

Limerick Leader

23/02/2002  
p. 9.

Museum where it faces onto the river

# Hunting down the histories behind beautiful artefacts

**F**OR retired anaesthetist, Dr John McCormack, The Hunt Museum is not only a beautiful building which houses a wonderful collection of artefacts, it's also his social outlet where he can enjoy a few hours every day.

He is one of a total of around 40 docants (guides) in the museum and he pops in there every day, whether needed that day or not.

"If I'm needed to take a group around the museum I do, but I also love to call in and have a coffee or have a read in the library. It's a tremendous outlet for me and it gets me out and about every day," he smiled.

The Hunt Museum, which celebrated its fifth birthday at the weekend, is housed in the beautiful old Customs House building.

the museum the then director, Mairead Dunleavy initiated the docent project, which trained volunteer guides.

And ever since the doctor has been building on his knowledge of the museum and the artefacts housed in it.

"You need to do a lot of research on pieces and I find this a lot of fun to do," he enthused.

Dr McCormack's areas of particular interest are ceramics and silverware, especially Limerick silver.

The Hunt collection is an internationally important collection of some 2,000 original works of art and antiquity. It is a personal collection formed by John and Gertrude Hunt who selected each piece according to the quality of its design, craftsmanship and artistic merit from all periods of the past, from the Stone Age to the 20th Century.

The ground floor shows religious art and includes The Treasury display, the



● Dr John has a special interest in silver

"You need to do a lot of research on pieces and I find this a lot of fun to do."

ing which was built in 1789 facing onto the river. Regarded as the finest example of 18th Century architecture in Limerick, the Custom House is an elegant Palladian-style building.

Originally costing £8,000 in 1769, the restoration and extension of the Custom House cost £2.9 million in 1996/97.

Originally from Dublin, Dr McCormack, who worked in both Barrington's and St John's Hospitals has been living in Limerick since 1951 in Meadowvale, Raheen.

He has been a volunteer guide at The Hunt Museum since 1994.

"I spent a year in Dublin in 1990 and during that time I attended a course in fine art and antiques and that multiplied my interest in the subject," he explained.

"When I got involved in

Crucifix Collection and stained glass.

The first floor examines the development of the decorative arts from the Medieval period through the Renaissance to the Age of Enlightenment.

The second floor houses the archaeological collections, which include material from the ancient civilisations of Egypt, Greece and Rome together with European and Irish pieces. This floor also contains the Jewellery Gallery.

Among the important pieces in the collection are the personal seal of Charles I of England, the Mary Queen of Scots Cross, a coin reserved since the Middle Ages as being of 'the 30 pieces of Silver' and a bronze horse by Leonardo da Vinci. There are also paintings by Renoir, Picasso, O'Connor and Yeats.

Log  
Kilfergus Bally  
Kilmoulun Kno  
Bilboa Curr  
Rec  
Kilfynn Cool  
The Forest Service is providing information in respect of



## ISME

### AN ISMI FITZPATRICK Thursday, 2

There is a legal requirement, to provide for safety of tractors and visitors. This is done and keep these

The purpose of this workshop is to provide a standing of safety management. Its focus will be practical.

Comprehensive documentation issues and a sample Safety Participants are encouraged to bring their workplace for discussion.

**WHO IS THE WORKS**  
Owner Managers and Safety Personnel who are

**WHAT IS THE OBJECT**  
After the workshop, participants will receive a Safety Statement and

**DURATION:**  
One full day, 9.30 a.m.

**CONTENT:**  
• Introduction  
• Legal Requirements  
• Need for Safety Management  
• Costs of Safety  
• Safety Statements  
• Responsibilities  
• Consultation  
• Training

**COST:**  
€135 for members, €

For further information please call 01- form back 1

**DO**  
**Stop Smoking**  
**Lose Weight**  
Unique help to stop smoking  
**GRANT**  
Wednesday, 6th  
**WOODLANDS**  
Thursday, 7th  
For your appointment  
**JOHN CLE**