



Band wants to bring music back into heart of Limerick

■ International musician breathes new life into historic Limerick band

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THEY have been entertaining the people of Limerick for over 150 years and now St John's Brass and Reed Band are turning a new and exciting leaf in an effort ensure its proud traditions live on.

The band formed in 1865 and has a rich tradition of introducing music into the lives of thousands of people, while playing a significant role in the cultural development in Limerick since its formation.

The band has undergone massive changes over the past few months.

They have appointed Jonathan Luxton as their new Musical Director.

Mr Luxton is a renowned international musician having been trained by the Royal Academy of Music in London and has spent the past three decades plying his trade in Portugal.

Speaking on his appointment and his plans for the band Mr Luxton said: "I am delighted to take over this role, I want to provide opportunities for children in our communities to come and play music.

"We have a new initiative called 'First Steps in Music' which we hope to roll out in September with the help of the people of Limerick."

There is on-going band practice in their band hall in Garryowen where you can join, regardless of skill level.

Band chairperson Tony Mc Carthy declared himself 'absolutely thrilled' at the prospect of the programme but is issuing a request to the people of Limerick.

"We have a serious opportunity here with Jonathon, he is a really talented teacher but we need to do some fundraising for musical equipment to help fulfil our dream. We need to raise around €8,000 to purchase trombones, clarinets and a tuba," he explained.

They are appealing to the people of Limerick to donate to the band via its Gofundme page which can be found online.

"Our new vision for the band is a serious attempt to bring music right into the heart of the community, somewhere we know there is young talent and we are really



New musical director with St John's Brass and Reed Band Jonathan Luxton leads a practice session

looking forward to making our dreams a reality" Mr McCarthy said.

He outlined other ways the people of Limerick can help out with the band's ambitious plans.

"We want to give young people from all backgrounds an opportunity to play brass and reed instruments.

"It's very important to us to raise money to buy instruments to give youngsters that can't afford to buy instruments an opportunity to play and you have to hand the youngsters an instrument for them to learn."

The musicians are also accepting donations of old instruments that are gathering dust in

people's homes.

"We would put them to really good use. We are hoping that once again, with the help of Limerick people, that we can get back to travelling the world representing our community and our city." He concluded.

If you wish to donate instruments to the Limerick Brass and Reed Band please contact Tony Mc Carthy at (087) 670 9376 or Kieran Walsh (085) 855 8414.

If you wish to attend band practices or to donate instruments the band hall's address is: 2 Garryowen Road, Limerick, Co. Limerick [V94 YW26].

For more information please visit <http://stjohnsband.com>



Brian Duckett, Jennifer McPhilemy, Jonathan Luxton, Noel McCormack at the bands headquarters in Garryowen

DEATHS IN THE PAST WEEK

GIVEN THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19, ALL FUNERAL SERVICES WILL BE HELD IN PRIVATE. MEMORIAL MASSES WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE FUTURE

CUSSEN The death has occurred of Tom Cussen of Granard House, Adare. Tom passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family. Beloved husband of the predeceased Mary Cussen (née Barry). Survived by his loving children Christina, James, Audrey and Edward, sons-in-law John and Damian, daughters-in-law Angela and Jenny, Cherished grandchildren Holly, Jaymee, Dean, Alex, Vayda, Jack, Gerry and Tommy, brothers, sisters, brother-in-law, nephews, nieces, extended family, neighbours and a wide circle of friends.

Funeral Mass at Holy Trinity Abbey Church, Adare, on Wednesday, July 29 at 11am. Burial afterwards in Kilmacree Cemetery. Donations, if desired, to the Oncology Unit at University Hospital Limerick. House strictly private, please.

ROCHE The death has occurred of Kenneth Roche of Torvoe, Clarina. Kenneth passed away peacefully on July 26 at Milford Care Centre. Predeceased by his loving wife Nora (née Russell), sons Ken, Pat and grandson Stephen. Survived by his daughters Peggy, Anne and Marian (Australia), sons in law Mike, Christy and Mike, daughters in law Jayne and Marie, grandchildren, great grandchildren, brother Patrick, nephews, nieces and extended family. May he Rest in Peace. Requiem Mass will take place at St Josephs Church, Ballybrown on Wednesday, July 29 at 11:30am. Burial afterwards at Mungret Old Cemetery. In compliance with Covid-19 guidelines regarding public gatherings Kenneth's funeral will be restricted to family members and close friends only.

HARTE The death has occurred of Eileen (Nellie) Harte (née O'Sullivan) of Glenwood, Newport, Co. Tipperary and formerly of Ballygaddy, Kilmallock. Eileen passed away on July 25 peacefully in the wonderful care of Milford Care Centre. Beloved wife of the late William. Sadly missed by her loving daughters Sinéad, Brid, Gráinne and Aoibheann, sons in law Liam, John, James and Oliver, grandchildren, Hannah, James, Orlaith, Isabelle, Luke, Sam, Ben, Anna, Juliet, Noah, Stephen, Aisling, Aidan, and Adam, sisters, Bet and Ann-Marie, brother Michael, brothers in law, sisters in law, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends.

RYAN The death has occurred of Evelyn Ryan of Derryleigh, Newport, Co. Tipperary (late of Greenpark Gardens, South Circular Road, Limerick). Evelyn passed away on Saturday, July 25 peacefully in the wonderful care of the staff of Milford Nursing Home. Evelyn is sadly missed by her sister Nancy, nephew David, niece Anne Marie, nephew in law David, niece in law Marie, her grand-nephews Rory, Enda, Tadhg and Jack and her grand-niece Eve, extended family and friends.

BARGH The death has occurred of Helen (Cissie) Bargh (née Hyland) of England and formerly of The Square, Galbally. Helen passed away on the July 20 and is predeceased by her husband Brian, brothers Johnny (Galbally), Bob (Thurles). Deeply regretted by her brothers Michael (London), Peader (Galbally), T.P. (Mitchelstown), Paddy (Garryspillane), Billy (Galway), sisters Kathleen (Ryan, Galbally), Chrissie (Roche, Pallaskenery & Galbally), Marian (Brogan, London), brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, extended family, relatives & friends. The death has occurred of Breda Finn (née McGrath) Bawnmore, Ardpatrick.

FINN The death has occurred of Breda Finn (née McGrath) of Bawnmore, Ardpatrick. Breda passed away peacefully at her residence surrounded by her Family and Friends. Sadly missed by daughter Mairead, son Tommy, grandchildren Mickie and Keelin, daughter-in-law Louise, son-in-law Kevin, brothers, Paddy, Joseph, Jerry and Tony (deceased), sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends.

MCCARTHY The death has occurred of Michael McCarthy (M.R.C.V.S.), of Clifford House, Ballinlough Rd, Cork City and formerly of Feenagh. Michael passed away peacefully at his daughter Sandra Duffy's residence Carravaneen, Knockmore, Co. Mayo. Michael (Retired Vet), predeceased by his beloved wife Mary (née Dwane) and loving father of Esther (Dublin), Sandra (Mayo) and Michelle (Cork). Sadly missed by his loving daughters, brother Cathal (Tipperary), sons-in-law Vinnie & Pat, sister-in-law Noceen, grandchildren Samantha, Audrey,