

## News

## Granny's Intentions reunite for series of gigs in the Belltable

Alan Owens

THEY were once Limerick's "finest beat group", with the world at their feet and signed to one of the biggest record labels in the world in the late '60s. Now, seminal group Granny's Intentions are to reform for a three night run in Limerick's Belltable.

Such is their popularity that two of the nights are

already sold out - and just a handful of tickets remain on sale for the third night in the Belltable on October 27. The show will feature the 'original Limerick line-up' of Cha Haran, Johnny Hockedy, Jack Costelloe, Guido DiVito and Johnny Duhan - and there remains a possibility that further shows could be added, while rumours abound

of a Late Late Show appearance.

"We are getting back together," laughed Rosbrien man Cha Haran this week. "Ah sure it is brilliant, it is great. Like ourselves, there will be grannies at the shows."

Known initially as 'The Intentions', the band made their debut in the Savoy in June 1966 on a bill that included

old-fashioned, variety-style entertainment, but quickly stood out.

While Joe O'Donnell and Joe Heelan were involved at the early stages, the classic line-up is the one that will take to the Belltable stage.

"This is the original line-up. This is where we started out in 1966. We left Limerick and went on to Dublin and then

we said we would have a go and moved to London. We were signed by one of the biggest record labels at the time, Deram, some very big bands were on that label at the time," remembered Cha.

Songs like Story of David, Sandy's on the Phone and Never and Everyday Thing saw the band grow in profile, while they also began

to incorporate a soul element into their music.

Something of a fluid group, legendary guitarist Gary Moore, Heelan and Pat Nash played with the band when members drifted in and out, but "they were all Granny's". Cha said there will be a tribute to the three men during the show, who are now deceased.

Duhan has remained

in the music business, and his 'To the Light' was inspired by the band's years on the road - and it is this series of songs that the band will play in the Belltable, along with some Granny's classics.

"We will definitely do some Granny's classics, but it is a surprise, it will be a show - a nice night, worth going to," Cha laughed.



The original 'Limerick' line-up - (clockwise from left) Costelloe, Di Vito, Haran, Hockedy and Duhan

# Community is shocked by murder of 'unique' Martin

■ Congregation told Martin Purcell's family is struggling to come to terms with his death

David Hurley

THERE were emotional scenes at St Bridget's Church this Wednesday morning for the funeral of Martin Purcell whose body was found at a flat in the city centre last Friday morning.

The 54-year-old father of two grown-up children, who was originally from the Fairgreen, died after he was stabbed a number of times at the flat where he lived alone on Wickham Street.

A garda investigation into his death is continuing.

Referring to the death of Martin Purcell's brother, Leonard, in May Fr Eamon Purcell said it was the second time in six months that members of the Purcell family had gathered in the church for such a "sad occasion".

Hetold the congregation that Martin Purcell was a "unique individual" who



Martin Purcell's coffin is carried from St Bridget's Church following his funeral mass. His remains were buried at Mount Saint Lawrence cemetery.

PICTURE: OWEN SOUTH

neighbours."

He said he was a sports

cut short" he said.

A large crowd attended

concelebrated by Fr David

Gibson PP

"I knew Martin very well, he was a customer of mine for years and he was a popular man and a member of the community and it is shocking to see how it has ended up," he said adding that his thoughts were with the Purcell family.

"I can understand what the family are going through because of my own circumstances and it is just shocking that this has visited their doors and I am just very upset for the family" he said.

In his homily, Fr Eamon Purcell said the death of Martin Purcell had shocked the entire community.

"Tragedy will always stun us because it is so unexpected and especially for Martin's family and for this community because we are greatly aware of the tragic circumstances of Martin's death," he said.

"The death of any

terms with his death".

Fr Purcell said the murder of Martin Purcell was especially difficult for members of his family.

"Martin's family are devastated in their grief and naturally have many questions but so few answers. Losing someone so close as a brother and a dear friend has compounded their numbness and confusion," he told the congregation.

Originally from the Fairgreen Martin Purcell lived in Norwood Park for some time before moving to his flat in the city centre.

He married at a young age but separated from his wife a number of years ago. He has two children - Barry and Amy - both of whom live in Britain.

Martin Purcell worked as a technician for Telecom Eireann in the past more recently he worked for the Post Office

The Savoy Hotel and Hamptons would like to wish Maurice O'Callaghan all the very best over the coming weeks.

Watch the show with Maurice at The Savoy next Monday evening October 10th.

Our Signature cocktails available all evening for €8.

Why not join Maurice for a three course dinner with bubbly in Hamptons before the show and VIP passes to the Savoy Bar afterwards.

Full Dinner Package €20