

re is now a very
and within the
my says.

been, played some
Limerick at junior level.

energy to encouraging
people to do so.
He believes that

when people tell him
that they are afraid of
needles.

know where they nau
put the needle," he
said.

ting legend e decades



MacMathuna
recording peo-
ries, songs, bal-
ad, above all,
MacMathuna's
ing work has
any traditional
and the playing
y musicians that
otherwise have

been lost to posterity.
His work also helped
also to preserve distinc-
tive local styles, includ-
ing that of Sliabh
Luachra where he first
visited in 1956.
His programmes for
radio and television
have received acclaim
both in Ireland and
abroad. A number of
publications on Irish
traditional music and
culture have appeared
in German, Irish and
American journals and
books and he has
served on the Cultural
Relations Committee of
the Department of For-
eign Affairs.
His programmes such
as Ceolta Tire, A Job Of
Journeywork and The
Humours Of Donny-
brook now constitute
an invaluable archive,
an archive on which he
often drew in the Mo
Cheol Thu series.

A friend to the refugee and asylum seeker

SR Nora Wall is one of
the main figures behind
Doras Luimni, the sup-
port organisation for
refugees and asylum
seekers.
Since it was estab-
lished in 2002, Doras
Luimni has helped hun-
dreds of immigrants to
make Limerick their
home.
Doras Luimni has also
done outstanding work
in informing and involv-
ing the local community
in dealing with issues of
asylum-seekers, multi-
culturalism and racism.
It has worked with the
statutory and voluntary
bodies in planning and
implementing pro-
grammes to support asy-
lum seekers and
refugees.
Sr Nora has been
active in all aspects of
this work, from helping
set up the group in the
early stages to fundrais-
ing on a continuous
basis and planning for

the future. Much of the



Sr Nora Wall

organisation's funding
comes from the Euro-
pean Refugee Fund but
it is still reliant on sup-
port from businesses
and individuals in Lim-

erick.
A native of Dromcol-
logher, Sr Nora recently
celebrated her diamond
jubilee with the Mercy
Order. She worked as a
teacher for more than 30
years in Scoil Carmel,
Stella Maris, Foynes and
Ard Scoil Mhuire.
She believes that
racism has its roots in a
lack of understanding.
"We do a lot of outreach
work trying to raise
awareness and to
encourage tolerance and
understanding," she
says.
Since 2002, Sr Nora
has seen a marked
change in the percep-
tion of immigrants in
Limerick. While igno-
rance and prejudice still
exist, attitudes towards
these newcomers have
improved vastly, thanks
largely to the work of
Doras Luimni and sim-
ilar groups.

Advocate for West region



MacSweeney
region in order to
he most of
on Airport and its
land.
role as chairman
port company he
w the successful

merger of the Shannon
and Foynes port
companies.
Since then, the company
has gone from a loss-
making situation to one
which experienced
growth of 10 per cent
last year.
Its ambitious five-year
plan proposes a major
redevelopment of
Limerick docks area
and the upgrading of
port facilities
downstream.
A native of St Patrick's
Road in Ballysimon,
Kieran is managing
director of Avocent in
Shannon, a company
that has continued to
expand under his
leadership and is now
one of five divisional
headquarters of the
organisation.
He lives in Clonmacken
with his wife Annette
and their two children
Michelle and Stephen.

The businessman who sailed into history

GER O'Rourke sailed
into history when his
yacht Chieftain, fin-
ished top of its class
and in fourth place
overall in the presti-
gious Sydney-Hobart
yacht race recently.
The property devel-
oper led a crew of nine
Irish, two New Zealan-
ders and a German to
success in the 650 mile
nautical race.
The race started on
December 26 from
Sydney and the crew
crossed the finish line
in the Chieftain three
days later.
But it was not all
plain sailing. Damage
was done to the rig-
ging midway through
the race which led to a
broken spinnaker that
curtailed their speed
for a few hours. But
cool heads and profes-
sionalism prevailed
and within a few
hours, they were back



Ger O'Rourke

on course.
Chieftain, which
was built at a cost of
\$1m, was the only
Irish entrant in the
famous race. Ger and
his crew were compet-

ing against 95 yachts
in three different divi-
sions.
Chieftain's next out-
ing will be the Dublin
nationals in May. It
will then compete in
the Round Ireland
race in July. Ger has
signed a sponsorship
deal with Altana Phar-
ma for this race and
he is seeking potential
sponsors for other
races in the coming
months.
A successful busi-
nessman, Ger is the
director of Chieftain
Construction, based in
William Street. He is a
native of South Circu-
lar Road in the city.
His company has
worked on numerous
projects around the
city, including Cratloe
Student Village and
the Summer Street
Apartments.

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