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versy, since the original application was lodged in September 2001.

Corbally residents, including Alderman Jan O'Sullivan TD, lodged over 25 objections to the proposed development, citing an increase in traffic as the main reason for objection.

The proposed development is for the demolition of two existing dwellings and for 28 semi-detached houses and six detached houses on the site.

However, senior executive engineer at the City Council, Larry Coyle, confirmed that 12 conditions were attached to the

granting of permission, including the retention of one of the houses proposed for demolition.

The house, Lis Cannair, will not be knocked as part of the development.

Another condition is that the developer contact Dúchas before any building commences. The planning department said that it has no objection, in principle, to the proposed development providing Dúchas is contacted as the site lies partially within a Special Area of Conservation.

The company that made the application, Kealderra Properties Ltd, is controlled by Denis A O'Driscoll, otherwise known as Gus, and his wife Marie.

Mr O'Driscoll owns the Corbally Bar, one of the biggest and most popular pubs in the Mid-West.

Angry residents are complaining that the housing development will lead to an extra 70 cars on the main Corbally Road each day, and that it would lead to inevitable disruption to the natural habitat of several species of wild-fowl on the Wetlands.

Deputy O'Sullivan, one of the original objectors to the development, said that the feeling among Corbally residents is one of disappointment.

"I still believe it's not appropriate having that size of development mainly because of the traffic coming onto the main road," she said.

"The feeling among people in Corbally is disappointment that the application has been granted. What is welcome is that 'Lis Cannair' will now not be knocked.

"That has been achieved as a result of the number of objections lodged. But we already have enough traffic on the Corbally Road without adding to it."

Among the other conditions attached include that the developer contribute €64,800 to Limerick City Council towards improvements of the city public water supply, that a 1.8 metre wall be constructed along the boundary of the site with the railway line, and that the development provides for the landscaping of the open spaces.



Limerick's leading lady of music: Suzanne Murphy's interpretation of the 'Parish' anthem is, it is now claimed, more traditional than the Frank O'Flynn version (LL)

There is an Isle by my Scottish grandfather

By MICHAEL O'FLAHERTY

IN a new twist to the controversy over the origins of Limerick's rugby anthem *There is an Isle*, Brenda O'Donovan (nee Frawley), formerly from Bishop Street, claims that it was her grandfather, John Robert Turnbull, from Scotland, who was responsible for the words of the song.

Brenda, now resident in Cork, accepts that many views have been voiced as to when and where the song was first aired.

She said: "John's regiment was based in the Castle Barracks and he was a wonderful singer. He converted to Catholicism when he married Mary O'Meara and they lived a 10 Bishop Street.

"He died at a young age and I lived with my grandmother until I was 10 years old. In the age before radio and television singing was a favourite past time, particularly in the 'Parish'.

"My grandmother was always singing the 'Isle' and it is a favourite of my mother Gladis Frawley, who remains hale and hearty at 85 years."

According to Brenda, her mother told her that when they sang *There is an Isle*, it was in the style of the Suzanne Mur-



Star turn after Shannon rugby matches: the inimitable Frank O'Flynn (LL)

phy version, rather than the lustier version rendered by Frank O'Flynn on big match occasions.

Brenda who remembers her happy childhood in Bishop Street, said there was always a very close bond between the neighbours.

"They were and are wonderful people and the late parish and Limerick historian Willie 'Wack' Gleeson was a great family friend."

Brenda, who completed her education at University College

Cork, said she decided to speak of her family's involvement and set the record straight when she read a recent article in the *Limerick Leader*.

In 1981 this reporter researched and compiled a series of articles for the *Limerick Chronicle* titled, *Memories of Old Limerick Rugby*. I also interviewed many people who had given long service to the oval ball game.

One such person at that time was Joe O'Dwyer of Mitchell Street, Limerick.

On the subject of the origins of the 'Isle,' Joe said that particular song was first sung in King John's Castle by members of a Scottish Regiment based in Limerick in the 1880s.

The soldiers, he claimed, used the pub, then known as Halpin's, directly across the road from the famed castle, as the regular "drinking house" for the garrison and it was there that the song was picked up by locals in the "Parish" as their anthem.

"There is an Isle, a bonnie Isle, stands proudly from the sea, And dearer far than all this world is that dear Isle to me It not that alone it stands where all around is fresh and fair But because it is my native land and my home, my home is there."

Why mourn death Rump

By ALAN JACQUES

THE death of actor Leo McKern, famous for his role in hit TV series *Rumpole of the Bailey*, was being mourned this week in Limerick - his ancestral city.

Leo 82, who starred in such films as *The Mouse That Roared*, *Help, Lawrence of Arabia* and *The French Lieutenant's Woman* died this Monday at a nursing home near his residence in Bath in Western England.

His passing came as sad news this week to the staff and management of McKern's Printers on Glentworth Street in the city.

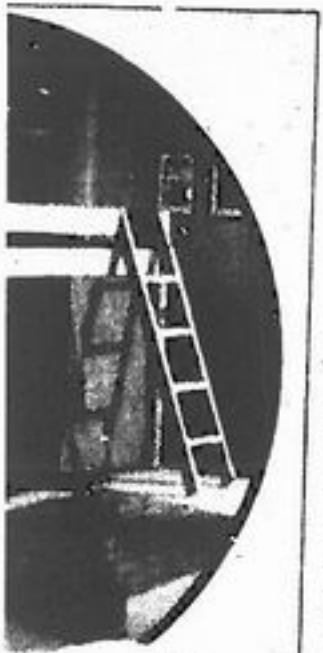
The Australian-born actor's grandfather, William McKern, and granduncle, George, set up McKern's Printers in Limerick in 1806.

In 1857 William McKern left his stately residence, Rose Lawn House, on the banks of the Shannon at Castletroy, to emigrate to Sydney.

Ivan Morris, whose family took over the commercial print business in 1900, said his family decided to keep on the McKern name as they were so well-known and respected in Limerick.

"We were very sad to hear of Leo's death. I used to love the *Rumpole of the Bailey* series and I regarded him as an uncle," said

be saved (LL)



Thomas Parake

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