

## NEWS

## COMIC BOOK: LOCAL ART THERAPIST REPRODUCES 'THE LIMERICK CHARACTER' IN PUBLICATION

## Local folktales in comic form

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A LOCAL artist launched a publication which features eight of Limerick's famous folktales in "comic book format", last week in Faber Studios, Henry Street.

Hugh McMahon, who works as an art therapist in the city, launched the 36-page comic in association with The Blue Box Creative Learning Centre, who provide art psychotherapy for children in Limerick.

He told the Limerick Chronicle that every comic makes reference to a street or landmark in the city.

"It's a collection of eight

Limerick folktales and it's all done in a comic book format. It features streetscapes and landmarks that are in Limerick city, like Sean An Scuab - Thomond Bridge is in that. So it's all about the landmarks that are in Limerick," he said.

He said he has received "huge support" from everyone and was pleased with the launch that took place in the city centre last week.

"The reason why I got into this was because I am working as an art therapist.

"The launch was great. Around 150 people were there and I am getting a great follow up from schools. But it's not just schools; adults are pretty interested in it as well.

"Some people mightn't know the stories, so it's not just for the kids. It's all very

well illustrated in the comic book.

"It's for a good cause as well. I did it in association with Blue Box, which is a charity organisation that provides art psychotherapy to children," he explained.

There are a total of eight

**"They are about the Limerick character and it's quite irreverant and quite humourous."**

folktales, said Mr McMahon. The stories include: Saint Patrick in Limerick; Brian Boru High King; Sean An Scuab; The Italian Bellmaker; The Curse of Saint Munchin;

Sarsfield's Ride; Drunken Thady and the Bishop's Lady; and the Limerick Cobbler.

"Some people may not know these stories and they are all worth retelling and I want to keep the whole tradition of storytelling alive. They are about the Limerick character and it's quite irreverant and quite humourous."

Copies of the comic are €4 each. If interested, people can contact artist Hugh McMahon via his e-mail at [hughcoonagh@yahoo.com](mailto:hughcoonagh@yahoo.com).

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An extract from McMahon's comic

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