



Lions Club of Roscrea

30th Anniversary

1968 - 1998



1968

In The Beginning

In 1967, Jonathan McSwiney, an executive with his family firm, Roscrea Meat Products, introduced the idea of a Lions Club for Roscrea to Veterinary Surgeon, Bill Burke in the factory canteen.

They decided to call a meeting to see if there were similarly-minded people in town. Their efforts were not successful but when the idea was mentioned to George Fäsenfeld over a drink in Nora O'Connor's pub, a spark was ignited.

George invited a cross-section of the community to a meeting (with refreshments) in the Pathé Hotel. The meeting was addressed by members of Thurles Lions Club led by Noel Treacy. The decision to form the Club was taken and the officers were elected. The choice of President was an inspired one. Billy Carroll, retired Cinema operator and Social Welfare Officer, was one of the most respected members of the Community. His wide experience, joviality and friendliness assured the success of the club from the start.

The Charter night in the Pathé Hotel on November 28th 1968 was a gala occasion and was an opportunity to introduce the aims of the new Club to the townspeople. The District Governor Harold Earle, came from Lancashire since Irish Lions Clubs were then part of a U.K. District.

Our meetings were held in a room in Christy Maher's Pub conveniently adjacent to the Bar. One meeting ran somewhat later than usual and resulted in virtually all the members of the Club "having their names taken" by a over-enthusiastic Garda who spotted them leaving "The Bus Stop" after midnight.

Fundraising was the young club's first requirement. A novel idea at the time - the 10 Mile Charity Walk - was to be the first serious attempt to raise funds. The enthusiasm of all the members (- especially George Fäsenfeld who raised the amazing sum of £500) resulted in the opportunity to identify the Club's first major Project. Roscrea Community Services Committee was doing excellent work in entertaining the Senior Citizens of Roscrea but didn't have a proper venue. So it was decided to purchase Todd Ryan's Shoe-Shop in Rosemary Street and donate it to the Committee.

This was the first of many projects that Roscrea Lions Club has undertaken. The Annual Barbecues in Mount Butler (courtesy of Victor Mitchell) were a great source of revenue as well as fun and entertainment. Whether or not Billy Carroll brought his revolver to protect the takings at the entrance will never be verified.

All our projects are made possible by the generosity of the townspeople in contributing to and participating in the Lions Club's fundraising activities, many of which are mentioned in this publication. The spirit of Lionism continues to flourish in Roscrea today and its 30 year old history of service to the people of Roscrea stands as a quiet monument to the inspiration of the early years.

D.J.W.

30th Anniversary CHARTER NIGHT November 28th 1998

Members and Officers 1998



Officers

President: Paddy Cody
Vice-President: Brendan Hyland
Hon. Secretary: Seamus Dennison
Hon. Treasurer: Paddy Collison
Lion Tamer: Peter Read
Tail Twister: Michael Breen

Directors: Muiris Ó Cinnéide Liam Spooner Ivan Hastings

Members

Jimmy Brady, John Byrne, John Cahill, Alfie Clarke, Terence Farrelly, Mary Fitzgerald, Michael Halpin, Bill Hanly, Brendan Lupton, Miriam Lupton, Christy Maher, Eugene Maher, Padraic Marrinan, Denis Meagher, Maurice Murphy, John O'Connor, Pat O'Gorman, Philly O'Rourke, Brian Redmond, Michael Ryan, Desmond Walsh.

Presidents of Lions Club Roscrea

W. Carroll	1968-69
D.J. Walsh	1969-70
J.J. Murphy	1970-71
C.E. Maher	1971-72
M. Ó Cinnéide	1972-73
L.T. Maher	1973-74
J. Cahill	1974-75
M.P. Murphy	1975-76
W.D. Hanly	1976-77
A. Clarke	1977-78
G. Deegan	1978-79
F. Kruse	1979-80
W. Martin	1980-81
W.L. Burke	1981-82
R. Webb	1982-83
M.J. Buckley	1983-84
P. Carey	1984-85
P.D.G. Read	1985-86
L.T. Maher	1986-87
J. Cahill	1987-88
S. Dennison	1988-89
G. Barry	1989-90
J. Cahir	1990-91
T. Farrelly	1991-92
J. O'Connor	1992-93
P. Collison	1993-94
J. Brady	1994-95
J. Byrne	1995-96
B. Redmond	1996-97
L. Spooner	1997-98
P. Cody	1998-99

List of Members and date of enrolment

Bill Burke	7-68	Stanley Perry	6-70	Eugene Maher	5-85
Paul F. Bushnell	7-68	Michael J. Buckley	6-71	Philly O'Rourke	1-86
Harry Campbell	7-68	Ray Dempsey	10-71	Gerry Barry	6-86
Chris Carey	7-68	Joe Spooner	6-71	Jerry Cahir	4-87
Billy Carroll	7-68	Ger Deegan	6-71	Terry Farrelly	11-87
George F.F. Fäsenfeld	7-68	Bill Hanly	7-72	Jimmy Brady	1-89
Christy Maher	7-68	Denis Meagher	7-72	Bernie Gould	2-89
John Maher	7-68	Pat Morrissey	7-72	Paddy Collison	3-89
Liam T. Maher	7-68	Fritz Kruse	5-73	John Byrne	2-90
Jonathan McSwiney	7-68	Oliver Egan	5-73	Gerry Hayes	8-90
Tom Moran	7-68	Pat Hennessy	5-74	Liam Spooner	2-91
Eddie Morrow	7-68	Billy Martin	7-75	Brian Redmond	3-92
Jimmy Murphy	7-68	George McManus	2-76	Michael Ryan	12-94
Muiris Ó Cinnéide	7-68	D. C. Bergin	10-76	Ivan Hastings	3-95
Kevin Quigley	7-68	Richard Webb	3-77	Joe Hennessy	5-95
Jack Sutton	7-68	Paddy Cody	5-78	Sean Nealon	11-95
Eamonn Stafford	7-68	Stephen Nugent	2-79	Michael Breen	7-96
Dermot Thornton	7-68	Louis Cooley	5-79	Michael Halpin	10-96
Tony Walsh	7-68	Pat Carey	9-79	Pat O'Gorman	2-97
Des Walsh	7-68	Barney Gleeson	6-82	Brendan Lupton	12-97
John Kennedy	3-69	Brendan Hyland	12-82	Padraic Marrinan	3-98
Alfie Clarke	7-69	John O'Connor	10-84	Mary Fitzgerald	7-98
Maurice Murphy	11-69	Ken Henderson	1-85	Miriam Lupton	7-98
John Cahill	11-69	Tony Tobin	5-85		



We remember with affection the following members who have gone to their eternal reward:

D.C. Bergin

Bill Burke

Harry Campbell

Billy Carroll

George Fäsenfeld

Billy Fallon

Fritz Kruse

John Maher

Liam T. Maher

Billy Martin

Edward Morrow

Stanley Perry

Joe Spooner

Jack Sutton

Dermot Thornton

Tony Tobin

Richard Webb

LIONS CLUBS WHICH WERE SPONSORED BY ROSCREA:

Nenagh 1973

Tullamore 1975

Athlone 1976

Ennis 1977

Portumna 1998



Ennis Charter Night

Portumna Charter Night

Charter Officers & Charter Members 1968-69

PRESIDENT

W. Carroll

VICE-PRESIDENTS

D.J. Walsh R.F.E. Morrow

SECRETARY

J. McSwiney

TREASURER

J.J. Murphy

TAIL TWISTER

W.L. Burke

LION TAMER

M. Ó Cinnéide

DIRECTORS: C. Carey P. Bushnell J. Maher H. Campbell

G.F.F. Fäsenfeld

C.E. Maher

L.T. Maher

T. Moran

K. Quigley

D.L. Thornton

J. Sutton

E. Stafford

A.F. Walsh



Des Walsh, Bill Burke, Mrs Peggy Maher, Mrs Bid Carroll, Mrs Bredin, Mrs Osbourne, Mrs Margaret Walsh, Mrs Gay McSwiney, Jonathan McSwiney, Christy Maher.

Rev. T.A.N. Bredin, Billy Carroll, Harold Earle (District Governor), ANother, Very Rev. Tom Hogan.

Projects

- COMMUNITY HALL, ROSEMARY SQUARE
- DAY TRIP TO THE SEASIDE FOR PATIENTS AT ST ANNE'S
- SANTA CLAUS AT ST ANNE'S BAZAAR
- AMBULANCE TO ORDER OF MALTA



Handing over the keys of a new Ambulance for The Order of Malta
Included in the photograph are George Fäsenfeld, Billy Carroll, Joe Lanigan, Jimmy Murphy, Christy Hogan, Christy Maher, Des Walsh.

Projects

- FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND SPORTS EQUIPMENT TO VARIOUS SPORTS CLUBS
- TEENAGE DISCO ORGANISED AND SUPERVISED



Included in the photo of the presentation of a new banner for Roscrea Community Games are Jerry Cahir, Bernard Gould.

Projects

- MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
- DIABETES TESTING
- SMEAR TEST CLINICS
- HYPERTENSION CLINICS
- PROVISION OF WHEELCHAIRS
- MEDIC-ALERT
- FUNDS FOR NTH. TIPPERARY HOSPICE
- SPECIAL OLYMPICS



Gerry Barry overseeing Diabetes Testing at St Anne's Field Day.

Projects

- **YOUTH AWARDS**

The International Youth Award recognises young peoples excellence in community involvment and commitment to serving others.



Alfie Clarke and Ger Deegan with the 1977 winner, Noreen Monks.



Des Walsh, John Byrne and Michael Ryan with the 1996 Lions Club Youth Award winner, Áine Moloney.

Projects

- INTERNATIONAL YOUTH GROUPS



The Club hosted the visit of the International Youth Group "Up with People".



International Youth Exchange Programme brought 14 young people from around the world to Roscrea in 1998. Lions families provided accommodation and entertainment.

Projects

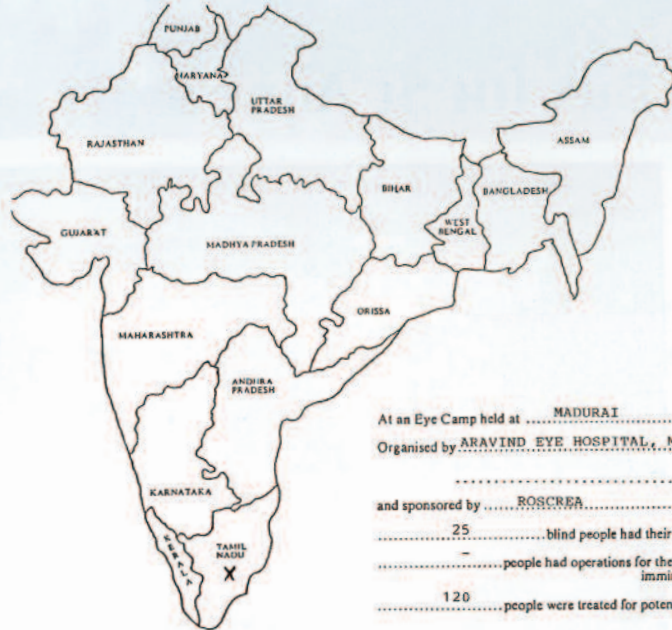
- AID TO THE WORLD



WHERE THE BLIND SEE AGAIN

L243/L48/96/97/105I P

- Every year the Club raises funds for the Third World, chiefly by way of a 24 hour Fast and Church Gate Collection.
- A relatively small contribution to Lions International Eye Camp yields extraordinary results.
- Collection of used spectacles for the Third World.



At an Eye Camp held at MADURAI Village
 Organised by ARAVIND EYE HOSPITAL, MADURAI.....
 and sponsored by ROSCREA Lions Club
 25 blind people had their sight restored
 - people had operations for the prevention of
 imminent blindness
 120 people were treated for potentially blinding
 conditions

Mark Sundell

Project Administrator

Projects

- **NEW AMBULANCE FOR THE KNIGHTS OF MALTA**



Harry McCoy, Knights of Malta, accepts the keys from Jerry Cahir, watched by John Byrne, Jimmy Brady, Seamus Dennison, Liam Spooner, May, 1991.

- **Bus for St Anne's**



Projects

- COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR KENNEDY PARK



Fundraising Draw for St Cronan's Workshop

Jerry Cahir, Terry
Farrelly, Philly
O'Rourke, Paddy
Richardson, John
Cahill, Peter Read.

Projects

- PARTY FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED
- SMOKE ALARMS FOR PEOPLE LIVING ON THEIR OWN
- PIANO FOR DEAN MAXWELL HOME
- PROVISION OF TIMBER AND TURF FOR NEEDY FAMILIES



Saving Turf – Lions in the Bog:

including: Bernard
Gould, Jerry Cahir,
Seamus Dennison, Pat
O'Gorman, Alfie Clarke,
Terry Farrelly, Jerry
Barry, Eugene Maher,
Brendan Hyland.

Projects

MOSNEY

We're all off on a Summer Holiday!



Bill Hanly has organised and accompanied the Annual Holiday for Senior Citizens to Mosney every year since 1975.

Meals on Wheels

Our support for this activity included the provision of special heated containers which assisted to distribute the meals.

Projects

• HELP FOR HERITAGE



John Cahill receiving a cheque from Liam Maher, on behalf of Roscrea Heritage Society watched by Billy Martin, Jerry Cahir, Des Walsh.

George Cunningham, Roscrea Heritage Society, accepting a Computer from Pat Carey and Billy Martin.



Purchase of The Black Mills Site

An important purchase of the Black Mills in Church Street contributed greatly to the subsequent development of the Round Tower Site. The Black Mills were subsequently donated to the Office of Public Works.



Projects

- **CHRISTMAS FOOD APPEAL**



Each year the Club coordinates the collection of food from shops in the Roscrea area and distributes it to needy families. This project is held in conjunction with 2FM.

Projects

- BUS FOR DEAN MAXWELL HOME



Residents of Dean Maxwell Home with Christy Maher, Paddy Collison and Jimmy Brady.

Fundraising

Charity Walks



The Charity Walk was the first major Fund Raising undertaken in 1969. It continues to be an important source of fund resources.



An early walking group.

Young people are great supporters for our Annual Charity Walk.



Fundraising

- RACE NIGHTS
- CONCERTS
- 24 HOUR FAST
- FASHION SHOW
- GOLF CLASSICS
- LOCAL TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES
- LIONS BIROS FOR SALE
- BARBEQUES
- RAFFLES (INCLUDING DRAW FOR 50 GALLONS OF PETROL DURING PETROL STRIKE)
- "SEARCH FOR A STAR"
- FIRE-SIDE BINGO
- POKER CLASSIC

GOLF CLASSIC – 1998



Liam
Spooner,
Brendan
Lupton,
Michael Ryan
with winners
of Golf
Classic
1998.

Fundraising

• JIMMY MAGEE ALL-STARS



A clerical foul



The local Team which played against the All-Stars.



**Fashion
Show in
the
Pathé
Hotel**

Fundraising

- **PUB QUIZ**



Lion/Publican Christy Maher with his team which won the 1988/89 Pub Quiz. Seamus Dennison is on the left.

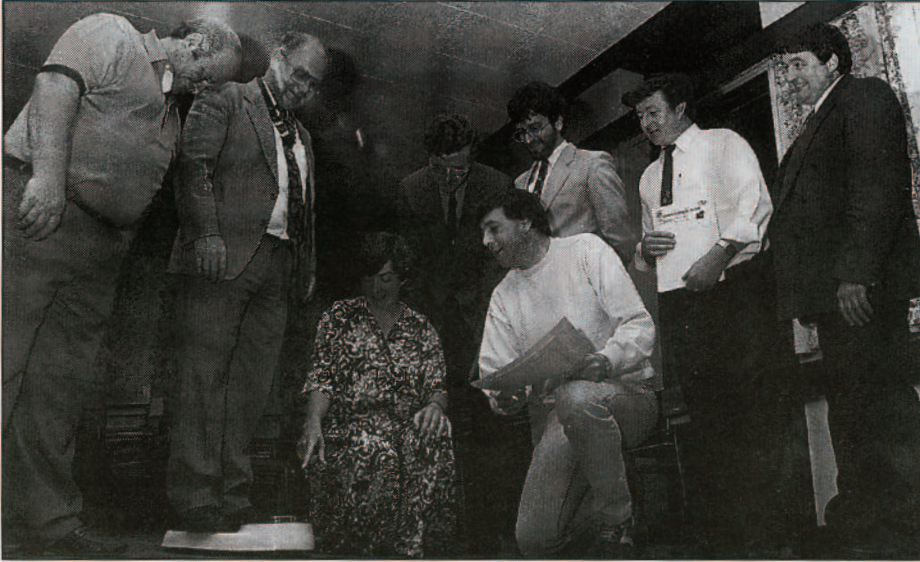
Sponsored Parachute Jump

in aid of a new bus for St Anne's, organised by Jimmy Brady.



Fundraising

• SLIM-TRIM COMPETITION



Paddy Collison
and Jimmy
Brady check in
Jerry Cahir at
the weigh-in.



Lions In The Dark



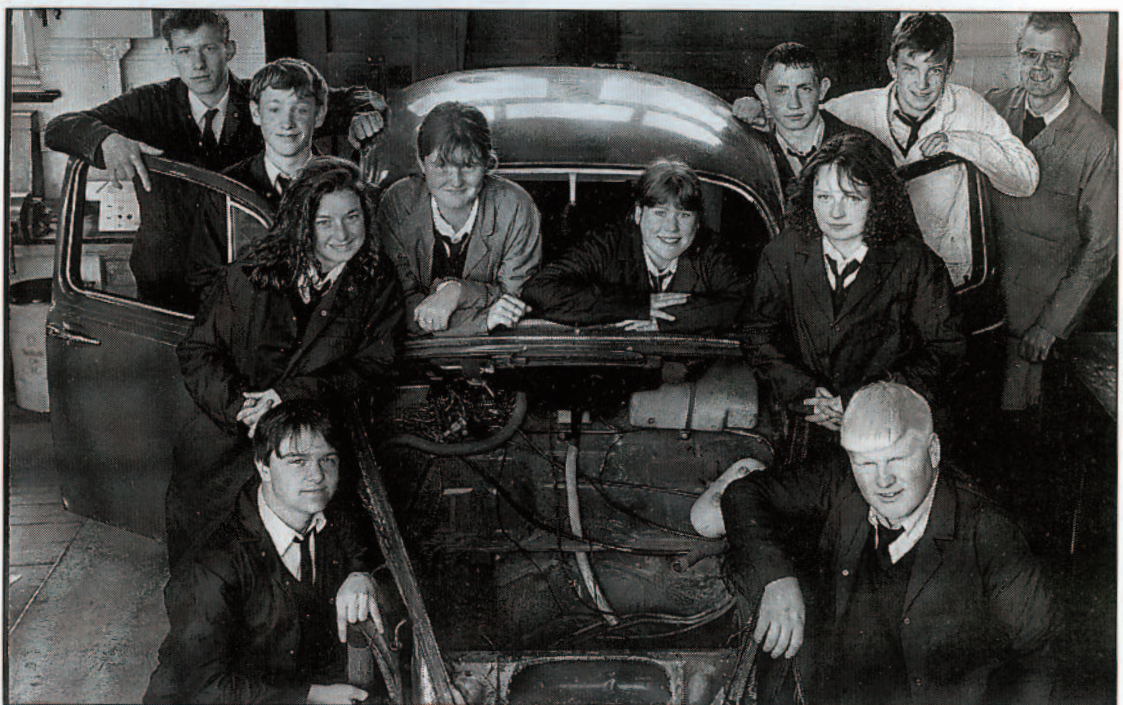
Fundraising



- **DUCK RACE**

Hundreds of sponsored plastic ducks swim down the Moneen River.

Students of RVS who took part in the early stages of restoration of the VW Beetle to be raffled.



The Social Scene

The Annual Charter Dinner has been an important social event in Roscrea.



1974



1980

The Social Scene



1982



21st Anniversary - 1989



Lions Club of Roscrea

