

CHRONICLE NEWS BRIEFS

Kilkee Harris home for sale

■ The Billows, once owned by Richard Harris, is to be auctioned

Alan Owens

A HOUSE formerly owned by Richard Harris is to go up for sale by public auction in Kilkee next month.

The house, known as 'The Billows', is on the West End of the Co. Clare seaside resort, long a favourite haunt of Limerick holiday makers, including the famous actor.

Harris bought the house in 1969, leaving it in the stewardship of his close friend and Kilkee native, Manuel Di Lucia, who is acting as a local agent for the sale.

"Dickie bought it in 1969 and did it all up at great expense.

Most of the furnishings and fittings were bought in London and shipped over because his wife at the time and sister did all interior design for the house," said Manuel.

"In 1971 my wife and I moved into it as caretakers. In late '73 we opened it up as a restaurant. Dickie came to stay with us in the house and we cooked him dinner and he told us we should open a restaurant.

"He said we could open it in the house and pay the expenses of the house, which he was paying at the time," added Manuel.

Hell-raising actor Harris was known to be a huge fan of Kilkee, often staying in the Strand, Victoria and Hydro Hotels.

Interestingly, although he owned the house for a number of years, he only stayed there once.

"Dickie owned it for five years but only ever spent one night in it, that is all, that is a fact," said Manuel.

"Everybody thinks that he lived in it, but he didn't. That was the night he stayed with us."

Harris sold the house in 1974 to an Englishman called Allan Blakemore, Di Lucia added.

It was sold again in 1975 for £13,150 when Blakemore went bankrupt. Several owners, including two Limerick men, have owned it subsequently.

It was sold for £350,000 in 1999 to its current owner.

The house is in excess of 120

years old, but is located on a stunning and much sought after area of Kilkee.

There are stunning views from the large bay windows of the house.

It is listed at €550,000 for the auction, which will take place on August 21 in the Stella Maris Hotel in Kilkee.

"There has been a good bit of interest in the auction and as we get closer, there will probably be more interest," said Manuel.

"There are magnificent views from the house - it is in probably one of the best locations in Kilkee, a prime property. A lot of work has been done to it," added Manuel.

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Local schools apply to Department for funds

OVER 20 city schools have outstanding applications with the Department of Education's school building programme.

These include applications for new schools from Gaelscoil Sheoirse Clancy, Gaelscoil Raheen, Gaelscoil Castletroy, the Children's Ark at the Regional Hospital, Limerick Education Centre and St Augustine's.

Capital funding for extension/refurbishment is being sought by St

Patrick's Boys and Girls National Schools, St John the Baptist NS, Scoil Ide, St Paul's NS, St Brigid's NS, St Gabriel's School, Our Lady of Lourdes NS, the Mid-West School for Hearing Impaired Children, The Model School, Galvone NS, Colaiste Mhichil, Presentation Secondary, Salesians Secondary, Ardscoil Mhuire, Laurel Hill Secondary School, Scoil Carmel and Villiers School.

O'Sullivan is critical of cancer screening delay

LABOUR health spokesperson Deputy Jan O'Sullivan has condemned the delay in the national bowel cancer screening programme which the Limerick TD says has forced the Irish Cancer Society to step in with funding.

"Has it really come to this, where our health services may have to rely on a contribution from a voluntary organisation to deliver on this vital service

The Irish Cancer Society has done some terrific work over many years but it is completely unfair to expect them to become benefactors to the HSE's cancer service," said Deputy O'Sullivan. "An estimated 900 people die from bowel cancer every



Deputy Jan O'Sullivan: is the health service relying on contributions from voluntary bodies?

year in Ireland and we have the worst mortality rate for the disease in Europe, largely because by the time it is discovered, it is already at an advanced stage. In other words, our preventative strategies are completely inadequate," she added.



The Billows, Kilkee, which was once owned by Richard Harris, pictured inset

The Tailor and Ansty will be staged at Fota House

THE NEW Theatre in Dublin are to stage an exciting new production of The Tailor and Ansty by Eric Cross in Fota House in Cork.

Theatre goes in Limerick are being urged to make the short trip to Cork to see the play, which was first published as a book in 1942 and banned in Ireland shortly afterwards.

The story was adapted by P.J. O'Connor and first

performed in The Peacock Theatre, Dublin in 1967 with great seanchai Eamon Kelly and Brid Lynch in the title roles.

This latest version of the play is to run for five weeks in Cork, featuring Ronan Wilmot and Ena May.

Tickets are €20 and the shows run nightly at 8.30pm. Dinner and show combination tickets are available. For bookings call 021-4815543.

President and Council of State to consider new Bills

David Hurley

CONTROVERSIAL new legislation which was drafted in the wake of the murders of Roy Collins and Shane Geoghegan will be debated by the Council of State when it meets at Aras an Uachtaráin this week.

President Mary McAleese has convened a meeting of the Council to discuss the Criminal Justice Bill, which has passed all stages of the Oireachtas. If signed into law the legislation will allow suspected gangland figures to be tried at the non-jury special criminal court. It will also allow gardai to apply to the courts for an extension of a person's detention period in the absence of the suspect and their lawyers.

The Council of State includes the Taoiseach, the Tanaiste, the Chief Justice, the President of the High



President Mary McAleese who has called a meeting of the Council of State to discuss new legislation

Court, the Ceann Comhairle and the Attorney General.

Following the meeting President McAleese can either sign the legislation into law or refer it to the Supreme Court to test its constitutionality.

Entrepreneurs can pick up €15,000 from 4FM

David Hurley

FLEDGLING radio station 4FM is offering budding entrepreneurs in Limerick the perfect boost by giving them a chance to win a €15,000 advertising and communications package.

The multi-city radio station, which began broadcasting to Limerick, Clare, Cork, Galway and Dublin earlier this year, has launched a competition which it says aims to recognise and reward people who have taken a chance and who are forging ahead in business and in life despite the current economic difficulties.

The judging panel for the "doing it for themselves" competition includes Superquinn founder, Senator Feargal Quinn; Tanya Airey of Sunway

Travel; Richard Curran from Dragon's Den and Martin Block, chief executive of 4FM.

"Starting a business is never easy and no more so than in the current climate. However, it is not all doom and gloom and we are delighted to be able to offer entrepreneurs in Limerick the opportunity to win this advertising and communications package that could really help in putting them on the map," said Martin Block.

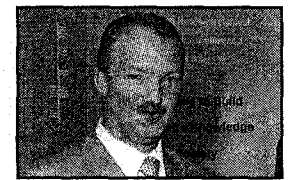
The closing date for entries is August 10 and the overall winner and two runners-up, who will each receive a radio advertising package worth €1,500, will be announced in September.

Entries can be submitted at www.4fm.ie

Literacy camps praised

MINISTER of State Sean Haughey has paid tribute to primary teachers who gave up holiday time to support the series of literacy summer camps taking place around the country this month.

Our Lady of Lourdes NS, Rosbrien; St John's Convent School, Cathedral Place and Scoil Iosagain, Sexton Street, have all taken part in the initiative, which aims to help 1,400 children with literacy difficulties learn through art, dance, music and drama. "It is very appropriate that these summer camps are targeted at children at risk from social or academic



difficulties," Deputy Haughey said of the €240,000 scheme. "I would like to pay tribute to the primary teachers who give of their time selflessly to this initiative and who provide the children with exciting opportunities to develop self-esteem, motivation, imagination, concentration and discipline," he added.