools around the region to take part in the cook-off at St. Angela's College.

Area Sales Manager at Connacht Gold, Seamus Hannon, said, "We are delighted to have been involved with Junior Master Chef, to support Connacht's blossoming

young chefs and to champion local produce. The event has been a huge success and Gerard deserves many congratulations on being highly commended by an award-winning chef. He was up against some very tough competition from around the region and I wish him all the best."

The budding chefs were asked to compile a menu of their choice comprising of a starter, main course and dessert for two people and were judged on the creativity of their use of local and seasonal ingredients.



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## Women's group finish self-designed course

For the last 12 weeks an integrated group of women have been meeting in the Roscommon Women's Network offices in Castlerea to complete course, which they designed and developed themselves with support from Roscommon Women's network and funding from the Department of Social and Family Affairs.

The women enjoyed arts and crafts, silk painting, glass painting, parchment drawing, sewing lessons, and embroidery, among other learning activities. Philomena Mongan described the course as "a great opportunity to meet women from the local area and to work together and enjoy each other's company while learning new things".

Although the course funding has finished, the women feel strongly that they should continue to meet on Fridays and to open the group

to new members and the women have already identified classes that would benefit them e.g. Drug and alcohol awareness and education. The women also wish to invite guest speakers from various services providers to meet them on Fridays and help them explore further opportunities for learning and cultural activities.

The group would like to thank the Department of Social and family affairs for the funding for this 12 week course which enabled this group of women to have access to informal educational and recreational activities, and they won't stop there! If you would like any information on this or any other group supported by or services being offered by Roscommon Women's Network please contact Lorraine or Maria on info@rwn.ie or (094) 96 21690.