

CHRONICLE BRIEFS

Business Awards

THE fourth SFA National Small Business Awards, partnered by O2 Ireland and Bank of Ireland Business Banking, were officially launched by An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, this week. The aim of the awards is to celebrate the achievements of small businesses in Ireland, and to recognise the vital contribution of the small business sector to the Irish economy. Entries to the awards will now be accepted until 5.30pm on Wednesday October 31, and forms are available online at www.sfa.ie/awards.

Animal week

TO celebrate World Animal Week, Pedigree and Whiskas are asking the public to select Ireland's Best Loved Dog and Cat. Visit the ISPCA website www.ispca.ie or www.worldanimalweek.ie to vote. For further information about World Animal Week, please contact Carmel at the ISPCA on (043) 25933 or email carmel@ispca.ie

Wedding fair

LEADING wedding planner, stylist and star of the TV show 'Brides of Franc', Peter Kelly, will be one of the exhibitors attending the Hilton Limerick Wedding Fair at the hotel on September 30 from 12 noon until 6pm. Guests at the fair will also have the opportunity to meet with a range of exhibitors including dress designers, florists and photographers.

Energy Solutions

THE Manager of the Limerick Clare Energy Agency (LCEA) highlighted the need for both Limerick and Clare to take ownership of their own energy needs and climate change strategy at a conference last week. Addressing the second Energy Solutions Conference at the Limerick Institute of Technology, Patrick Stephens said that Limerick and Clare are paying a carbon tax of €13 million.

Vesta Varro

LIMERICK band Vesta Varro, who are just back from the UK, are stopping off in Dolan's Warehouse before their tour of Canada. Tickets to see the band, on Friday, September 21, are priced at €9. Doors open at 9pm



Treasure Hunt: Fiona Davern, Virginia Teehan, John Bowen, Larry Walsh and Eamon Noonan, organising committee members of the Limerick Silver Exhibition at the Hunt Museum. Mr Bowen has also co-authored a book on Limerick smiths

Pictures by Brendan Crowe

Hunt fêtes golden age of silversmiths

By ANNE SHERIDAN

A BOOK on Limerick silver has just been published to coincide with the opening of the Hunt Museum's exhibition — A Celebration of Limerick Silver.

The book of the same name by John R. Bowen and Conor O'Brien is the first to chronicle the work of Limerick silversmiths and goldsmiths. It draws extensively on new research to highlight the achievements of almost forgotten craftspeople.

"The origin in Limer-

lack of many of Ireland's greatest treasures, such as the incomparable Ardagh chalice, suggests skilled smiths at work in the area for many centuries. Throughout the history of Limerick, goldsmiths and silversmiths contributed to civic life, at least four serving as mayor," said a spokesperson for the publishers, The Collins Press.

The silver and gold trophies and medals won by generations of Limerick sportspeople are showcased in the 320-page account, having been won in contests in places as diverse as Croke Park and Clogheen, Cardiff and Calcutta.

Included in the book

are photographs of rare ecclesiastical pieces of both the Catholic and Anglican faiths; civic, ceremonial and commemorative pieces; as well as domestic and personal plate, ranging from a soup tureen to a modest teaspoon.

The work of smiths such as John Bucknor, Robert Smith, Collins Brehon, Maurice Fitzgerald and the peerless Joseph Johns, are also analysed.

One of the authors, John Bowen, is chief executive officer of the Bowen Group, a substantial construction and property company. Mr Bowen is also chairman of the Limerick Silver Exhibition committee.

Meanwhile, the exhibition of Limerick silver in the Hunt Museum, which was launched last Thursday, features silverware spanning five centuries. It includes items by Dr Ed Walsh, President Emeritus of the University of Limerick, who was commissioned to create a number of contemporary pieces.

A highlight of the sporting memorabilia on display will be the Assolas Racing Trophy, which dates from 1729. This cup is one of the oldest known racing trophies in Ireland and was last exhibited in the Ulster Museum in 1954. Other sporting silver ware includes GAA All-Ireland medals, dating back

to the late 1800s, and rug-

by medals.

The exhibition will

run until January 13, with guided tours at 2.30pm daily.



Hunt museum staff members Fiona Davern, left, looking at the Franciscan chalices from the 16th and 17th century and, right, Monica Balla, with some household silverware

FARLEY □119

Black Lea, Tan Lea.

ROWLETT □119

Black, Bown

COLERADO □199

Honey, Tan, Brown Lea, Black Lea, Black Nub, Dark brown, Sundance

LEAVYS

SHOES

113 O'CONNELL STREET, LIMERICK
15 WILLIAM STREET, LIMERICK