

ner rather than later. Perhaps one of the most pleasing aspects of Tuesday's occasion is the sight of so many former members of the council in attendance - mostly men, of course, but including the warmly received Nancy Wheeler, only women elected back in 1979. What was the year that saw the political emergence of the doubttable Eddie Wade, whose emotion this week spoke volumes for the use of camaraderie that existed among the political class at County Hall - that is, when they were not going through one another for shorts over matters of import like potholes and public lighting. Next week brings a similar occasion at City Hall and the sense of history will be all the greater among the members of the chamber, elected to represent a city that received its charter from King John I in 1197. We can expect poignancy even, too, and it's fair to say that resistance within the City Council over the new arrangements was not inconsiderable, so the notions may be stronger. From a very stage, this newspaper strongly welcomed the merger of the city and county - and recent events at City Hall in particular have

Union on attaining their 50th founding anniversary and on their wonderful celebratory concert in ULCH on Good Friday. The group's contribution to the musical culture of the city down the years has been immense, and it is indeed a happy coincidence that the Union's anniversary coincides with the city's Year of Culture.

What a happy idea to revive Mozart's wonderful Requiem, the choir's debut performance way back in 1964. Also, Verdi's awe-inspiring Stabat Mater was given full justice by the 100-plus choir. Congratulations to Mary Coll and Fiona Linnane on the first public performance of their evocative Spirestone, described as a song for the city.

Two of my greatest musical experiences were with the choir way back in 1966 and 1967 respectively when we sang Verdi's Requiem in St Mary's Cathedral and Beethoven's Missa Solemnis in the late lamented Savoy. My experiences have been replicated I'm sure by numerous choristers over the past 50 years.

The choir has been a great ambassador, at home and abroad, for their city and country over the years and have given music lovers great pleasure in all that time.

Long may they continue to do so.

**DENIS O'SHAUGHNESSY**

JANEMOUNT PARK, CORBALLY, LIMERICK

## Did Deputy Collins do his reading?

DEPUTY Niall Collins was in such a rush to print with a statement on a Teagasc report on towns that he did not bother reading even the preamble accompanying the report.

If he had he would have noticed that the report is based on a comparison between the 2006 and the 2011 Census.

Guess what government has been in power these years? Surprise, surprise it's Fianna Fail, Deputy Collins' party. Are the Dublin-based ministers he castigates his former colleagues in Government?

How successful was he in highlighting the plight of rural towns? He was, after all, TD for the towns of Abbeyfeale and Rathkeale!

Furthermore Professor O'Donoghue

will help to fill this policy vacuum.

What the Teagasc Report has done is establish a basis for further research. Based on the Census returns, one could argue that the criteria they use is limited and may be subject to distortion. It is difficult to see how Adare, which does not have a second-level school, or a factory, and has only a limited garda presence, medium-sized supermarkets is a stronger town than Abbeyfeale with a large second-level school, a factory employing about 800 people, several large supermarkets and a good range of other amenities and administrative functions!

The league of towns mentions Glin but not Foynes or Askeaton!

**MARY KELLY**

NEWCASTLE WEST, CO LIMERICK

## Dancehall days - can you take us back?

THE City of Culture Are You Dancing? project is appealing to local people who might be interested in contributing towards an exhibition. It will feature old photos and memorabilia of the dance and music scene in Limerick. The exhibition will run in the Stella Bingo (formerly

any old photos from their dancing days, we would love to have them feature in the exhibition. We will make a copy of the photos on the spot and give them straight back to people. Anyone who has photos featured will be also acknowledged in the exhibition.

The exhibition will be part of a series of events celebrating the dancehalls days in Limerick this year. An outdoor concert reliving the dancing scene in Limerick will take place on Sunday June 22 in John's Square.

In addition, free ballroom and jive dance classes have been running around the city since the beginning of April and, after a short break for Easter, will resume in the Limerick Milk Market this Sunday at 1pm. Other venues include St. John's Pavilion, St. Lelia's Hall in Ballynanty and Southill Area Centre. Anyone with an interest in learning ballroom and jive dancing is welcome and the classes are open to people of all ages and dance abilities.

**DAVID STUDER**

ARE YOU DANCING? REMEMBERING LIMERICK'S DANCEHALLS. UNIT 25A, TAIT BUSINESS CENTRE, DOMINIC STREET, LIMERICK

TELEPHONE: 061-419388

EMAIL: LIMERICKDANCEHALLS@GMAIL.COM



Glory days: a poster for The Monarchs showband, fronted by the voice of the legendary Tommy Drennan, during an American tour back in 1968. See David Studer's letter, above

we'd love to hear from you.

EMAIL: [letters@limerickleader.ie](mailto:letters@limerickleader.ie)

WRITE: Letters to the Editor, Limerick Leader, 54 O'Connell Street, Limerick

Please supply full contact details. In some cases a name may be withheld at the discretion of the editor but contact details must be included. Letters may be edited for length

## Exit Moyes, not so full of the joys

A verse on the departure of David Moyes from Man Utd:

*And so to beleaguered Man U  
The reds are indeed feeling blue  
Moyes in the bin  
Giggys is in  
Can he lift the demoralised crew?*

**JOHN LEAHY**

CEDARVILLE, ABBEYFEALE, CO LIMERICK

## Give our post offices more responsibility

THE possible closures of post offices, throughout Limerick and the rest of Ireland is unacceptable and strikes another blow to what remains of an already decimated fabric of rural Ireland, that has seen the closure of local banks, garda stations, health clinics and also sees many schools under threat.

There is no reason why more business cannot be directed towards post offices instead of taking it away and it should continue to be the primary payment option for social welfare payments and pensions. A thorough and transparent cost benefit analysis should be carried out to ascertain the potential damage that could be caused by these closures, both socially and economically to the overall community. It is time that our rural government politicians woke up to the reality of what is happening around them.

**CHRISTY KELLY**

TEMPLEGLANTINE, CO LIMERICK

EX: LIMERICK LEADER

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