

On track to mark 160 years of the Castleconnell-rail line

DONAL O'REGAN

E: donal.oregan@limerickleader.ie

ONE HUNDRED and sixty years ago the railway between Killonan Junction and Castleconnell was opened on August 28, 1858.

To mark this historic event, Iarnród Éireann in conjunction with Castleconnell Tidy Towns and Love

Castleconnell will be hosting a family fun evening at Castleconnell station on August 28. There will be special train journey, family entertainment and local railway historian, Joe Coleman will give details of the railway's rich history.

John Hardiman, chair of Castleconnell Tidy Towns, said: "What started as a Tidy Towns project to improve the appearance of the railway station has turned into a broader community effort to celebrate its 160 years."

Nicky McNamara, of Love Castleconnell, said in days gone by, there were two ways of travelling from Castleconnell to Limerick city.

"A horse-drawn coach which left regularly from the village centre, and the steam

“The horse drawn coach is long gone; the train continues to operate

train, which took passengers into Colbert station. Although the horse-drawn coach is long gone, the train continues to operate and is used daily by commuters and students, and of course by those who simply want a day out in Limerick.

"There is great history and heritage attached to Castleconnell Railway Station and we are proud to be celebrating its 160 years," said Nicky.

A special train will leave Colbert Station at 5pm on Tuesday, August 28. It will call at Castleconnell and depart there for Birdhill at 5.30pm. It will return to Castleconnell for speeches and will depart again for Colbert station at 7.55pm. All welcome.



A photo of what passengers may have looked like 160 years ago: Megan and Margaret Freney with Leslie Hartigan PICTURE: TARA HARTIGAN

Donald Teskey leads painting workshop at the Hunt Museum

JESS CASEY

E: jess.casey@limerickleader.ie

LIMERICK artist Donald Teskey hosted a creative workshop with budding painters among the Hunt Museum's collection.

Mr Teskey, whose work has been exhibited in the UK, USA, Canada, China, Germany, France, Finland and South Africa, led a full day painting workshop as part of the Hunt's summer adult workshop series.

As well as teaching participants painting techniques, Mr Teskey also spoke about the purchase of his work for the Great Southern Collection, which was presented to the Crawford Art Gallery, Cork, in 2006.

'Signals of Change', the Hunt Museum's summer exhibition, features a body of



Dolores Dinneen, Ballingarry with her painting



Jill Geoghegan, South Circular Road at the workshop

work from the Great Southern Collection.

The current exhibition features the work of 18 artists, including Mr Teskey, Norah McGuinness, Daniel O'Neill, and Gerard Dillon.

Curator at the Hunt Museum Naomi O'Nolan said: "The West of Ireland features prominently in this exhibition, and there is also

wonderful variety from Cecil King's minimal, illusionary three dimensional painting Intrusion, and Patrick Collins Bog Pool to George Gillespie's pure landscape Lakes and Mountain and Maurice MacGonigal's literal representation of George Moore's Garden." The exhibition is open to the public until September 2.



Attending Donald Teskey's Painting Workshop at the Hunt Museum were Fionnuala O'Connell with Donald Teskey PICTURES: GARETH WILLIAMS