

And the Boherbouy Band plays on . . .

By CLIODHNA MCGOWAN

A SPECIAL reception in City Hall this week celebrated 150 years of the musical spirit and the people involved in the Boherbouy Band.

"The band has made an immense contribution to the musical life of the city," said Mayor John Ryan.

"St Patrick's Day parade without the boys is like spring without a leg of lamb. I spent this St Patrick's Day in New York where the population of Limerick people is even bigger than here in Limer-

ick. I met a woman there who originally came from up the Yellow Road. She really

missed the Boherbouy Band," he said.

He said that the band had a "major" role to

play in the 2005 cultural capital designation which Limerick is in line for.

The reception was organised by Cllr Joe Leddin who had already participated in a ceremony at St Joseph's Church to celebrate the band's 150 years.

At the moment there are around 35 members in the band and they range in age from the very young to the most senior of Limerick's citizens.

Based in Edward street, the band caters for all abilities.

"The band is not made up of professionals but entirely of ordinary citizens who enjoy music. The only thing you need to join the band is a love of music," said band chairman, Fintan Breen who has been involved with it for eight to ten years.

"We have a very big music centre here in the city. There's the University Concert Hall and Lyric FM is based here," he said.

Set up in 1850 in a stable in Hifles Bow, just off Parnell Street, it was originally made up of labourers, mainly brickworkers.

The band practices every Wednesday night from 8.30 to 10.00 and every Sunday morning from 11.30 to 1.00.

For further information contact Fintan Breen at 087-6694426.



At the reception, Deirdre Halpin, Paul Kelly, Catherine Kelly and Jose Benson



Mayor John Ryan with Fintan Breen, Boherbouy Band chairman; Bernie Eivers and Tony Stembridge (LL)



Cllr Joe Leddin, left, with Joe O'Connor, Paddy McCormack and Fr Gerry Slattery at the mayoral reception (LL)



Music man: Jim McCormack, Garryowen, and a member of the Boherbouy Band in fine form at the reception to mark the band's 150th anniversary with Doireann and Clíodhna de Paor, Raheen (LL)