

# CityView



With  
**Laura Ryan**  
Limerick and proud

## Bringing back an old craft

IT'S encouraging to see that so many events are happening on our greatest natural asset in the heart of our city - the river Shannon - over the summer.

Limerick had arguably turned its back on the river for a long time. With the redevelopment of O'Callaghan's Strand and Clancy's Strand and the facelift of Howley's Quay due to start shortly, the city will once again have the river as a focal point with riverside boardwalks stretching from Shannon Bridge to Sarsfield Bridge and all the way right up to King John's Castle.

It was heartening to see all the cruisers berthing in Limerick during Riverfest 2012 and also the flotilla of yachts that now regularly visit the city from Foynes during the May festivities.

This weekend in Limerick, the ILEN Wooden Boat Building School which is based in the LEDP in Roxboro has come together with local river folk and community groups to build a new fleet of five boats and stage an important cultural and educational river event.

On Saturday afternoon, Limerick families will have the chance to see traditional Gandelow boats racing on the River Shannon for the first time in 65 years.

The Gandelow Races - a rowing contest along the River Shannon in Limerick City - will be a chance for



**Learning the craft:** Students learning the art of boat building at the Ilen school in Roxboro

families and children to see the traditional Limerick boats race on the river for the first time since the 1940s and the day will begin with a reception and presentation of boats, followed by public talks before the racing gets underway.

Ilen School director Gary McMahon says that the event is a celebration of historic Limerick City and the Shannon Estuary River Way. It also celebrates an incredible six months of work by local school children and master shipwrights from Ireland,

UK and France in building and crafting a fleet of five gandelows; river boats which were once an integral part of the economic life of Limerick city.

The racing will take place between Sarsfield Bridge and Shannon Bridge with

the boats being launched at 2.30pm and members of the public are invited to witness this historic event. The first of three races begins at 3pm with the prize giving and closing address taking place at 4.30pm. Earlier in the morning, the presentation of the city's new fleet of Gandelows will take place at 10.30am outside the main entrance to the Limerick Strand Hotel while lectures from the founding director of the Ilen Boat Company Bro Anthony Keane and international boat builder Lance Lee will also take place.

The Ilen Boatbuilding school is an incredible good news story for Limerick.

Billed as Ireland's first third level college of its type, people come to Ilen from across the community to start projects together, some from across Limerick city while many others travel to join the school from North America, United Kingdom and mainland Europe. Some are engaged on research leading to Masters' degrees, others aspire to careers afloat, yet more wish to simply work creatively in a calm, respectful environment helping to build boats.

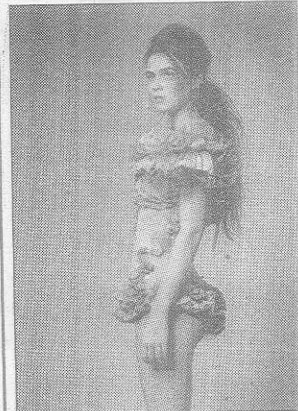
The school engages with around 80 participants from the local community each week in its day and evening classes and it should be an incredible sight this Saturday from 3pm when gandelows will once again race back in Limerick waters.

### AND FINALLY...

### Check out cutting edge fashion

THE talented students of LSAD will demonstrate why the Clare Street college is in the world's top 50 fashion schools over the next few busy weeks.

The LSAD Annual Fashion Show takes place tomorrow night in its beautiful gallery, where the architecture of the former church space promises to make it a very special occasion for the next generation of Irish fashion designers. The trophy case in the Clare Street campus, which is already jam packed, must be exploded



**LSAD student Leanne Ryan's creation for the Triumph lingerie awards**

ing at this stage as eight LSAD students have made the Irish final of the Triumph Inspiration Awards 2012. LSAD is renowned for its competition success and last year the school scored a sensational hat-trick winning first, second and third prize of this prestigious design competition so best wishes to all the finalists this year. They will compete against eight students from Griffith College Dublin and the final takes place in Brown Thomas Dublin next Wednesday, May 30. There are still some limited tickets available for the LSAD Graduate Show on [www.litmt.ie](http://www.litmt.ie) or 061-208870.

## UL to put city's Franciscan church to good use

THE former Franciscan church on Henry Street is a terrific space and it's disappointing to see it lying idle in the heart of the city. I really enjoyed the Irish Chamber Orchestra concert that took place a few years ago for the Limerick International Music Festival and was crossing my fingers that

the area could be used for some civic and public amenity as it is truly a magnificent building.

With UL Professor Don Barry recently reinforcing the University of Limerick's commitment to the redevelopment of Limerick city, it's exciting to hear that Design @ UL will bring together, for the

first time, a diversity of design work to be exhibited at the Franciscan Church from four undergraduate courses at UL - Architecture, Product Design, Civil Engineering, and Digital and Interactive Media.

Presented through drawings, models, projections, photographs, prototypes, texts

and sketchbooks, the exhibited work will cover a wide range of scales and media. The collective nature of the exhibition exposes a breadth of ideas, generated and explored through design. Those behind the exhibition promise that it will express the power and potency of design thinking for

society and I can't wait to see how it fits in with that historic Franciscan Church which is almost 200 years old.

The Design@UL expo will open on Thursday, May 24 at 6.30pm and will be open to the public until June 3 from Monday - Saturday 10am-6pm and Sunday, 2-5pm.

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