

Erin Mo Chroi to star in gala concert at Tarbert

By MARTIN BYRNES

A GALA concert by seven Shannon Estuary musicians will be given at Tarbert Bridewell on the night of Sunday, August 1 as part of the Tarbert GAA centennial celebrations.

Called Erin Mo Chroi, the group is headed up by local man, Tom O'Donovan, who spent ten years in the Bronx, New York, where he founded The Balladeer Social Club, before returning to his native parish.

Mr O'Donovan is a prolific songwriter, having written tributes to Bill Clinton as well as John B Keane and many others, and he delivers his own work on the platform with style.

His wife, Priscilla, from Cleveland, Ohio, is a trained operatic diva, but has taken to the Irish ballad repertoire with ease.

"My husband, Thomas, courted me by singing and teaching me these Irish songs," she recalls of their time in America. "I feel honoured to now be able to sing them."

Donie Lyons from Glin is a veteran of the All Ireland Fleadh Ceoil as a flautist, and, like Tom O'Donovan, is also a fine ballad singer.

Asdee's Tommy O'Carroll has been playing the accordion since boyhood, and has competed in the Pan Celtic in Wales.

Harmonica player, Eamon Riordan and his bodhrán playing and his singing son, Tim Joe, are from near Dirreen strand in Asdee,

while, from the other side of Knockanore, Paddy Hourigan of Lisselton sings, lilts, whistles, and plays bodhrán, spoons and harmonica.

The concert on Sunday of next week will commence at 8.30pm, and will principally feature the 24 tracks of the CD, also called Erin Mo Chroi, which the group has recorded this summer. It includes Tim Joe Riordan's rendition of Lovely Athea, Donie Lyons' the Rose of Newtownsandes, Tom O'Donovan's John B, and The West Limerick Hills. The CD sells for €12, and Mr O'Donovan says that they were given a deal by their recording studio, which has allowed them to sell the CD for so little. He can be contacted at 087 2814887.



The Erin Mo Chroi group on the cover of their new cd



Paul Noonan and Sinead Riordan, pupils of Ardpatrick NS with TJ Ryan who attended the raising of the Green flag which was presented to Ardpatrick NS School

Delany is set to unveil bronze of Paddy Ryan

By DEIRDRE McGRATH

OLYMPIC champion, Ronnie Delany will unveil a lifesize bronze statue of fellow Olympian and Pallasgreen native Paddy Ryan this Saturday.

The statue depicting the hammer throwing champion will be located at Pallasgreen on the main Tipperary/Limerick road and the unveiling ceremony will be performed at 3pm.

Among the attendance will be Mr Ryan's five daughters, former international hockey player, Stanley de Lacy and former Irish hammer and shot putt champion, Sean Egan. The memorial was organised by the Paddy Ryan Memorial Committee and World Champion Memorial Committee with support from Limerick County Council, John F Lawlor, USA; AIB, Hospital; and St Ailbe's Credit Union.

Sections the stone used for the memorial site have direct links to Mr Ryan's life as some came from his birth place of Bunavie, some from Old Pallas where he reared his family and some was found in Moymore, the townland of his wife Johanna Mary, nee King.

More stone was located in Garrynachara where his aunt lived.

The local committee have produced a special commemorative full colour booklet detailing Mr Ryan's amazing journey from County Limerick to the Olympic stage.

Born in Bunavie, Pal-



Olympian Paddy Ryan

lasgreen in 1883, Mr Ryan emigrated to America in 1910 and joined the Irish American club.

Two years later he won the New York championship with a throw of 182 feet 11 inches and in 1920 he won the Olympic gold and silver medals at the Antwerp Games.

Mr Ryan is described as man with a rich, warm personality, a glorious storyteller and a loveable and homely character.

In conversation with his friend and writer, Dave Guinsy, Mr Ryan spoke of the glory days of

his life and recalled how he loved life.

"Sure I miss every day of them, they were great days and I enjoyed them thoroughly. I'm sorry I can't live my life all over again," he said.

Members of committee behind this project include Ger O'Connell, Liam Long, Fr McSweeney, John O'Grady, Brian O'Neill, Donal Ryan Jimmy Fanning, Jack Ryan, Peter Weatherhead, Bernie O'Dwyer, Catherine O'Grady, Mary Weatherhead, Mary Harty and Joe Cosgrave.

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