

## NEWS

GANDELOW RACES: MASTER SHIPWRIGHTS TO UNITE GONDOLAS AND GANDELOWS IN VENICE

# Boat building school prepares gandelows for Venice races

ANNE SHERIDAN  
anne.sheridan@limerickleader.ie  
@annesheridan1

AS PART of the Limerick City of Culture celebrations, the first Ilen School gandelow races will be held in Venice this April.

Four new 23ft gandelows are currently under construction at the school in Roxboro, through a Limerick City of Culture Sport and Legacy Project, for a series of races within the city this summer and autumn. An international and local team of boat builders and naval architects have assembled at the traditional boat building school, ahead of the Venice races on Canale Della Fondamenta on April 30.

The school, which is devoted to excellence in teaching and learning through the medium of boat building and related crafts, offers to the local and wider community, direct involvement in boat



Great fleet: Pictured at the school, back row left to right, volunteers John Furlong and Liam O'Donoghue, master shipwright Patrick Beauteant, Lyme Regis, master shipwright Stephen Morris, from Auckland. Front row: Mike Grimes, AK Ilen instructor; James Madigan, AK Ilen instructor; master shipwright Matt Durr, graduate apprentice ship, from Maine and Jim McInerney AK Ilen instructor

building, rowing, sailing or visits to the school workshop, to see at first hand the ongoing work. The ambitious school has trained

hundreds of young Limerick people, as well as international students, in the craft of wooden boat-building over the past three years.

The gandelow is a wide rowing boat historically used for salmon fishing on the estuary and is a distant relative of the gondola.



Liam O'Donoghue welcomes the return to the city of the very elegant 23ft variant of the Limerick city gandelow. Photos: Gary MacMahon

## ART

## Michael Warren to discuss exhibition

TOP sculptor Michael Warren will give a talk on his ground-breaking exhibition *Those Who Go / Those Who Stay* in Limerick City Gallery of Art next Monday, March 3 at 2.30pm. Warren will tackle the subject of source material and inspiration.

## HORSES

## Over 200 horses seized in the city

SOME 222 horses were seized in Limerick city last year, at a cost of €280,000 to the city council. The number is in line with previous years, but councillors are calling for the horse bye-laws in the city to be lifted.

## FAIRTRADE

## Photo exhibition at County Hall

A number of events marking the launch of Fairtrade Fortnight in Limerick will be held this Wednesday, February 26, including the opening of the Cotton on to Fairtrade photographic exhibition at Limerick County Library Dooradoyle.

## TRANSPORT

## LIT cycle link to get €70k in funds

A SPEND of €70,000 is planned for improving cycling links between Limerick Institute of Technology and the city centre. It is part of the €1.7m in sustainable transport grants for the city announced by Minister of State Alan Kelly.

# Daniel's 'bittersweet' day as he takes his late father's seat on county council

Daniel Butler this week took his seat on Limerick County Council after being co-opted to take the place of his father Richard who died in December.

And he said he is looking forward to contesting the upcoming local elections in the City West area.

Cllr Butler said it was a "bittersweet" day for himself and his family, particularly his mother Bernie who was in attendance at this month's meeting, alongside his wife Tania and four-year-old daughter Layla.

"I know it's very difficult for her and she would rather my father sitting here and so would I," he told the meeting.

Cllr Butler thanked the council for the "warm welcome" he received and said he was looking forward to getting to know and working with his colleagues from all parties.

"One thing I always knew about my dad was that he never looked at boundaries with regards to parties and he was great at working for the benefit of the community



Daniel Butler and his daughter Layla, 4

and I intend to continue in that spirit," he said.

"I am the son of my mother and my father and I carry my father in me and I carry that knowledge and experience. I am my own person but I carry that with me," he added.

Cathaoirleach John Sheahan officially welcomed Cllr Butler to the council for the remainder of its present term. "I know that you are going to make a very short but worthwhile contribution to Limerick County Council," he said.

There was praise too for his late father, who served on Limerick County Council for 15 years.

"If you take the same path your dad did in local politics I think you will go a long way...I think if you're as good a councillor as your dad was you will be a great success," said Cllr Michael Collins.

Speaking after the meeting, Cllr Butler said he was looking forward to contesting the local elections in May. From the canvassing he has done so far in the Raheen area, he said he has had a good reception on the doorsteps.

"The reaction so far has been very positive," he said.