

ENTERTAINMENT

Limerick folk group reunite after 40 years

by Brian McLaughlin
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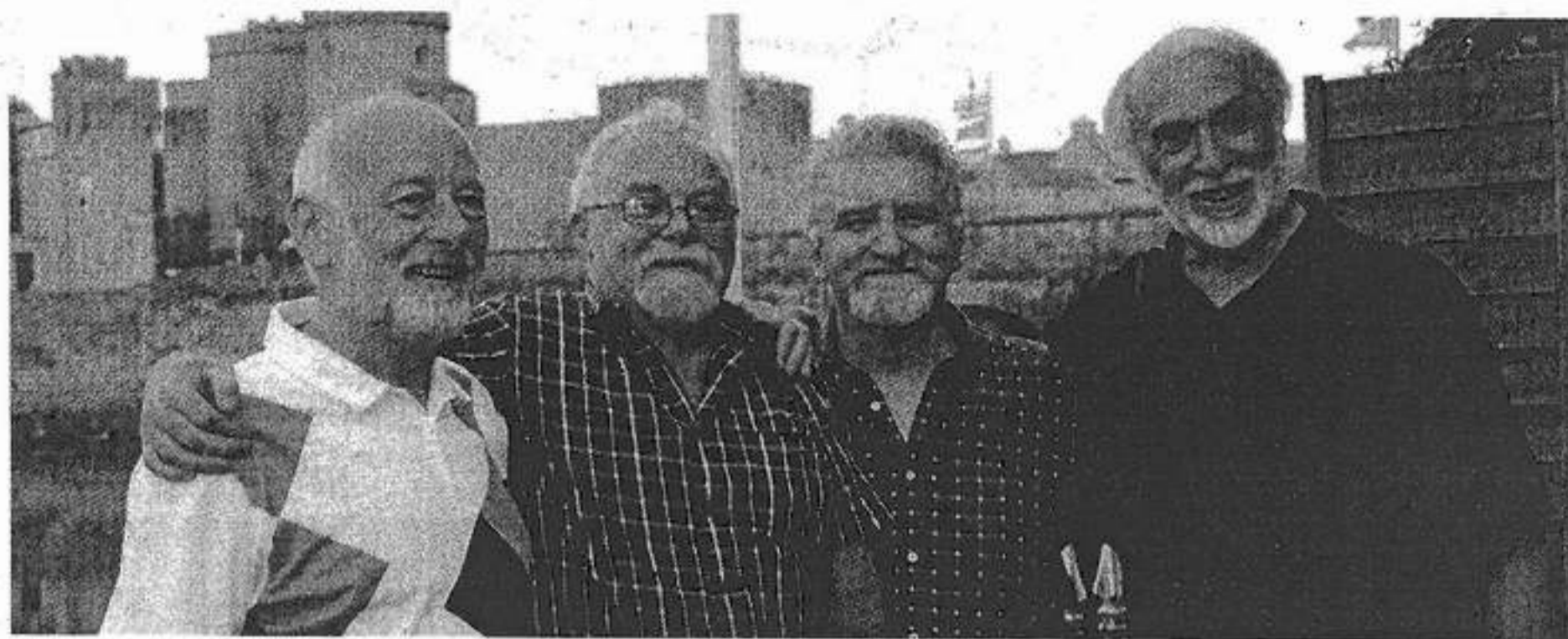
A LIMERICK folk group that was a household name in Ireland 40 years ago had a reunion in a well-known city traditional music pub last weekend.

The Farran Folk, made up of four male musicians, did countrywide gigs in the late Sixties and Seventies and they performed on the popular Johnny McEvoy television show for a 12-week run.

They were known for such songs as 'Avondale', 'Famine Song', the South African freedom song 'Asikatali', 'Sam Hall', 'Tom Dooley', 'Whip Jamboree', 'Lord Of The Dance' and 'Tabhair Dom do Lámh', which still can be listened to for free on YouTube.

The band had their reunion gig in JJ Bowles Pub in Thomondgate, one of the city's old traditional music pubs, on Friday 26 last.

Musicians, friends, fans and relatives packed the Treaty Stone



Members of the Farran Folk at their reunion gig (from left): Tommy Canty, Tony Cremins, David Browne and Damien Patterson

venue beside the River Shannon and revelled in the comeback of the group who got together 'for one night only'.

The group comprises Limerick city natives Damien Patterson, a singer from Farranshone who formed the

group; Tony Cremins, guitarist and bongo player from Prospect; Tommy Canty, guitar and tin whistle from St. Francis Place in the parish and David Browne, also a parish man from Athlunkard Street, who made the trip back from Perth in Western Australia where he has lived for over 40 years.

The son of the late Jack 'Bud' Browne of Shannón and Garryowen rugby fame, and his late Young Munster supporting wife May, David said the reunion was a "wonderful emotional occasion for us all".

David is a teacher in Perth where is a member of a group called the Mucky Duck Bush Band.

Of his reunion gig with the Farran Folk, he told Limerick Post: "We just started singing and playing and all the harmonies just fell into place without even a practice session. It will be a night to remember for us and indeed our families and supporters".

"We played all over the country. We had all packed in our jobs and were on the road for several years. Eventually I went to Australia where I met my wife Myra from Lincolnshire who works for the Western Australia health service.

"The other band members went their separate ways for a number of years pursuing their individual careers. In recent times, they started getting together again with other musicians and they now play regularly in Bowles," said David who played mandolin and guitar with the group.

The band had guest appearances with the likes of Luke Kelly of The Dubliners and The Chieftains as well as Jim McCann and they got to know these performers well.

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All the harmonies just fell into place without even a practice session

DAVID BROWNE
OF THE FARRAN FOLK GROUP



The Farran Folk in their heyday appearing with Johnny McEvoy (left) on his television show: Tony Cremins, David Browne, Tommy Canty and Damien Patterson

PROPERTY TAX

Limerick households pay over €6 million property tax

by Kathy Masterson
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HOUSEHOLDERS in Limerick have paid over €6 million so far in property tax, according to the latest figures released by the Revenue Commissioners.

The statistics also show that Limerick County has one of the highest compliance rates in the country with 91 per cent of households paying the tax to date,

compared to the national average of 89 per cent.

Limerick City has a slightly lower-than-average compliance rate of 86 per cent.

The Revenue Commissioners had expected to collect €2.1m altogether in the City, and have so far received €1.6m.

In the county, approximately €4.3m of an expected €5.5m has been collected.

Last week the Revenue

Commissioners issued a seven-day warning to property owners who had yet to pay, saying that if it was paid within a week of receiving the letter they would not be hit with penalties or interest.

Some 40,000 letters will be sent to households all over Ireland by the end of the month.

Limerick Campaign Against Property Tax and Austerity (CAPTA) spokesperson John Loftus said that the figures show "the devastating

impact of this tax on the local economy".

"It has taken €6m out of the Limerick economy so far this year – how many jobs has that cost locally?"

He added: "The Government are now preparing to double the property tax in the new year, and introduce a new rake of austerity measures in the October budget. We must prepare to fight back against these unending attacks on our living standards."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pension dole

■ A LIMERICK election candidate has criticised the decision to cut the transition year pension for people reaching retirement age. "From next January, retirees and people who reach 65 years of age will have to claim social welfare for 12 months, according to the Department of Social Protection. This unemployment allowance is €180 and the contributory Transition pension is €230. This is a reduction of €50 a week over the 12 month period until they reach 66 years," said Fianna Fail's Jim Hickey. "People at 65 years from January 2014 will also have to search for work before collecting the state pension," he added.

Limerick's limericks

■ THE Tailteann Nua Festival at UL is to bring the five-line 'limerick' verse back to its home city. The festival, which takes place over the August bank holiday weekend, features an international poetry competition involving the famous limerick verse and one poet will be crowned World Champion 'Limerick' Poet on Saturday August 3. The competition is being organised in association with The Limerick Writers' Centre, who have been running an All-Ireland 'Limericks' Competition for several years. Over 200 people are expected to take part in the 'International Bring your 'Limerick' to Limerick Competition'.

Harvest in Meanus

■ THE Greybridge Classic club's Harvest Day fundraiser in aid of motor neuron research and children's charities will be held in Meanus on Sunday, August 11. The main part of the event, which raised over €18,000 last year, will be a recreation of the Ford oval, using as many different types of Ford tractors as possible. There will also be silage cutting, dye cast displays, vintage displays including the world's only travelling creamery, the Thames Trader and a truck from the Michael Collins' film as well as a wide range of children's activities.

Housing crisis

■ SINN Féin spokesperson for South Limerick City Seán Griffin has accused Housing Minister Jan O'Sullivan and the Government of "allowing the housing crisis to escalate despite repeated promises to tackle the problem". Mr Griffin said that last September Minister O'Sullivan promised there would be "a concentrated effort made to refurbish and let most of the local authority houses that are boarded up in the city". However he added: "To date, ten months later nothing has been done. Why? Was the Minister serious or was it just another broken promise in a galaxy of such promises?"

Thomond abseil

■ THE Munster rugby mantra is 'To the brave and faithful, nothing is impossible', but are you brave enough to abseil the iconic Thomond Park? An event, on August 31, will see people descend the outside of East Stand of the stadium for charities and clubs including Self Help Africa and Marriagequality.ie. Participants pay a €65 registration fee. All other funds will go to their chosen charity. Time slots available are from 10am to 7pm. To register email organiser Sharon McMeel sharon@sharonmcmeel.ie or Gaye Moore of Self Help Africa gaye.moore@selfhelpafrica.org