

... is to create ... al media firm

...rthy has trialled a few approaches to
... has found his niche, and it is growing



...rowth in his company over the next year

...el to growing up. I was really not tech-
...nary savvy at all. Now I am living in
... and Castletroy.

What is your educational background?

I went to primary school in Granagh. After this, I attended secondary school at Coláiste na Trócaire in Rathkeale. After this, I went to do a degree in

public administration at the University of Limerick. In all honesty, it did not set me up for entrepreneurship.

How did you get to where you are today?

I graduated in January 2012. Having lived with Keith for a year, I saw all the amazing technology stuff he was doing. In March 2012, we decided we were going to give our own company a go. We started off developing web sites, and found out within two months there are 200 web developers in Limerick. I was going out with an American girl at the time, and she told me to look up Software as a Service (SaaS). I was in the USA for a month, and we had a series of meetings with a number of big companies. Off the back of these meetings, I realised there was an opportunity in and around software, and this was not in Ireland at present. I came back to Ireland, and was interviewed by George Kennedy, Holmes O'Malley Sexton. A week later, he telephoned me to tell me I had an interview for the Limerick Enterprise Acceleration Programme (Leap). Me and Keith did an interview with Gillian Barry and Martina McGrath and I remember vividly what they told us. They said 'Lads, you do not have a business, we are not sure if you have an idea, but the two of you look like you could create something big'. We graduated from the Leap programme, and moved to the Nexus Innovation Centre into the company we are today.

...tlook for hospitality trade



Transport, Tourism and Sport show approximately 200,000 jobs in Ireland are based on tourism, there is little evidence of the kind of joined-up thinking and investment necessary to ensure skills shortages within the hospitality sector are being addressed."

He concluded; "The government have had a critical part to play with regard to maintaining rates

Limerick Chamber Awards



Roy Finucane chairs the Roches Street Traders Association which has been nominated for a Limerick Chamber Regional Business Award

A traders association with success and charity right at its heart

IN the run up to the Limerick Leader sponsored Limerick Chamber Regional Business Awards, we profile some of the nominees.

What is the Roches Street Traders Association?

The Roches Street Traders Association is a group of independent traders whose common goal is to promote Roches Street as a city centre shopping destination. We focus on the positives and on what traders can do to bring customers to the street and make it as attractive for shoppers as possible.

Why does the group deserve to win a Limerick Region Business Award?

Other than promote the street, the association also acts as a support network for traders. We also fundraise for local charities. The central event of our fundraising calendar is the Roches Street Arts Festival which takes place each September. To date, more than €100,000 has been raised for local charities by the traders.

Where would you like to see the association in five years time?

It is always a challenge for independent business owners to give their time outside of their day to day business, so if the association is still going strong in five years and coming up with new initiatives, that would represent progress. Recent initiatives we have trialled include the fashion quarter, and the wedding circle. These highlight the street as a one-stop shop for people planning a wedding.

If you were in government what would you do to help business?

End the tax discrimination against the self-employed: At present, self-employed people get no tax credits. I would also end the disparity of the Universal Social Charge of three per cent between those who are self-employed, and those in employment for income over €100,000. I would also reduce the rate of capital gains tax.

OK Reader 1st Aug 2013

FACT FILE

- Company:** Roches Street Traders Association
- Based:** Roches Street, Limerick City Centre
- Nominated:** Community/Not for Profit
- Product/Service:** A support network to traders in Roches Street, promotion of the street and charity fundraising
- Employees:** Approximately 250 people across around 30 shops