

in brief

Questions and answers

AN CISTIN, Conradh na Gaeilge Hall, Thomas Street is the venue for a talk by Rev Angus Stewart on the subject of The Two Witnesses of Revelation 11 on Wednesday, May 10, commencing 7.30pm.

"The Book of Revelation is the awesome and apocalyptic finale to the story of salvation and deals in mysterious symbols, prophetic language and strange visions," observes Rev Stewart.

"In chapter 11 we are introduced to the Two Witnesses. Who are these two witnesses? Are they literal or figurative characters and what do they do and how is their work connected with the return of Christ," he adds.

These and other questions will be answered by Rev Stewart on the evening and there will be a time for discussion and questions at the end.

Councillor's persistence

DESPITE a firm assurance from the city manager last week that Limerick City Council has no plans to reintroduce a refuse collection service for the city, Labour councillor, James Houlihan, is to submit a motion at next month's meeting of the council that such a service be reinstated.

Speaking to the Limerick Post he insisted that "the collection of refuse is not a luxury but a necessity which the council is best placed to deliver".

Cllr Houlihan said his motion will read: "Limerick City Council should re-enter the market for the collection of domestic refuse for any household which wishes to avail of it."

Educational

Admiral Scully's dart claims lordship of river

by Marie Hobbins

CHOREOGRAPHED to blend in with the city's Riverfest last bank holiday weekend, a centuries' old ritual, revived by Mayor Diarmuid Scully marked another wave of development highlighting the river Shannon as the leading focal point it has become in the dramatic turnabout of Limerick city.

Two days into the pulsating programme of Riverfest events, the ancient ceremony of casting a silver dart into the river, which for centuries has signified the people of Limerick's lordship over the river, was performed in some significant style by Mayor Scully in his titular role as Admiral of the Shannon.

At 8pm on Friday, April 28, the mayor, viewed by thousands of Limerick citizens and visitors enjoying the medley of Riverfest attractions, cast a silver dart into the river, which, complying with tradition, was flowing at high tide.

As befitted the ceremonious occasion the casting of the dart did not take place from any mod-

est vessel but was performed with some appropriate pomp and dignity from the deck of the navy vessel, the LE Niamh as

the Shannon and although it has been 50 years since a silver dart was cast into the river the ceremony was revived to

Niamh, which was officially adopted by Limerick City Council in 2002 was a deputation of officials from Quimper in Brittany

second time. Previously Limerick had adopted the LE Deirdre, a ship that is no longer in service.

In early 2002 the LE

paid a goodwill visit to Asia which formed part of the Government's Asian Strategy.

That visit was recog-

Rituals revived as the LE Niamh was called to action for the casting of a silver dart by the Mayor last weekend.



it sailed into Limerick Docks.

"The Silver Dart ceremony, which dates back several centuries has its origins in medieval Venice and is performed by the Mayor of Limerick in his role as Admiral of

serve as an appropriate starting point for Riverfest which centred the majority of its activities along the banks and quays of the Shannon," said Mayor Scully.

On board the LE

with which Limerick city is twinned.

The adoption of the LE Niamh by Limerick City Council was historical in that it marked the first occasion in which a city adopted a ship for the

Niamh became the first Irish navy ship to proceed east of the Suez Canal or cross the equator. In association with Enterprise Ireland and the Department of Foreign Affairs the ship

nised as a great success which significantly increased awareness of Ireland in the various Asian countries it sailed to.

New UI

Shannon wins