

Fraud case is sent for trial

A MOLDOVAN man charged in connection with an alleged global ATM fraud operation is to stand trial at Limerick Circuit Court later this year.

Vitalii Pascari, 33, with an address at River Road, Rhebogue, faces a total of eight charges under the Theft and Fraud Offences Act.

The charges relate to the discovery of a workshop for the manufacture of forged bank skimming devices and forged-bank, visa and gift cards at a house in Rhebogue on February 25 last.

Mr Vitalli was remanded in custody pending his appearance before the circuit court.

Gardai attend public clinics

MEMBERS of An Garda Síochána will be attending public clinics at the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Community Centre throughout the month of July.

Residents from the parish will be able to meet wírgardai and highlight issues of concern during the clinics which will take place for an hour each Monday and Thursday.

Practical crime prevention advice will also be given out at the clinics.

More details about the clinics can be obtained by contacting reception at the community centre on (061) 228596.

Road closure is slammed

CITY councillor Joe Leddin has criticised the decision of the National Roads Authority to begin major road-works on the main road to Kilkee during the peak holiday season.

The road between Ennis and Kilrush will be closed for the next three weeks to facilitate the roadworks.

"I have received many calls from irate Limerick people expressing their total frustration and annoyance at the decision to carry out these road works at the busiest time of the year," said Cllr Leddin.

To see Cllr Leddin in his youth, turn to page 17...

Final Twilight race evening

LIMERICK band Mad for Road will perform at Limerick Racecourse on Thursday, July 21 at the last of this year's Twilight racing evenings.

Having recently come to prominence on the All-Ireland Talent Show, the trad band have become renowned for their vibrant energy on stage almost as much as their musical talent.

The first of seven national hunt races is off at 5.45pm and Mad for Road will perform after 9pm.

General Admission tickets are priced at €17 and special barbecue packages are also available at €38 per person.

Grand re-opening of €5m art collection

City Gallery of Art opens again this October

ANNE SHERIDAN
News Reporter

THE redeveloped Limerick City Gallery of Art is set for a grand re-opening in October, after a €1.7m expansion.

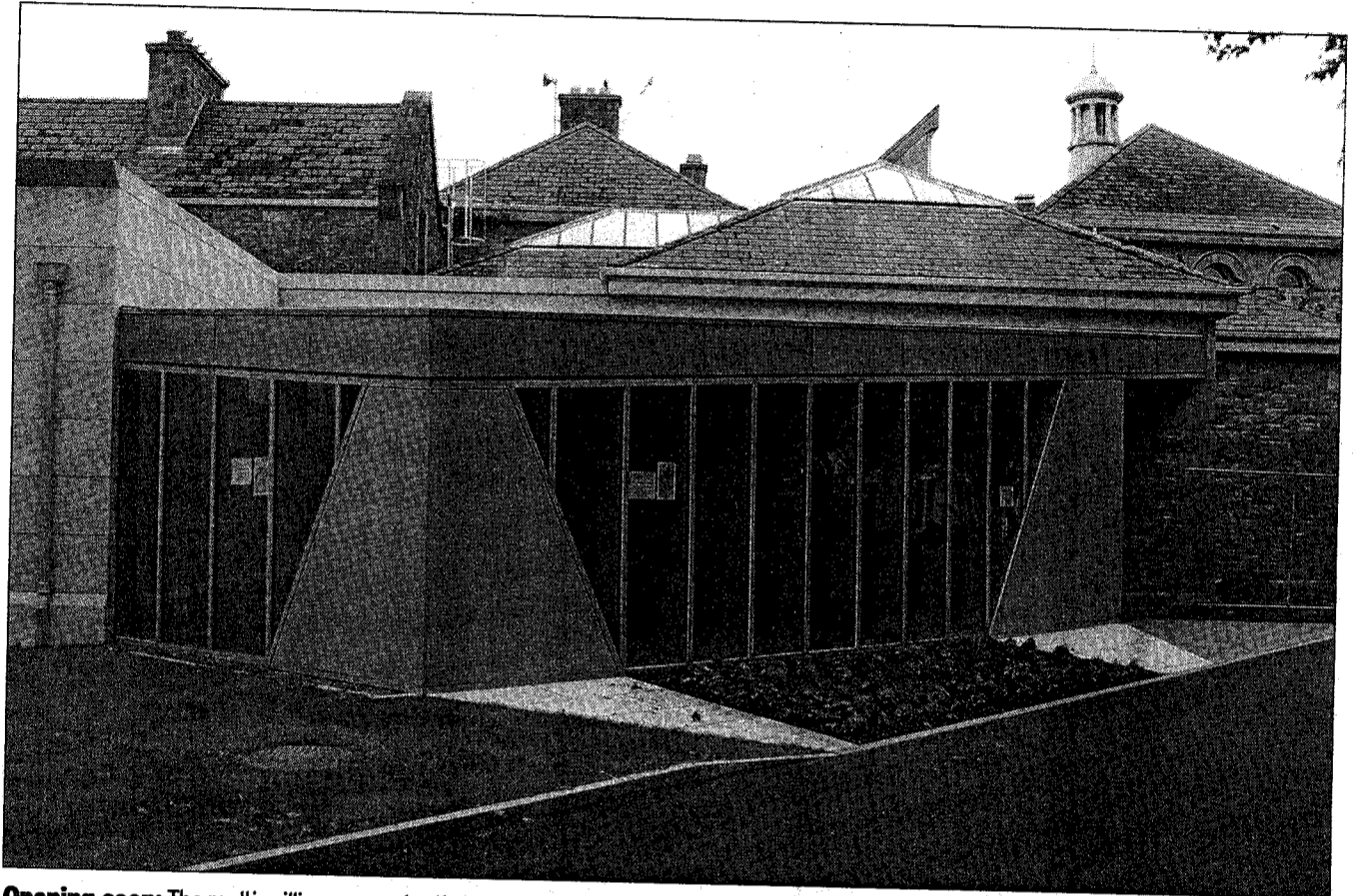
For the past year the prestigious gallery has been moved to other sites across the city, including Istabraq Hall in City Hall, and its €5 million collection of some 800 pieces held in secure storage.

It is now hoped that visitor numbers could increase from 30,000 per annum up to 50,000 per year upon its re-opening, curator and acting gallery director Pippa Little told this newspaper.

"It looks so good now and we are very excited about getting back in there. It is filled with sunlight now and makes the gallery a lot more navigable.

"The extension will mean we won't have problems borrowing really high-end, high impact pieces, because we'll have a better quality of storage and more environmental control," explained Ms Little.

A sculpture - to be called "The Siege of Limerick" - has been commissioned from internationally renowned, New York-based artist Brian



Opening soon: The multi-million euro extension at the Limerick City Gallery of Art, which will open in October.

Picture: Owen South

'It will allow us to change our exhibited pieces more often

O'Doherty to mark the re-opening. The 'triangular' sculpture has been funded by the Per Cent for Art programme, which allows piece of art to be commissioned or

purchased as a complement to an architectural development.

The finishing touches are now being applied to the historic Carnegie building bordering the People's Park. Three extensions have been added to the structure in to upgrade facilities for the visiting public and staff.

The premises has been expanded to include a cafe social space, an education / community space and purpose built

art storage which will help secure the gallery's permanent fine art collection.

Today, the gallery and Limerick City Council will publish a public tender opportunity for a licence to operate a cafe/restaurant in the largest public extension of the building.

The Phase II development, has been funded by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht through the

Access II scheme.

The gallery will shortly announce its programming schedule for its return to the building in the autumn, along with new opening hours, including two late openings and longer opening hours on Sundays. The project was devised by architect John O'Reilly, formerly with the award-winning Murray O'Laoire Architects, with the brief to add light-filled spaces to the gallery.

'Moyross deserved to beat Cork' say Rubberbandits

PETULA MARTYN
News Reporter

The Rubberbandits have spoken of their immense pride that Limerick beat Cork in an online competition, sealing victory for the children of Moyross who have won a playground makeover.

"Limerick deserved that playground," the duo told the Limerick Leader. "Cork don't need playgrounds. Listen to the jovial way they speak, as if they are about to burst into a tune at any moment. Cork people are high on life non stop. Playgrounds mean nothing to a people who have attained spiritual and emotional enlightenment"

The online celebrity endorsement of the Rubberbandits helped secure

a Limerick win in an online polling competition, leaving the people of Cork lamenting the fact that they don't have their very own Rubberbandits.

Mallow narrowly lost the competition for a €7,000 playground makeover by less than half a per cent, which was won by the Moyross community playground.

Thanks to the unique comedy stylings of the Rubberbandits who encouraged their 250,000 Facebook fans to vote for Moyross in the Brennan's Bread playground competition.

Moyross went from three per cent behind to secure victory over Mallow.

In Cork, the Mayor of Mallow, Cllr Dan Joe Fitzgerald, broke the news of their loss to a meeting of Mallow Town Council informing fellow councillors that Mallow had come second to Moyross, who secured the win by just 0.4 per cent of the vote.

Cllr Roisin Lucey said the Mallow did remarkably well to run a city playground so close, especially considering the online celebrity endorsement Moyross received in the final week of the vote. "It's a pity we don't have our own Rubberbandits," she remarked.



Yurt: Rubberbandits rubberstamped a Moyross win