

## Macroom celebrates greenshoots



A GROUP of nine, 'nine month old' businesses gathered among a crowd of over 70 well wishers at Macroom E Enterprise Centre last week to be presented with certificates by Bobby Kerr of RTE Dragon's Den. The certificates marked the end of the nine month GREENSHOOTS Emerging Entrepreneur Programme.

The programme was launched in 2010 as a pilot – the aim to support start up and small businesses by giving them the best possible start in business life. The programme provides entrepreneurs with the facilities (free office space and services), skills training, mentoring, coaching and support necessary to make a real success of their business.

Funded by South Cork Enterprise Board and Cork County Council so it can be

offered free to successful applicants, the programme is managed by Macroom E Enterprise Centre.

During a really positive and light hearted ceremony, Bobby gave the graduating businesses his top ten tips for getting on in business – amongst which were: ignoring the begrudgers; looking after health and family; having a plan; not being afraid to change that plan; and always being honest.

Programme Manager Catherine Costello said: "We're delighted to celebrate these companies today - there have already been successes within the group and also huge potential for massive successes in the future. We're also very excited about the next greenshoots programme and would urge small businesses in the area to apply for a place'.

Also speaking at yesterday's event was Cllr Pat O'Connell, deputy Mayor of Macroom, Cllr Kevin Murphy, Mayor of the County, County Manager Martin Riordan and Sean O'Sullivan CEO of South Cork Enterprise Board. Lucy Hyland, who took part in the programme with her business Food for Living, gave an insight into what GREENSHOOTS meant to her.

The event also aimed to officially launch the 2011/12 programme – applications are now being sought from entrepreneurs who wish to take part and base themselves, for free, at Macroom E Enterprise Centre from September 2011 to June 2012 while learning valuable business skills and working within a group of supportive peer entrepreneurs.