

to day really," said Br Shawn O'Connor. Father Paulus spoke of the strong traditions of the Franciscan commu-

Patrons openly engaged with the

erick of the future and the contribution made by these men is enormous in my eyes. They have come from New York where there record of success in the work that they do is second to none."



Cllr Tom Shortt speaks with Fr Paulus Tautz at the Speakers' Corner event  
PICTURE: SEAN RYAN

# McCourt critic plans to auction contentious picture for charity

■ Paddy Malone 'not looking for revenge, but justice' for boys he claims were insulted in famous memoir

Anne Sheridan

ONE of Frank McCourt's arch-critics is planning to auction a photo of him to raise €10,000 for charity, for "all the hurt he caused" in writing Angela's Ashes.

Paddy Malone, 81, who famously tore up a copy of McCourt's first memoir in front of him, claims he has an original photo, used on the front cover of some editions of the famous author with his classmates at Leamy's national school taken in 1938, when both were aged eight.

"I will be offering it for sale, and half the proceeds will go to Milford [Hospice] and St Gabriel's Centre, in memory of the boys who were insulted by his remarks. I want nothing out of it," said the Castletroy resident.

Most of their classmates are now dead, he said, yet he still feels some gesture should be made to right the wrongs allegedly committed by Frank McCourt in his first memoir.

He added that he is "not looking for revenge, but justice".

"You don't mock the dead. He made a mockery of poor people who didn't do anything to anyone. That's why I tore up the book. He had no compassion for no one.

"I never said there was no poverty. We were all poor, but you don't have to tell lies. What he did to his poor mother is between him and God," he told this newspaper.

He also offered to sell the photograph 10 years ago to pay for a memorial for Angela McCourt, however the sale didn't go ahead as he received "just a few, small offers".

At the time it was valued at £10,000 by a local auctioneer.

Part of the same photograph was printed in Angela's Ashes, and in some cases on the cover of the book.

Frank McCourt maintained that it was his mother's photograph, but Mr Malone said he has irrefutable proof that the image used was actually his and said that the author had used it without his consent.

Mr Malone said his photo was torn in half by another pupil in the 1950s, copies were then made and possibly



Paddy Malone with a scrap of the photograph. He claims to have the original and is auctioning it

PICTURE: ADRIAN BUTLER

sent to America, and he later put the image back together.

So half of the photo, featuring some 18 third class pupils, appears in the book, but the full image would have shown over 30 young boys.

This week he produced the full

image to the Limerick Leader to prove that he has the original photograph, which is believed to be the only one in existence.

"My picture was torn and marked in exactly the same way as the cover photograph of Angela's Ashes," he told

Leader report Ron Kirwan in August 2000.

After Angela's Ashes was published in 1996, a legal battle erupted between the pair when Mr Malone wrote to the author's publishers requesting an acknowledgement of his ownership.

But Mr McCourt said his mother Angela had the photo in her possession all her life, and refused the request.

Fourteen years after the publication of the multi award-winning account of growing up miserable in Limerick, Mr Malone is still annoyed by the "inaccuracies" in the memoir - written nearly 50 years after Frank McCourt left Limerick for New York, the place of his birth.

Mr Malone has personally earmarked some 80 pages in the book, which he believes portray inaccurate accounts of people living in Limerick at that time, and so-called inaccurate version of events.

"He was obviously highly intelligent but he told lies, and I have 80 pages in the book to prove it," he said, quoting page numbers at random to prove his point.

Mr Malone made the announcement about the sale of the contentious photograph one week after the unveiling of a bronze bust of Frank McCourt outside Leamy's, which now houses an art gallery.

He did not attend the ceremony, and believes no commemoration of McCourt, whose debut has sold in excess of six million copies, should have taken place.

When Frank McCourt received an honorary doctorate from the University of Limerick in 1997, Mr Malone signed an affidavit in May 2003 and submitted to the then president, Dr Roger Downer, asking him to withdraw the honour.

It states, in part, that Angela's Ashes "contains many untruths and inaccuracies about events which occurred in his childhood...and those untruths and inaccuracies have caused hurt and embarrassment".

During the unveiling last week, Malachy McCourt made reference to his brother's critics, stating that "what Frank wrote in his book was factual, done in a very artistic way."

In a nod to the naysayers, he said the best thing you can do is take the advice of Oscar Wilde. Paraphrasing, he said: "Forgive your enemies, it annoys them."

during the games. Former mayor Cllr Gilligan said he was not surprised this year's games had been shelved, saying: "Everyone is feeling the pinch. It is probably not the right time to be running games like this anyway, so I am not surprised it did not get the support. I accept that this is a huge blow to the city. But from speaking to [the organisers] I know they were very much taken by the facilities. It's a question of what's happening to the economy. It's unfortunate, but as the economy picks up, I am sure the Corporate Games would resume next year stronger than ever. Sports tourism continues to be worth an estimated 60 million in revenue annually to the Shannon Region economy, and Shannon Development will continue its work to develop sports business and tourism for the City and grow Limerick's reputation as Ireland's sports capital."

There are 18 countries hosting local versions of the Corporate Games worldwide from Australia, to Turkey and Lagos. The UK games took place last weekend in Liverpool.

## Southside residents against bus lanes

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While Limerick city south councillor Maria Byrne -

whose business will be affected by proposals to build green bus routes - has said southside residents are still "very much against" bus lanes, her colleague Cllr Jim Long says he has reached an agreement with city hall for management to hold talks with residents. Cllr Long said he expects engineers on site within weeks.

Cllr Diarmuid Scully says he believes a bus lane can be delivered on O'Connell Avenue/Ballinacurra Road. Councillors representing Limerick city south have echoed residents concerns on bus lanes, expressing fears over a loss of car parking space, and potential safety hazards to elderly residents having to cross a busy main road.

Their opposition could see some €2.4m of government funding dedicated to

advancing bus lanes on the city's approach roads returned to the Department of Transport.

But Cllr Scully said: "If the approach is made from the point of view of bringing residents on board, bus lanes can work. In Mulgrave Street, residents were fully involved and agreed to the final outcome. Residents want co-operation rather than consultation. If people are prepared to enter into discussion in an open manner, and not take a 'no, no, no' attitude, a bus lane could be delivered for the Ballinacurra Road."

The only other bus lane which is open for business in Limerick city is in the Condell Road, which ironically serves no major bus route. Last month, the O'Connell Avenue/Ballinacurra residents' association sent correspondence to householders warning them that any bus lanes "will impact on their quality of life."

## City stability assured, says top economist

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two separate panels took to the stage, including

Jennifer Moroney-Ward, manager of the Northside Learning Hub, which was co-ordinating the event in association with Newstalk.

Also speaking were Dr Stephen Kinsella, Department of Economics UL; Tommy Collison, of Trust

whom were teachers, and who had strong views about the reformation of the education system.

"There was a good reaction and people really do want to have this debate," said Mr McWilliams.

"Everybody in Ireland just wants to talk about things; we want a forum to discuss what is going on in the country, and this debate is crucial education

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