

## Adrian Hewson

Adrian Hewson, a secondary teacher and a native of Clonakenny, now living in Roscrea has been co-ordinator of FÁS Roscrea Community Response since its initiation in September 1994. Sponsored by FÁS in conjunction with Roscrea Select Vestry, Canon Condell is chairman of the scheme, which is based in the Temperance Hall. Margaret Hennessy, a native of Knock and now living in Borris-in-Osory parish was appointed Assistant Co-ordinator in March 2000, and there are currently 25 participants on the scheme. Since its initiation over 200 participants have been involved and almost all have been placed in gainful employment.

The work of the office is based around historical research culminating in publication, training in information technology and special emphasis is placed upon the personal development of the individual through interview technique and preparation for the workforce. To date under Adrian's auspices four publications have been launched culminating in 2001 with *No Ivory Tower - a Century of Vocational Education in Roscrea*. In 1996 the group organised an exhibition to mark the 20th anniversary of FÁS in Roscrea, and in 1998, former President Dr Patrick Hillery opened an exhibition to mark the 25th anniversary of Ireland's entry into the EU. A detailed inventory of diocesan church plate and stained glass was also carried out. In 1997 the group received a FÁS Community Initiative Award Certificate.

As each trainee commences, they are trained in Manual Handling. IT training is provided on an individual basis as each trainee starts on the scheme with varying degrees of IT knowledge. They can gain City and Guilds Level 1 qualification. Interview technique is provided on an individual basis for trainees who wish to avail of it in preparation for interviews. Teamwork amongst trainees is a vital aspect of the scheme and allows for a happy, co-operative working environment.

Outside office hours Adrian is a Diocesan reader with the Church of Ireland conducting services in the Rector's absence. Margaret enjoys farming and is married to farmer Brendan with two children Louise, aged 12 and Aaron 8. Course participant Kieran Delaney recently made national television when he appeared as a contestant on the RTE programme 'Pop Stars'. However he refuses to lead an office song!

