

Music City



Niall O'Donovan, Shannon RFC coach, receives a Jurys Hotel/Limerick Leader Achievement Award from Jim O'Brien, manager of Jurys Limerick. Story: p4. □ Picture: OWEN SOUTH (LL)

New halt site

By DYMPHNA BRACKEN

WATCHHOUSE Cross is the location of the

halting site to replace the site at the Longpavement deemed to be unsuitable because of high levels of methane and carbon

dioxide gases.

At a meeting of the housing committee of City Council, Cllr Judy O'Donoghue proposed that the Corporation proceed with the site.

Higgins selects Expo for important task force announcement

By AIDAN CORR

AS Limerick prepared to come alive to the sound of music this weekend, the region received a further boost with Minister for Art and Culture, Michael D Higgins, arriving in the city this Friday to announce details of the setting up of a national task force for the music industry.

The choice of Limerick for such a significant announcement has been welcomed by local Music Expo organisers who see it as an acknowledgement of Limerick as the country's leading music centre, while Irish Distillers commercial and PR manager, Ken Manning, said it was just reward for the hardworking organising committee, who had ensured the success of the festival.

The greatest festival ever held in the region got under way this Wednesday when eight local bands played to a packed Theatre Royal, and the week-end will see performers of national and international fame mingling with the rising stars

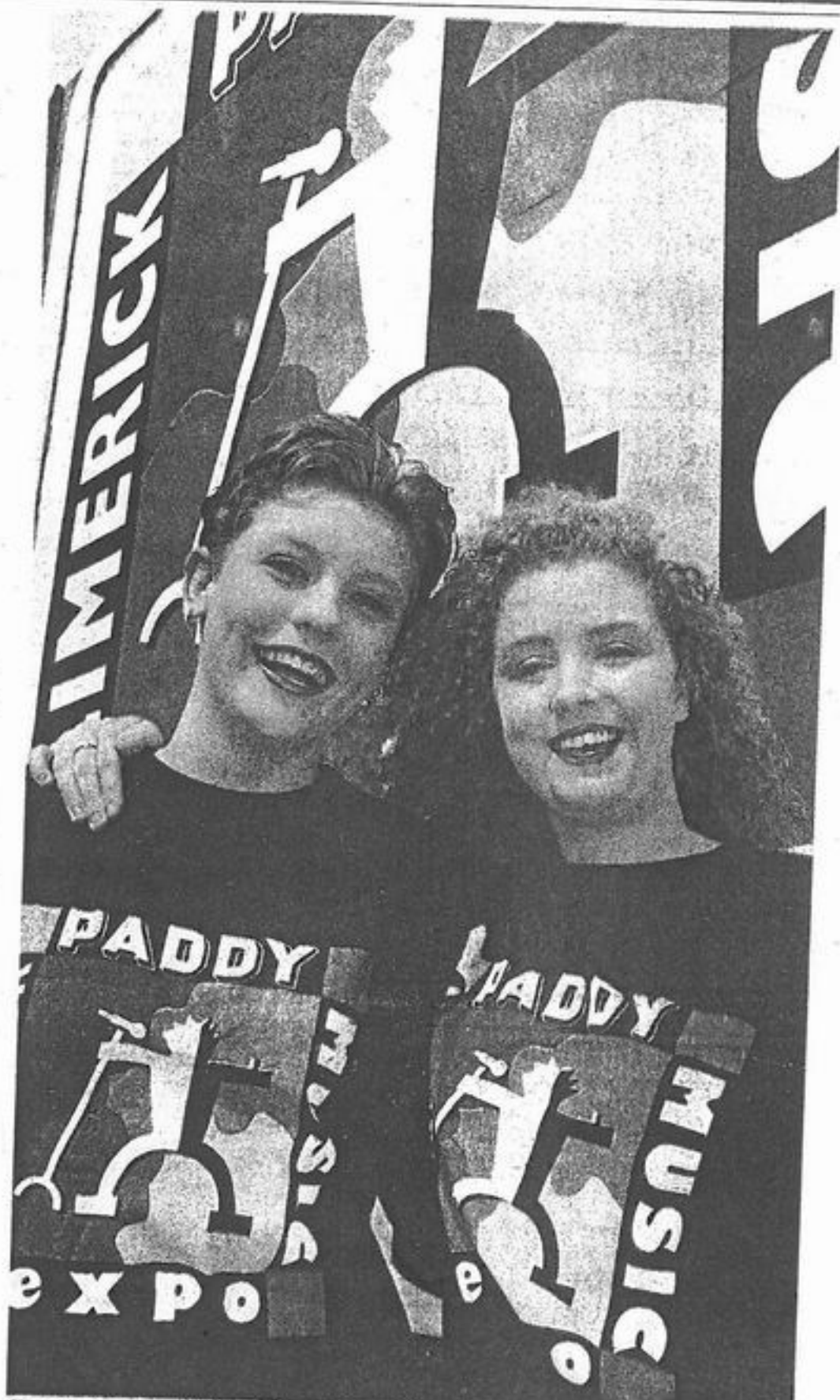
of the future as Paddy Music Expo '95 establishes itself as one of the country's most successful summer mega-events.

An extension of the licensing hours in the city has been granted with local bars remaining open until 1 a.m. this Friday night and until 12 midnight this Saturday.

The festival, which is expected to generate £3 million locally, will encompass a wide spectrum of musical entertainment from the legendary Stephane Grapelli, who took the stage at the University Concert Hall on this Thursday, to Micheál O Súilleabháin's "River of Sound" at the same venue on this Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Eleanor McEvoy takes the stage at the Belltable this Friday; street entertainers will bring their special talents to the sidewalks; fireworks will fill the night skies over historic King John's Castle while a spectacular pageant on Saturday, beginning at 2 p.m., will involve 300 participants, bringing the city centre to a temporary standstill.

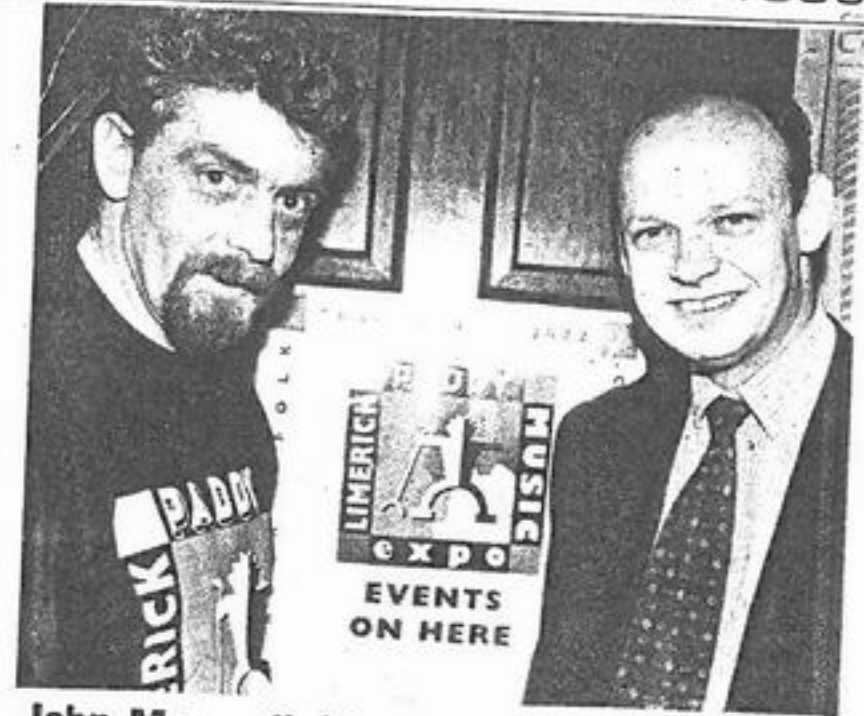
Over 5,000 people are expected to converge on the city for the four-day



Fiona Harris (left) and Laura O'Donoghue, both from Norwood Park, celebrate. □ Picture: OWEN SOUTH (LL)



Fran and Anita O'Donnell (left), University Concert Hall; John Geraghty, comedian; and Dorothy Morrissey, Rape Crisis Centre, at the Paddy Expo opening.



John Moore (left) and Austin Power



Limerick, music capital of Ireland, celebrates

● FROM P1

festival and, according to Jim Kenny, chairman of the voluntary organising committee, there is hardly a bed and breakfast vacancy to be got here this week-end.

"The purpose of the festival is to create a positive image of Limerick, accentuating what we have to offer and making Limerick into Music City for at least one week of the year."

Set up three years ago as Limerick's European Music Festival, the event has gathered momentum and its success has already surpassed the expectations of the organisers.

"The event has received the support of over 240 local business people as well as the backing of major sponsors, Irish Distillers, Limerick Chamber of Commerce, Shannon Development and Limerick Corporation," committee member, Dave O'Hara of Southern Advertising told me, "and we are confident that it will develop into a major national music festival."

"We look at it as a three-tier event

which is initially focused on the people of Limerick; secondly as a platform for the development of the region as an industrial base, and thirdly to promote the city as a national music centre."

A music seminar is also planned for the Theatre Royal this Friday. Chaired by Mike Moloney of 2FM, the seminar will involve some of the top personalities of the Irish rock music scene including Jackie Hayden, Hot Press; Johnny Lappin, publisher; Aileen O'Reilly, Evening Herald; Aidan Cosgrave, manager of An Emotional Fish; Fiona Joyce, artist; Pat Dunne, 2FM producer; Bill Price, US producer; Hugh Duffy, IMRO; Keith Donald, Music Base; Jane Devitt, PR; Laura Williams, promoter; Lindsey Holmes, Island Records and John Dillon, Irish Voice, USA.

It is estimated that over 500 musicians will bring their talents to the region during the four days, many of whom will grace the historic stage of the Theatre Royal and the outdoor rig-gig in Arthurs Quay Park during an event-filled week-end, while the

appearance of American female rockers, Babes in Toyland, at the former Old Athenaeum in Cecil Street should create quite a stir on Saturday night.

One of the highlights of the event, however, will be the staging of the Showcase Pub Trail which sees 28 of the country's most promising bands perform in fourteen pub venues around the city. The finalists were selected from an original entry of 230 and the musical acts will compete for £5,000 in prizes while a second pub trail will bring a feast of music to a further twenty of the city's pubs.

"I was involved when U2 were the winners of a similar competition during Civic Week here in the city some years ago," Baz Millar of Shannon Development told me, "so maybe we will be instrumental in putting other musical performers on the road to fame this week-end."

Of the 28 entered in the finals, only one, singer/songwriter, Michael Hyland of Southill, is from the city.

"People say that nothing ever happens in Limerick," said Jim Kenny,

"so let's see the people of the region come out and support the festival and ensure that Paddy Limerick Music Expo remains an established leader in Irish music festivals."



Amelia Moloney, from O'Connell Street, enjoying the opening of Paddy Expo. (LL)



Witnesses sought

THE 18 year old man who was stabbed in the upper stomach at Craeval Park in Moyross on Tuesday night, shortly after midnight, was described as "ill but stable" at Limerick Regional Hospital.

Paul Coffey, Derryfadda, Clonlara, a native of the City, was taken to the intensive care unit. Gardai at Mayorstone are appealing for witnesses to the incident.

Remanded in custody

AT a special sitting of Limerick District court on Monday evening, Nigel McNamara, aged 17 of 348, O'Malley Park, was charged with the unlawful killing of Gerard Power on May 1.

He was remanded in custody to this Thursday.

APPLICATION TO PLANNING AUTHORITY
Limerick County Council