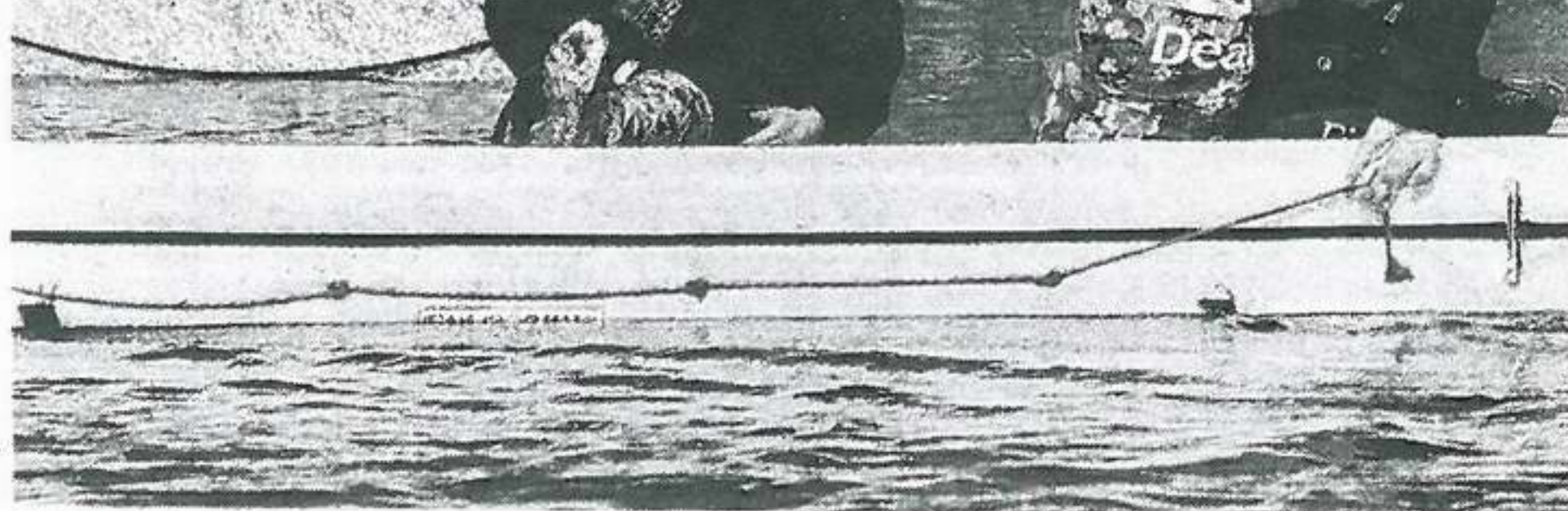


LEE ESTATE

March 11 2011



A flood victim sits at the entrance to the Lee Estate during February's devastating flooding

meeting last week that the €80,000 given to them from private donations is to be distributed on a needs basis.

Four bodies hold different portions of the €80,000 fund, including St Munchin's in Kileely, which holds more than a quarter - €23,000.

And it is for this reason why Ms Ledger is concerned that she, or one of the other staff at the centre did not attend the meeting in St Mary's Church.

"It is strange we were not invited, especially as we have €23,000 of it. It is good news,

about the way it would be distributed. I know at the time an awful lot of people who got nothing. There were an awful lot of people affected in the Thomondgate area and Athlunkard Street for example," she said.

The funding will be distributed according to three bands, with more than 160 residents set to benefit.

Band A will be for those in most need, while Bands B and C will be reserved for those least in need.

But concerns have also been raised on who will de-

commence work at the Island Bank.

Local councillor Maurice Quinlivan has already acknowledged that not everyone who applied for this funding will get the full amount they sought.

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Historic brocaun boat returns to the waters

IT hasn't been seen on the river for about a century, but a traditional fishing vessel has been rebuilt and brought back to the waters of the Abbey thanks to two local fishing enthusiasts, writes Anne Sheridan.

Andrew Duhig, from St Mary's Park, has built a 'brocaun', a traditional fishing vessel, which preceded the well-known angling cot, alongside Tony Daly.

It took the pair three months to make the boat out of white deal timber, and Andrew had never built a boat before.

Due to his keen interest in fishing, Andrew was keen to resurrect this boat, but struggled to get information on it and the only solid fact he knew was that it measured some 20ft. Despite extensive investigations, he could only find one picture of the two-seater brocaun and said it is only briefly mentioned in an book on the Abbey fishermen by Jack Clancy.



Oran Martin holding the only picture of the brocaun they have seen, with Pat Lysagh, Andrew Duhig, and Michelle Sheehy, with the brocaun boat.

It is only mentioned in The Abbey Fishermen: a short history by William Lysaght, which was first published in 1964 and republished in 1999, and features in a poem by Arthur Lysaght, entitled Lament for the Abbey River.

Andrew's uncle, Bobby

Duhig, was a boat builder from the Abbey, and he gleaned as much information as he could from him before he sadly passed away in May. His uncle had depicted the lives of the Abbey fishermen on canvas, and he took his inspiration from there.

"They stopped building the boat around the 1900s, and as far as I'm concerned it's the only one on the river at the moment.

"I would love to know if there are any more out there in existence, or if anyone else has any more information on it.

"I've called it the L39 - because of Limerick, and as 1939 was the beginning of the end for the Abbey fishermen, when they ceased to be commercial fishermen," he explained.

He has documented the whole build from start to finish, and has presented his papers to the city archivist to preserve this information for future generations.

"The boat, due to its dimensions, is designed to cut through water and is as safe as any other on the river. I've had it in the water for a while now and I've no criticism of it," he said.

Councillor welcomes fall in unemployment

CITY West councillor Maria Byrne has welcomed the latest fall in unemployment numbers.

Figures out from the Central Statistics Office reveal that there has been a fall of 313 people out of work in Limerick City month-on-month.

The number of people out of work in the city area has now fallen to 10,963 from 11,276 last month.

And Fine Gael councillor Byrne said: "It shows the Government's plan to get people back to work is coming to fruition. News of our economic recovery will also boost our reputation abroad."

The councillor did acknowledge there are still people seeking employment,

but expressed confidence more options are coming on stream for them.

"In the past month alone, the number on the Live Register [nationally] has decreased by 4,100. The number of people signing on the Live Register is now 10% lower than this time last year and stands at 352,647. Almost 80,000 jobs have been created since the launch of the Government's Action Plan for Jobs and the recovery is now spreading outside of our main cities into towns throughout the country."

Across the county, there was also positive news with a reduction in the numbers out of work, with a fall. At the end of October, there were 15,474 people signing on - this is now 15,146.