

City Gallery of Art to extend on three sides

■ Plans for a social space, educational area and exhibition areas

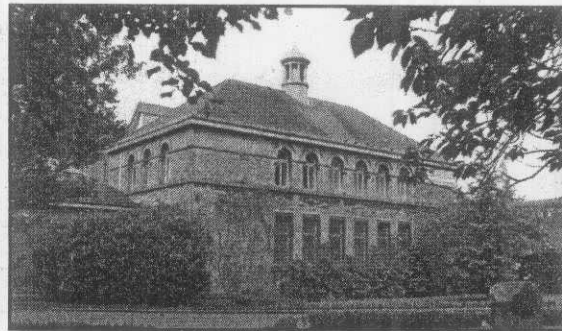
Anne Sheridan

CONTRACTS to begin three-fold extensions of the premises of Limerick City Gallery of Art are expected to be signed in the coming months.

The construction project has now gone to tender, and the work, which was expected to cost in the region of 2m, will now be considerably less, according to Pippa Little, the gallery's acting director and curator.

The premises will be expanded at three sides of the building in the People's Park, and once built will provide a cafe/social space, an education/community area, and also possibly a specialist children's collection.

Ms Little said the additional space will allow them to re-hang the



Limerick City Gallery of Art, and right, Pippa Little, acting director and curator

gallery's permanent collection, which has been vastly over-crowded in recent years, and place some items in storage.

Funding for the works will be sourced from the Government's Access II fund, as well as from Limerick City Council.

However, limited funding for the arts and the

Government's moratorium on hiring staff in the public sector, has prevented the gallery from appointing a new director.

Mike Fitzpatrick, the former director, has recently taken up a new position as director of Limerick College of Art & Design, and he has not been replaced at the city



gallery. Speaking at Limerick City Council's cultural and sporting policy committee, Ms Little outlined that the gallery has had many successes in the past year.

The gallery is now drawing up to 30,000 visitors this year, and a recent survey undertaken during the Noughties but Nice exhibition of 21st century Irish artists revealed that 51 per cent of those surveyed were new visitors to the gallery.

However, Independent

Cllr Kathleen Leddin threw cold water on the upcoming ev+a exhibition of contemporary art.

"I see very little in ev+a bar broken chairs and things which people like me just don't get," said Cllr Leddin.

However, Ms Little said she believed "there is something for everyone" in ev+a.

The most recent exhibition, Noughties but Nice, will run until Sunday, December 20.

This Thursday, December 10, will see the launch of artist David Lilburn's new book in the gallery. Entitled Walking Drawing Making Memory, it will feature Mr Lilburn's panoramic drypoint prints and explore ideas about place and memory through the graphic processes of drawing and printmaking.

CHRONICLE NEWS BRIEFS

Instore gives support to Limerick Animal Welfare

LIMERICK based furniture company Instore have launched a Christmas charity campaign to support Limerick's Animal Welfare sanctuary.

The 'Christmas Bauble' campaign will see Instore sell specially crafted Christmas tree baubles on behalf of the local charity.

"We are very aware of the community around us and we feel that it is our duty to contribute in any way we can," said Oliver Moloney, CEO of Instore.

"We felt that the 'Christmas Bauble' campaign was a great way of doing this, people get a fabulous decoration and along with that a feel good factor

from donating to charity," added Mr Moloney.

Limerick Animal Welfare are approaching one of their busiest times of the year, and Jodie Hayward said the charity was "delighted" that Instore would be supporting them.

"We are delighted that Instore have chosen our charity to benefit from the Christmas bauble campaign," said Ms Hayward.

"It is a wonderful idea and it comes at the perfect time for our centre as people have a tendency to abandon their pets at this time of year. It is initiatives like this that help us to continue this important work."

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PHONE: 061-214500

EMAIL: news@limerickchronicle.ie advertising@limerickleader.ie

Gardai appeal for information on missing man

David Hurley

GARDAI have renewed their appeal for information on the whereabouts of Francis Green who has not been seen for more than ten days.

The Forty-eight year old, who is



carrying out," said Det Sgt Eamon O'Neill of the crime office at Henry Street garda station.

The Shannon-based coastguard helicopter assisted in the search operation at the weekend and uniformed gardai have conducted house to house inquiries in the

teely in east Limerick but he had been living in the city for some time. He is described as being five foot eight in height and of slight build.

He has brown receding hair and a moustache and when last seen he was wearing light jeans, a dark

Moylish firm to invest €450,000 in R&D

LIMERICK company, IC Mask Design, is to invest almost half a million euro

conductor companies worldwide," said Fergal Brosnan, CEO of IC Mask