

# Rheumatology unit re-opened at Regional

By LAURA RYAN

THE rheumatology unit at Limerick Regional Hospital has been re-instated.

A rheumatologist will now provide a service to Limerick sufferers for a full day every four weeks.

Welcoming the news, Ald Pat Kennedy said there was fury and intense concern among

people with arthritis and rheumatism when the local treatment unit was closed last June.

And he is now calling on the health board appoint another rheumatologist to serve the region.

"The rheumatology unit at Limerick Regional Hospital was closed without warning or notice to the patients or the staff," he said. "This was an

absolute disgrace and an example of uncaring bureaucracy.

The urgency of the situation could be seen from the fact that we were the only Health Board in the country which did not have the services of a full-time rheumatologist."

Ald Kennedy said the situation was "all the more regrettable" because a specialist committee of Comhairle na n-Ospideal had recommended the

appointment of two rheumatologists based at Limerick Regional Hospital.

"Comhairle na n-Ospideal is the specialist medical authority in the Mid-West and the Health Board should now take immediate steps to have their recommendations implemented," he said. "It recommended appointing two rheumatologists for the area in 1995 and I'm demanding it happens."

## Photo will pay for a memorial to Angela

By RON KIRWAN

A CONTROVERSIAL picture of a young Frank McCourt is to be offered for sale to pay for a memorial to his mother.

Paddy Malone, McCourt's chief critic, expects to get at least £10,000 sterling for his 1930s picture of 18 boys from Leamy's School, which he claims was used on the cover of the best-selling Angela's Ashes.

The Old Clare Street resident is also planning to buy a headstone for the author's uncle Ab from the sale of the controversial picture.

Angela McCourt's ashes were scattered by her sons in Mungret graveyard while Ab Sheehan's grave is marked by a

simple metal cross propped against a wall.

"I believe the photograph is valuable and might be put to good use, so I gave it to Healy Auctioneers in Catherine Street and asked them to offer it for sale," said Frank McCourt's former classmate at Leamy's School.

"The original picture had 34 of us, including Frank and his brother Malachy. My picture was torn and marked in exactly the same way as the cover photograph of Angela's Ashes. As far as I'm concerned the picture is mine and was used without my permission," Mr Malone said.

Pulitzer prize winner Frank McCourt has denied he used a copy and claimed he was given the original by his mother.

But he refused Paddy Malone's challenge last year to have both pho-

tographs authenticated.

"I have put a five-figure reserve on the sale price and if the picture is sold I will put up a memorial to honour Angela McCourt at Mungret. Ab Sheehan also deserves a proper headstone instead of an old metal marker for supporting the family when their father Malachy left," he said.

Auctioneer Noel Healy has confirmed that the picture is for sale and says he expects there to be a lot of interest by collectors.

"It will be offered for sale privately on the international market and to collections at home. We have a reserve of £10,000 and would be hoping that it can stay in Limerick," said the auctioneer. "There will be a lot of interest in the picture. Remember that Angela's Ashes has sold six million copies," he



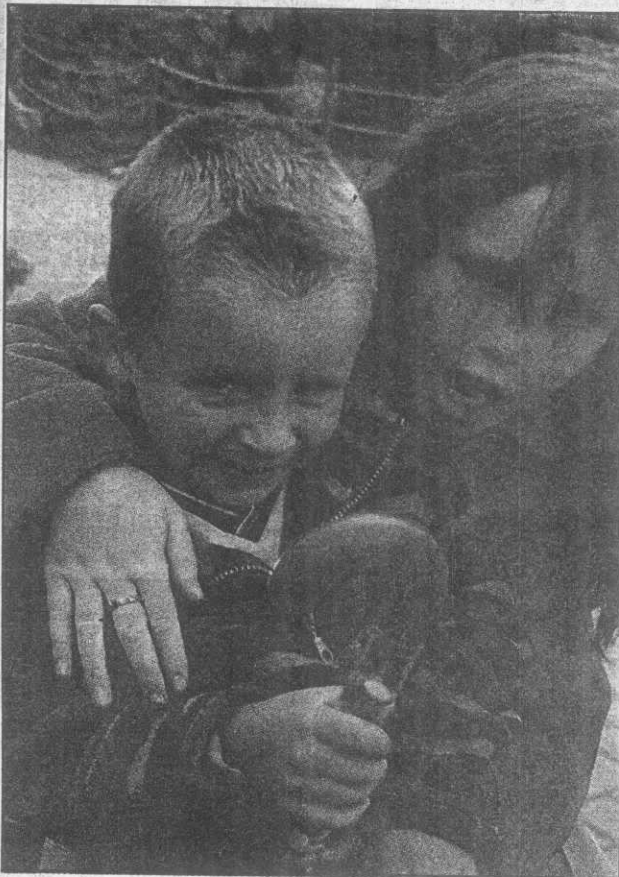
Paddy Malone with a copy of the picture he is offering for sale

pointed out.

Paddy Malone has said if the sale goes ahead he also plans to donate half the money raised to St Gabriel's School in Dooradoyle in memory of his friend and former schoolpal William Han-



Donna Crawford enjoying the Southill summer scheme



Sarah and Wayne Crawford having fun at the Southill summer scheme

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