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Saturday 14 June 2008

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Vol.23. No 23.

€0.25

## Spotlight on author's home

by Marie Hobbins

THE first public expression of interest in the city acquiring the home of the internationally celebrated Limerick author, Kate O'Brien was issued this week when a deputy mayor and the city's arts officer declared their support for the development.

Some weeks ago, the son of the former owner of Boru House, on Mulgrave Street, in which Kate O'Brien grew up, told the Limerick Post that he and his two brothers have no immediate plans for the house.

Speaking from his London address, Tom Lloyd said: "my father Gerard Lloyd died last year and probate of his will has still to be taken out. The beneficiaries will have to come to an agreement on what to do with the house - no decision has been arrived at yet."

While there have been intermittent expressions of interest down through the years in Limerick City Council acquiring the red brick property, located just opposite St Joseph's Hospital on Mulgrave Street, that interest acquired a more

significant status when Cllr Jim Long, deputising for Mayor Ger Fahy, last week attended an official ceremony to name a street in the Spanish town of Gotarrendura, just 10 miles from Avila, after the Limerick author.

A deputation from City Hall had been invited by the people of Gotarrendura to attend the event, which was also attended by the Irish Ambassador to Spain, Peter Gunning and the co-ordinator of the event, José Sierra who spent 25 years in Ireland and is an authority on the author.

Impressed by the regard in which Kate O'Brien is held in Spain, Cllr Long, who has successfully steered the Limerick Dockers' Memorial to fruition, has tabled a motion, calling on the council to honour the Limerick author with a fitting memorial.

Speaking of Kate O'Brien, whose books on Spain include, Farewell to Spain, That Lady and Teresa of Avila, as well as such well known works as Land of Spices, Presentation Parlour, Without My Cloak, A Prayer for the Wanderer, etc, the councillor said:

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Eskimos Elaine Kingston, Natalie Lillis, Hazel Murphy and Vivienne Farrell were at the Treaty Stone recently to announce the launch of the new ICE Broadband 100 per cent coverage for Limerick City and County.



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### Getting beneath the city's surface

by Marie Hobbins

THE dynamic transformation of Limerick city is about to focus on its historic medieval walls.

Limerick City Council is backing a new study that is recommending the establishment of a management plan and the setting up of a committee to implement a conservation and maintenance programme for the historic walls, which are of acknowledged national and international significance.

An enthusiastic presentation on the current state of play of the 24 stretches of the old walls was given to members of the council's Cultural and Sporting Committee this week by Tracey Collins of Aegis Archaeology Limited, who confirmed that while some sections of the walls are in good condition, others are in need of urgent attention.

"We have produced a map showing extant portions underground and in our mission statement we call for a programme to conserve and sustain them into the future but we need to put in a management plan and are suggesting that a committee be formed and conservation maintenance programmes set up.

"We already have funding for a stretch of the wall

Continued on page 4.

#### • weather



COOL, dry days ahead is the summary, with only occasional showers spotting the landscape.

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## Editorial This way - polling booth

TODAY Thursday, June 12 is voting day. This is the day on which we, the electorate are given the opportunity to vote Yes or No to the Lisbon Treaty.

Like the dreaded Leaving Cert or driving test, the far off date that will decide so much has finally arrived and we are being reminded to do our civic duty and go out there and vote.

While the memory of last year's general election is still fresh in our minds, there is no clear recollection that the political parties were more nervous than usual that there would be a poor showing at the polls. That is not the case for June 12.

The feeling of panic coming through from the government in particular, is that the message sounding loud and clear in the past week - is that because people may not fully understand the implications involved, they will take the easy option by not turning up at the polling stations.

Whichever way one looks at it, this is an unhappy scenario. Traditionally Irish people respect their vote and have a lively interest in politics. Certainly the documented detail on the Lisbon Treaty could have been more clearly and more simply presented. And while there is a school of thought that finds fault with the Government for 'coming late' to presenting the Treaty to the people and not getting the national debate going earlier, well, it can't be said that they did not 'go to the people countryside' in the past fortnight.

However, there is no doubt that the Treaty document is complex and not easy reading. However, from the amount published and the radio, television and live debates that have taken place, here in Limerick as elsewhere, that by now, people are equipped with the essentials, so to speak.

Which or whether, it is the honourable and patriotic thing to go to the polling booth and cast one's vote. That way, a more convincing indication of how we really feel about Lisbon will be recorded.

## LSAD weekend graduate show

THE Limerick School of Art and Design Graduate Show 2008 is to take place in the college's Clare Street and George's Quay campuses on June 14 at 3pm and also runs on June 16, 17 and 18.

The show includes work from all six departments covered by the college, with ceramics, fashion, graphics, painting and sculpture exhibitions on show.

Some of the artists taking place in the show will include Ian Ahern, Lynsey Power, Emma Scriven, Rory Prout and Pamela Myres.

### THURSDAY 12

ANN Stack's show Returning to the Easel is launched by Mick O'Dea RHA at Vault Gallery, Adare, 7pm.

FOLLOWERS of Fashion - painting exhibition, continues daily at Hunt Museum, Rutland St.

EMMET Kierans Art Exhibition at Belltable gallery until June 27. [www.belltable.ie](http://www.belltable.ie)

LE Chelle, creative arts & social activity: Adult Youth night 7.30-9.30pm; T. 446786 and 087-2485742.

### FRIDAY 13

ARTHRITIS Ireland holds coffee morning with cake and book sale in Augustinian Hall, 11am to 5pm. Support welcome.

ARTIST Ray Hitching's exhibition Metamorphosis at Friars Gate, Kilmallock.

### SATURDAY 14

LIMERICK School of Art & Design Graduate Show 08 opens at Clare Street and George's Quay. Open Monday 16 to Thursday 19; degree and diploma shows from all students and departments.

LWA leads 12noon walk from Na Piarsaigh, Caherdavin, 2 & 3miles. At Cratie Woods carpark Meelick end, 6m from 11.15am.

### SUNDAY 15

THOMOND Archaeological & Historical Society hosts half-day outing to Kildimo area on The Nicholas Peacocke Trail. Organised by Michael O'Halloran, departd gallery Pery Sq at 2pm.

### WEDNESDAY 18

WHITE House guest poet for 9pm.

# Spotlight on author's home

Continued from page 1.

"There is a phenomenal interest in Kate O'Brien, as witnessed here each year by the numbers who attend the Kate O'Brien Weekend. If this Limerick author can be acknowledged so wonderfully in another country, it is very remiss of this council if we don't honour her with a memorial - we should acquire

her family home in Mulgrave Street and develop it into a writers' centre...I'm encouraged by the positive hearing my recommendation has received from senior officials in City Hall to this."

Limerick city's arts officer, Sheila Deegan who is a member of the Kate O'Brien Committee welcomed as "very admirable,

such a commitment to the cultural infrastructure of the city would achieve, by acquiring the author's former Limerick home.

"I feel the council will be open to the idea," she said.

Kate O'Brien's book, My Ireland, written in the 1960s is dedicated to Limerick and is a collection of her reminiscences of the city.



## Getting beneath the city's surface

Continued from page 1.

on Little Gerald Griffin Street and hope to get work on its repair underway before the end of the summer but we need a sustainable use and vision for the city walls," said Ms Collins.

Last year, Brian Hodgkinson, curator of the Jim Kemmy Municipal Museum, alerted the city councillors to the need to implement steps to conserve the walls, which played such a large part in the defence of Limerick in the Siege of 1691. By 1760, the city became open and officially there was no further need for the walls.

Confirming that 100,000 euro has already been secured for the project, chair of the committee, Cllr Maria Byrne, said that 1.8million euro is now required.

"We need to put a proposal to the council as to how to raise more funding.

Confirming that 24 sections of wall have been prioritised for repair, Ms Collins said that the work could be carried out in sections as funding becomes available

Various councillors are recommending that consideration be given as to how best to imaginatively promote and enhance the walls as a historic feature of the city.

Looking beneath the surface, so to speak, Cllr John Cronin called for the incorporation of the city centre's cellars into Limerick's pedestrianisation programme.

"Just the other day I saw gravel being poured into an open cellar underneath Catherine Street. We've always known that there are lots of cellars underneath William Street, O'Connell Street and other city centre streets and that you could walk for miles underneath these streets - why can't we restore them and use them as they do in other old European cities. We've made so many mistakes already - like putting in houses into King John's Castle - I'm delighted that we're now going to have a committee to oversee the city walls restoration but we should now also look seriously at our cellars."

## Lighten up and create self-belief

HAVE you ever wondered if there was more you could be doing with your life...maybe some unfulfilled dream, but somehow you have not been able to pluck up the courage to take that first step...

If so you may be interested in attending a new two day workshop in Limerick which will be run by Carolyn Curtis, under licence from Susan Jeffers, author of best selling self help book, 'Feel the Fear and Do It Anyway'® which has sold more than five million copies worldwide.

"I discovered this wonderful book about 16 years ago and loved it because it taught the reader new ways of thinking to access the best part of one's self. It helped me to 'lighten up' to create a sense of self belief, so that I felt that whatever happened from now on, I could handle it," says Carolyn who adds:

"Everyone can remember times when we drew on our inner strength to handle a situation, for example, coping well with a family crisis. This workshop is about learning how to stop that negative voice that can sabotage us from accessing that inner strength."

The workshop takes place on June 21 and 22 and booking is available on [www.empoweringworkshops.com](http://www.empoweringworkshops.com)

## For women

THE Hilton Hotel, Ennis Road, is the venue for the next meeting of Women in Business, hosted by the Limerick City Enterprise Board on Wednesday, June 18, from 6.15pm.

This is an opportunity for women who are currently in business and those who are thinking about starting a business to discuss the challenges and issues associated with "starting up" as well as to share the experiences encountered in running a business.

The Limerick based and nationally recognised, fashion designer, Fiona Whyte, will speak. Limerick City Enterprise Board Women in Business provides a platform for women to learn from one another and to support each other in the business environment.

Further information from [info@customersolutions.ie](mailto:info@customersolutions.ie) or [info@customersolutions.ie](mailto:info@customersolutions.ie)

## Job losses in Shannon

FOLLOWING on from the news that Kiely's Electrical is to cease trading with the loss of over 80 jobs, the Mid West area received more bad news on the job front with the announcement that 48 jobs are to be lost in Shannon.

Buffalo Technology Ireland, which assembles, tests and distributes devices used for storing information, announced the cuts on Friday.

The company claim that their Shannon base has suffered losses for the past two years and stated that it was no longer feasible for them to serve the marketplace from its Irish base.

The company's main markets are concentrated in the UK, Germany, Nordic countries and southern Europe, while it is developing in Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

It is understood that the company have begun talks with affected workers on redundancy package and that Shannon Development have been consulted on the company's imminent closure.

Finger food. <http://whitehousepoets.blogspot.com>

### THURSDAY 26

ST Mary's Cathedral hosts Blas concert with Donal Lunny, Karan Casey, Mairtin O'Connor, Iarla O'Lionaird & Invisible Fields, Caoimhin O'Raghallaigh. 8pm.

BUSINESS Discussion Forum hosts (monthly) Book Club 2008, 1-2pm at Pery's Hotel, Glentworth St. Read up relevant business tools; email [g.garvey@lmceib.ie](mailto:g.garvey@lmceib.ie); 312611.

Diary  
Dates