

# Carve their name with pride

## Denis steers Limerick Civic Trust to its 25th year

With quiet but committed determination, a young Limerick man, walking the streets, avenues, laneways and riverside quays of his city 25 years ago, had a vision of some of the changes, he, with the help of a committed band of civic-minded people, could bring about to restore, conserve and enhance aspects of this ancient city for all posterity. Almost a quarter of a century later, Denis Leonard and the Limerick Civic Trust he founded, are still visionaries who ask, not, what their city can do for them but what they can do for their city.

by Marie Hobbins  
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LIMERICK would be a poorer and far less interesting and attractive city without the purpose, commitment, inspirational drive and knowledgeable input that Limerick Civic Trust has given and continues to give to this city.

The brainchild of its director, Denis Leonard, Limerick Civic Trust, which will celebrate its 25th birthday in 2008, and was the first civic trust to be set up in Ireland, has delivered a prolific body of restoration projects that are landmark testimonials to the city's rich and varied history.

To date, a total of

134 projects of all sizes and type have been undertaken and completed at a cost of 15million euro, and employment is given to over 60 people.

Appropriately, as it prepares to celebrate its landmark 25th birthday, the Trust's lineup of 25 new projects (in addition to 20 that are ongoing), have been announced.

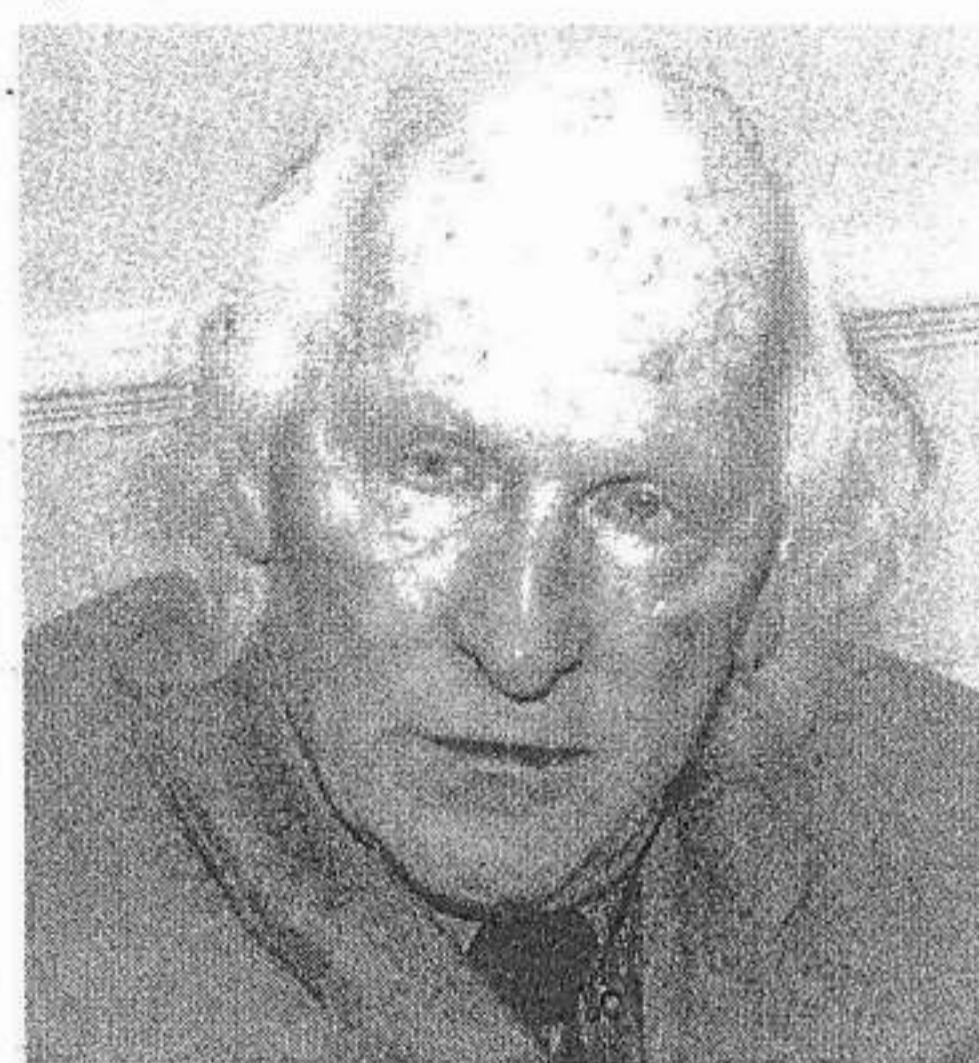
"We've planned a demanding schedule of activities over the next three to five years, and then we've further plans, because the Trust wants to be celebrating again in 2033," says chairman, Martin Bourke.

The 25 new projects are divided into categories - restoration, environment, civic,

research. They include: commencement of work on 4, Patrick Street (home of the Limerick, world renowned soprano, Catherine Hayes: conservation work on the Abbey wall off Mary Street: restoration of Killeely graveyard: resurfacing of the O'Connell Monument site, including the upgrading of the island and flowerbeds: new People's Park gateway: a riverside bench (designed in the shape of a traditional ganelow boat, which will be a memorial to former Civic Trust chairman, the late Senan O'Connor: a Limerick memorial sculpture (a circular bench to be erected around a tree in the People's Park:

the erection of an obelisk with 1,000 years of Limerick history inscribed on panels around the plinth: insertion of a capsule of 2008 information into the foundations of the obelisk: a primary schools art competition: the establishment of a Catherine Hayes bursary for students of classical music: a civic medal for the building of the year.

Also targeted are an essay competition on a given topic for secondary school students: annual heritage lecture by an internationally renowned expert on heritage: city tour, via the waterway (a flotilla of rivercrafts to give a riverside tour of the city and environs; Made in Limerick, vol-



Denis Leonard

ume 3: Art in the Street, booklet and map (over 300 pieces of art, in its broadest sense, recorded in Limerick streets): information panels in the

People's Park: photographic survey by children: schools research project - suggested topic is a history of Limerick's church buildings of all denominations; publication of 25-year history: a celebration concert: open day at the Trust's Two buildings, the Bishop's Palace, King's Island and the Georgian House, 2, Pery Square.

A unique, limited edition 25-month calendar, from January 2008 to January 2010, has been launched to mark the Trust's quarter of a century.

"This calendar showcases 25 of our 134 projects to date and spanning a period of over two years into the future, it represents a statement of intent going forward into the next quarter of a century," says Mr Bourke.

This superb production is the initiative of Denis Leonard and Kate Meaney of Limerick Civic Trust, Lynette Mahony of Red Island Studio and David Rice of Optic Nerve Design group.



Dell celebrated Christmas early last weekend with a party for their employees and over 2,000 of the partners and children in Limerick. A visit to Santa as well as face painting, jugglers and games were highlights of a great day for all the families. Our photo shows 4-year-old Amy Curtin from Raheen with some of the presents for the children.