

but you can be sure it will be city council that end up paying them".

Recycle batteries and electrical goods

AS part of a nationwide Christmas appeal, Limerick householders are being urged to recycle their old used batteries at any retail outlet that sells similar type batteries.

Reminding consumers that the European Recycling Platform (ERP) is encouraging the public to gather up all their old electrical equipment - TVs, fridges, microwaves, PCs, batteries or plugs, and take them along to two free electronic recycling days - on Friday, December 19 to the Pallasgreen GAA Car Park by the Bottle Bank, and Saturday, December 20, to John the Baptist Community School Yard car park, Hospital.

Councillors were told that the objective is to develop creative industry in the city, as well as establishing an artistic cluster in Georgian Limerick.

"We will be drawing up a draft strategy and will be looking at sites, most obvious at the moment being the Theatre Royal and an OPW building nearby," commented Pat Dowling, director of services.

"We've applied for European funding - an initial one million euro, which would allow us put staff in place, etc".

Meantime, refurbishment work on

Attempts likely to be made to bring the former Royal Cinema back to life

artists' studios (to cater for 22 artists) in James Street has been completed and includes upgrading of the accommodation to meet with fire standards. A grant from the Arts Council was secured for the work. Funding was also received for the refurbishment of eight apartments in John's Square that will be used as a living space for the art-

ists.

Next year, being the 25th anniversary of the nationally established, Kate O'Brien Weekend, the council has applied for a grant from the Department of Art, Sports and Tourism to make the 2009 literary event a special one. It will take place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, February 27, 28, and

March 1 in the County Courthouse, Merchant's Quay, with an expanded programme.

Cllr Jim Long's recommendation that the Mayor of Seville and other dignitaries from the city, which this year named a street after the Limerick writer in her honour, be invited as special guests to the event, was agreed to.

The truth behind St Lelia's, according to Louie

Bodies of victims of famine victims disposed of in land outside graveyard

by Marie Hobbins

WITH progress is being made in the restoration of the old St Lelia's Cemetery

in Killeely, as recently reported in the Limerick Post, author, Louie Byrne, Shannon, says that as far as he is aware, Killeely Graveyard is Protestant

and situated in Cratloe.

He said: "The ancient graveyard in Killeely is St Lelia's, on the opposite side of the road in Ballynanty Beg, where there used to be a stream. In the centre was a holy well, known as St Lelia's Holy Well, which, it was claimed, had curative powers. "Ballynanty estate was purchased by Limerick Corporation during World War 2 and the lands turned into allotments. The lands were ploughed and divided and offered rent free to the people of the estate at Killeely, and each tenant was given a spade and fork, seeds, fertiliser, etc, free of charge.

"They obtained their irrigating water from the little stream and should one break the handle of the fork or spade, then they took the broken parts to the Corporation depot, in what we called Ball Alley Lane (opposite Francis Street), where it was duly repaired free of charge".

Mr Byrne reveals that during the Potato Famine of 1845-'47, part of the land outside the graveyard, where the housing estate is now located, was used for the disposal of the bodies of famine victims.

"It's wrongly believed that they were buried in the graveyard - many complaints were made to Limerick Corporation at this time regarding the terrible smell coming from unburied corpses, and the entire area was known and feared as

"the haunted glens of Killeely".

Pointing out that there is a lot of history attached to the townland, Mr Byrne says he is delighted that it is now being recorded.

"For example, at Watch House Cross, where the two counties (Limerick and Clare) meet, there is the haunting story that where the little known river, Avondoon, in the bogs of Monabhar, joined the river Shannon, the devil is seen periodically by percipient people, walking with the infamous Philip McAdam (a Scottish farmer in Parteen who was found to be a spy for Cromwell's troops under General Ireton)."

Mr Byrne says that most of the stories and legends relating to Killeely and the surrounding townlands can be read in parts one and two of his book, Dare You Ripple My Pond, and that the Bard of Thomond also wrote on the subject.

"Limerick Corporation erected a bridge, which became known as Rices Bridge, over the river at Quinpool and the proof of the building of this bridge is recorded on a stone slab inserted into the old bridge, which reads as follows: Peter Creagh, son of Andrew Creagh, Mayor of Limerick, had this bridge constructed at the expense of the city in the year of our Lord, 1635".

Mr Byrne believes that this stone should be removed to the city museum, as it is slowly sinking into the road.

