

JP's girl Sue Ann planning lavish refurbishment of mansion home

Aine Fitzgerald

THE daughter of multi-millionaire businessman JP McManus is seeking planning permission for a major revamp of the 18th Century Islanmore House near Croom.

Sue Ann and Cian Foley, who were married at Martinstown Church in July 2007, have applied to Limerick County Council for permission to carry out major refurbishment works on their lavish home – a protected structure. They purchased it from the Tarry family last October.

The development, if given the go-ahead, will see the construction of four bedroom suites including dressing room and ensuite bathroom at the first floor of the stately home.

Family and visiting friends will enjoy the luxurious surroundings of the new three-bedroom guest wing to the upper level of the south courtyard building. And it's not only friends and family who will availing of accommodation on the rolling estate. Staff are to have their own apartments at the east and north courtyard blocks.

In an effort to retain the original style of the Georgian mansion, the internal refurbishment works, which will be carried out on all rooms, will include the reinstatement of original features.

The project will see the partial demolition of the east wing of the main house with the addition of a rear two-storey courtyard extension and glazed gallery.

Permission is also being sought for a lift from the lower ground floor to the first floor level of the house and the removal of the four storey water tower to the north facade. The existing driveway is to be redirected to form a new avenue terminating at the new entrance to the west facade.

While the exact details, in terms of size, of the



Cian and Sue-Ann on their wedding day in 2007. The couple have applied for planning permission for extensive refurbishment of and addition to their home Islanmore House

redevelopment have not yet been revealed, it is expected that when completed, Islanmore House will rival that of the McManus family home in Martinstown in terms of quality and luxury. Under construction for over five years, the home on the grounds of Martinstown stud was finally occupied by the McManus family this year and boasts every luxury imaginable including a gym, sauna, steam room, hot tubs, a cinema and basement parking.

Set on a 400-acre rolling country estate outside Croom, Islanmore House was built in Georgian style in 1794 for a younger son of the Earl of Dunraven as a fishing and hunting lodge.

The Tarry family took it

over in 1963 and turned it into a stud farm, specialising in breeding, foaling, weaning and sales preparation of thoroughbreds.

Sue Ann McManus married Killorglin man Cian Foley in a private ceremony at Martinstown church in 2007 followed by a star-studded reception in a marquee on the grounds of Martinstown Stud.

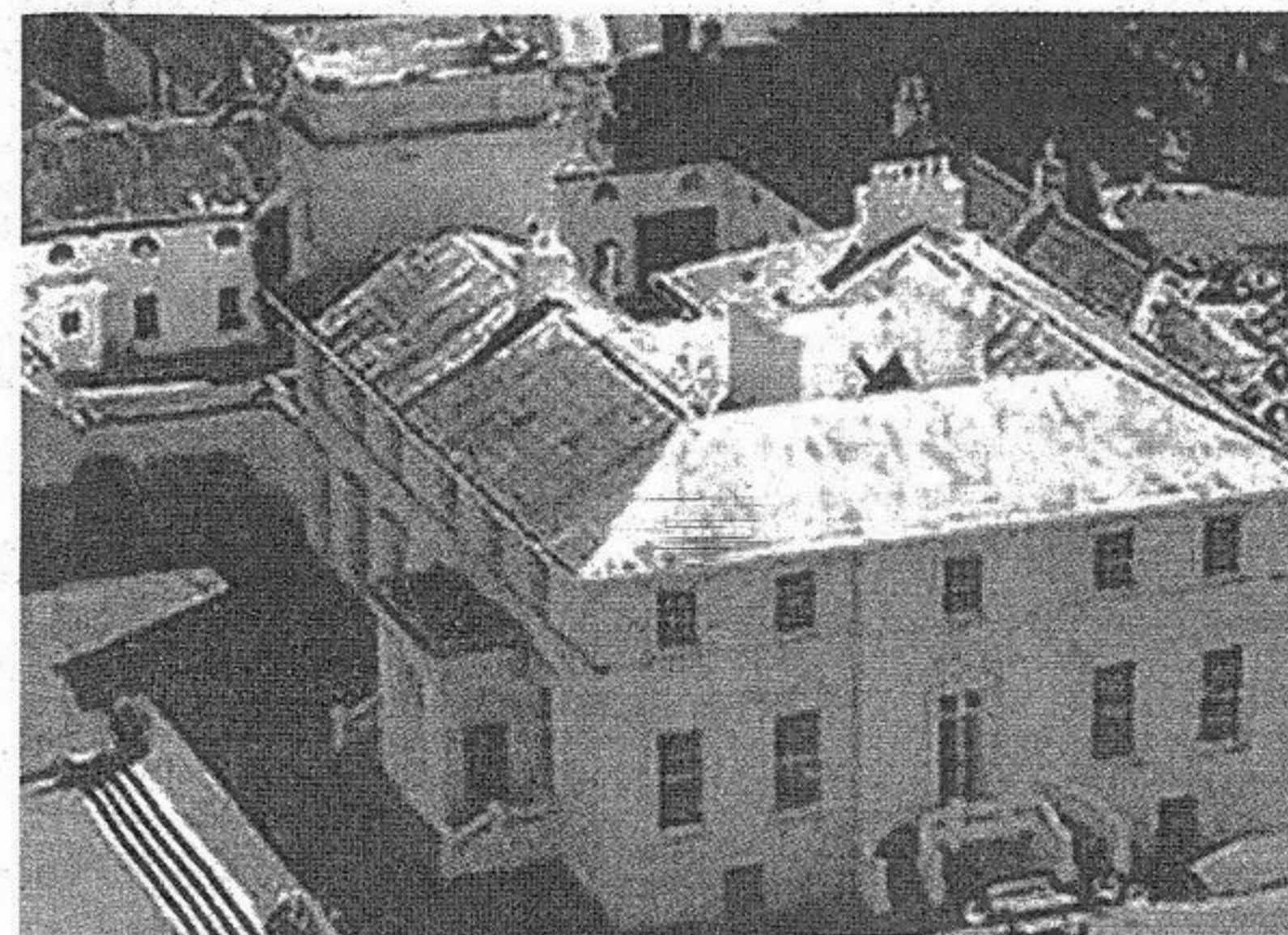
While they have spent much of their time between the family homes in Martinstown and America since their nuptials, the couple now look set to settle in County Limerick, and Islanmore – which is surrounded by mature trees and high walls – offers enhanced security.

Tony Tarry, a vet, and his wife Mary oversaw the

development of the stud farm and award-winning gardens until more recent years when it was handed over to their son Charles and his wife, Karen.

The fine Georgian house is set off with three acres of mown lawn and gardens which were open to the public by appointment. The river Maigue also runs through the property.

As a young man JP McManus was a familiar face at Islanmore. The story goes that he would arrive at the front door holding a case containing his backgammon board and dice. A gentleman's agreement, however, meant that what happened inside the walls of Islanmore stayed inside the walls of Islanmore.



There are plans to restore a number of the original features of the house in Croom

News in brief

Limerick entries sought for Blas na hEireann awards

BLAS na hEireann is seeking applications from Limerick-based food producers for its annual food awards, which take place next Tuesday.

Now in its third year, the Blas na hEireann Irish Food Awards are becoming a barometer for how vibrant the Irish food scene is becoming.

With over 30 categories to enter, food producers can follow in the footsteps of previous winners from the county – Nature's Bounty, Sallymills, Glenstal Foods, Old Irish Creamery and AIBP.

Artie Clifford, chairman of the awards committee, is looking forward to this year's awards, and is encouraging Limerick producers to get involved with the competition.

"These awards recognise all that is important to Irish shoppers at the moment – supporting local Irish producers in their own communities, some of whom are making produce that can compete with the best in the world," he said.

"Limerick producers always do extremely well at the Blas Awards, and we hope to see a good turn out again this year," he added.

More information can be had from www.irish-foodawards.com. The deadline for entries is next Monday, and the winners will be announced as part of the Dingle Peninsula Food & Wine Festival.

Mill Bar works

ANNACOTTY Developments Ltd, trading as The Mill Bar, has received planning permission for works at the pub at The Mill, Rivers, Annacotty. They include the construction of a structurally independent glazed canopy to existing decking area on east elevation, and hardwood louvred screen to conceal existing plant equipment at existing groundfloor bar. This is a protected structure.

Poetry Revival deadline

THE Revival Poetry Journal is once again calling for submissions from local, national and international poets for its next edition, due out in October. Published four times a year, Revival aims to showcase the work of unpublished and published poets. The deadline for submissions to the October issue is August 31. Send to The Editor, Revival, Moravia, Glenmore Avenue, Roxboro Road, Limerick, or email revival1@eircom.net. More information is available at www.revivalpress.com. Priority is to be given to submissions that have not been published in previous editions.

VECs make the switch

BOTH Limerick vocational education committees (VECs) have switched to Energia for their gas supplies, joining three other Munster-based VECs who now use the alternative energy company for their energy needs. Cork, Waterford and South Tipperary VECs have also signed up to Energia, which now enjoys 25 per cent market share of the business electricity market in Ireland.

Court told man was 'literally foaming at the mouth'

A CROOM man with more than 160 previous convictions was sentenced to a total of six months in prison by Limerick Court when he pleaded guilty to

