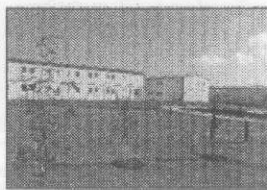


woods has gone at least some of the way towards his stated aim of dispelling misinformation and misconceptions. His report is good as far as it goes but there is a bigger, more dis-



turbing picture.

Suspicion lingers that the asylum system isn't properly policed. The Department of Justice have, for example, consistently failed to deny this newspaper's repeated requests to respond to the claim that as many as nine out of 10 asylum applications are invalid.

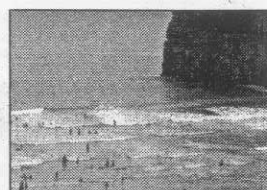
There are other awkward questions. What percentage of failed applicants from the Limerick region are being returned home? Why is the Dublin Convention, under which applicants are supposed to be processed at the first port of call, not being implemented?

The absence of answers can only increase the risk of racism: asylum policy must be effective as well as fair and clearly seen to be so. Communal tension is thankfully minimal at the moment but could easily rise if the economy worsens. The Government should come clean.

## Cursed?

SUDDENLY it's summer in North Munster—and autumn and winter and spring as well—and all on the one day. Indeed day after day it was a case of the four seasons this week. For the many Limerick families, especially those with young children, who have undertaken the traditional trek to Lahinch and Kilkee, Ballybunion (pictured) and Ballyheigue, it is no consolation to know that their neighbours who went instead to western France have been blown out of it.

The French weather was a freak. Ours is



always lousy, or so the Jonahs amongst us like to allege. In fact we enjoy a temperate climate, a little damper than average perhaps but pleasantly mild.

Whether or which, there's nothing we can do about it. So, while sheltering from the showers this weekend, let's count our home holiday blessings, most notably the beautiful scenery and, even though we say so ourselves, the extraordinarily friendly people.

## WORDLYWISE

*I think it's good. I think Shannon is the best place going. I'd say there'll be more free flights and that Shannon is well able to take care of itself. Dublin won't be able to tell us what to do.*

—Liah McNamara and Lynsey Donnelley, both of Shannon, welcome independence for the airport

## Hail our cathedral

□ THE Cathedral Church of St. John the Baptist, Mother Church of the Diocese of Limerick, is the very soul of Limerick. The Cathedral was built to the design of Philip Hardwick, a reputable English architect, and completed in 1861.

He also designed a tower of 191ft. high. This was abandoned at 66ft and left untouched for 17 years.

In 1878 Messrs. M & S Hennessy Architects from Limerick were commissioned to design and supervise the construction and completion of the tower and spire to a total height of 258ft.

The scaffolding to the tower and spire of St. John's brought in from Germany was specially designed to suit masonry, stone cladding, re-pointing, cleaning etc., approx. 6ft between working platforms. The number of platforms confirmed the height of the spire.

Regarding any claims of both local papers and television nationwide that the spire of St. John's Cathedral is 308ft, the highest in Ireland, England and Europe, are

factually incorrect. The spire in O'Connell Street, Dublin, the new focal point for the capital city of Ireland, is approx 394ft. Salisbury in England is 404ft. Cologne twin towers 506ft. Cobh 300ft. Kilarney 285ft. St. Patrick's Maynooth 273ft. Strasbourg 466ft. Rouen Normandy 512ft. Chartres, Ile-De-France 350ft.

The Cathedral Church of St. John the Baptist does not need fallacious embellishment. The Architectural edifice of strength, balance and a high quality finished stonework is a resistance to the banality of the modern world around it.

St. John's is prone to the high wind and gusts of up to 80-100 m.p.h. These gusts can increase pressure to the tower and spire of up to 150 tons. A blacksmith-forged iron band around a column in the nave of the cathedral did nothing to prevent the damage a few years ago to the spire.

In 1868 Sir Christopher Wren surveyed Salisbury Cathedral and made recommendations. It was not until 1970 that Mr. Peter Taylor of Gilford & Partners, Consulting Engineers, studied Wren's proposals and came up with a system which allowed remedial work to be carried out costing 6.5 million pounds and helped to stabilise the spire.

One would have to visit Salisbury Cathedral to appreciate what is necessary to relieve the load on the tower of St. John's and preserve the spire for posterity, a particularly attractive piece of Limerick's architectural heritage. The Limerick City Council could play its part to help to preserve the spire by completing a smooth surface to the road running to the tower and cathedral.

The road is uneven as it was 20 years ago the only part of bad road surface in the area.

**BILLY WALLACE**  
Glenamona  
Carrig Drive  
Dooradoyle

## Quest for portrait

□ I AM seeking a portrait, or other representation, of Matthew Honan, builder of Limerick's Honans Quay, of that of his wife, Bridget (nee Bourke).

They married, had a large family and lived in what is now mid O'Connell Street, Limerick.

Matthew died there, on 26/8/1801, after which his

wife and children, James, Richard, Frederick, Michael, Mary and Elizabeth, migrated to Cork and Cobh.

Pigots Directory lists Mrs Frederick Honan at Mount Salmon, Cobh, in 1824. Photography wasn't invented until much later. Matthew's life is interesting, and he was wealthy.

Descendants of the Honan or Bourke families might have artefacts. Any relevant information would be an addition to my book, due out shortly, entitled "The Development of Limerick by Honan Merchants".

Contributions as above will be acknowledged.

**SARAH McNAMARA**  
Parteen  
Limerick

## Anglo-Irish waddle

□ WE'RE calling on all toddlers in the Republic of Ireland to waddle, toddle, stumble and tumble against meningitis in what we hope will be the biggest Toddle Waddle ever.

In fact, we're aiming to raise more than £300,000 to fight meningitis, the infectious disease that still kills more under fives than any other.

So if you're involved with a playgroup or a nursery, you're a nanny, a childminder or a parent, we'd love to help you organise a waddle ready for the event during 5 to 18 October.

Everyone who registers will receive a free pack of goodies including balloons, posters and lots of yellow duck hats for toddlers to make.

So why not register online today at [www.toddlewaddle.org](http://www.toddlewaddle.org) or call 01-2762051

**LEIGH PEARCE**  
Events Organiser  
Meningitis Trust  
Head Office  
Fern House  
Bath Road  
Stroud  
Gloucestershire  
GL5 3TJ

## Holiday happiness

□ EACH year we organise a children's holiday by the sea. The cost is £50 per child or £75 for two children. Some children, however, are not in a position to pay this, and Sponsor a Child's Holiday Scheme is for them.

Would you like to be a sponsor in this year's scheme?

You would be contribut-

ing greatly to a child's happiness this summer.

We would also like to thank our friends who have helped us generously in the last 33 years of our holiday scheme.

Thirty children per week get a week of pleasure and fun by the sea in Ballycotton, Co. Cork. The holiday runs for five weeks per year with nearly 150 children benefiting each year.

All you have to do is send me €50 per child or €75 for two children to the address below. We raise all our own funds and receive no state aid or grants.

Please consider us generously.

**ANNE CURLEY**  
Holiday Organiser  
Sponsor a Child Holiday Scheme 2003  
The Social Service Centre  
Henry Street  
Limerick

## Locke for Limerick?

□ A LIFE-sized bronze statue of Josef Locke should be erected in Ireland?

I got one erected for Elvis Presley in Tupelo Mississippi.

**MAURICE COLGAN**  
Swords

tive in contaminating food.

The buzzing sounds are made by the rapid beating of the wings at a rate entomologists estimate at over two hundred beats per second.

Household refuse is the breeding ground and they shed their enormous batches of eggs—in suitable locations.

In hot weather eggs hatch within ten hours but in normal conditions this development could take two days.

The complete metamorphosis, however, usually takes up to two weeks but again in lower temperatures much longer.

Scientists have also established that houseflies that survive the first blast of a particular strain of insecticide built up an immunity.

This type of an insecticide has also little effect on their offspring. Different sprays have to be developed to cope with each generation of fly.

In perfect conditions adult flies live for about a month. However the eggs and larvae survive over the winter months and then hatch the following spring.

The larger bluebottle has similar lifestyle but it breeds mainly on outside garbage dumps.

It is inclined to arouse more ire among the community, probably because of its louder buzzing and it also attracts more attention when it lands on exposed food in a kitchen.

However, looking back over the years there are far fewer flies about not than in the pre insecticide years.

No longer is there a need for fly papers to hang in almost every house, shop or kitchen with their victims exposed on the pulled out film type roll of brandy coloured sticky paper.

Neither is there a need for the home made fly swatter in the butcher's stall—it was usually made from a patch of red motorcar tube. Gone forever is that era.

## Damning silence of a sectarian Bishop of Limerick



Sombre: George's Street (now O'Connell Street) in Bishop O'Dwyer's day

□ I READ Vincent Donnelly on Bishop O'Dwyer and I see the Bishop in an entirely different light. He was what James Joyce would call a Celtic Catholic Cyclops.

He was one-eyed. He saw only one side of a story, he supported gains for Catholics and saw not the pain inflicted on others.

John Redmond was leader of all Ireland both Catholics and Protestants and both were fighting shoulder to shoulder against a German military machine that was threatening civilisation.

Ireland was brutally united by the British and brainlessly partitioned by sectarianism like Bishop O'Dwyer. Enlightened self-interest meant the free — those who enjoyed constitutional liberalism — should unite to defend their human rights.

The 1916 leaders saw

Kaiser Germany and the Turks who had massacred two million Armenian Catholics as gallant allies. Pearse wanted to bring in a German prince to head the state. Bishop O'Dwyer backed the Germans and Austrians as he saw a majority of Catholics fighting the major Protestant powers.

The Kaiser was absolute monarch and he

saw himself as God's regent on earth. Despite this the army controlled everything, including the Kaiser, and dismissed the Kaiser when he was no more use to them.

The army General Ludendorff was in control and was known as the secret dictator.

Bishop O'Dwyer backed Sinn Fein, a racist sectarian party, and their way of

dealing with Protestants was to attack and in many cases kill them of force them to leave and over a hundred thousand did.

The Protestants of the North were not likely to join what they saw as a closed mono-ethnic and mono-culture state.

The priest-ridden society that came into being in 1922 was not freedom in the sense of constitu-

tional liberalism but it was a separate independent state with a native government pursuing self-sufficiency and if that defines freedom then North Korea is the freest country in the world.

Bishop O'Dwyer did not back those fighting for constitutional liberty, like President Woodrow Wilson of the USA, who said he was fighting to make

the world a safe place for democracy, to champion human rights, to liberate the German people from a vicious regime that disregarded all human rights.

The allies wanted no territory only enough space to bury their dead.

The German military machine hungry for land and slaves, had taken over 300 states and the Austrians about 10.

Bishop O'Dwyer attacked John Dillon, who got the land of Ireland for the people of Ireland.

The human rights of women meant little Bishop O'Dwyer as he did not want them to have the vote and the human rights of Jews meant less as he was silent while they were falsely accused and while they were forced out of the city.

**PAT RYAN**  
Barrington Street,  
Limerick.

Please include a daytime phone number with your letter. If using e-mail, please include a postal address

Limerick LEADER 26/ July/2003