

Soldier Jack remembered in war plaque ceremony

A COMMEMORATIVE ceremony, which took place at St. Mary's Cathedral last Saturday, celebrated 87 Irish UN peacekeepers who lost their lives while on service overseas in the Congo, the Lebanon and Cyprus.

Cyril McSweeney is PRO of the number 6 Post based in Limerick, said that the ceremony and commemorative plaque were a fitting tribute to those who lost their lives while serving overseas.

Around 100 people, family, friends and comrades of those included on the roll of honour, attended the ceremony.

One of the soldiers commemorated is Athea native Jack Geoghegan, who died in Elizabethville in the Congo, on 28 December 1961. He was represented at the ceremony by his daughter and two sons, and grand-

daughters.

Dean Sirr of St Mary's Cathedral, led the service and, along with the veteran's association's

army chaplain, prayed for those included on the list.

A blue flag draped over the headstones was unveiled and the

tri-colour raised to the sound of a bugle resounding the general salute.

The three plaques, set in stone outside

the main entrance of St Mary's, will be maintained by both the IUNVA and the cathedral.



General Vincent Salvio, president of IUNVA, remembering the United Nations personnel who lost their lives on duty around the world at the unveiling of the garden of remembrance in St Mary's Cathedral.

Miracle of the moving slabs in NCW

AN urgent plea to have "dangerous" footpaths upgraded in Newcastle West before a serious accident occurs, was made at this month's County Council meeting.

Making the plea, Cllr Patrick O'Donovan said that the required funding should be made available from the planning and development levies to carry out the necessary capital works needed to bring the footpaths in the town centre up to a safe standard.

"It has been estimated that it will cost 970,000 euro to make safe the paving slabs that are moving because they were built on sand. The potential to trip on them is an absolute hazard. A

woman from outside Newcastle West fell and broke her thumb and gashed her forehead recently. And now coming into Newcastle West to do your weekly shop is a worry. It almost reminds you of something from a Harry Potter movie, it is moving so much," he said.

Calling the paving stone job "a total disaster," Cllr Liam Galvin said there is so much water all over the area when it rains, that you would need wellies.

"The slabs and paving stones are not working, even though they are only down for a few years," he said.

Cllr Jerome Scanlan said that aesthetically the

slabs look lovely and they were put in with the best intentions.

"But the council didn't allow for the fact that the slabs move during rainfall as they are only placed on sand," he said.

A spokesperson for Limerick County Council said that they are carrying out an audit of all footpaths in county towns and villages, which is nearing completion. And he said that Newcastle West will be looked at along with the county as a whole.

However, Cllr O'Donovan fumed that we don't need to wait for a safety audit to know that this is a known hazard.

Carrickerry gets new heating system

THE Government has allocated funding to replace the heating system in Carrickerry National School, Athea, following representations to Education Minister, Mary Hanafin.

Limerick West Fianna Fáil TD John Cregan, said that he made the appeal to the education minister after engineers recommended that the whole system be replaced as a matter of urgency after a leak was found.

"I am delighted that Minister Hanafin responded swiftly and provided the necessary funding under the Contingency Fund 2007 to fix the problem. I hope the heating system can now be replaced for the benefit of students and teachers in the school," said deputy Cregan.

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