

RORY O'CONNELL COOKERY DEMONSTRATION: Cullohill Community Council would like to extend their most sincere thanks to everyone who attended and helped in the organisation, of what was a fantastic cookery demonstration hosted by the superbly talented Rory O'Connell in the Cullohill Community Centre recently. The event was attended by 250 people and the feedback was exceptional. Cullohill Community Council are delighted with the success of the event and also the manner in which it showcased the Community Centre facilities as a fantastic event venue. There is a long list of thanks all of which are most necessary.

Firstly our most sincere thanks to the management and staff of Laois County Council, in particular Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services and Ann-Marie Kelly, Environmental Awareness Officer, who entrusted the Community Council with the organisation and running of the event and assisted in so many ways. The event would not have been possible without the funding of the LAPN (Local Authority Prevention Network) and the EPA for which we are very grateful. The Committee were delighted to welcome Laois County Council's Chief Executive John Mulholland and the Cathaoirleach Tom Mulhall to the event and very much appreciate their attendance and kind words.

Thank you to our sponsors and supporters who provided raffle prizes, equipment etc... Clayton Hotels, Portlaoise Heritage Hotel, Barringtons Hospital, Joe Dooley Electrical, Rosemount Catering (Shealagh Maher), Laois Hire, St. Fergals, Rathdowney, Dalton's of Cullohill and The Sportman. Thank you also to the Garda Siochana for their assistance with traffic calming through the village to ensure pedestrian safety. Special thanks to our traffic / parking stewards John Dollard, Joe Dollard, Sean Cahill, Seamus Brophy and Willie Dunphy. Thank you also to Mary Walsh for her much admired floral display.

Thanks to our first aiders Pat Barnaville and Seamus Clancy, our photographer Annie Holland and to Gearoid Ryan from Durrow Fire Service who greatly assisted with the ensuring the floor plan for the event was in compliance with fire regulations. Thank you also to Tommy Ferns for his expertise and co-operation. Special thanks goes to the Community Centre Committee who worked so hard to ensure the centre looked its best for the event, and for all their support. Sincere thanks to everyone who supported the Community Council raffle on the night. The proceeds from which will be used to fund the compilation of a 'Community Development Plan' for the next 5 years.

Finally, a huge thank you to Rory O'Connell and his very talented sous chef Tracie Daly. The Community Council were thrilled when Rory agreed to come back to Cullohill and do the demonstration. Rory is undoubtedly the 'chef of the moment' and we were honoured to have him back home for the night, just as he was delighted to be home.

CHRISTMAS FAMILY FUN DAY: *Sunday 11th December from 1pm to 4pm* - The Parents Council of Scoil Tighearnach Naofa, Cullohill are delighted to host the 'Christmas Family Fun Day' in the Cullohill Community Centre on Sunday 11th December from 1pm to 4pm. There is a fantastic afternoon of festive fun and entertainment planned, including a Christmas Jumper Competition, Nerf Shooting Gallery, Face Painting, Nail Art, Christmas Wish Tree, Cake Sale and Christmas Crafts.

Most importantly the very lovely Mrs. Clause will be in attendance to take letters from the children back to Santa and also to tell a Christmas Tale or two! So children, don't forget to wear your Christmas jumpers and bring your letters for Santa!!! This event is a fundraiser for the Parents Council and your support would be very much appreciated. Donations of cakes etc for the cake sale would as always be very welcome. Admission is €5 per adult and children are free.

CULLOHILL COMMUNITY CENTRE: Progressive 25 Card games are held in the hall every Sunday night at 8.30pm sharp followed by tea and sandwiches. Please support!

BRIAN STANLEY TD - DURROW CLINIC: The next clinic in Durrow will be held on the last Saturday in January (28th) from 12 noon until 12.45pm in The Presentation Centre. The office in Portlaoise is open every day at 5, Church Street and can also be contacted by phone on (057) 8662581 or brian.stanley@oireachtas.ie by email or visit www.brianstanley.ie online.

LAOIS KAYAK AND CANOE CLUB: *Interested in Kayaking:* As is standard and due to the shorter evenings, paddling will now be on at the weekends only. If you are interested in taking up paddling, please have a look at the event dates on Facebook and on our website for details www.laiskayak.com online.