

Countess and Earl visit city to open up the Pery Gates at Edward Street

PEOPLE'S PARK

Anne Sheridan

"SOME 150 years ago my great grand-father donated the land for this park and we trust and pray that in 150 years time our great grand-children will be running around, enjoying the People's Park," said Edmond Pery, Earl of Limerick, on Sunday as the city's award-winning park got a new entrance.

The 7th Earl, along with his mother Sylvia, Countess of Limerick, were invited by Limerick Civic Trust to attend the official opening of a new set of gates.

The Countess said that she has been "surprised and thrilled" by the transformations in the city, since she began to visit Limerick in the 1960s.

"I'm full of admiration for what Limerick Civic Trust has achieved for the city of Limerick. When I first came here a lot of the city was very derelict but nearly all the old buildings have been transformed and rebuilt. The city has got such an interesting history - I hope it brings a lot of tourists here. I hope this park will



Pery nice: Lord Limerick, Edmund Pery, and his mother Sylvia, Countess of Limerick, admire the new park entrance

be used for many, many generations," she said.

Over 100 people turned out to see the opening of the gates, which cost Limerick Civic Trust in the region of €100,000 to complete, with assistance from the City Council, the park trustees and the Earl of Limerick.

The Earl donated the proceeds of the sale of a tiny corner of the park at

Edward Street to Limerick Civic Trust to carry out improvements to the Victorian park. He had been critical of Limerick City Council for subsequently granting planning permission for a five-storey block of apartments there, something the Pery family knew nothing about.

Speaking to the Limerick Leader on Sunday, the

Countess said: "If we had known they were going to protrude like that we would have hoped it could have been prevented. It's a great pity to have them intruding."

"To live in the flats must be a great joy, as you have this wonderful view, but they are not attractive buildings to look at. I wish they were placed further back," she said.

Bishop Donal Murray and Bishop Michael Mayes performed the blessing of the gates, and Mayor of Limerick Cllr Ger Fahy thanked the Pery family who donated the land for this park to the people of Limerick over a century ago.

The Boherbuoy Brass Band entertained the crowd gathered for the opening ceremony.

OAPs face huge water bills

JANESBORO

John Hogan

ELDERLY residents have been left without a regular water supply for up to three weeks and have been told that they will have to fork out €1,000 each to get it back.

Residents of Marian Avenue, Janesboro, say their water pressure has been dropping since October and six houses are now regularly without flowing water.

"I'm shaking with the cold and I'm not just saying that now, I was never one

to complain," said 84-year-old Mary Kennedy, who lives on the street.

"I can't turn on the gas heating because there's no water in the radiators. I'm carrying water upstairs when I need to use the bathroom and I'm using a hot water bottle and a one-bar electric fire to try and keep myself warm." The affected householders received a letter from City Hall saying a connection would have to be made to a mains across the road and a charge of €1,000 paid for each house prior to any work taking place.

Fellow Marian Avenue

resident, Christina Ellis, who is 83, says she has been without a steady water supply for three weeks and can only heat one room in her house. "Oh my God, I'm freezing. I hadn't any water on Saturday and I would have given my two eyes for a drop. I've been without it for the best part of three weeks, I can't turn on my gas and I can't light a fire because it would be dangerous with the back boiler behind it," said Ms Ellis.

Mayor Ger Fahy said the issue related to lead piping and appealed for the supply to be restored.



Christina Ellis, 83, Marian Avenue, has had to go without central heating for three weeks

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