

Sean Ross

The historic heart of Ros Cré

Elsewhere in this edition of *Roscrea People*, Brendan Carmody lovingly describes a walk from our urban area to Sean Ross and back, once again linking the town of Roscrea with its historic roots. And all at St Anne's, too, are anxious to link the Centre and its beautiful grounds with the town in as many ways as possible. Today, the focus of the provision of the Service at St Anne's is the integration of people with intellectual disabilities into all aspects of community life. To this aim the opportunities presented by the medieval church site, the walled garden, orchard and trees, the cemeteries, the woodland walks and stream, the period house, its stables, icehouse and farmyard, are unique. The Sisters have established a small group - Staff, Roscrea People, Roscrea Heritage, Heritage Office at Tipperary N.R. County Council, the Friends of St Anne's among others - to explore and develop these opportunities as places of beauty, tranquillity, peace and reflection and to encourage a sense of connection between past and present. Already, the Sisters have paid to have urgent vegetation clearing carried out on the church ruin and Roscrea Heritage will fund an archaeological assessment.

There is also another compelling reason as to why historic Sean Ross should be conserved and preserved for posterity. Here throbs the early historic heartbeat of Ros Cré. Here, Cronan and his monks founded their first monastery. To here the monks of Móin na hInse retreated in the middle ages. Here, probably, the Ó Meachairs were inaugurated as chieftains of Uí Cairn before Plantation and the Big House changed the Gaelic way of life forever. Here, too, the modern story of Ireland unfolded as we struggled to come to terms with the biggest social issue of all, that of giving birth. And in our time we have watched with pride, as Sean Ross became St Anne's and a place of great love where the less fortunate of our communities are cherished and urged, indeed enabled, to reach their potential.

What an example Roscrea people could give to Ireland with these desired developments?

Be a part of it in some way. Time, money, talent, generosity of spirit - all are needed to make the vision a reality. Will you help?