**Mesolithic boat find at Bunratty**

By **DYMPHNA BRACKEN**

A MESOLITHIC boat dating back to 4800 BC has been discovered on the south bank of the Shannon at Bunratty.

Portion of a human skull which was discovered close to the boat is currently being analysed in England to determine age and likely diet.

Limerick Harbour Commissioners have agreed to sponsor further publication of the findings.

The boat measures about five metres in length and is 60 to 70cm wide.

According to experts in the Department of Arts Culture and the Gaeltacht, it was carved around 6,000 years ago from a single piece of straight-grained popular and was fashioned to have a curved bow and a straight stern.

The marks of the stone tools used to carve the boat can still be seen on areas of the wood.

The intention seems to have been to produce a light, manoeuvrable craft which would have been highly suitable for use amongst the creeks and water-channels of the estuary, but would have been quite unsuitable for the open sea.

There are absolutely no parallels for the Carrigtwohill boat anywhere else in this country, it is quite unique in that regard. It does compare well, however, with boats used in Denmark around the 4800 BC.

Research by the Discovery Programme, attached to the Department revealed at this week’s meeting of Limerick Harbour Commissioners finds that the settlement here may have been found.

Information on the site will be published in the **Archeology Ireland** Spring edition.

--

**IN MEMORIAM**

McDONNELL (Ninth Anniversary)

In loving memory of a dear husband; Michael (Bino) McDonnell, late of 18 South Claughan Road, Garryowen, Limerick, who died on February 26, 1988. R.I.P. Mass will be offered at 7 p.m. on February 25, in St. John’s Cathedral.

As I sit here, with my memories, I think of the days gone by. Of times we had together.

Although those days are gone forever, we will never be apart. May you be gone from this world but never from my heart.

And everthing that is you, I keep in my prayers.

To hear your voice and see your smile.

To stand tall, with you always.

To be together in the same way.

Sally miss you by your loving wife, Lily

---

Claire Kirby and Michelle Murphy, Corbally, with the Civil Defence at the opening of the Hunt Museum. (Left)