

## News

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## IN BRIEF

## Farmer concern

■ A NUMBER of measures in the Finance Bill will have a detrimental impact on farmers in the county, according to Limerick Fianna Fáil TD Niall Collins, who says the Bill must be amended to reflect the changing face of Irish farming, or risk destroying viable businesses. "Section 74 of the Finance Bill, which defines an 'active farmer' as one who spends more than 50 per cent of their working time on the farm, is unrealistic and unworkable for many farmers, particularly younger ones. If enacted in its current form, it will act as a major deterrent for the new generation of farmers," warns Deputy Collins.

## Clonlara houses

■ A NEW social housing development at Glór na Srutha in Clonlara has been officially opened by Housing Minister Paudie Coffey. The scheme, comprising two-bed and three-bed units based on a single storey and two-storey grouping, has been developed to meet the social housing need in the Clonlara area. All 12 units have been occupied since the development was completed in September by L&M Keating Contractors. The scheme was financed by the Department of the Environment under its social housing investment programme.

## Adare bypass

■ LIMERICK Fine Gael TD Dan Neville says planning must now start for the construction of the Adare Bypass once the funding becomes available. The road into Adare has been named by AA Roadwatch as one of the worst in the country in terms of traffic tailbacks. Deputy Neville said: "Transport Minister Paschal Donohoe is considering the inclusion of an amendment to the Roads Bill 2014 relating to the proposed merger of the NRA and the Railway Procurement Agency. The planning for the bypass must begin immediately so that we can seek the views of An Bord Pleanála in good time before any planning application needs to be submitted."

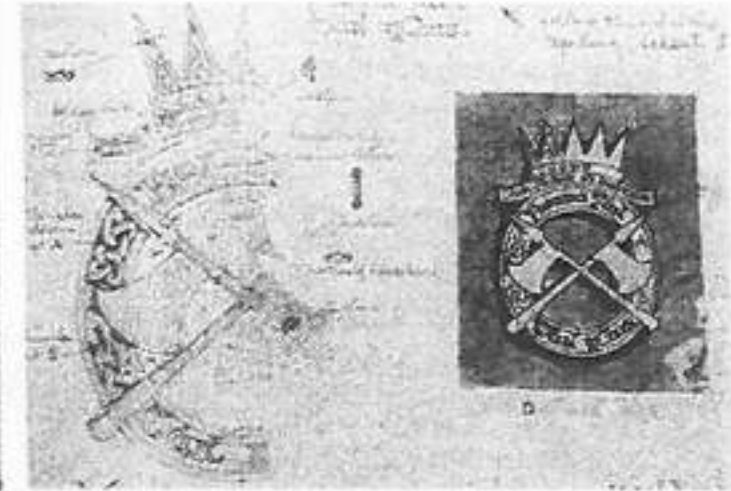
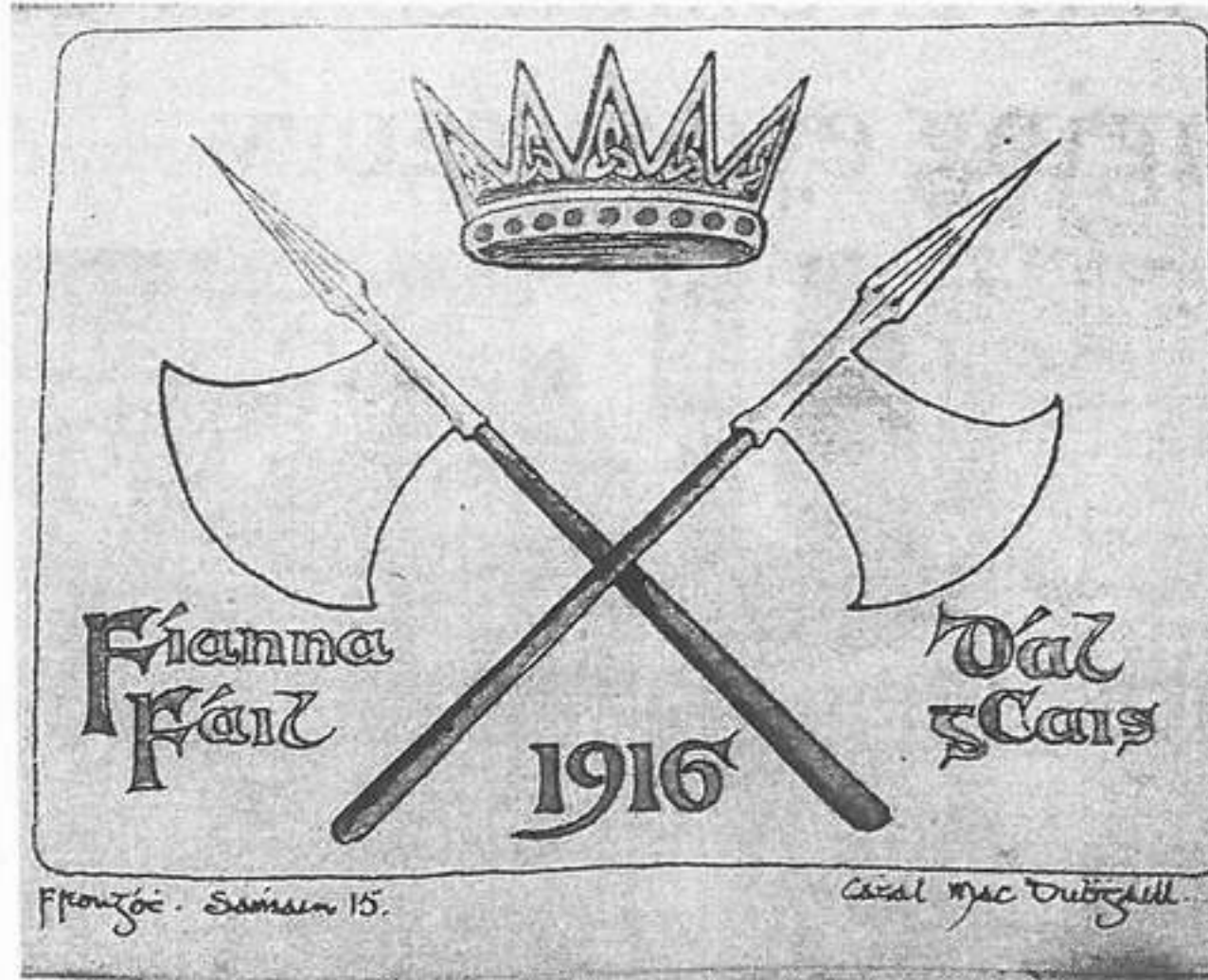
## Motor tax online

■ INCREASING numbers of vehicle owners across Limerick are doing their motor tax business online, according to a new survey by Limerick City and County Council. Statistics obtained for October 2014 indicate that 53 per cent of motor tax payments made in Limerick were carried out online compared to 45 per cent during the same month last year. "The growing trend towards the use of online motor tax services ties in with ongoing efforts by the country's 31 local authorities to encourage customers and businesses to move away from cheque and cash payments," explained Council Director Tom Gilligan.

## School transport

■ LIMERICK families with students attending post primary school for the first time and who will need school transport for the 2015/16 school year are being asked to submit their applications to the Bus Éireann School Transport Scheme in good time as late applications are not guaranteed a seat. Full terms of the Post Primary School Transport Scheme are available at [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie) and applications should be submitted online to Bus Éireann at [www.buseireann.ie](http://www.buseireann.ie)

## HISTORY



# Meelick man's 1916 journal sold at auction

by Bernie English  
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## REBEL WITH A CAUSE

A JOURNAL and autograph book that provides a unique insight into life and conditions at Frongoch prisoner of war camp, where 1,800 participants in the 1916 rising were interned, has been acquired at auction by Clare Museum.

Belonging to IRA volunteer and future TD Patrick Brennan from Meelick, the album features accounts of life in the north Wales camp, poetry in Irish and English and illustrations of the camp and its inhabitants.

The journal is also autographed by many of the camp's prisoners including Michael Collins and Richard Mulcahy, who would later become major figures in the War of Independence and the establishment of the Irish Free State.

"This journal and autograph book is hugely important

Patrick Brennan was one of the Irish Volunteer leaders in Clare at the time of the 1916 Rising and was interned at Frongoch in June 1916 by the British Army because of his Republican activities. On his release shortly before Christmas 1916, he became leader of the 1917 Volunteer campaign in Clare, which ultimately led to the Mountjoy Hunger Strike of September 1917, the martyrdom of Tomás Ashe and the consolidation of republican sentiment across the country. Brennan took part in the Cratloe Ambush of January 1921 and some other military actions but became more important as a political figure from the Anglo-Irish Truce of July 11, 1921. He was later elected a pro-treaty TD for East Clare and was central the development of the Civic Guard (later An Garda Síochána).

considering the upcoming centenary of the 1916 Rising and the significance of the Frongoch camp experience on the future leaders of the Irish War of Independence," said Clare County Council Cathaoirleach Cllr John Crowe.

"As a native of Sixmilebridge, I

have long known about the contribution of Patrick Brennan from nearby Meelick during the struggle for Irish freedom and subsequently as a politician, including as a TD for Clare from 1921 to 1923. This book serves as a timely and poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by Irish men

and women for their country."

The book, which is expected to go on public display before Christmas, was successfully acquired at Whyte's auction house on Saturday for €5,000 by Clare County Librarian Helen Walsh, acting on behalf of Clare Museum.

Ms Walsh said that as well as the journal entries and poetry, it also contains artwork by Cathal Mac Dubhghall featuring the words "Fianna Fáil", which was an alternative Irish language translation for the title of the rebel Irish Volunteers. The name was later adopted by Eamon de Valera's political party some ten years later.

She acknowledged the role played by Cratloe-based Councillor Cathal Crowe, who informed Clare County Council that the book was being auctioned and would be a historically significant acquisition for Clare Museum.

## AIRPORT

## Shannon springs forward with better autumn

by Bernie English  
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GROWTH of passenger numbers at Shannon has continued into autumn with an increase of more than a quarter on last year's figures.

Passenger numbers for October showed a 28 per cent increase on the same period last year while continental traffic more than doubled.

The biggest gains were on the European routes, with eight continental services among the nine new services launched for the summer season, the ninth being a

new Bristol service.

This resulted in a 111 per cent increase (from 20,347 to 42,950) in passengers to and from the continent last month compared to October 2013.

Transatlantic passengers were up by 15 per cent (from 23,511 to 27,108) thanks to the increased frequency across New York and Boston services this year, with Shannon's biggest market, the UK, up by six per cent (from 61,681 to 65,243).

Welcoming the growth, Shannon Group chief executive Neil Pakey said: "It's been a really great summer

season for Shannon and finished out with a very strong October. A very encouraging aspect to the growth is that there were gains across our three main markets, Europe, the UK and US.

"Increases in European services are particularly strong thanks to the nine new services this summer season, but the US market also performed very well as a result of greater frequencies. It was also heartening to see growth on UK services as this is the strongest market for Ireland and a six per cent percentage growth month over month is quite significant.

Mr Pakey said that with six new services this winter season compared to last year, growth is also achievable over the coming months.

"We have new winter services this year to Berlin, Bristol, Fuerteventura, Krakow, Paris and Warsaw. These, together with our other winter services, provide a really strong array of destinations for weekend or winter sun breaks as well as for business travelers.

"It's good news also for the region as our winter schedule this year has really good options from an inbound perspective, which is particularly good for tourism operators," he said.