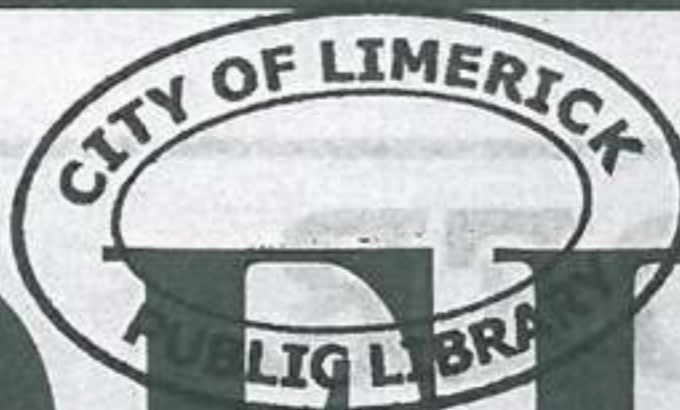


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# PLEA TO SAVE €325K MCCOURT MUSEUM

### Widow Ellen's plea to keep Frank McCourt museum open in city

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name, and save it from an uncertain future.

Leamy House on Hartstonge Street, the Pulitzer Prize winning author's former school and home of the museum which draws tourists from

**CONTINUES PAGE 2**



Ellen and Frank McCourt in 2008



PICTURE: ADRIAN BUTLER

### Des gets the picture at exhibition launch

FORMER minister Des O'Malley checks out some of the 25,000 images from the Limerick Leader archive - all showing local life in the 1970s - featured in a new website launched by the paper and Limerick City Museum and Archive.

The website launch coincides with the opening of a photographic exhibition in City Hall - From Limerick With Love - at which Mr O'Malley did the honours on Tuesday night. The exhibition, which includes work by LSAD students, runs until December. See Page 6.

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# Wedding proposals set for public view

PICTURE: ALAN PLACE

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**LOVE is in the air - literally - in Limerick, as a number of proposals of marriage are set to be beamed across the skyline this week.**

Artist Andrew Kearney told the Limerick Leader that quite a few people may be pleasantly surprised by the messages set to be broadcast from his installation attached to the chimney of the Cleeve's factory overlooking the river.

Launched this Monday night, his City of Culture commissioned work - appropriately entitled Tell Me Something - is set to communicate messages to the masses - once people input their own short messages online.

The work takes the form of a large, white luminescent ring positioned two thirds up the height of the 52-metre chimney stack at the old Cleeve's Condensed Milk Factory on O'Callaghan Strand.

The piece was due to go live last night, but they encountered technical issues in recent days due to the sud-

den bad weather that broke at the weekend.

Nonetheless, he said it will certainly be live by its set launch date on Thursday, and will remain in place up to the New Year.

"The installation will turn itself on when dusk falls, and as time goes on that will be earlier in the evening, so soon people will see the messages when they're go-

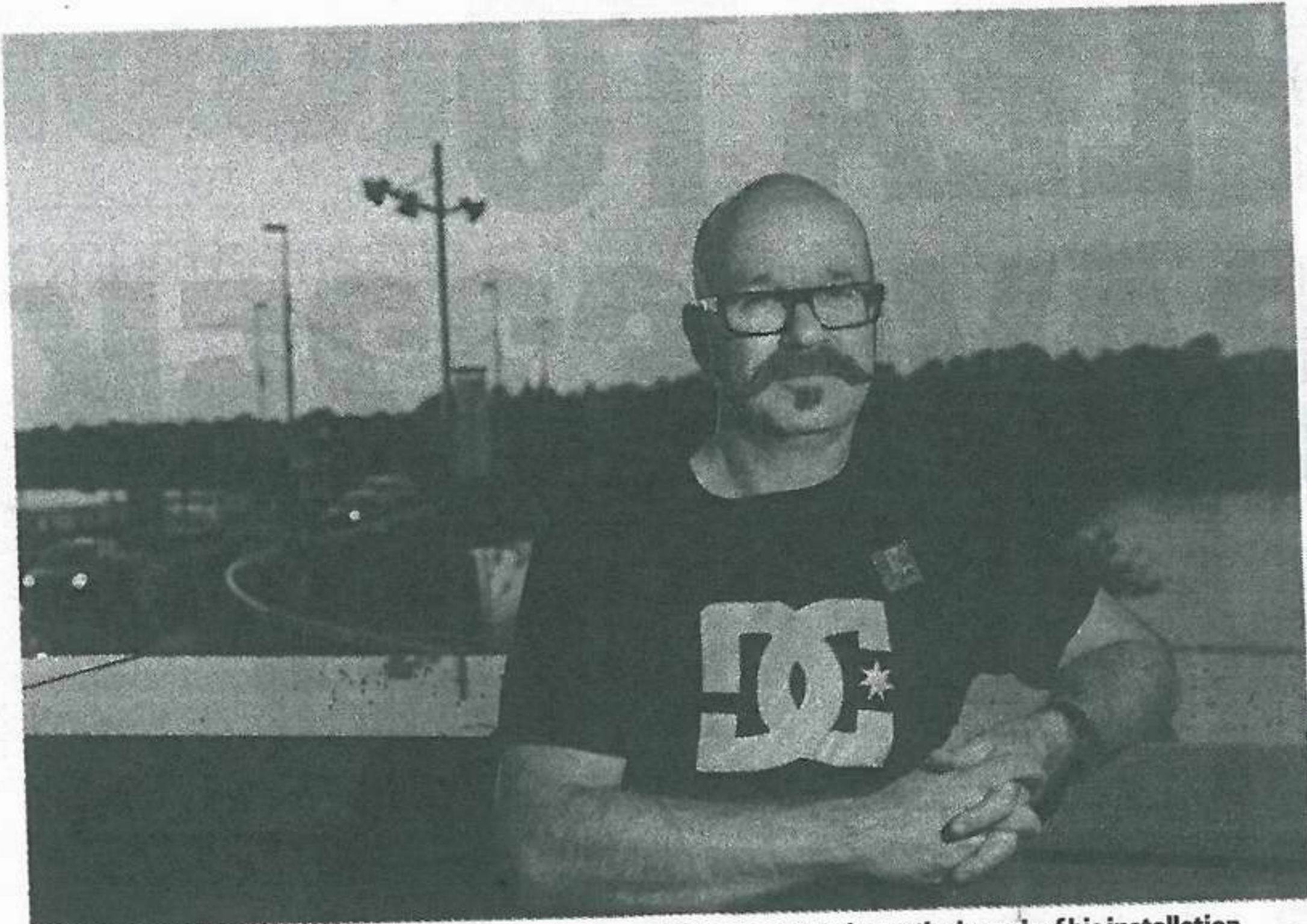
ing home at rush hour," he explained.

"We've had tweets from bands about their music, wedding anniversaries and a few people proposing to their girlfriends, so it's all quite nice," he said.

However, the crux of the matter - especially for those proposing - is that the messages will be playing on a rolling stream, and there is no

set time for when their message will be broadcast from the giant LED display.

It is the result of 18 months of work, and the Limerick native - from the North Circular Road - said he was delighted to be a part of City of Culture, and to reintroduce this historic building to the urban landscape in a new way. See <http://www.tellmesomething.today/>



Andrew Kearney pictured in the Brimstone restaurant, Riverpoint, prior to the launch of his installation

## Appeal to preserve city's McCourt legacy

← FROM PAGE 1

around the world, was put up for sale recently for €325,000.

Speaking to the Limerick Leader from her home in Connecticut in the States, Ellen said she hopes that maybe donations received in a public appeal fund could be matched by either State or private sour-

ces to help keep the Frank McCourt museum open.

After five years of private enterprise by artist Una Heaton, whose husband John owns the building, Ellen said "it deserves a chance to succeed".

"I would love to see Frank's legacy preserved in Limerick, and I think that if it is to stay open the public has to claim

Frank as one of the city's sons. The city has to step up and say 'This is worth it,'" said Ms Frey McCourt.

She said she believes a public account fund should be opened to receive donations from the public, and then perhaps some "civic minded and deep pocketed individuals or philanthropists could match that donation and might purchase the building in conjunction with John and Una. "The museum did a lot of good work, with a lot of arts programmes based there, and all that would be lost to the city. It is a unique

building that has resonance with the McCourt family, and many of the older generation of Limerick," she said.

No public appeal fund has been set up to date, but she said she is prepared to back a campaign in the US, and has already approached a number of people regarding the museum's future.

Whatever the mixed views on Angela's Ashes, she said "people still love Frank and love the book, and come to Limerick because of him. I would hope that any appeal would be met with encouragement," she said.