

SOS to save author's house from destruction

by Marie Hobbins

THE long running saga on the future of author Kate O'Brien's home on Mulgrave Street, rumbles on.

Conservation architect, Tom Quinlan, a cousin of the Lloyd brothers, owners of the property, has again called for immediate action to be taken.

On a recent visit to the run-down house, and in the company of this Limerick Post reporter, he was confronted by two men leaving from a side entrance.

The boarded up red brick period house has been deteriorating at an alarming rate.

Beer cans and hypodermic needles are in evidence, and toilets used. Many of the original fireplaces have been removed and are, he points out, "ready to be moved out and sold."

"Addicts are squatting and fire is an ever present danger," observed Mr Quinlan.

He has been liaising with the Lloyds and Limerick City Council, primarily to have the house, which is a protected structure, secured and secondly, to drive forward a plan to restore the house in order to develop a cultural

centre.

At the end of December, City Hall confirmed that it had met with Mark and David Lloyd regarding the condition of the property.

"Mark Lloyd indicated that he is willing to carry out the works required to seal the premises from trespass and also that he would be interested in exploring a proposal regarding the possibility of opening the property to a local group who would run poetry or story telling sessions or something similar, and they would also look after the property. Limerick City Council's only contribution would be introducing the interested parties.

"There has been some fire damage and most likely vandalism, carried out to the inside. Mark

Lloyd indicated that he may be interested in temporarily renovating the premises for a poetry group, if the costs were relatively low.

"The property management section of

Limerick City Council has offered to assist him to direct him on the following: how best he should secure the property against trespass: would it be possible to get a poetry house up and running at a relatively low expense given the current condition of the property: all advice given would be indicative advice only and would be given without prejudice - this

would be confirmed in writing to Mr Lloyd". It has been confirmed that Mark Lloyd indicated that he, and his brothers, are hoping to sell the property.

It is also confirmed that the Fire Service will

meet with Mark Lloyd, his contractor, and their department management section on site, to advise on the points outlined and to evaluate if it would be worth the Lloyds engaging engineers to establish if the property could be remedied at relatively low costs, or is this idea best discounted.

Pointing out that under instruction from the Fire Chief, the city council could take responsibility for securing the building, Cllr Jim Long said that they had made an offer for the building to the Lloyds, which, he claimed, had been rejected.

"If the owners don't sell, a dereliction order could be put on it and then the council could CPO the property, which they could then have restored, possibly with the help of Limerick Civic Trust and the Heritage Council

"However, the council has no authority to board up the house - it can only do so with the permission of the Lloyd family and I feel the owners should be called on to engage immediately with the council in a positive way and agree to have it secured, in order to save it from being destroyed".

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Shortt trained Monks to tackle gardai in charity match

Fr. Paulus of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, event organiser Jamie Daly, and Andy Lee, launching the event in Moyross.



MOYROSS native, Jamie Daly, is organising a charity soccer match between the Franciscan Friars in Moyross, coached by comedian Pat Shortt, and the gardai, on Sunday, May 16, at Shelbourne Park.

The Charity Cup Match hopes to raise money for Irish Cancer Research and Special Olympics.

Jamie explained that memories of the end of his grandmother's life in Milford Hospice inspired him to organise the game, which is set to involve fellow Moyross men Keith Earls and soccer star Bobby Ryan.

He said, "I was born in Moyross and I am proud of my home and my family. I am often upset by the way in which Moyross is portrayed in the media as a no-go gangland area; this does not reflect the majority of people who live here

"On the day, we will have Moyross hero, Bobby Ryan (formerly of Dunfermline Athletic now with Galway United), while Keith Earls (of Munster and Ireland fame), hopes to be available. Pat Shortt has agreed to coach the Monks and there are a lot more celebrities and special guests to be confirmed".

He expects that the game will do more than just raise money for Cancer Research and Special Olympics; "It is my hope that it will demonstrate to the wider community in Limerick that Moyross is a community that cares".

Jamie also thanked the main sponsors, the Moyross Resident's Alliance, Limerick City Taxi's and Hassett's Sports Bar for helping to kick-start things by donating over €2,000.

"I would also like to thank the Moyross B-Team for all their support, Limerick City Council and Shelbourne AFC for use of the pitch, and thanks to the Northside Regeneration Agency for offering to donate €100".

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