We have established relations with other clubs and associations and our members have represented us in competitions at national and international level. After half a century, we find ourselves here.

"The world has changed much since 1961 and of course our club and the floral art that we practise have changed too."

Membership for the club is €40 per annum.

The club meets in the Greenhills Hotel on the second Tuesday of each month. In January, July and August the club closes for holidays.

For any further information contact Patsy Quinn at 061 355208.



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go on the walk.



Members of the Limerick Flower and Garden Club, which celebrated its golden anniversary at the Strand Hotel last month.

## Airport marks 75th anniversary

Leader Reporter

A MILESTONE moment in Irish aviation history has been celebrated this week with the planting of an oak tree to mark the 75th anniversary of the beginning of construction work at Shannon Airport.

A gang of only about a dozen workers first arrived on the job on October 8, 1936. Almost three years would pass before the first passenger aircraft, a Sabena Savoia Merchetti, landed in July 1939 and plans are already afoot to mark the 75th anniversary of the opening of the airport to the travelling public.

Acting Shannon Airport director Niall MacCarthy said that with this week's tree-planting ceremony, the company was honouring the work of the men who planned and built the airport.

"Little did the men who broke



Breaking ground: acting airport director Niall MacCarthy at Shannon this week

ground for the first time at what were then mudflats on the Rineanna peninsula think that this spot would quickly become a key airport for transatlantic travel." he said

"While construction of Shannon began 75 years ago this week, the first passenger flights did not take place until the summer of 1939 and Shannon will celebrate? its 75th birthday proper in 2014."

Shannon Airport Authority chairman Brian O'Connell said that the airport was steeped in history and paid tribute to the efforts of those who had planned, designed and built it.

"Shannon was the first transatlantic gateway between the US and Europe and the birthplace of duty free. Shannon Airport gave rise to the Shannon Free Zone and as recently as 2009, it was still making history when it became the first airport outside North America to secure preclearance for the US. None of that would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the original construction workers and

planners," said Mr O'Connell.

"We are extremely fortunate to have had such a strategic piece of infrastructure on our doorstep to help drive the economy over the decades. It is only right that in looking back on the past with this anniversary, we can also look forward again, after a difficult recent period, with renewed confidence for Shannon Airport and the key role it will continue to play in this region long into the future," he added.

That future is already taking shape with airport chiefs focused on improving scheduled services between Shannon and mainland Europe, as well as consolidating its transatlantic business.

Officials are also excited at the prospect of developing an international cargo hub at Shannon with US operator Lynxs, following the signing of a preliminary agreement with the DAA.

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on Fri. 21st October, 2011 at 11.

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