

Rich architectural heritage of county celebrated in new book

■ Minister says 'people of County Limerick can be extremely proud' of rich and varied built heritage

Aine Fitzgerald

A NEW book aimed at encouraging a greater appreciation of the built heritage of County Limerick has been launched.

Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Jimmy Deenihan, TD, launched his Department's Architectural Heritage Survey of County Limerick and the associated book, *An Introduction to the Architectural Heritage of County Limerick* at a special event hosted by Limerick County Council, with invited guests.

The book is the 26th to be launched in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) series.

The 27th, covering County Galway, will be launched later this month.

"The people of County Limerick can be extremely proud of the rich and varied architectural heritage of their county," said Minister Deenihan at the event.

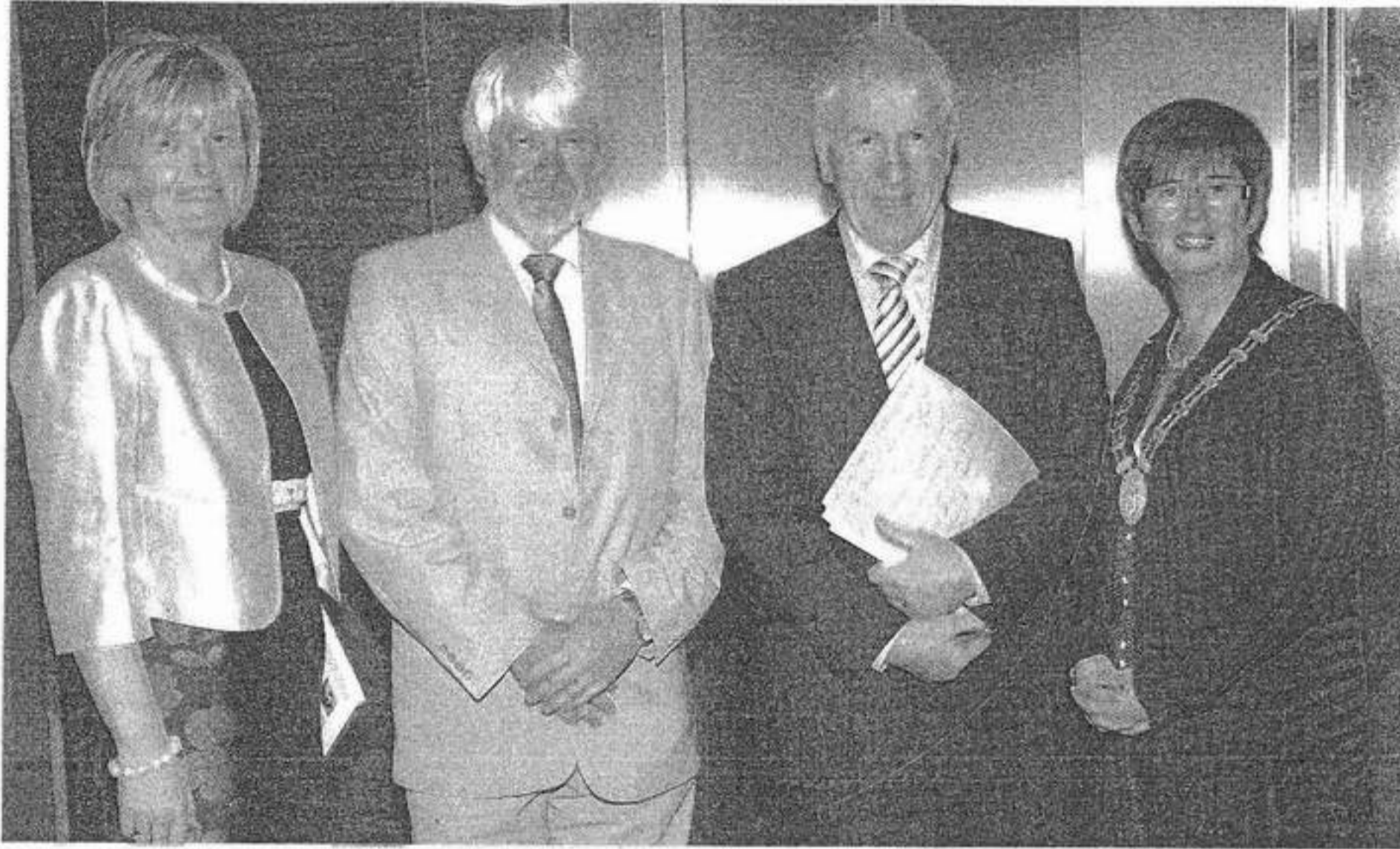
The County Limerick architectural heritage survey documents the built heritage of County Limerick spanning the period from 1700 to the present day.

A wide variety of structures are included, ranging from those of imposing design to those of simple construction, illustrating the diverse and extensive architectural heritage that can be found in Limerick.

The Minister spoke in some detail about the variety and depth of County Limerick's rich architectural heritage.

"To understand a region's buildings, you have to understand its landscape," he said.

"Limerick is very much part of the west of Ireland but without an Atlantic coast, it is a hybrid place: part inland county



Jimmy Deenihan TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht with Josephine Cotter-Coughlan, Director of Services, Limerick County Council, Tomás Cassidy, Conservation Officer, Limerick County Council and Cllr Mary Harty, Cathaoirleach of Limerick County Council at the County Hall, Dooradoyle, where the minister launched the book 'An Introduction to the Architectural Heritage of County Limerick'. PICTURES: DAVE GAYNOR



Kevin Holmes, NMA Architects, Limerick, Kevin Clancy, Kevin Mullery and Ger Neville of Punch Consulting Engineers

but made maritime by the extensive Shannon estuary," he continued.

Minister Deenihan also referenced the architectural heritage pertaining to the Carnegie Libraries and the industrialisation of butter production in County Limerick in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The Minister placed

particular emphasis on acknowledging that "the vast majority of the buildings included in the survey are in private ownership and their care naturally rests with their owners".

"That so much of our shared architectural heritage has survived is testament to their care, commitment and

interest," he said. Minister Deenihan concluded by conveying his thanks to everyone involved in completing the survey and preparing the publication.

In particular, he thanked all the owners and occupiers for allowing a record to be made of their properties for the



Pat Fogarty, Cappamore, Bridget and Pat Moran, Castleconnell and Seamus Flynn, Thornfield, Lisnagry, at the launch

survey. The Architectural Inventory of County Limerick took place in three stages: East Limerick (from the city eastwards) in 2008; West Limerick (from Adare westwards) in 2009 and South Limerick (from Abbeyfeale southwards) in 2010.

Limerick city was

surveyed separately in 2007. A total of 1320 structures were deemed worthy of protection. The inventory is not exhaustive and, over time, other buildings and structures of merit will no doubt come to light.

The purpose of the book is to explore the social and historical context of the buildings and structures

and so to encourage a greater appreciation of the built heritage of County Limerick.

The publication, *An Introduction to the Architectural Heritage of County Limerick*, contains numerous photographs and illustrations including aerial shots of County Limerick structures dating from as far back as pre 1700 to the present day.

A brief history and description accompanies each photograph and illustration.

Amongst the most eye-catching illustrations are a view from the Ballyhoura Mountains showing Oliver's Folly and Castle Oliver, an aerial view of Askeaton Castle (13th and 15th Centuries), an aerial view of Bouchier's Castle, Lough Gur (16th Century), an internal shot of St John's Church of Ireland Church in Abington, and Ash Hill Towers in Kilmallock.

There is also a series of photos of picturesque thatched cottages around the county. A total of 1,320 structures in the County Limerick NIAH survey are rated as being of regional or higher architectural importance.

Under planning legislation, Minister Deenihan will be recommending to Limerick County Council that these structures be included in the Record of Protected Structures.

The publication 'An Introduction to the Architectural Heritage of County Limerick' is available from the Government Publications Sales Office, Molesworth Street, Dublin 3, Irish bookshops or online from www.wordwellbooks.com and is priced at €12.

The full NIAH survey, including County Limerick, is free to access on www.buildingsofireland.ie.

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