

# Details of proposed work on St. Pat's graveyard released

IT IS PLANNED to renovate St. Patrick's Burial Ground, off the Dublin and Tipperary roads, and details of the proposed works have been released.

St. Patrick's Burial Ground was closed on the 26th April, 1918 by order of the Local Government Board for Ireland. A list of eleven named persons was included as exceptions to the order.

St. Patrick's Burial Ground is located at the Fairgreen, adjoining St. Brigid's Church on high ground commanding a view over the greater part of Limerick City. The Ordnance Survey Map shows that the burial ground was the site of a Round Tower and also of St. Patrick's Church Saingeal.

Access to the cemetery is gained via an entrance located on the Fairgreen Road close to its junction with St. Patrick's Road. The cemetery is surrounded by a stone wall in various states of repair.

The burial ground effectively divides into two areas, the first area lying close to the entrance where many of the vaults and headstones are still in good condition.

The rear of the site has considerably less headstones and is generally an open area. Regrettably, the burial ground has been the subject of much vandalism.

## Committee

The Limerick Corporation Cemeteries Committee, including members and officials has met with deputations from St. Patrick's Parish regarding St. Patrick's Burial Ground on a number of occasions.

During 1989, a meeting was held at the burial ground itself by the committee with the Bishop of Limerick, Most Rev. Jeremiah Newman, Canon Sadlier and Fr. O'Sullivan, as well as residents of the area. All parties agreed that a considerable amount of work was needed to restore the cemetery to a satisfactory condition.

The following extract is taken from the Cemeteries Committee meeting of the 29th November, 1988:-

"This is an old graveyard, very much in need of attention. It is overgrown on the boundary wall and many of the headstones are damaged. Many members felt that the best way to retain an old cemetery such as this would be to make a careful record of all the graves and their location and then to set the headstones in concrete around the boundary walls. The central area would then be grassed. The cemetery would become a garden of remembrance. A peaceful environment where people could sit or walk."

The photographs included in this report indicate clearly the condition of the cemetery in general, the entrance and boundary walls as well as showing its general location.

## Works

It is estimated that the following works would be carried out:-

1. The entire burial ground to be weed sprayed as part of the annual weed spraying programme for 1989.
2. The reconstruction of the boundary wall around the perimeter of the site.
3. The recording of all headstones and their location within the cemetery.
4. The carrying out of suitable improvement works on headstones and vaults deemed worthy of preservation at their present location.
5. The careful removal of other headstones and their setting in concrete around the boundary walls.
6. The extension of the footpath around the entire site.
7. The provision of an entrance close to the grotto to allow access as required through the burial ground to St. Brigid's Church.
8. The area generally to the rear of St. Brigid's Church to be landscaped and grassed to provide a peaceful

environment where people can sit or walk. This area would have to be a low maintenance area.

9. The improvement to the existing entrance to the burial ground to provide a more attractive access.

## Finances

Resources for the carrying out of recommended works

- (i) The weed spraying can be carried out from existing burial ground funds for 1989 and subsequent years.
- (ii) The recording of details of headstones etc. and some minor improvement works to same could clearly be carried out by the local community.
- (iii) It is likely that all other works would have to be carried out by Limerick Corporation. There are two methods by which this could be achieved:-
  - (a) By the provision of a specific sum of money in the 1990 Estimates to allow the work to be carried out by the Parks Section.
  - (b) Through the Social Employment Schemes.

At the date of the preparation of this report, the numbers within the Social Employment Schemes would not provide the necessary monies to carry out the works detailed. It is considered that numbers of seventy or up-

wards would be required in order that serious significant works could be carried out at St. Patrick's Burial Ground.

## Proposals

The following specific requirements would be carried out with regard to the work.

1. Employment of mason.

2. Purchase of topsoil.

3. Hiring of excavation machinery as well as normal building materials i.e. sand, cement etc.

It is considered that a sum of £6,000 would be required to augment the labour input of the Social Employment Schemes.

## Tuesday Blue record launch

THE WAITING is almost over for fans of Limerick's favourite rock 'n' roll sons, Tuesday Blue. The band that recorded its debut LP 'Shibumi' back in the distant days of late '87 and released it for the exclusive enjoyment of the American public last summer, will finally have its excellent product on sale in Irish record shops next week.

The restoration of St. Patrick's Burial Ground at the Fairgreen has been identified as the next burial ground restoration project to be undertaken by Limerick Corporation. Its restoration along the lines of that recently carried out at St. John's Graveyard would be of considerable benefit.

Hardly surprisingly, the record is being launched in Limerick—in Golden Discs, Todds to be precise—on Friday, July 7. The band will be in the shop to sign copies of LPs, tapes and CDs. Even if you're too impoverished to be able to afford your copy just now, go along anyway, the boys are looking forward to meeting their Limerick friends again after their American tour.

Tuesday Blue have also been confirmed as the headlining act for the Lark in the Park on July 9.

# Noted Limerick area singers for Concert Hall

TWO NOTED singers with strong Limerick connections — Noirin Ni Riain, from Caherconlish, and Aine Nic Ghabhann, formerly of the Shannon Castle Singers — will be featured in August at the National Concert Hall.

Noirin, associated with traditional Irish singing, will feature the composer Hildegard of Bingen, on 11th August at the John Field Room for a lunchtime concert.

Aine, a contralto accompanied by Aidan O'Carroll, on the piano, will feature at lunchtime on 25th August the composer Ina Boyle.

Noirin Ni Riain (Amhránaí/Singer): Noirin Ni Riain was born in Caherconlish, Co. Limerick, and studied at University College, Cork, where

she graduated with a B.Mus. Degree in 1972. She was awarded an M.A. in 1980 for her study of "Traditional Religious Songs in Irish". Arising from material which she uncovered during the course of research for this paper, she has recorded three albums with the Benedictine monks of Glenstal Abbey and she regularly performs and gives workshops in Europe and America.

Her programme reflects music by women of other centuries and cultures and she uses three instruments to accompany herself — two of them are Indian and the other is a mediaeval stringed instrument called the symphony, which is particularly suited to the chants of Abbess Hildegard of Bingen.

The programme for the concert on 11th August will include an 18th century Connemara love song "Donal Og", a 17th century carol from Kilmore, a Gregorian setting of the Magnificat and An Caoinéadh, a pre-Christian lament for a dead child, as well as religious songs and compositions by Abbess Hildegard of Bingen.

Featured composer Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179): Hildegard of Bingen is the only woman composer of religious music from the Middle Ages for whom a significant body of Plainchant remains in existence. She was also active as a mystic, a writer of visionary and scientific works, a teacher and as an adviser to heads of state.

Between 1151 and 1158 she collected seventy-seven of her chants (or songs) into a cycle and called it "Symphonia armonice celestium revelationum" (Symphony of the Harmony of Heavenly Revelations) because, she said, "they are revealed to me and give musical forms to divine mysteries."

Hildegard's parents were members of the German nobility and, as their tenth child, she was promised to the service of the church. She was a Benedictine novice from the age of eight and at fifteen she took the veil. She founded a monastery in the Rhine valley near Bingen and became famous for her prophecies and miracles. Known as "The Sybil of the Rhine" she was involved in the politics and diplomacy of her day and was a valued adviser to Popes, Emperors and Kings.

Aine Nic Ghabhann (contralto) and Aidan O'Carroll (piano): Aine Nic Ghabhann was born in Killarney. She first studied violin and piano and later the Irish harp and singing. She became one of the Bunratty Singers and was the first member of that group to be sent as an ambassador of song to the United States for St. Patrick's Day. She studied at University College, Cork, and Cork School of Music and she now teaches and conducts in the Kerry School of Music. She sang in many of Bach's cantatas in the New Irish Chamber Orchestra series and for BBC Radio 3. She is also a regular oratorio soloist and recitalist.

Featured composer Ina Boyle (1892-1967): Ina Boyle lived all her life at Bushey Park, near Enniskerry. She learned to play both violin and cello but found her true musical voice in composition and studied harmony, counterpoint and composition with George Hewson and Charles Kitson in Dublin and, by correspondence, with Charles Wood who was a cousin. In 1916 her "Soldiers at Peace" for orchestra and chorus was performed with great success and not long afterwards an orchestral work "The Magic Harp" received a Carnegie Award. In 1928 she went for a short time to London to have composition lessons from Vaughan Williams whose influence can be heard in her music but her own musical personality, predominantly quiet and serious, is always evident.

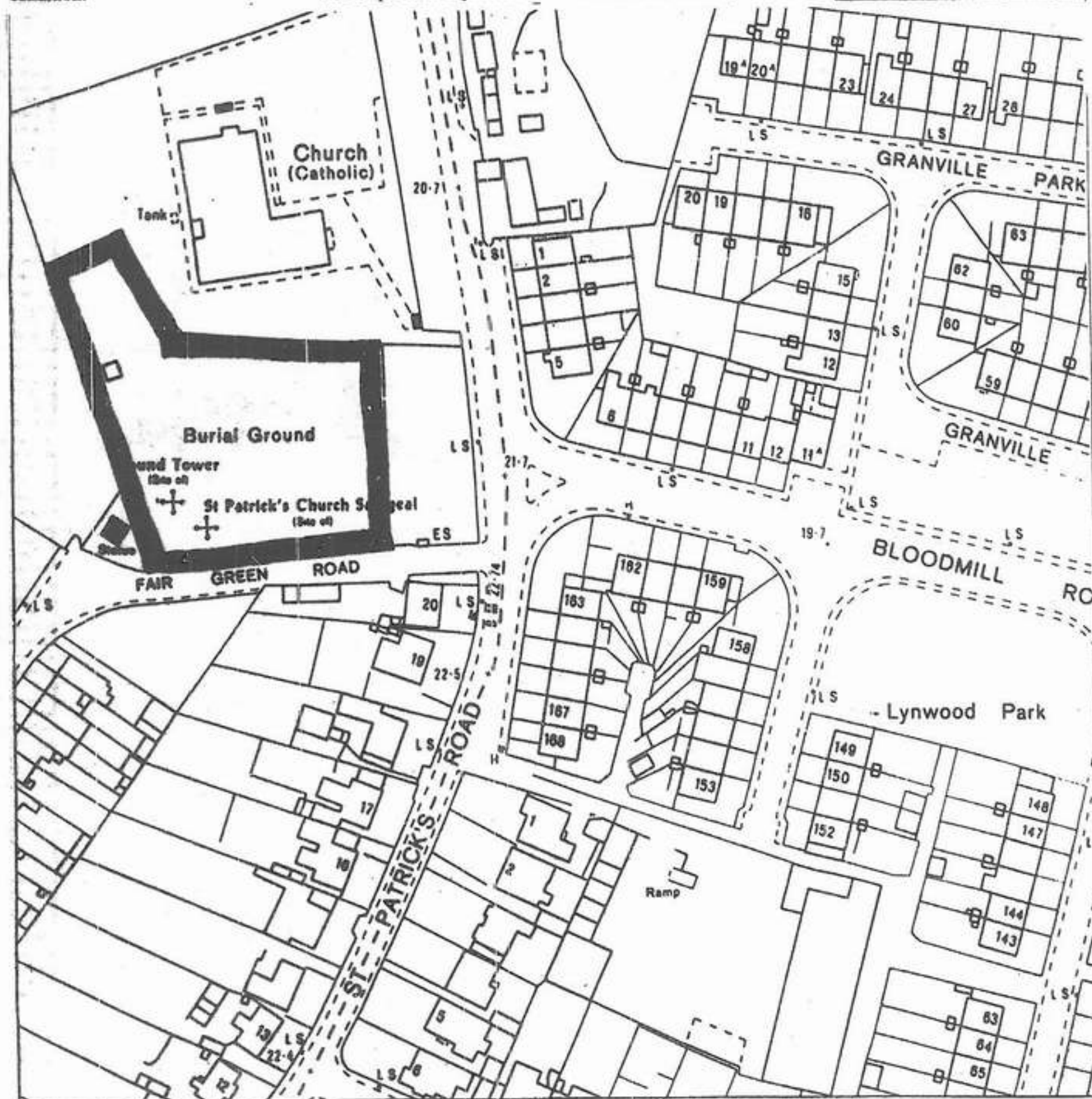
She was a gentle and retiring person and while he quiet, isolated life suited her temperamentally, it did not help her music to become better known. Most of her compositions are for voice solo settings, including some with orchestra, and man works for choir, including the "Gaelic Hymns" which are among her best-known works.

Programme: Mozart — Oiseaux, si tous les ans; Dan un bois solitaire; Abendempfindung.

Schumann — Widmung Der Arme Peter; Die So datenbraut; Frauenlieben leben (cycle of 8 songs).

Elgar — Like to a damas Rose; the Shepherd's Song; Pleading; A Child Asleep; Oh, soft was the Song.

Ina Boyle — A selection of songs.



Map of the site of St. Patrick's Church, which is to be renovated.

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