



Pictured in the Roscommon Mart during the opening of Roscommon Lamb Festival were (l-r) Donal Mee, Roscommon Mart, Tony Duffy, winner Best Butchers Lamb, Francis Beirne, second place Best Butchers Lamb and Michael Naughton, Roscommon Mart Manager. Picture: Andrew Fox.

Six heritage grants announced

Six conservation projects in County Roscommon are to receive a total of €96,550 under the Civic Structures Conservation Grants Scheme, it was announced this week by Michael Finneran TD, Minister for Housing and Local Services.

The six projects to benefit are: Shannonbridge Napoleonic Fortifications, €20,000; Kilronan Hermitage, Ballyfarnon, €15,310; Donamon Church of Ireland, €15,310; Rinn Duin Parish Church Ruins, Lecarrow €15,310; Mount Talbot Church €15,310 and Strokestown Park House, €15,310.

The scheme will ensure the continued preservation of heritage structures, such as libraries, churches, harbours and gate lodges, which are in civic ownership or occupation and open to the public to enjoy. Minister Finneran said that he is delighted his department is in a position to show continued support in 2010 for this grant scheme, which will have direct benefits for the local communities involved.

"I commend the local community based organisations for their excellent work in preserving their local heritage and as such I am delighted to be able to support them in their endeavours. I would also encourage other communities to identify and promote conservation projects in their areas."

PLUNKETT HOME BOOST

Plunkett home daycare service set to be reinstated

A decision to re-instate the day care services at Plunkett Home, Boyle, was welcomed this week by Minister Michael Finneran TD and by opposition TD Frank Feighan (Fine Gael).

The decision follows a meeting on Tuesday last, 27th April, arranged by Michael Finneran TD, Minister for Housing and Local Services, with Ms. Aine Brady TD, Minister for Older People and Health Promotion. Following the meeting, a decision has been taken to re-instate the Day Care Services at the Plunkett Home Boyle, Co. Roscommon, subject to the moratorium on recruitment in the public service being lifted by the Minister for Finance in this case.

Minister Finneran stated, "The meeting was attended by Deputy Feighan, Naughton, Senator Ellis and myself. Mayor Jan Flanagan, Cllr. Christy Brady, Cllr. Peter Flannery represented Boyle Town Council."

He continued: "Minister Brady TD stated she had se-



Minister Michael Finneran

cured funding for the post of a Clinical Nurse Manager. The Health Service Executive has already carried out interviews and has identified the person suitable for the position. This proposal is now with Brian Lenihan TD Minister for Finance for approval and this is expected within days."

The Minister added: "This is very good news for Boyle. I am very well aware of the excellent work carried out by the staff at Plunkett Home, who cater for over 50 people from Boyle and its environs. I thank Minister Brady TD for meeting with the deputation and having such a positive response for us and the people of Boyle."

Feighan welcomes news

Local Fine Gael TD Frank Feighan, right, has welcomed the appointment of a clinical nurse manager to day care services in the Plunkett home in Boyle, which will allow the re-instatement of services for many older people in the area.



"There was a huge furore following the recent suspension of day care services as a result of the health service's moratorium on recruitment. Many elderly people in the community were denied the services because of this moratorium.

"Fortunately a huge campaign followed because the matter was so wrong and unjust. I raised the matter in the Dáil on several occasions, and Boyle Town Council campaigned vigorously. I am delighted that Minister Aine Brady has now appointed someone to this position. And I would like to thank all the people of the Boyle area, including politicians from all sides, who supported the various protest marches including the one due outside the Dáil this week.

"We must always provide a lifeline and support services for the elderly people who have done so much to build up this country. So I am once again delighted that these services are going to be re-instated."

Death of Luke Daly widely mourned

The community of Ballygar and the sporting fraternity of Roscommon and east Galway this week mourned the untimely death of Luke Daly of Ruane, Ballygar.

Luke Daly (42) passed away on Friday, April 23rd, after a short illness. An avid sportsman, he enjoyed rugby, golf, soccer and GAA. He began his rugby career playing at underage level with Creggs RFC and went on to play rugby in Cistercian College, Roscrea, where he attended second-

ary school.

He won a Connacht Junior League medal with Creggs in 1992 and a Connacht Junior Cup medal in 1993. He also played on the Creggs team that beat Galwegians in a famous victory in 1990. He went on to play with Bective Rangers when work commitments took him to Dublin. He also won numerous caps for Connacht Juniors over the years. He returned to his native Ballygar and returned to play with Creggs RFC in the late

1990s. He is fondly regarded by all members of Creggs RFC and his passing will be a huge loss to the Club.

The Daly family is well known in Roscommon sporting circles. Dr. Martin Daly, brother of the deceased, is the team doctor for the Roscommon senior and U21 football teams for many years, while his father Joe Daly is a former President of Creggs RFC and former President of the Connacht Branch of the IRFU.

The late Luke Daly is sur-

vived by his wife Jacque, children Lucia and Eloise, father Joe, mother Madeleine, brothers Martin and Peter, sisters Michele, Joanne, Madeleine and Aisling, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, relatives and many friends.

Large numbers of people attended at his parents' residence in Ballygar on Saturday afternoon and evening. Funeral Mass on Sunday in St. Mary's Church, Ballygar, was followed by burial in the adjoining cemetery.



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Annual sports day

Knockcroghery/St. Johns/Rahara Community Games Annual Sports day takes place on Sunday 2nd May at the county soccer pitch, Cullen, Main Road at 2 pm.

Sinn Féin vigil in Ballinasloe

Sinn Féin in Ballinasloe will be holding a commemoration and vigil in St. Michael's Square, Ballinasloe on Wednesday, May 5th, from 5 pm to 8 pm to mark the beginning of a period in 1981 that changed the political direction in Ireland and saw the death by hunger strike of 10 Irish political prisoners.

Bobby Sands, who was a political prisoner in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh died on May 5th 1981 after 66 days on hunger strike protest. Up to 23 prisoners participated on hunger strike during the course of the protest.