Air quality over city is good: study

DESPITE worries about increasing incidents of smog, the levels of air quality over Limerick are quite good.

This was the reassuring conclusion of extensive research carried out by two young schoolboys.

Ross Cooney and Darran Shortt, of St Eunan’s Community School, carried out the research for their entry in the Aer Lingus Young Scientist’s Competition, held earlier this month in Dublin.

The two became concerned about the levels of air pollution in the region, because Limerick records show rising levels of asthma and respiratory diseases. This rise is in line with other regions around the country.

The two students developed a sophisticated air-monitoring and control system over the past year.

The normal weather conditions were recorded for barometric pressure, rainfall, temperature, wind direction and speed. Then more sophisticated equipment was used to analyze air samples.

While the work was under the direction of Dr. Michael Walsh of Limerick Corporation.

The results displayed in the exhibition in Dublin, and at the school’s open day on Monday last, showed surprisingly good levels of air quality over Limerick.

It is intended that the project will monitor air quality levels over three years, so the study will continue with the development of a more detailed analysis of data to see if the initial results hold up.

110 skeletons found in St Mary’s Parish ‘dig’

By EUGENE PHELAN

ARCHAEOLOGISTS involved in the dig at the old Franciscan Abbey in St Mary’s Parish have recovered the remains of 110 people, including one man who died from a gun shot wound.

“We found the musket ball in his spine, and it would appear that this is what he died from,” explained Flor Hurley, director of the dig.

“It is one of the more interesting discoveries. The musket ball appears to have hit him in the front and through to his spine,” added Flor.

In a few weeks time, the dig is due to finish and eventually the area will be covered in as work starts on the €4 million Northern Ring road.

“When the dig started, a few skeletons were found, but Flor and his colleagues never imagined there would be so many remains on the site,” said Flor.

He is one of 10 archaeologists from around the country working on the excavation at the friary, which dates back to 1267.

He reckons that the skeletons found date from the 1600s to 1720 and that they were actually buried in an old church.

“We have found a decorated carved column which convincingly this was part of the church,” said Flor.

“Obviously when they were buried in the church after it ceased to be used, I believe that we are here at the South West corner of the church,” said Flor.

Later the site was used for the old court house and the lane nearby is known as Court House. The fact that there were so many skeletons here slowed up the work,” explained Flor.

“All the remains will be sent off for analysis to determine, age, sex and cause of death,” Flor added.

“We started work on October 31 and have had the time extended since, and we will be here at least until the end of January,” added Flor.

At the launch of the Jersey ‘96 brochure at the Henry Cecil - Laura Minihan, Manion Travel, Ennis; Nora Flannery, Creation Travel; David de Carteret, marketing director, Jersey Travel; Christine Mullen, Des Ryan Travel, and Noelle O’Donovan, Paul Buckley Travel.