

Bright ideas, extra members and more funding sought by Civic Trust

by Marie Hobbins
marie@limerickpost.ie

THE need for new members, new ideas, more funding and

other projects is vital for Limerick Civic Trust, its director,

Denis Leonard stated in his annual report. Mr Leonard said that



No 4 Patrick Street (centre) the birthplace of Catherine Hayes

Carols and music at CSC

MICKEY, Brid and Niamh Dunne and friends will be supporting the Make A Wish Foundation on December 15, playing traditional Irish music and Christmas carols in the Crescent Shopping Centre.

The Foundation grants wishes to children aged 3 to 18 years who are suffering from a life-threatening illness.

Since its inception in 1992 the Irish foundation has helped 450 children realise their greatest dream - whatever that dream may be.

They say the granting of their wish provides a welcome relief from the normal routine of hospitals, doctors and treatment.

it is essential to develop what he calls "the new factor."

"We have to continue the process of developing a new generation of Limerick Civic Trust activists as we own very valuable assets and have an important niche in Limerick, and we have to protect both into the future. This is a responsibility we inherited from the thousands of benefactors and sources who have given financially and otherwise, to Limerick Civic Trust since 1983

"The Trust is very highly regarded at every level throughout the city and the best way of maintaining this is to adopt the "new factor" as our working motto".

While Limerick looks forward to the construction of the Opera Centre, which will transform the city centre location of Patrick Street/Rutland Street, Bank Place/Ellen Street/Michael Street, into a major retail/commercial park, a neighbouring project of a more cultural character will also get underway in 2007.

Mr Leonard confirms that the major emphasis of its project activities during 2007 and 2008 will be the Catherine Hayes House and the People's Park Project.

Situated in very high profile city locations the projects will make a significant contribution to Limerick's architectural environment.

The Limerick born diva (1818-1861) did not get the recognition and exalted place in Limerick history that her extraordinary talent deserved.

She reigned supreme on operatic stages throughout the world. "Our series of projects will redress this and will give her the high profile status which the fame she brought to Limerick justifies," says Mr Leonard.

Once 4, Patrick Street, has been made structurally sound Limerick Civic Trust will get the reinstatement of all the building's architectural detail and period decor underway.

"We plan to reopen the shop that was in the Georgian building and use it for

Limerick Civic Trust, the house itself and other associated events connected to the house.

"We will be setting up a Catherine Hayes bursary to help students of classical music to further their studies and will also develop a museum-type display on the life and career of Catherine Hayes.

"We also plan to provide upper floor apartments for use

by invited guests, such as lecturers, artists and special visitors to the city".

Limerick Civic Trust has also undertaken to restore the great singer's grave in Kensal Green Cemetery, London.

Other projects planned for 2007 include: A new landmark entrance for the People's Park (at the junction of Upper Mallow Street and Edward Street, where

the Park facade Colbert Station refurbishment of park kiosk; mounting history of People's Park each entrance; repainting of the Park's drink fountain; painting and some ramping the bandstand, floor lighting of the Spruce Rice memorial and more wheelchair friendly areas for Park.

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