

Historical data is unearthed in city

by Marie Hobbins

STRONG evidence has emerged that one of the city's earliest Christian settlements was located in the northside district of Kileely.

Two reports submitted by Lynch Archaeological Consultancy and Noel Quirke of Limerick Civic Trust's history department, indicate that a Round Tower and church stood in the vicinity of St Lelia's Cemetery in Kileely. They have been lodged with the Public Works.

Cllr Michael Hourigan was instrumental in securing the involvement of the Civic Trust, responding to the local people's desire to have what is believed to be the city's oldest cemetery restored.

The cemetery, the burial place of the famous Limerick surgeon, Sylvester O'Halloran, who pioneered the eye cataract operation, and founded the College of Surgeons in Dublin, has retained the respect of local people down through the generations.

"Over the past months, a major surface clearance of the entire cemetery has been completed

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Fr Donal McNamara, Cllr Michael Hourigan pictured at St Lelias on Monday for the annual visit to pray for all those interred in the graveyard.

Historical data

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by Civic Trust, during which two very important studies on the cemetery have been completed. The studies give strong indications that, indeed, this is the site of one of the first Christian settlements, with an adjoining church and Round Tower," he told the Limerick Post.

Civic Trust director, Denis Leonard, says that Papal letters in 1403, refer to a James Oslarnira being assigned to the vicarage of clerical patronage in Kileely, and that according to the Black Book medieval church records of Limerick, there is reference in the 13th and 14th centuries to the Christian settlement.

"As well as restoring the cemetery, we now have the bonus of the social history attached to the area, but we will require sanction from the National Monuments to proceed".

While further valuable historical information on the early Christian settlement has yet to emerge, Cllr Hourigan is keen to see restoration of the cemetery completed. "I want as much of the information on the gravestones to be recorded where possible and that all information on the cemetery be made available.

Violence against women

By Rose Rushe

MUNSTER rugby players flanked the opening ceremony of 16 Days of Action Against Violence Against Women at Adapt House in Rosbrien.

The focus is on 'human rights for women, human rights for all' and the Limerick momentum