

JOHN HOGAN

N Syndrome Brick launched in the campaign this which aims to funds for a centre and in Castletroy, I hoped that the sign will encourage businesses, schools a general public to add the vital new brick by brick, order to offer the support mechanism and a more inclusive environment for people with Down syndrome and their families, really was necessary to build this new art and disability support centre in Castletroy.

Ronan O'Connell chairperson of Down syndrome Limerick



Above: Bernadette Bourke with her parents, Eileen and Michael, at the launch of the Limerick Down Syndrome Brick in the Wall fundraising campaign to build a support centre in Castletroy

Right: Michael Beville with eight-day-old Jessie O'Reilly, the oldest and youngest members of Down Syndrome Limerick, and Maura O'Reilly and Betty Hayes at the launch



campaign," she added.

Minister for Defence Willie O'Dea also offered his support to the campaign.

The work carried out by the voluntary committee in Down Syndrome Limerick offers a shining example to all of us. The vision and foresight to build this new facility should be recognised and I urge everyone to support the Brick in the Wall initiative in whatever

way they can," commented the minister.

Down Syndrome Limerick is a completely voluntary organisation and has been supporting people with Down syndrome and their families and friends, for over 20 years and currently operates out of offices on O'Connell St.

The new support centre will be fully WiFi accessible and will include two speech and

language therapy units, a lecture theatre, a resource library, a multi-media centre, a number of meeting rooms and administration offices.

There are a variety of different brick options available to members of the public who wish to help with this worthy cause. A Platinum Brick is awarded for a €5,000 contribution, with a Gold Brick awarded for €2,000, Silver Brick for €1,000

and Bronze Brick for €500.

All those who purchase a brick will be awarded a certificate of support and will have their name listed on a specially commissioned plaque that will be erected in the new building. For smaller contributions, Helping Hand Certs are available at €10 each from committee members.

Meanwhile, the group is organizing two long distance trips this year, with 50 per cent of the proceeds going to provide speech and language therapy for children with Down syndrome in Limerick.

The first 17-day trip will depart to China on Friday June 6, and another trip has been organized for Hawaii, leaving on Friday October 31.

The Chinese trip will take in Inner Mongolia, old Tibet, Xian, Beijing

stabbed to death in their home in Kee Park. Their father was killed in a fight with a drink and drug court record.

Dermot Boland, Maple Court, Kee Park, pleaded guilty to stealing an electric drill. His brother, Jamesy, 18, of Maple C Kennedy Park, pleaded guilty to stealing a bag from an 80-year-old woman on William S



West Limerick

Abbeyfeale - 10
Newcastle West - 11
Patrickswell - 2g

South Limerick

Bruff - 4g
Kilmallock - 5g
Kilfinane - 6g
Galbally - 6.

East Limerick

Kilkee - 7g
Caherconlish - 8g

I am available at any o

Red House Hill, P

Tel: 061 33532

E-mail: miall.co

APPLICATION TO COUNCIL FOR

Drummen Properties Ltd intend to apply for the Reference No: WL/PLC/1 Clarina, Co. Limerick.

The classes of activity being undertaken of other inorganic class of waste intended for use to do in a processing plant temporary storage. Pending where such waste is produced the Waste Management Act activity being Class 4.

A copy of the application is as practicable after its availability for inspection or at Limerick County Council, Co. Limerick.

Open Day Prospectus

Scoil Pól

(Scoil Pól is co-ed)

Open Day

Principals A

Enquiries Ph

Fax No.

Email: secret

Newcastle & Rehabili

Kilkenny, Newcastle (096)

On December 17th Nursing Home open 63 beds in total.

mildure of G Acquired Brain Alzheimer / D

If you would like an

Old tracks are given new life as a leisurely walk and bicycle path

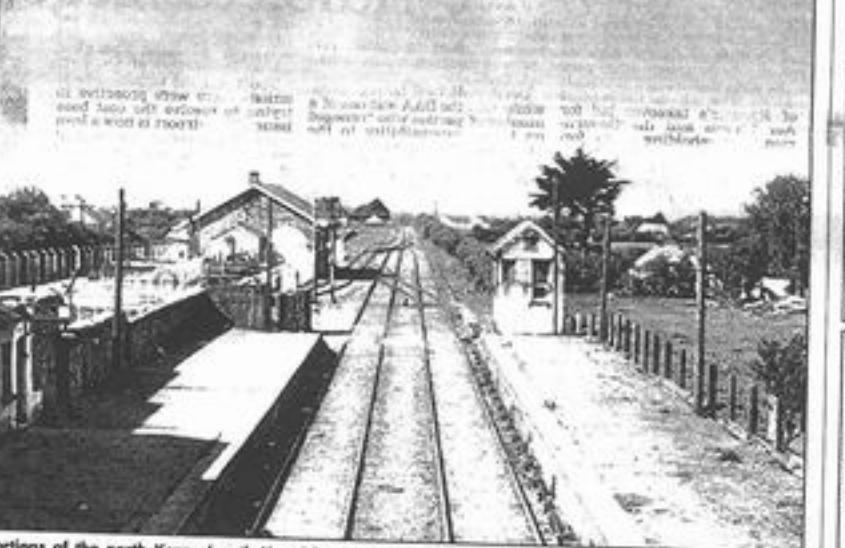
By MARTIN BYRNE

EXACTLY 45 years after the daily passenger train traversed the length of County Limerick and rammed into the frosty Kerry darkness from Abbeyfeale towards Listowel and Tralee for the last time, a commemorative walk and cycle will take place along a four kilometre stretch of the railway bed which has been upgraded to cycle standard as a recreational amenity.

Although goods trains continued to operate after February 2, 1968, and occasional passenger "specials" ran to major sporting events, the closure of the daily passenger service spelled the end for a number of smaller stations along the route. The walk/cycle will leave from the original railway station house at Bishop's Court, Newcastle West, at 3.30pm for Ardagh for the leisurely 90 minute saunter. Those wishing to join at Ardagh are advised to do so at either 4pm or 4.15. Cyclists may join at any time, and they should complete the round trip in about half an hour.

The line which lost its daily passenger traffic in 1963 was not the line which stretched all the way from Limerick to Tralee, but just most of it. It was the section which branched away from the Limerick to Foynes line at Ballylongane junction, just north of Rathkeale, and which travelled onward to Rathkeale, Newcastle West, Abbeyfeale, Listowel and Tralee, 53 miles in all. But, as the regular passenger service ended, so too did a chain of little stations and halts along the line. Between Rathkeale and Newcastle West, Ardagh closed forever and people would merely see goods trains trundle past its platform and goods shed, stopping no more.

West of Newcastle West, after a laborious ascent and travelling through a



Pieces of the north Kerry / south Limerick train lines have been turned into cycle paths and walkways for various recreational projects. Above: is a picture taken in the mid-1960s of Listowel Train Station around the time of the line closure.

long, curved tunnel at Ireland's highest rail point, Barnagh station was also axed. Barnagh had never had a commercial reason to exist as a station, but had merely provided a siding into which wheezy steam engines temporarily deposited half a train before going back down the steep "bank" to collect the other half, the engine not having had the strength to haul the entire train as a unit. With the arrival of diesel electric traction, trains ascended the bank without trouble.

A little further to the west at Devon Road, the main business of which had been fresh cream, the tiny station also closed. But, after less than two more decades, the line itself was no more and was taken up entirely in 1988.

But CIE continues to own the full length of the track from Ballylongane to Tralee and a voluntary group formed as a not-for-profit company has spent the past several years restoring sections of the track as a walkway.

Great Southern Trail Group, with a variety of grant sources and local contributions from collection days, has even managed to upgrade the NCW to Ardagh section. Funding from the Rural Regeneration Fund of An Roinn Chontae Pobail, Tuarthach agus Gaeltachta has enabled the Ardagh section upgrade to be done. The group has also completed the longer section from Abbeyfeale to Barnagh, via Devon Road, Tullog Wood and Teigeleen.

The next project is the extension of the walkway from Barnagh down the "bank" to Newcastle West. A small portion has been done, but a problem has arisen with a viaduct at

Garryduff, towards the top of the Barnagh ascent. As reported in the Limerick Leader earlier this month, the short metal bridge over a steep valley requires surveying to see what works are required to make its deck safe for pedestrians and cyclists. This Sunday at 2.30pm on RTE One television, the documentary series "Pobal" will feature the walkway, with special emphasis on the potential continuation of the viaduct to the

continuation of the walkway with the county. Already 12 miles in County Limerick have been resurfaced with the Heritage Council assisting in the works on the approaches to the viaduct.

Stole more than £100 from shops

By DAVID HURLEY

JCK man will be sentenced at f this month after he pleaded stealing over £10,000 in cash & pubs and shops in Limerick over a month-long crime

arroll Moran heard that Mr stole almost £5,000 from the r on George's Quay after he is premises on two separate.

The first premises targeted suspect was Dolans on Dock re he stole €365 and a digital

remained included Molly Mallon Street, the Still House, street, Nestors, O'Connell's White House, Thomas Street, nond also pleaded guilty to 8000-43 from Conna, O'Conn

cepting his guilty plea,

can indicate he would be defendant on January 31.

Student pleads guilty to drugs

sent pleaded guilty at Limerick Court to possession of drugs in his home in Limerick.

man, 29, who is originally from Limerick, pleaded guilty to four possession of drugs for sale or supply on January 31.

which were seized at an off Cherrycross, Dublin Road, amphetamine, herbal mixtures and MDMA tablets and more.

ers, who worked as a security

at time, also pleaded guilty to

the charge.

JOHN HOGAN

Poles sought for 'Glass Mountain' art project

A LONDON-BASED artist is searching for 10 Polish construction workers in the city to

in Limerick.

The Polish are the contractors for the "Glass

Mountain" art project. "The

Contentious Caherconlish plan to go before council

By MáIREAD O'DONNELL

engineers and planners.

Representations made by the communi-

"We did everything we could to meet with people's requests, but obviously our approach