



Flannery was joined by fellow publicans; Eoin Kernan (Aubars) Lorcan Bourke (Bourkes) Seamus Martin (Mickey Martins) and Ken Naughton (The Still) to celebrate the return of the Guinness Area 22 village to the city ahead of the Munster V Ospreys game on Sunday afternoon

Munster Sunday 22 village in and around the Catherine Street and Thomas Street area, with local bars such as Bourkes, Flannerys, Mickey Martins, The Still House and Aubars involved.

Donnacha Hurley, general manager at the Absolute Hotel and Spa, explained that his hotel was very close to its total occupancy level.

"We have some rooms but we

are nearly full. People are making last minute decisions and the weather is playing a part, but these matches certainly increase business significantly," he explained.

"The Sunday kick-off is not ideal but we appreciate any event on in Thomond Park - it factors massively in terms of impact on our business and the Heineken Cup is the most

important regular event to us, there is no doubt about it."

Munster star Jerry Flannery - who returns to full training next week after his recent injury problems and also owns one of the participating Guinness Area 22 bars, told the Limerick Leader that he understood that people are "probably a bit more cautious these days about what they are going to spend

their money on. You could never complain about the support we have had with Munster. It has always been brilliant," said Jerry, who runs Flannerys on Catherine Street.

"But people hold the Munster Heineken Cup games in high regard. They have rarely been let down. If people are going to go to games, these are the ones to go to."

little world'

big influence in Shannon being selected for the Little Hero award. Being the first airport in the world outside of North America with this level of pre-clearance facilities was a major coup for us and clearly this is being recognised by travellers who have used the service," Ms Considine stated.

Shannon Airport Authority chairman Brian O'Connell has also welcomed the news.

"The UK is our number one international market and the Sunday Times travel magazine is one of the most widely read and respected publications among international travellers.

"The award noted that Shannon is a friendly airport and also focused on the huge benefits of using JS pre-clearance at Shannon. Building on both of these core strengths is a key goal for Shannon over the next few years," he said.

Singapore's Changi was named by Sunday Times readers as their favourite airport, followed by Schiphol and Heathrow's Terminal 1.

Three-part documentary on Frank McCourt goes online

Anne Sheridan

A THREE-part documentary on Frank McCourt and the legacy of his book, *Angela's Ashes*, has been produced by ilovelimerick.com in association with the Limerick Leader.

The first part of the series follows Angela's Ashes tour guide Mick O'Donnell around Limerick, stopping at notable points in the author's life.

The series - A Tribute to Frank McCourt, The Angela's Ashes Tour - has already been seen by hundreds of people online this week.

Friends and relatives of the late author, who shot to fame in 1996 with the publication of his first memoir, have been interviewed for the first segment.

Among those interviewed are relatives Ger and Tommy Sheehan, and childhood friend Gerry Lillis.

Tommy Sheehan recalls that when the book came out people told him that they would break Frank's neck, but he personally did not find the controversial memoir to be insulting.

Mr Lillis praises his childhood friend, who, he said, "came from one of the worst schools in Ireland" and yet went on to sell 10 million copies of *Angela's Ashes* and scoop a Pulitzer Prize.

The tour begins at Leamy House, where Frank and his brother, Malachy, went to school.

Mr O'Donnell explains that, at first, "people didn't know what to



Malachy McCourt at the unveiling of a bust in honour of his brother Frank

make of them with their American accents".

The former school is now being turned into a museum of Frank McCourt's life and work, under the directorship of artist Una Heaton.

The tour then moves on to Barrington Lane, Vizes Court, Barrack Hill and Windmill Lane, and the sixth stop on the tour is South's Pub, where Frank famously had his first pint, aged 16.

However, Mr O'Donnell notes that he left via the back door before he finished his second pint as he began to feel drunk.

Documentary director Richard Lynch noted that, during the filming it began to rain, which they took as a sign that he was looking down on them and voicing his approval.

"Working on this documentary has been the most incredible experience. My dad, Eric, grew up with Frank McCourt and we knew him all our lives, so this was something very close to my heart," said Mr Lynch.

McCourt last visited Limerick in August 2008 to take part in the tour for the first time. The Angela's Ashes tour has been running for over a decade - beginning two years after the memoir was published in 1996 and it is a tour that will continue to keep running, as Mr O'Donnell believes "the book will never die".

Mr O'Donnell is not running the tour at present due to ill-health, however Noel Curtin is conducting the tours, which can be booked through Limerick Tourist Office.

The documentary series is divided into three 15-minute segments, and took nearly one year to produce.

The second and third parts of the series will be available online this Sunday and Sunday, December 19. They feature interviews with his brothers, Alphie, Malachy and Michael, and his widow, Ellen, following the unveiling of the Frank McCourt bust at Leamy's this May.

To view the video see www.limerickleader.ie and www.ilovelimerick.com

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