



Jim McCormack, a brother of 'The Honda Man' Philip McCormack, whose family have placed a 'ghost bike' at the Kilmurry Roundabout on the Dublin Road the site of his fatal accident in January of this year.

by Alan Jacques
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A POWERFUL message was sent to Limerick road users this week when the family of the late Philip McCormack, fondly known as 'The Honda Man', placed a white bicycle at the site of his fatal accident in the city.

The 40-year-old father of one died after being knocked off his bicycle by a car on the Kilmurry Roundabout on January 8 last. Philip's family have now placed a 'ghost bike' at the accident spot in Castletroy, in his memory, and also as a sombre reminder of the tragedy to highlight cyclists' right to safe travel on our roads.

For the next two months, a bicycle,

painted all white, will serve as a fitting tribute to Philip that sends out a strong message to all road users. Written across the haunting bicycle in bold black is the simple and effective message 'cyclist killed here on 8-1-14'.

The first ghost bikes were created in St Louis, Missouri in 2003. Currently there are more than 610 ghost bikes that have since appeared in more than 210 locations throughout the world. Philip's younger brother Jim (36) told the Limerick Post that he hopes their ghost bike will highlight the importance of road safety and influence cyclists in the city to wear helmets.

"We are putting this ghost bike at the spot Philip was killed for two months in his memory and to make

drivers aware that cyclists have a right to the road too. I would also like to strongly urge cyclists to please wear helmets," Jim commented.

"Philip was my best friend. I miss him every day of the week. He would do anything for anyone and he loved his family so much. His daughter Katie just turned eight and misses her dad very much," he said.

Philip, who lived in Annacotty, was commissioned in 2011 to restore and customise two Honda 50 motorbikes painted in Limerick colours which featured prominently in an 11850 TV advert. The campaign paid homage to the 'Nifty 50' as it is better known. Mr McCormack rescued the motorbikes, restored them to their former glory, helped shoot the television advert and even featured in it.

"He was a gifted guy, really good with his hands, and he loved bicycles and motorbikes," his brother Jim revealed.

Originally from Garryowen, Philip is survived by parents Jim and Eileen, daughter Katie, brothers Martin, John and Jim and sisters Kay, Avril, Jennifer, Vivienne and Gillian. His sister Jennifer described her late brother as "fantastic father and a great son".

Philip's family has also taken some small comfort in the fact that Philip's organs, which were donated for transplant following his passing, have helped save lives. A ghost bike in the well-known Limerick man's memory will be situated near the Kilmurry Roundabout for the next two months.

clear treatment

ted Minister for Finance 9, 2011. He was first ie Dáil in 1981 and has nber of senior cabinet His predecessor Brian l at age 52 in June 2011, ed pancreatic cancer.

statement this week, he : "My medical team reatment has gone very ire upbeat about the here is no damage to my uscle and my risk of slow."

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Half of Limerick's strays put down

by Alan Jacques
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OUT of 318 stray dogs handled by the Limerick City pound last year, 168, or 53 per cent, were destroyed, according to the latest figures from the Department of the Environment.

In County Limerick 440 stray dogs were handled by the pound in 2013 and 183 animals, or 41 per cent, were put to sleep.

126 of the strays in the city pound were transferred to rescue with 24 re-homed or reclaimed. In the county pound, 211 were transferred to rescue and 46 were re-homed or reclaimed.

A total of 3,516 stray dogs were killed in Irish pounds last year – an average of almost 10 dogs a day. In comparison, Scotland, which has a similar population and ownership profile to Ireland, has a daily destruction rate of less than two dogs a day.

According to veterinarian Pete Wedderburn, an advocate of neutering family pets, if they were not allowed to be born in the first place, there would be no need to euthanise unwanted dogs.

Mayoral robes to be displayed in museum

by Alan Jacques
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DURING her final week as a public representative, outgoing Mayor Kathleen Leddin presented her mayoral robe to Limerick Museum and Archives, where it will go on display in its new home in the former Franciscan Church.

From the 13th century, the Mayor and Council of Limerick were viewed as being like a local King and Parliament with the mayor bedecked in robes, carrying a mace and addressed as 'your worship'.

Mayor Leddin's mayoral robe will now be displayed among other rare items in the city's history including a mace bearer's uniform and a civic sword regarded as one of the oldest in the country having been bequeathed to Limerick by Queen Elizabeth I.

The recent abolition of the City Council and its replacement by the amalgamated local authority means that the Mayor will no longer have to dress in ceremonial robes.

"I am deeply honoured to have been able to serve as the first citizen of my home city and as Mayor of Limerick. The museum's collections are a mirror to Limerick's social and economic past and are a treasure for the people of Limerick and its visitors," said Mayor Leddin.

"I'm delighted that the mayoral robe will now take its place among these wonderful heirlooms from our past," she added.

Limerick City and County Council is in discussions to finalise the details on the lease of the Franciscan Church for use as a museum and it is planned to move Limerick Museum and Archives to the new premises.

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