

Limerick City of Culture and we are going to continue it on every year and it is nice thing to see people from all over the country and from overseas getting involved," said Hughie Ryan (65), Farranshona, president of the ONE's Patrick Sarsfield Branch.

Despite, showery weather conditions, veterans from Ireland, Britain, France, Norway, Poland and the United States took part in the parade from Brian Boru Square (outside City Hall) to Pery Square past the reviewing stand at Sarsfield Credit Union.

"I think it's fantastic, it's

Some of those taking part in the 2015 Veterans International Parade stand to attention during the wreath-laying ceremony at Pery Square on Sunday morning

been a great event and it has brought us all together," said Australian national Phil Hamilton (48), who served with the French Foreign Legion between 1989 and 2004.

Christy Kelleher (52), who served with the Clare 22nd battalion at Sarsfield Barracks said events like the Veterans International Parade are hugely important to ex-servicemen.

"There is great camaraderie between us all, it is a community of people who served and meet talk about things that happened and it's interesting to meet old comrades who I haven't met in a few years.

Cllr Michael Sheahan, mayor of the metropolitan district, said he hopes the event can continue to grow in the years to come.

"It's an absolutely wonderful event, there has been

a great turnout of people from all over the world, the laying of the wreaths was very emotional and poignant and we just have to remember all those great people who fought and died in the defence of freedom all over the world," he said.

Following yesterday's parade a memorial was unveiled in Coonagh to honour 11 men from the village who died in Gallipoli 100 years ago.

Frank Harty, Caherdavin; Robert Mulrooney, Ballinacurra; Martin Kiely, Hyde Road; Albert Cullen, Woodlawn Park and Frank Quaid, Dooradoyle



Member of the Polish Scouting Association in Ireland attended the 2015 Veterans International Parade

Sony sign Hermitage Green

LIMERICK band Hermitage Green have signed a record deal with Sony, writes Alan Owens.

The five piece folk rock outfit signed this week after almost three months of wooing by the Sony Ireland subsidiary of the worldwide label. The deal is for one album, with the option of four more to follow potentially.

"We are delighted," said Barry Murphy, part of the band with brother Dan, Darragh Griffin, Darragh Graham and Dermot Sheedy.

"We met the whole team, they are all very sound - they haven't signed many artists in the last few years and they are promising that they have got their whole team behind us.

"It was enough for us to hear really. They are keen getting us out there and touring, which under the whole Sony umbrella will be pretty class.



Darragh Graham pops the cork as Barry Murphy, Darragh Griffin, Dermot Sheedy and Dan Murphy duck for cover in Sony

It is very exciting."

The group have evolved from playing back room gigs in older Murphy Brian's Currageer pub to a major touring outfit and the band's signature was much sought after.

"We knew ourselves that, I don't if we could say that

we were ready, but we just feel that we have stepped up a gear ourselves with writing," said Barry. "We are a bit more equipped now with the amount of songs we have, and we are ready to go."

First up is new single Jenny, out on release on June 9.

The rise and rise of Limerick's Hermitage Green to major deal

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FOUR years ago Darragh Griffin took a break from teaching to do a Masters in Irish Music in UL. A few weeks ago he was on stage in Dubai. Now his band Hermitage Green has signed a record deal with Sony.

"It's a bit crazy alright, sometimes I have to pinch myself," he says.

For a band that started out as five friends doing covers in Limerick pubs, it has been quite a journey.

"When I was younger I thought it was impossible, but we wound up with a lot of gigs on our plate pretty early on," Darragh says.

For vocalist and instrumentalist Dan Murphy, it is a sweet moment: "Although I studied music in college, it's

such an unsustainable industry that none of us had ever expected to be successful at it."

They stand as one of the few groups in recent years that have been able to grow from a large local following into a consistently touring and dedicated band.

"None of us has had any permanent work in the last three years outside of music," Darragh says.

"The hardest part is developing a fan base. You just have to be able to write good songs, catchy recognisable stuff that people will sing back to you."

In the modern era it isn't enough to tick the traditional boxes, you have to be able to adapt to the direction society is going in. Something Hermitage Green are well aware of.

"You need to have a good so-

cial media presence. We have our initial videos on YouTube to thank for getting us out there," Darragh explains.

"We are of the internet generation and people have endless options at their fingertips with smartphones and laptops. Sometimes writing an amazing song isn't enough, you've got to grab people by the scruff of the neck," Dan said.

"As far as getting to the 'next level', I genuinely think it's a very difficult thing to do without the marketing and financial backing of a major record label."

It has not been easy for them to get signed. They've spent the last four years developing a fan base, touring the world and refining their 'raw' sound to suit the airwaves.

This is just the beginning.