

MEDIAEVAL CITY TO BE FOCUS OF RESTORATION

THE MEDIAEVAL quarter of the city will be the focus of the efforts by Limerick Civic Trust to improve local surroundings, according to director Mr. Denis Leonard this week.

"We believe the focus of our concentration must be the mediaeval quarter of Limerick", he declared.

And he said that the restoration of the Potato Market, as well as other supporting projects in the vicinity, now made the revitalisation of the mediaeval quarter a realisable proposition.

Impact

He continued:

"The Potato Market project, by virtue of its size and impact, has been the dominant feature of our recent activities.

"We have now started the second phase of this development, which is the re-establishment of a live market in this area. We rolled back the clock many decades when, on October 30th last, we had our first day's trading.

"There is great potential for this venture, and we intend to ensure it will become an exciting venue for many complementary activities.

"We are very confident that the Potato Market will become the place for the citizen and tourist alike to shop, meet/mingle and enjoy an unique atmosphere, supported by live entertainment and interesting events".

Mr. Leonard emphasised: "While reflecting on the Potato Market, we would like to highlight the other supporting projects, all of which combined to make the dramatic revitalisation of the mediaeval quarter of Limerick now a realisable proposition — the

Sylvester O'Halloran pedestrian bridge; the new entrance into the Custom House Park; the extension of the boundary wall at St. Mary's Cathedral; the screening of the sites at the derelict shop, and the corner of Bridge Street/Barrington's Mall.

"In addition, we restored the four gas lamps at Barrington's Hospital.

Projects

"We cleaned and painted stone inscriptions on Matthew

Bridge and in Nicholas Street, and we erected a number of commemorative plaques".

He said: "We would like to give mention to two other major projects: (1) St. Michael's Graveyard and (2) the section of the Wall of Limerick at Mungretgate. Both projects demonstrate what can be done through youth schemes in very derelict areas and, in our view, bury the myth of nettle-beating projects.

"They are now very presentable monuments that we

can be proud of. Indeed, without our intervention in restoring the mediaeval wall, it would not have been possible to start the excellent development now being completed by the Moloney family at Mungretgate.

"Many of these projects have gone unnoticed, and we are mentioning them to illustrate the merits of our policy in selecting one major project and supporting this through a number of other planned smaller, but equally important, projects in the same area".



Santa Claus surrounded by young fans at Crescent Shopping Centre where he arrived by train.