

# Robert remembered 90 years on

by Marie Hobbins

## New Riverside Park to be named after him

COMPATIBLE with the historic nature of the area, Riverside Park recently built on Clancy Strand (overlooking the Curragower Falls), is to be named the Robert Byrne Park.

Mayor John Gilligan came up with the name, and at a meeting of Limerick City Council this week, councillors supported his recommendation.

Initially, there was an element of confusion - was the mayor naming the park after the well known publican and former Fine Gael mayor, Bobby Byrne of O'Connell Avenue or,



of workers at Cleaves Factory couldn't get to or from work - they wouldn't accept permits from the authorities (the Limerick Trades Council wouldn't sanction passes), and only for the Abbey fishermen who ferried them to and fro, they would have been without work.

"The city was closed down - this was the fourth siege of Limerick. A priest in Clare sent in food and the Abbey fishermen ferried food and people to and fro and people were resourceful - they printed their own money - and ran the city and eventually the blockade was lifted".

Despite some complaints about lack of consultation with them on the issue, the councillors agreed with the mayor's recommendation and a plaque will be erected in the park early in the summer when Mayor Gilligan said he will be proud to perform the naming ceremony.

## Crowley gearing up for action

JOE Crowley will contest the local election for the northside of the city, on the Fianna Fail ticket.

Mr Crowley has been stocktaking in his neck of the woods and is not happy that roads in the area of Elm Park and the Ennis Road, are badly in need of upgrading.

"There are crevices and cracks visible, but worse, anyone using a walking stick could easily find himself or herself getting it trapped, leading to an accident, which at their time of life, would be most serious," observes, Mr Crowley.

He is also agitating for refurbishment work on the road at the bottom of Roses Avenue, close to the entrance to Westfield Park.

"Following the laying of a storm drain, the road was patched up and the green area in Westfield Park was left in a mess.

"I looked at the planning notices for this excavation work and don't know what exactly is the state of work on this ongoing development, and the bank area alongside the Westfields' Wetlands looks like a litter dump. This came about when work was going on nearby to install new lighting on the Condell Road, and while the new lighting is a huge success, both for security and the ambience, we do need to get the river bank and the entrances to it renovated and cleared up". Mr Crowley has been a committed community activist in the area.

was he, Cllr Pat Kennedy wanted to know - calling the Clancy Strand Park after the much loved Scottish poet Bobby Byrne - our learned councillor seemed to forget that the Scottish poet was Bobby Burns.

Sensing that his fellow councillors were not au fait with biographical details of Limerick city's Robert Byrne, the mayor said he had lived at Town Wall Cottage (near to Johnsgate and Lelia Street).

"Robert Byrne was employed in the General Post Office - this year is the 90th anniversary of his death. He attended the funeral of the

Limerick Fenian, John Daly, and was sacked for doing so. He was arrested and went on hunger strike and eventually was sent to the Work House (now St Camillus Hospital).

"The IRA attempted to rescue him but he was shot by an RIC man and seriously wounded. Although he was spirited away to a safe house, he died five days later.

"His funeral was huge but military law was imposed on the city and you couldn't get in or out of Limerick without permits from the British authorities. "It's recorded, how the hundreds

## James Cronin soccer tournament

ONE YEAR after the tragic death of James Cronin, shot at the age of 20, his mother and extended family want his name commemorated.

James' mother, Marie Cronin, oversaw a five-a-side soccer match in Roxboro in aid of the Limerick based charity 'Lost Futures'. The charity aims at uniting families, helping people after they



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