

community by turning out in droves for the annual LGBT parade.

The city centre was brought to a standstill on Saturday as the seventh annual Limerick Pride parade took in O'Connell Street.

More than 500 people dressed up in colourful costumes to take part in the parade through the centre, which was led by Grand Marshall, Miss Lilette Shannon Banks, the first Alternative Miss Limerick.

She was joined by Mr Gay Limerick Donal Dalziel and Ms Gay Limerick Lisa Daly.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) descended on Limerick for the parade, the main event of the annual Limerick Pride festivities.

This year, the aim of the event was to highlight mental health, marriage equality and LGBT human rights.

The LGBT teachers union joined Cecil Street's Red Ribbon Project, as well as dance groups and individuals in marching, while a youth group brought members from Croatia and Slovakia.



The Gay Pride flag is held aloft by scores of people, as the annual parade begins from City Hall in Merchant's Quay.

Picture: Gareth Williams

Fianna Fail, Sinn Fein and the Socialist party all took part in the parade, which saw more than 90 people hold the colourful Pride flag aloft.

Limerick Chronicle correspondent Richard Lynch, of iLoveLimerick, the media sponsors, hailed this year as the "best Pride ever".

"The biggest thing to come

out of this was visibility, and to let people see that LGBT people are just people. Everyone is the same. We all have to love each other and support one another," he said.

As the march wound its way through O'Connell Street, Mallow Street, Henry Street, before finishing at

City Hall, Saturday afternoon shoppers stopped to admire the spectacle.

Festival PRO Madonna Lucia said this support makes it a lot easier to continue marching, saying: "No-one rained on our parade. Limerick is an open and diverse place. Today, Limerick showed its support

for marriage equality, and it sends a message to the government: it's time to move on." A party at the Orchard Bar near the City Library followed the parade, featuring performances by Unity Gospel Choir and girl band Grenade, as well as an address from Mayor Kathleen Leddin.

and Culture festival.

Nick Ryan's feature length documentary about the tragic events on K2 in 2008 that saw Kilcornan climber Ger McDonnell lose his life will receive a gala premiere in Dance Limerick - formerly home to Daghdha Dance Company - on Friday night.

The screening will be attended by the cast and crew, Ger's family and friends and Nick Seymour of Crowded House, who provided music for the film.

"All proceeds will go to the Ger McDonnell memorial fund and I think it is brilliant that it is coming home to Limerick before it goes on release, I am delighted about that," said Maeve McGrath, one of the organisers of Elemental, which runs across the city until Sunday.

A 'tea dance' in the Milk Market on Sunday afternoon hosted by Myles Breen is the other centrepiece of the festival, with all proceeds to go to Special Olympics Ireland.

"We don't charge for the events, we ask people to pay what they can to support the festival, we are five volunteers on a show string. Sunday is for Special Olympics and we are inviting everybody along to that," said Maeve.

The festival is setting up a base in the old Ferguson's chemist on O'Connell Street for people to drop in and pick up a brochure and book tickets.

There is a wealth of colourful events taking place, from film screenings to dance, fire and stilt walkers, workshops,



Memorial: Kilcornan's Ger McDonnell summits K2 in 2008 before tragically being killed on his descent, which is captured in documentary The Summit, screening at Elemental

a talk with movie director Gerry Stembridge, a silent disco and cycle cinema, a High Nelly bike exhibition - featuring one associated with Michael Collins - and gigs with Senekah on Bedford Row and Windings in Dolan's on Saturday night.

See [www.elementalfestival.com](http://www.elementalfestival.com)

# The Arts Interview

By John Rainsford

Currently living in Pallaskenry, I have lived in Limerick all of my life.

I was educated in the Salesian College, Copsewood, Pallaskenry and learned to play music there under the tutelage of Billy Sinden. I soon formed a school band called Shade of Grey and began playing lunchtime gigs and end of term shows. It was a school that was really proud of school bands and I still get emails from them today. I also attended Limerick Institute of technology as an electrical apprentice. During that time I was in a band called Decato. My current band is called Windings made up of Steve Ryan, Mike Gavin, Brian Meaney and Garry Carroll who are all based in Limerick and Clare.

Ever since sneaking into my grandfather's sitting room and playing Van Morrison's Moon Dance on record I wanted to be a musician.

We had no other musicians in the family just lots of GAA followers. A passion for music is something that is largely unexplainable. For me the payoff is seeing people genuinely having fun at the gigs and choosing to take the time to come and

see you play. Currently, I am writing music for short films in my own time. I have been lucky to work with the film makers Apaté on two projects last year and this year have worked with Maeve McGrath on her short film Vanner. This film had its premiere at the Chicago Irish Film Festival and recently in the Galway Film Fleadh.

If it is in you to write music you should just do it.

It is a great way of getting things done and you are liable to have some fun along the way. Some songs just happen, and come very quickly and others require some teasing out. Indeed, I have had two songs on the burn for the past two years. Some day they will be done. Maeve McGrath heard some work I had done on another short film with Apaté and contacted me through Vimeo. I have worked on the music for three short films in total and am working on two others presently. There are a couple of things in the pipeline. Working on film scores is a very different way of writing because you are trying to parallel what is happening on the screen in front of you. It is very challenging, but also so rewarding when you see

## Patrick O'Brien

Musician who specialises in writing film scores and who has also found success with the local bands Last Days of Death Country and Windings



the final product.

Always interested in the guitar, I just loved the fact you could just pick it up and play it anywhere.

With Windings I mainly play keyboards, sing and write a few songs. My first real band Decato played quiet songs but with Last Days of Death Country I began to write louder songs. I was the primary songwriter in both those bands. In Windings,

however, Steve Ryan is the main songwriter but I began contributing more to song writing on the album I Am Not The Crow, co-writing the song Something Outnumbered with Steve.

Last Days of Death Country released two EPs. The first was called Mode and Effect and the second was called Emerge.

Both of these were recorded and produced with Fergal

Lawler of the Cranberries. We recorded these in Fergal's studio and he was great to work with. It was my first real experience with recording and I loved it. With Windings I have been involved in writing three singles, namely, Embury Greenway, The Hassle and The Space I Occupy. Last year we also released the album I Am Not The Crow. This was recorded in Montreal and Donegal, with Efrim Menuck of Godspeed, You Black Emperor

and Tommy McLaughlin of Villager. This album was nominated for a Meteor Choice Music Prize. We recorded it live which was a fast learning curve since everyone is playing at once it has got to be just right.

We should absolutely encourage people to write music and be involved in music.

It is a great way of expressing yourself. You learn lots of new things. For instance in Cork a group of young people have turned an old cinema called the Kino into an all ages venue. We played the opening night three weeks ago and it was run so well. This kind of initiative is fantastic and it gives people a great sense of purpose.

Windings are my main musical activity these days. We have toured around Ireland for the past three and half years since the release of our second album.

The work has been more or less non-stop for the past few years.

Indeed, this summer we played independence at Mitchelstown and afterwards headed out on our first UK tour

with an American band called The Generationals. We played in London, Leicester, Glasgow and Manchester. Finally, we returned to Dolans Warehouse to celebrate the 10th birthday of Limerick-based music label Out On A Limb Records, whom we currently work with.

Recently, we were lucky enough to be invited to play at the CMJ Festival in New York and also invited to play the Canadian Music Week twice, in Toronto.

Windings has been around since 2005 and started off as a solo act for Steve which has got bigger over the years. I am not entirely sure where the name came from but it is to do with the strips of copper on a guitar pick up, which are called Windings. We describe ourselves as a fun loving touring band that has made our friendship a priority. It is always fun and that is the way that things should be!

To read more about the band Windings please see the following websites: [www.windings.com](http://www.windings.com), [www.breakingtunes.com/windings](http://www.breakingtunes.com/windings) and [www.soundcloud.com/icanrecreate](http://www.soundcloud.com/icanrecreate).

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