

# Heritage restored

By DYMPHNA BRACKEN

ELEVEN projects were completed by the Civic Trust, this year, in an ambitious programme for improving the city's heritage.

The corner of Athlunkard Street and the Island Road was developed as a landscaped amenity area.

And the Bishop's Garden in Castle Street was restored.

This project is within the proposed medieval precinct area, and it enhances the environs of the Bishops Palace and King John's Castle.

Two sections of the old city wall on the Island Road were cleared of rubble, rubbish, and overgrowth so that the city walls may be viewed in a more presentable condition.

Sixteen of the old city boundary marker signs were cleaned and repainted in addition to other old cast iron public commemorative plaques.

The pedestrian paved area at the entrance of the new coach park in Castle Street was re-instated.

St Munchin's graveyard benefitted from a major clean-up project.

Almost 600 graves were involved.

In addition, a record survey of the inscriptions on the grave stones was com-



At the AGM of the Limerick Civic Trust held at the Bishop's Palace (from left): Richard Leonard, Coopers & Lybrand; Gerry Griffin, deputy chairman, Limerick Civic Trust; Deputy Jim Kimmy; John Joe Cronin; Kieran Horgan, ESB, and Conor Sheehan. (LL)

pleted. The paving was completed at the Honan's Quay site underneath Sarsfield Bridge. The Civic Trust have drawn up an action plan to restore The Crescent to its former Georgian splendour. The action plan is progressing in co-operation with the Crescent's property owners and the Corporation. Phase one of the action plan will involve the upgrading of the buildings from basement to first floor levels, the reinstatement of the metal railings and bal-

conies, the upgrading of the public paved areas, the introduction of appropriately designed lighting and signage. This project is programmed to commence later this month. The EC award winning grant has provided the catalyst to undertake this major environmental improvement project. A new entrance and gates have been constructed at the Friends' Burial Ground in Ballinacurra. In addition, the Civic Trust have cleaned the grave headstones, repainted

their inscriptions and recorded the information there-on and re-landscaped the grounds. A hitherto hidden burial ground has been restored as an oasis of peace, tranquility and loving remembrance. Projects completed during previous years continue to be maintained. In February 1993, Limerick Civic Trust will celebrate the 10th anniversary of its foundation. Speaking at the annual general meeting of the Civic Trust, William Peacocke, chairman, said the physical, commercial and

cultural life of the city had improved greatly. He described 1992 as a year of "challenge". The Civic Trust, he said, did not escape the effects of the adverse financial climate. "The Trust were obliged to weather the storm by concentrating activities on environmental improvement projects which did not necessitate major capital expenditure," he added. At the year's end, he said, it is satisfying to report that the Civic Trust has consolidated its financial position by commencing

ing to reduce its burden of inherited debt while simultaneously progressing an active programme on nine new projects. The highlight of 1992 occurred on May 18 when the President, Mary Robinson, paid an official visit to the Bishop's Palace to meet with the Civic Trust. On her previous visits to the city, the President had spoken most favourably about the work of the Civic Trust. A notable success during the year was "The Restoration of the Crescent" project which won an award in the European Community competition. This competition attracted 953 entries throughout Europe and the Civic Trust's entry was one of only 44 award winners.

## Tried to break in

TWO PEOPLE found trying to break into a garage were convicted of being found in an enclosed space for an unlawful purpose at Limerick District Court. The two were spotted by a garda going over a high railing and into Maloney's Garage, on the Rosbrien Road, on December 1. One of the defendants was aged 21, and was jailed for three months. The other, aged 15, was put on probation for six months.