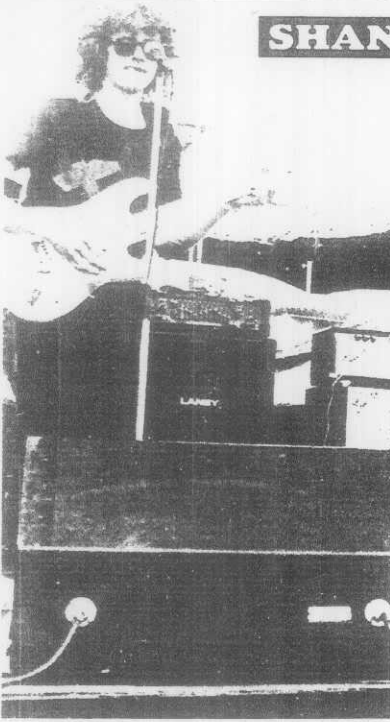


# SHANNONSSIDE BAND AT THE BOWIE GIG



The Groove in action (from left): Alan Cheevers, lead guitar and backing vocals; Bryan Healy, bass guitar and backing vocals; Brendan Wallace, drums; Paul Healy, lead guitar and lead vocals, and Charlie Smyth, trumpet.



Photos: OWEN SOUTH



Report: SHANE FOLEY



Tim Nolan, Mitchelstown, and Karen Ryan, Ardnacrusha, at Slane.



From left: Tracey Gleeson, Ger Doyle and Alma Grace, all from Castletroy.



John Costello, Lynwood Park, and Geraldine Stack, Ballykeeffe.



Jeff Grace and Bernie Finley enjoying the Bowie concert at Slane.

## Limerick in The Groove at Slane

SATURDAY, JULY 11th, will remain very special in the memories of five Limerick musicians, not to mention 50,000 or so rock fans, as the day when that most charismatic of performers — the Glass Spiderman, David Bowie — came for the first time ever to Ireland and simply rocked Slane out of its socks.

It will also go down as the day Limerick rock band The Groove graduated from playing small clubs to performing at what has now become one of the most successful annual rock events ever in Ireland in a venue that can only be described as a truly magnificent natural amphitheatre which is ideally suited for the purpose of staging mega-gigs.

### Atmosphere highly charged

The atmosphere at the concert was, as could be expected, festive and highly charged, and the weather, which at times threatened to become inclement, decided to be kind except for one or two tiny showers which in no way dampened the enthusiasm of the day.

From about noon the crowd were coming into the site and also from this time the activity on the huge stage was steadily increasing.

As the time rapidly approached 3 p.m. the crowd, which by now was numerically far healthier, grew very expectant.

At exactly 2.50 p.m. an announcement heralded the arrival of Limerick's own The Groove on stage. They received a great



Charlie Smyth on trumpet with The Groove.

reception from the crowd and especially from a fair sized Limerick contingent in front of the stage. Particularly enthusiastic were a group who had a large black and white banner simply reading "The Groove".

They started their set with a really good slow song called "Water from the Moon" and then quickly proceeded to pick up the tempo with a much more energetic number called "No Bones".

After this song Paul Healy, lead singer and guitarist, thanked the crowd for their appreciative reception and also for voting for them in the Borderline EMI/HMV Young Band of '87. He then introduced the next song which, to the joy of the audience, was their debut single "Blue Blue Monday".

This was particularly well received and must augur well for the progress of the single into the Irish Top 30. It has been receiving extensive air-play on RTE Radio 2 and is getting many favourable comments from the Radio 2 DJs.

They carried on with two songs, "Eyes of the World" and "Shouting at the Crowd", but then, sadly, they had to depart the stage

although luckily not before playing the song which has become synonymous with Groove gigs over the past 18 months or so — a cover-version of The Cure's classic "A Forrester" on which lead guitarist Alan Cheevers takes over the singing duties and which always goes down a treat.

### The power the enthusiasm

The power, enthusiasm and usually elongated arrangement of this song was a fitting note on which to leave the stage and this left the audience primed for what was to follow.

The road crew were very well rehearsed and the time between the acts wasn't excessive.

Aslan, the Dublin band, followed The Groove and played a very professional set, the highlight of which was "Lovin' Me Lately" which really stirred up the crowd.

Big Country followed but, unfortunately, in my estimation, came in a poor fourth place out of the four acts appearing on the day. They showed little innovation and just seemed to plough through single after single. All very boring for this writer I'm afraid!

At approximately 6.30 p.m. the man the multitudes came to gaze upon appeared and as he descended from the head of his giant spider the very foundations of Slane Castle shook with the ferocity and exuberance of the welcome.

Dressed in a suitably loud red suit and looking remarkably youthful, David Bowie held his audience, as a superstar would be expected to do, in the palm of his

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## Glass Spiderman on stage



Bowie weaves his magic thread.



Ray Fean (left) and Tom Jones of Limerick band Tuesday Blue listening to The Groove.



Kevin Barry, Ballinacurra, and Lisa McCaffrey, Clareview.



The Groove supporters from Limerick.



Roy Morgan, Norwood Park.



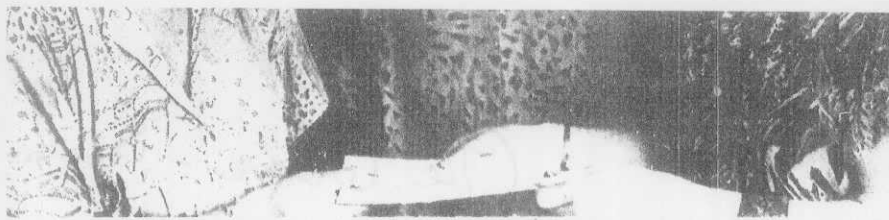
On the way out: a fan who fainted.



Brian Kelly, Garryowen.

Celebrating at Slane on Saturday.





Emma McKeon, (left) and Margaret Hogan (centre), of Mary Smith Ireland Ltd, Ballycasey, presenting a cheque to Mary Jackman, president, Adare Zonta Club, to be used towards the purchase of an ice making machine for Milford Hospice. The machine has since been purchased and handed over to the hospice.



A finalist in the 32-county Unidare Prize competition for final year engineering students, Mr. Ben Sheahan (centre), of the NIHE Limerick is pictured at the finals in Dublin with his brother Con Sheahan and Mr. Jack Simpson, marketing manager, Unidare. His project that placed him among the nine finalists, was entitled "Development of a low cost vision system for flexible manufacturing systems".

## The Groove at Slane

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The Groove's manager, Bob O'Connell, directing operations from backstage.

hand and, for me at any rate, deserves all the accolades which have been showered upon him down through the years. His was a truly superb performance on the day. The vision involved in putting such a show together requires some degree of genius.

His band, who included Peter Frampton on lead guitar, performed impeccably and the dance troupe who appeared with him were superbly choreographed, innovative and simply very good and also very different to watch.

This was a superb day and one which was capped for me by two

things — seeing Bowie perform "Heroes" and, as a Limerick person, the great performance of The Groove.

### QUOTES FROM THE CROWD

● Gearoid Mulcahy, Granville Park: "This was a magnificent day but it was slightly hard to believe that after buying all his albums and listening to them in the front room for so long it was actually 'the man himself' up there on stage. The Groove really did the business as well".

● Dorothy McInerney, Railway House, Singland: "The atmosphere, the crowd and just the day in general was absolutely great".

● Roy Morgan, Norwood Park: "The Groove's choice of opening song was strange — a slow one — but they were great. Bowie slightly disappointed me because he didn't play as much of his oldies as he said he would on the radio and his new stuff takes a bit of getting used to and after saying that, he was still brilliant".

### AND FINALLY

● Alan Cheevers, lead guitarist, The Groove, said, after a short pause: "What more can I say... a day to remember forever".

needed cash "what we really need is material contributions from businesses," said Winnifred Smith. The hall which is also used by marshal arts enthusiasts is the only training centre the Red Cross owns in Limerick so it is imperative that this one centre provides adequate facilities for the 50 member group. As yet the plans remain on paper.

### Mayomens cycle

□ THE Mayo Association are this Saturday sending a team of cyclists to Galway to raise funds for local handicapped institutions.

Six cyclists will leave the Granary at 9.45 a.m. They will be sent on their way by Mayor Tim Loddin and should arrive in Galway around 5 p.m.

The funds raised will go to Bawnmore, Lisnagry, and St. Gabriel's. All public support is welcome.



Mary Jackman (second from left) presenting an ice making machine to the hospice. Included also are



Rita Clancy (left), Lee Estlin



Enjoying the Plassey Race, Hickey, Sarah O'Mahoney