

# Rose of Tralee visits Leitrim

**Laura Crossan**



*Official Rose of Tralee tour bus*

THIS YEAR Leitrim hosted the International Rose of Tralee Tour for the first time. Thirty-two international Roses sailed into Carrick on Shannon on the most apt mode of transport we could provide for them—the *Moon River* boat on the River Shannon. The sun came out to greet them, along with hundreds of children and adults alike. The Roses were overwhelmed by the sense of community that greeted them in Carrick on Shannon. Some got emotional seeing the support our local *Leitrim Rose* Zara Healy had from her family and friends. They loved the window displays and banners, and all the visible support for Zara throughout the town.

They had the chance to try some fishing, do a walking tour of the town and later were wined and dined at Flynn's Bar (run by Zara's parents) and the Bush Hotel. They stopped off briefly at the *Leitrim Design House* before trying their hands at a brush dance in the market yard. That night the *Leitrim Lions Club* hosted a gala ball for the Roses in Lough Rynn Castle with some of the finest Leitrim superstars including Charlie McGettigan, Eleanor Shanley, Rakish and Sean Nós ar an tSionainn performing for them.

Even in Tralee, after seeing many other towns along the way, the Roses were still talking about the beauty of Leitrim and the warmth of its community. It was an occasion where one could be a very proud participant.



*Above: The roses arriving at Carrick on Moon River. Leitrim Rose, Zara Healy is pictured beside the Rose of Tralee, Maria Walshe.*

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*Above right: Outside the Dock, Dublin Rose Roisin Lyons is pictured in the front row. She also has Leitrim roots in Carrigallen.*

*Inset :Caoimhín Ffrench who came out to support the Leitrim Rose, Zara Healy*

*Right: Zara being welcomed by her Dad at Flynn's pub. Also pictured is camera man Brendan Galvin.*

*Bottom: The Roses gather by the Shannon*

*Below left: The Roses visiting the Costello Memorial Chapel.*

*Inset left: Grace Duignan from Carrick on Shannon with the Nottingham Rose Claire Regan who dances with Lord of the Dance*



*Crescendos window display >*