

heritage. A diocesan college was opened in Mungret in 1878, and later taken over by the Jesuits. Extensive ruins of an early Christian monastery exist in Mungret graveyard, overlooked by Mungret College. The monastery is said to have been founded by St Nessian, who was abbot of Mungret in the 6th century.

Archaeological excavation works at the site have previously uncovered the remnants of a fluacht fiadh, a Bronze Age cooking pit.

Other objectors raised concerns that if the development was to get the green light, it would result in increased traffic in the area and "adversely effect" their quality of life.

The objections also noted that two new primary schools and a secondary school, due to be built in the area, would also result in further traffic congestion.

A decision on the permission request is due to be made on February 24th.

LYS YOUTH FACTOR

FROM covers of Journey's anthem, Don't Stop Believing to traditional Irish music and a very entertaining comedy sketches, Limerick's talented teens put on quite the show at the University of Limerick Concert Hall for Limerick Youth Service's annual variety show – Youth Factor.

The event saw more than 20 acts bravely take part in four categories: dance, performance, song & music and showcase their talent in front of a full house.

Foynes native Sarah Moynihan, St. Senan's Youth Club's took first prize in the highly competitive Song Category with her acoustic version of Birdy's Wings.

Traditional music group Shannonside Trad, which features members of Cappagh/St. Senan's Youth Clubs, emerged victorious in the Music Category.

One of the loudest cheers on the night was reserved for Janesboro's Aoife Kavanagh, Queen of Peace Youth Club, who skipped her way to success in the Dance Category with her traditional Irish dance routine.

Fedamore Youth Club wowed the judges with their comedic classroom sketch.

stronger from. I think what he does now is his own choice but I do really feel he has made a mistake. No

political landscape and the people inside it, it would be very different", she declared.

See page 27

Pigtown book brings home bacon

SARAH O'DWYER

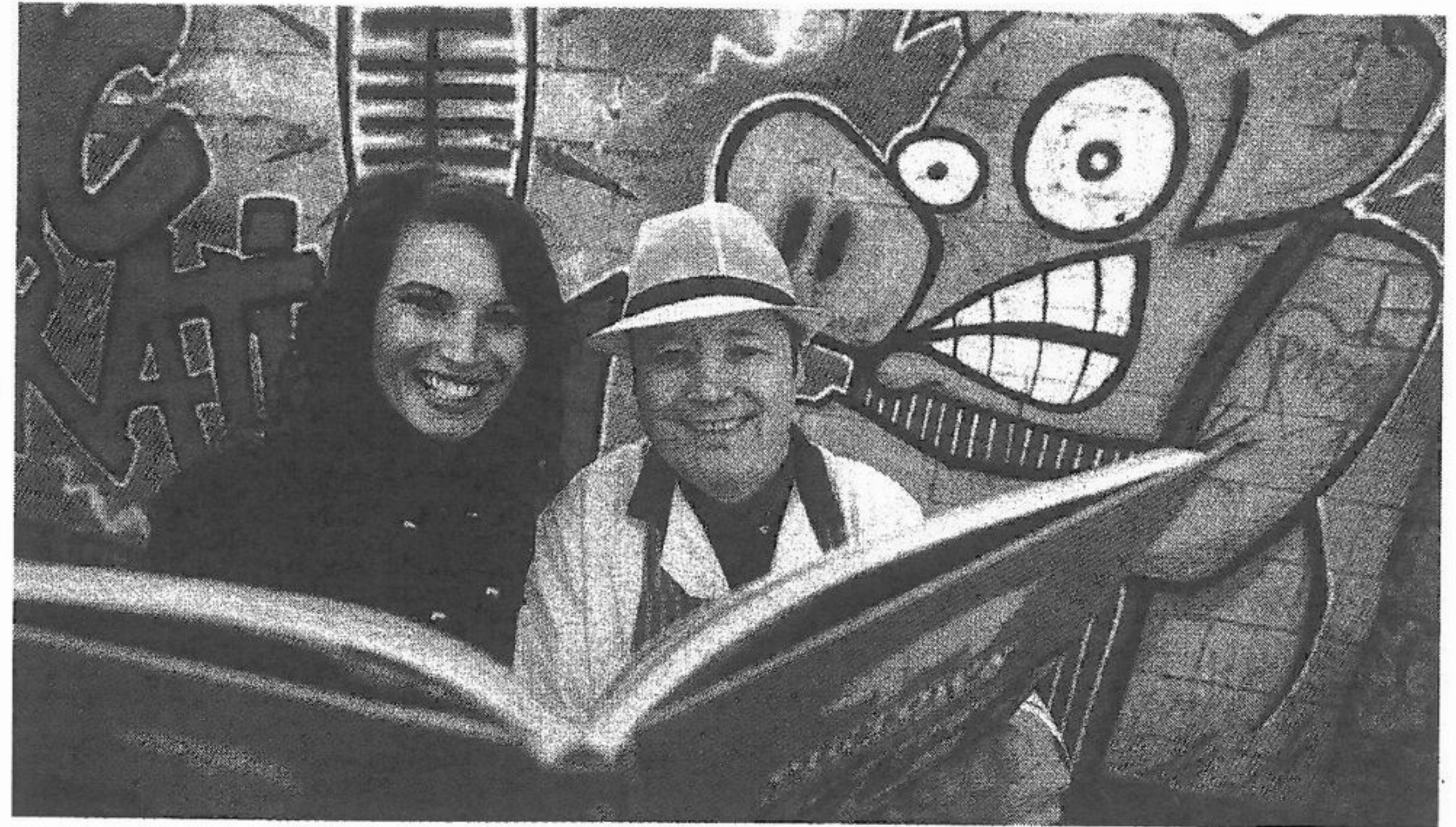
A new book, launched in Limerick yesterday, is 'bringing home the bacon,' almost literally. Never before seen photographs of Limerick's ham and bacon industry are now on display in 'Pigtown', each of which traces a unique piece of history of Limerick's world-famous bacon industry.

Limerick has always been synonymous with ham, having four well-known factories in the area. O'Mara's, Matterson's, Shaw's and Denny's made Limerick famous for the quality of its bacon produce and linked the city and county in its production. This quality led to the growth of a large-scale industry centred around the city, which quickly was nicknamed Pigtown.

The new book entitled 'Pigtown – A History of Limerick's Bacon Industry', published by the Limerick Archives section of Limerick City and County Council and Mary Immaculate College, explores the industry's unique history through interviews and images collected from various sources.

Written by Ruth Guiry and co-edited by Dr Maura Cronin and Jacqui Hayes, the book explores the unparalleled reputation of Limerick ham, the food culture that arose from a plentiful supply of cheap products, the story of the pork butchers, the pig buyers, and the sounds of the city with factory horns signaling the call to work.

A definitive account of this industry



Ruth Guiry, author, with butcher Jack Spratt at the launch of Pigtown. Pic Sean Curtin

that operated at the centre of the city, supplied by the farms of rural county Limerick for over 180 years, had never been written – until Ruth Guiry was commissioned to undertake the research under the guidance of Dr Maura Cronin from Mary Immaculate College.

Ruth said: "I had the pleasure of interviewing 27 people, who all contributed to my understanding not only of the bacon industry but also of the Limerick social scene from the 1940s onwards. I am especially grateful to Joe Hayes, formerly of O'Mara's factory, for his help

and advice with interviewees, contacts, photos and other details. I'd like to say a special thank you to Tony Punch, Sean Curtin among others for allowing me to use their photographs, many of which have never been published before."

"Their stories and the images they donated have contributed enormously to capturing a sense of what the industry meant to Limerick and life within and outside the factories," she added.

Jacqui Hayes, Limerick Archivist co-edited the book: "In Limerick Archives we have a small collection relating to

Matterson's donated when the factory closed and it is very satisfying to see this book emerging from the combined surviving material culture and oral testimony."

"Thanks to all those who donated images; David Bracken and Limerick Diocesan Archives, Sean Curtin, the Limerick Leader, the Mechanics Institute and Mary Immaculate College for the use of their facilities. Thanks also to our colleagues in Limerick Museum for access to the wonderful collection of images."

fx: LIMERICK LIFE 8TH FEBRUARY 2017 PAGE 4