

News

Civic trust is honoured for safeguarding city's heritage

RESTORATION

Gerard Fitzgibbon

LIMERICK Civic Trust has been honoured for 25 years of safeguarding the city's heritage by Limerick Shannon Rotary Club.

Over the past quarter century, the trust has overseen 137 restoration projects, costing in the region of €15.5m. Its best known project, the Georgian House on Pery Square, has become a tourist landmark.

At a special lunch in the Greenhills Hotel this Monday, Rotary president Pat McNamara presented Martin Bourke, chairman of Limerick Civic Trust, with a commemorative picture of the trust's Bishop's Palace offices.

Mr McNamara praised Denis Leonard, the trust's director and founding

member, saying "he's unbelievable. He's all about the work. I don't know any other organisation in the world this generous and this committed to local heritage, and Denis has spearheaded it all."

Mr Leonard said that he was hopeful that the trust's future would be as fruitful as its past.

"We've evolved over the years and we're very optimistic for the future. But we're hoping to get more participation from young people. We're always looking for fresh blood and fresh ideas for our work," he said.

Mr Bourke said that the trust owed its 25 years of success to an extensive network of volunteers and contributors.

"I suppose you could say that the civic trust is like an orchestra. There are so many individual pieces

brought together by a conductor in Denis Leonard. He's been a tireless worker. We feel he's given a virtuoso performance over the years. But we've had continuous support from groups such as Shannon Development, FÁS, Limerick City Council, and, of course, the citizens of Limerick themselves."

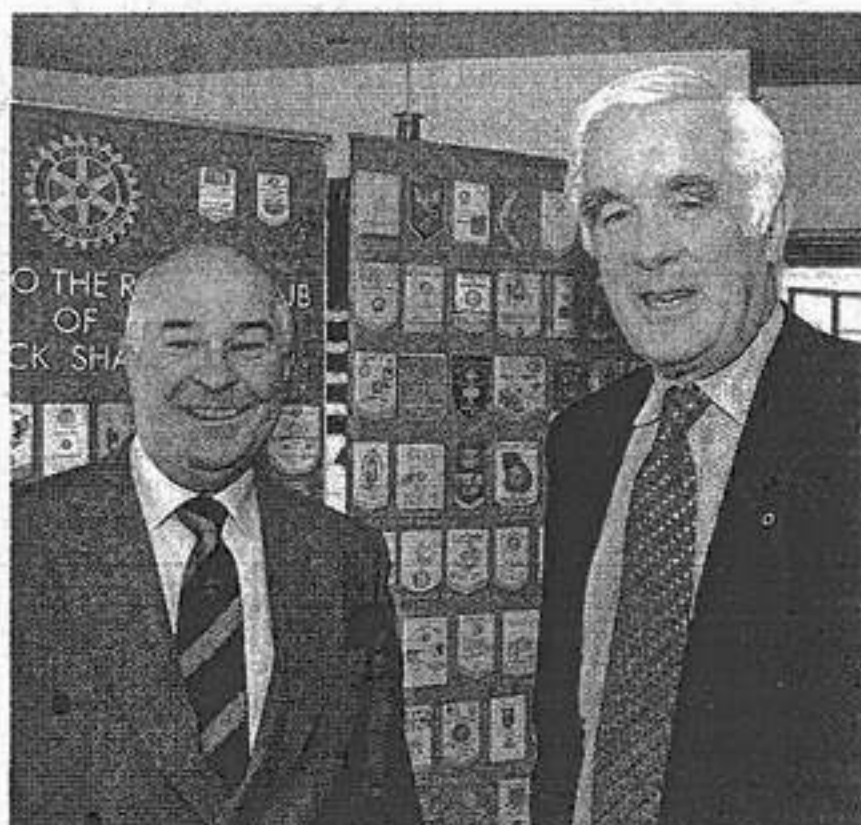
Cllr Maria Byrne, a former president of Rotary, said: "The pride and passion that Denis Leonard and all the volunteers and members who work with the civic trust is outstanding."

"Over the past 25 years, their projects have contributed to local employment and have allowed people to get skills and experience. Myself and everyone at Rotary are very keen supporters of the civic trust and the work they do."



At the Limerick Shannon Rotary Club lunch in the Greenhills Hotel, Martin Bourke, chairman, Limerick Civic Trust and Pat McNamara, Rotary president, cut the cake to mark 25 years of Limerick Civic Trust, watched by Sean Crowley and Gabrielle Wallace, Limerick Shannon Rotary Club

PICTURES: OWEN SOUTH



At the Limerick Shannon Rotary Club lunch, Bill Peacock and Seamus Gubbins



Daphne Greene, Greenhills Hotel, with John Likely and deputy Mayor Marie Byrne



Arthur Quinlan with Pat McNamara, President, Limerick Shannon Rotary Club