

Accolade for late Limerick writer Jerry O'Neill

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A JOINT civic delegation from Limerick City and County will visit London next week to honour an award-winning Limerick born novelist.

Cathairleach John Galahue and Mayor John Gilligan will travel to the Irish Cultural Centre in Hammersmith for a formal courtesy call on February 27 to a presentation on Jerry O'Neill.

Mr O'Neill established the first Irish pub theatre in the British capital, entitled 'The Sugawn'.

The Patron of the Limerick Association in London, Doris Daly, will introduce the tribute to Mr O'Neill before an invited guest audience where the portrait of the Limerick born writer will be unveiled and presented to the delegation from Limerick.

The portrait has been painted by London-based

and Irish Post award winning artist, Bernard Canavan, who was a regular at the Sugawn and a friend of the Limerick writer.

"People from Limerick city and county were visitors and many still hold fond memories of the plays and music events staged in the Sugawn in Islington," said Ms Daly.

"Throughout the sixties Jerry was chronicling the London Irish as pub landlord, playwright and novelist. He captured the

twilight world of the aimless Irish—the building workers, the foremen, the minor bosses and the figures who controlled their often dreary lives. Jerry O'Neill's books brought to light a strange dark world of the Irish in London and novels like 'Duffy is Dead' and 'Open Cut' set new literary standards for Irish writers," she added.

Ms Daly said "this May is the 10th anniversary of Jerry's death in Kilkee and we in the London Sugawn

Memorial Committee along with the Limerick Sugawn Committee commissioned the portrait to mark his contribution to Irish literature. We are delighted the civic leaders in Limerick have united in a delegation to visit London and accept the portrait on behalf of all the people of Limerick".

It's hoped the portrait of Mr O'Neill will hang in a public place in Limerick in time for his anniversary.



Limerick author Jerry O'Neill, founder of the Sugawn Theatre.

Limerick Mellon Volunteers hold inaugural meeting

THE Niall Mellon Township Trust held the inaugural meeting of its Limerick Volunteer Club last night (February 17).

The charity operates a year round housing building programme for impoverished families living in the townships of South Africa and has built 11,000 houses since its inception in 2002.

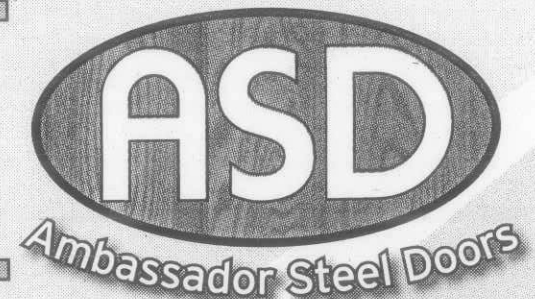
The charity is now setting up volunteer clubs around the country and everyone is welcome to join as it needs volunteers to help at home, as well as abroad.

A spokeswoman for the group said: "The charity needs your help in all sorts of ways, referring new Volunteers, giving us expertise and helping at events. This year the charity plans to build 6,500 houses in South Africa and it is with your help young children and families can live in decent houses." Membership is free and open to all. If people are interested in joining the Limerick Volunteer Club, contact Jimmy, Charlie or Emer at the office on 01-4948200.

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