

# Soaring traffic growth recorded at Shannon

Shannon Traffic Reaches 3.3 Million in 2005.

by Marie Hobbins

AN all time record figure of 3.3million passenger traffic was recorded for Shannon Airport during 2005.

This represents 900,000 passengers, making it the highest figure achieved in the history of the airport.

Key terminal traffic figures reached 2.6 million, a 35 per cent increase on 2004 which now positions Shannon as Ireland's fastest-growing major

airport in percentage terms.

"Within the important international segment the largest and fastest growing market is the UK. A total of 1,163,000 passengers have travelled on UK routes during the year which is a 67 per cent increase on 2004 and European services have carried 656,000 passengers, 48 per cent ahead of 2004. Transatlantic routes performed well with over 713,000 passen-

gers - which is a three per cent increase and the highest ever annual total at Shannon for this key market," informs a spokesperson for the Shannon Airport Authority. And in a difficult year for air cargo, Shannon's flown throughput for the year at 29,500 tonnes, mirrored the 2004 volumes.

Delighted with the very substantial hike in traffic, airport director, Martin Moroney said: "The record passen-

ger traffic out-turn for 2005 is confirmation of Shannon's attractiveness to the fast-growing low cost carrier sector as well as to our traditional airline customers. The expanding choice of routes and reducing levels of air fares currently available here is having a major impact on passenger numbers as well as on the geographic spread of airport users."

Mr Moroney said the SAA will continue to

develop the airport's route network in co-operation with its partner airlines to encourage further growth.

"The change to the Ireland-US Air Services Agreement announced in late 2005 will mean that from November 2006 a less favourable regulatory regime will apply from Shannon's perspective but we are confident we can maintain a significant share of a growing transatlantic market through a combination of support

for the existing routes and efforts to develop new services."

The airport boss said that with new routes coming on stream from 2006 - Manchester,

Murcia, Rome and Wroclaw with Ryanair and New York JFK with Delta Airlines as well as additional services to Atlanta with Delta and to Newark with

Continental Airlines, he is confident of another year of healthy traffic growth with benefits to tourism and business interests.

## Stalling of Harris sculpture infuriates City councillor

by Marie Hobbins

EXASPERATION that problems have arisen in commissioning and executing a life-size bronze statue of the late Limerick screen and stage actor, Richard Harris was voiced by Cllr Pat Kennedy this week.

The councillor reminded members of the Transportation Committee that there had been unanimous agreement by the Council and management at City Hall that the city would honour the late actor's memory by erecting a sculpture of him in a prominent position on Bedford Row.

Although an exact location for the statue has not yet been decided on, there is a strong possibility that it will stand on a prominent position on the pedestrianised Bedford Row.

Cllr Kennedy reminded the committee that he had been approached by the Harris family with a



Late Limerick screen and stage legend, Richard Harris.

view to keeping them advised of developments regarding the statue.

"We, as a council decided to erect a statue of Richard Harris but I'm now told there are problems about this - will you please attend to this as the Harris fam-

ily would love to see some move on this, although no consultation with the family has taken place to date and furthermore if we want to have the statue erected in time for the reopening of Bedford Row when its three million euro refurbishment is completed, we should now be commissioning the sculptor and allowing him adequate time to execute the statue," he told assistant director of services, Joe Delaney.

Agreeing with Cllr Kennedy that it had been agreed that a bronze statue of the late actor would be erected on Bedford Row, Cllr Joe Leddin, chairman of the committee said he was unaware that problems had arisen.

The councillors were told by Mr Delaney that the issue of the statue will be handled by the Cultural and Environmental Strategic Policy Committee.

## Hundreds attend Sean Sabhat commemoration



Vice-chairperson of Limerick city Sinn Féin, Maurice Quinlivan introduces Cllr John Dwyer at the annual Sean Sabhat commemoration in Limerick.

DESPITE being a cold foggy day over, over 200 people turned out last Sunday for the annual Sean Sabhat commemoration in Limerick.

Local people waving flags and banners were led by the Ballyseedy Martyrs Republican Band from Tralee, as the march proceeded from Arthur's Quay through the city to Sabhat's grave at the republican plot in Mount St Laurence Cemetery.

Maurice Quinlivan, vice-chairperson of Limerick city Sinn Féin and party candidate for Limerick East in the forthcoming General Election chaired proceedings at the graveside. Speaking at the event, he pointed out that "the commemoration is organised annually to remember Seán Sabhat who along with Fergal O'Hanlon was killed in action during an IRA attack in occupied Ireland".

Former Republican prisoner Harry Duggan laid a wreath on behalf of the Republican movement in memory of Seán Sabhat and all those who died in the cause of Irish freedom. And Cllr John Dwyer of Wexford delivered the oration.

## Mayor seeks centenary honour for Limerick Olympian

ONE hundred years after the legendary County Limerick athlete, Con Leahy of Cregane won the gold medal in the Men's High Jump at the 1906 Olympic Games in Athens, the Mayor of Limerick, Cllr Diarmuid Scully is requesting Limerick City Council's Culture and Sporting Committee to mark the centenary of the Limerick man's triumph.

Con Leahy's achievement gained worldwide attention when he refused to accept the medal under the Union Jack and instead, with two fellow Irish medal winners marched around the Olympic stadium under an Irish flag.

Commenting to the Limerick Post Mayor Scully said: "we pride ourselves on our sporting achievements and I feel that we should, in this centenary year, honour both the achievement of Con Leahy on the sporting field and his gallant effort to promote the cause of Irish independence on an international stage."

Con Leahy also won a silver medal for the Triple Jump in 1906 and Silver for the High Jump in London 1908.

However it is on record that though originally the 1906 games were officially considered Olympic games, the International Olympic Committee now considers them the "Unofficial Olympic Games" and they are not included in Olympic records.

## LSC Programmes - January 2006

LIMERICK Senior College (LSC) is a leading college in the field of Further Education in the Mid-West Region for many years. This January, it is offering a wide range of highly relevant, learner-centered programmes in Computers, Business, Childcare, Art/Craft, Fashion, Leisure/Home Skills and Languages. Accreditation is by validating bodies such as FETAC, ECDL City and Guilds, ICM, IMI, UCC and the University of London.

The college has invested in new facilities and equipment including the provision of new rooms for pottery, print, art, photography, beauty therapy and childcare. There's a new digital facility studio for media courses too.

New courses starting in January 2006 include Strategic Career Planning, Occupational Stress Management, Photoshop - Advanced, Computerised Accounts - Advanced, MOS (Word and Excel) and Database Set-up and Management.

"The new course in Strategic Career Planning is for people already in the workplace, considering a change in career direction," says the director of Adult Education at LSC, Pat Maunself. "Occupational Stress Management is tailored to suit individuals who wish to understand the dynamics of occupational stress and empower themselves to improve their productivity and performance in the workplace". Click on [www.limericksc.ie](http://www.limericksc.ie) for details.