



s of Island Theatre  
work this year



Pascal Scott and Aidan Crowe in the Limerick Theatre Hub's  
production of *The Revenger's Tragedy*

PICTURE: ARTHUR GOUGH

"I was attracted to the play originally because I just loved the title and when I read it I decided it would be fun to do an adaptation of it," says Mike.

"It is a good old fashioned play, a Jacobean revenge tragedy, and it is full of blood, lust, incest, murder - so I thought it would be interesting to do a modern take on it, because unfortunately those things are very close to us.

"One of the things we discovered about it as we went along is that it is a tragedy as the title would suggest, but we have realised that it is hilarious, sort of a black comedy. There are some real elements of farce - it is quite black,

highlights the violence and seeking revenge. There is a key line in the play that is an old Chinese proverb I found somewhere that says 'he who seeks revenge must dig two graves'.

Thankfully, while a grave has been dug and filled for Island Theatre Company, another is not required for professional theatre in Limerick, which is alive and well and very much determined to continue as such.

**The Revenger's Tragedy opens in the Belltable on November 11, with previews on the 9 and 10. For bookings contact 061-319866**

fill the  
of winter



Limerick County poet in residence  
Eileen Sheehan will join Cora  
Fenton and Noirin Ni Riain

at 3.30pm. Here the three performers will be joined by Allundé, the women's community singing group established by the County Arts Office.

The last venue is Glenstal Abbey on Sunday, November 22, at 3.30 and the County Limerick Youth Choir, again an initiative of the County Arts Office, will join in the afternoon of music, song, poetry and story.

"This is an event that will dispel the winter and recessionary blues," says Joan. "No recession can dispossess us of our wonderful wealth of song, story, poetry and music. All these are integral to our identity as a people and will sustain us in the short and long term in our daily lives and endeavours."

Enquiries on Women's Voices...  
Women's Stories... to Limerick  
County Council Arts Office at 061  
496498/496300 or  
arts@limerickcoco.ie

## Lough Gur journal shines light into our shared past

Kevin Corbett

**SURROUNDED** as they are by history, the members of Lough Gur and District Historical Society have an enthusiasm for the past that few in the county could hope to match.

And being the kind souls that they are, they have decided once more to share some of the wonderful stories from our common heritage in the 15th edition of the Lough Gur and District Historical Journal.

It is an impressive volume, physically weighty, but accessible and interesting from cover to cover featuring contributions from several of the Society's members, and one or two from Lough Gur residents of times gone by, all of it brought together by editor, Michael Quinlan.

And the former teacher and well-known tour guide is justifiably proud of the effort.

"We set up the society in 1984, brought out our first journal in 1985 and this is our 15th since then, which is quite a collection. And I admit we're really proud of them, we're very proud of how useful they are to students, history students, transition year students. There is a lot in there for students to use to help with assignments they have to do," said Michael.

But the target audience is considerably wider and most readers will peruse it

for pleasure rather than work.

The journal kicks off with an article by Tom Toomey on the impact of the Spanish Influenza epidemic of 1918/19 on Limerick, a topical entry if ever there was one.

What follows is a series of articles that cast light on military heroes, adventurous emigrants and ancient history, but also on ordinary people, local projects and the culture that links all of the above.

One interesting family link is highlighted in the journal by Michael: "The piece 'Lough Gur and its pillar stones, stone circles and traditions' was written by Owen Bresnan in 1903. He was a poet and historian at local level.

"And, underneath it, there is 'My story' by Margaret Costello and Margaret is Owen's granddaughter and on Sunday I'm invited to her 90th birthday and I'll be presenting her with this journal then."

Michael's own contribution to the journal is 'Voyage Most Memorable'.

"That's something I wanted to get in, like 'The Quiet Corner' on Lyric FM. The Asgard sunk recently and I was quite upset about it as I had been on the boat in 1998, so I did a piece in five sections (a la the popular radio slot).

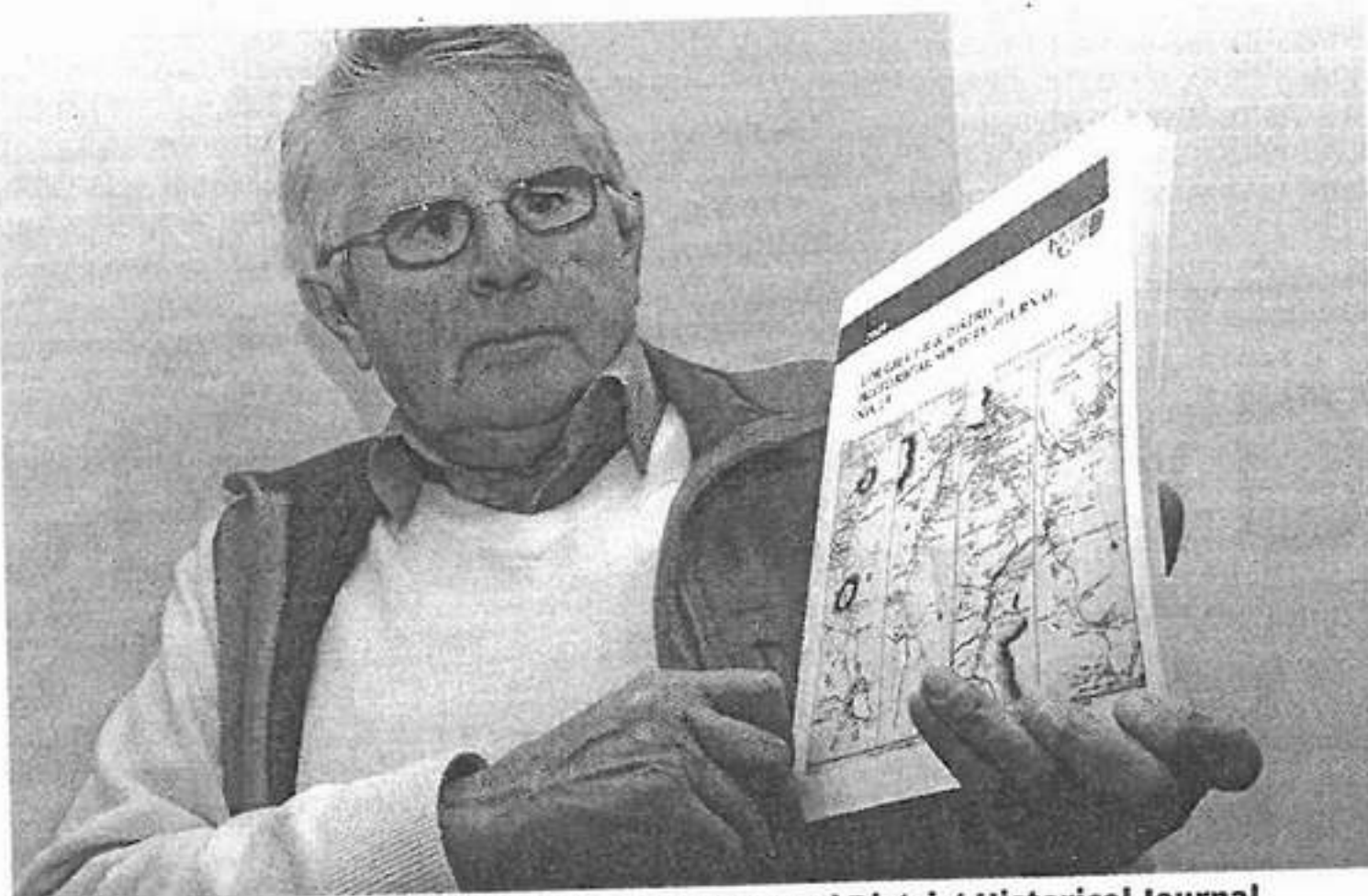
"People can go on it for pleasure sailing, so we spent two weeks on it in the Canaries, a wonderful time and wonderful memories. Consequently, I was

quite upset when it went down and no-body has made any attempt to bring the thing up at all!"

It is 25 years since the group was founded and as part of the celebrations a trip was taken this summer to that jewel of the ancient world - Rome. There is, of course, an account of the trip in the journal.

With a quarter century and 15 journals under their belt, Michael and his fellows show no sign of stopping. After all, in some place like Lough Gur, the material is there in abundance.

**This year's journal is for sale locally and will also be available at bookshops in the city**



Michael Quinlan, editor, with the 15th Lough Gur and District Historical Journal