



# LIMERICK LEADER

## CLAIM OVER PARK USE

Historian weighs in on private use of public parks  
**Page 3**



## ALL OUR

# YESTERDAYS

**INSIDE** TAKING A LOOK BACK AT LIMERICK THROUGH THE DECADES



# PENSIONER ATTACKED DURING BURGLARY

Woman, 82, feared she would be killed by intruder at home

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**A PENSIONER** who was pushed and knocked over by an intruder at her home believed she was going to be killed, a court has heard. Dean Hayes aged 29, of Lee

Estate, Island Road has admitted stealing more than €1,000 in cash and two mobile phones after breaking into the home of the 82-year-old almost two years ago.

▶ **TURN TO PAGE 2**



Limerick Circuit Court



## Fringe festival fun in the offing

Pictured at the launch of Limerick Fringe was Blanca agus Rua from Kadira Theatre at the George Boutique Hotel. There will be over 30 performing companies taking part in eight venues across the city during the festival taking place from April 4 to 7. See page 8 PICTURE: SEAN CURTIN

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## LIMERICK LEADER

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## YOUR CITY YOUR PAPER

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TODAY  
 A COUPLE OF AF-  
 TERNOON  
 SHOWERS WITH  
 A HIGH OF 8°C



TOMORROW  
 CLOUDY WITH A  
 BIT OF RAIN AND  
 A HIGH OF 9°C



FRIDAY  
 SOME SUNS WITH  
 SHOWERS  
 AROUND AND A  
 HIGH OF 6°C

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## 2030: DISCUSSIONS WITH TENANTS ON €18M DEVELOPMENT

# Garden plan to grow into autumn opening

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A HIGH-TECH financial ser-  
 vices firm and a company  
 in the IT sector are set to  
 be among the first tenants  
 at Gardens International, it  
 has emerged.

Aidan Gavin of Cushman &  
 Wakefield, the main letting  
 agent on the €18m project,  
 revealed his firm had been  
 in talks with these com-  
 panies, with the opening  
 date of the 80,000 square  
 foot complex set for this  
 autumn.

"In terms of the building,  
 we are completing it to grade  
 A specifications by  
 November 2018," he said,

"We are in discussions  
 with a number of tenants  
 and have a number of signi-  
 ficant people earmarked for  
 the building. But there's still  
 some space available."

A breakfast briefing in  
 the Savoy Hotel on Tuesday  
 saw the launch of a new web  
 site and brochure for the  
 state-of-the-art office ac-  
 commodation set for the  
 former General Post Office.

New computer generated  
 impressions of the project  
 - which could bring up to  
 750 jobs - were also un-  
 veiled.

John Buckley, also of the  
 letting agent, added: "The  
 building itself is a mixture of  
 the old and the new. It



Pictured in the Gardens International development, set to be complete by autumn, are John Buckley of letting agent Cushman & Wakefield Limerick, Mayor Stephen Keary, and Limerick Twenty Thirty chief executive David Conway

PICTURE: SEAN CURTIN/TRUEMEDIA

provides net space of over  
 80,000 square feet. The lay-  
 outs are flexible, and they  
 provide 3,500 square feet,  
 and an average floor take of  
 50,000 square feet."

At the foot of the Gardens  
 International complex,  
 there will be a marble recep-  
 tion, including a break-out  
 area, backed by 24-hour se-  
 curity.

Underground car  
 parking will also be present,  
 while the first floor of the  
 main building - known as

Gardens Central - will see  
 an outdoor garden, offering  
 panoramic views of the city.

Interestingly, Mr Gavin  
 said many aspects of the car  
 park have been "future  
 proofed".

Three metre slabs will be  
 placed in these areas, he  
 said, to allow machines to  
 allow "auto-starting" of  
 vehicles.

"As car parking becomes  
 less of an issue, we can con-  
 vert these areas to residen-  
 tial, office or retail in future

developments," he ex-  
 plained.

Gardens International  
 will be the first project led  
 by Limerick Twenty Thirty  
 to be completed in the city.

## HAVE YOUR SAY

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## Death

O'CONNOR Séan (Lynwood Park, Ballysimon Road, Lim-  
 erick) President of Cloughaun GAA and late of Aer Lingus,  
 Shannon, February 5th 2018 (peacefully) at Caherass  
 Nursing Home. Beloved husband of Marie, loving father of  
 Valerie (Compton) and Leo and dearest brother of the late  
 Fred and Leo. Deeply regretted by his son-in-law Kieran,  
 daughter-in-law Jennifer, grandchildren Niall, Avril & Ciara,  
 Jordan, Alannah and Séan, brothers Fred (pre-deceased) and  
 Leo, sisters Peggy (Fitzgerald) and Brid (O'Connor),  
 brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives  
 and friends. Rest in Peace. Reposing at Griffin's Funeral  
 Home, John's Gate on Wednesday February 7 from 5pm. Re-  
 moval at 7pm to St. Joseph's Church, O'Connell Ave. Re-  
 quiem Mass on Thursday February 8 at 12 noon. Burial  
 afterwards in Mount St. Oliver Cemetery.

### FROM PAGE 1

The defendant, who has a  
 large number of previous  
 convictions, will be sen-  
 tenced in relation to the  
 burglary and several other  
 serious offences next  
 month.

During a sentencing  
 hearing, Garda Shaun  
 O'Hagan said the defendant  
 broke into the home in the  
 Corbally area at around 9pm  
 on May 8, 2016.

The woman, who lives

alone, was watching televi-  
 sion in a downstairs room  
 when she was alerted to a  
 shadow moving in the  
 hallway.

When she opened the  
 door, she encountered the de-  
 fendant who pushed her back  
 and onto the floor. She later  
 told gardai she thought he  
 would take her life.

In addition to the cash and  
 mobile phones, Hayes stole  
 various documents including  
 the pensioner's passport and  
 bus pass.

Garda O'Hagan said while  
 the woman, who suffers from  
 a hearing impairment, was  
 sore as a result of being  
 knocked over she did not re-  
 quire any medical treatment.

"She was shaken," he told  
 John O'Sullivan BL, in-  
 structed by state solicitor  
 Pádraig Mawé adding that the  
 woman spent some time in a  
 nursing home following the  
 incident.

While one of the mobile  
 phones was recovered by  
 gardai at the defendant's

home, none of the other prop-  
 erty was recovered.

Hayes, the court heard,  
 made admissions relating to  
 the incident following his ar-  
 rest telling gardai he was  
 "f\*\*\*\* up on drugs" at the  
 time.

Andrew Sexton SC said his  
 client has a dysfunctional  
 background and that there is  
 a history of drug abuse.

Having heard the evi-  
 dence, Judge Tom O'Donnell  
 adjourned all matters for sen-  
 tencing on March 5, next.

# Serial offender broke into pensioner's home



## NEWS

## BUSINESS: TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY OPENS FIBRE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN RAHEEN

## Firm's 4site for new jobs in city

NICK RABBITS

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**LIMERICK has received a fresh jobs boost this Wednesday, with 20 new roles being announced for the Raheen business park.**

Communications Minister Denis Naughten is in the city to cut the ribbon at design firm 4site's first Fibre Centre of Excellence.

The firm has invested

€250,000 in its headquarters in the city and is seeking 20 new workers in the area of engineering.

4site exists to design, build and maintain network infrastructure for owners and operators of distributed networks across Ireland and Britain.

4site can count a number of blue-chip clients in its stable, including Vodafone, Siro, Cignal, Huawei, Netshare, Three, Ericsson, Nokia and enet.

Its in-house technical teams design, survey, build and maintain communications networks, adapting technology, tools and processes to deliver reliable and future-proofed turnkey services for clients.

The centre of excellence will bring together the expertise of fibre design, survey and planning engineers who will continually innovate how fibre networks are designed and delivered, while also focusing on specialised

training for graduate engineers to meet not just the current demands, but future 5G or next generation network developments, the firm said.

Ian Duggan, the chief executive of 4site said: "Insatiable demand for bandwidth and rapid developments in technology are pushing the limits of existing communications networks."

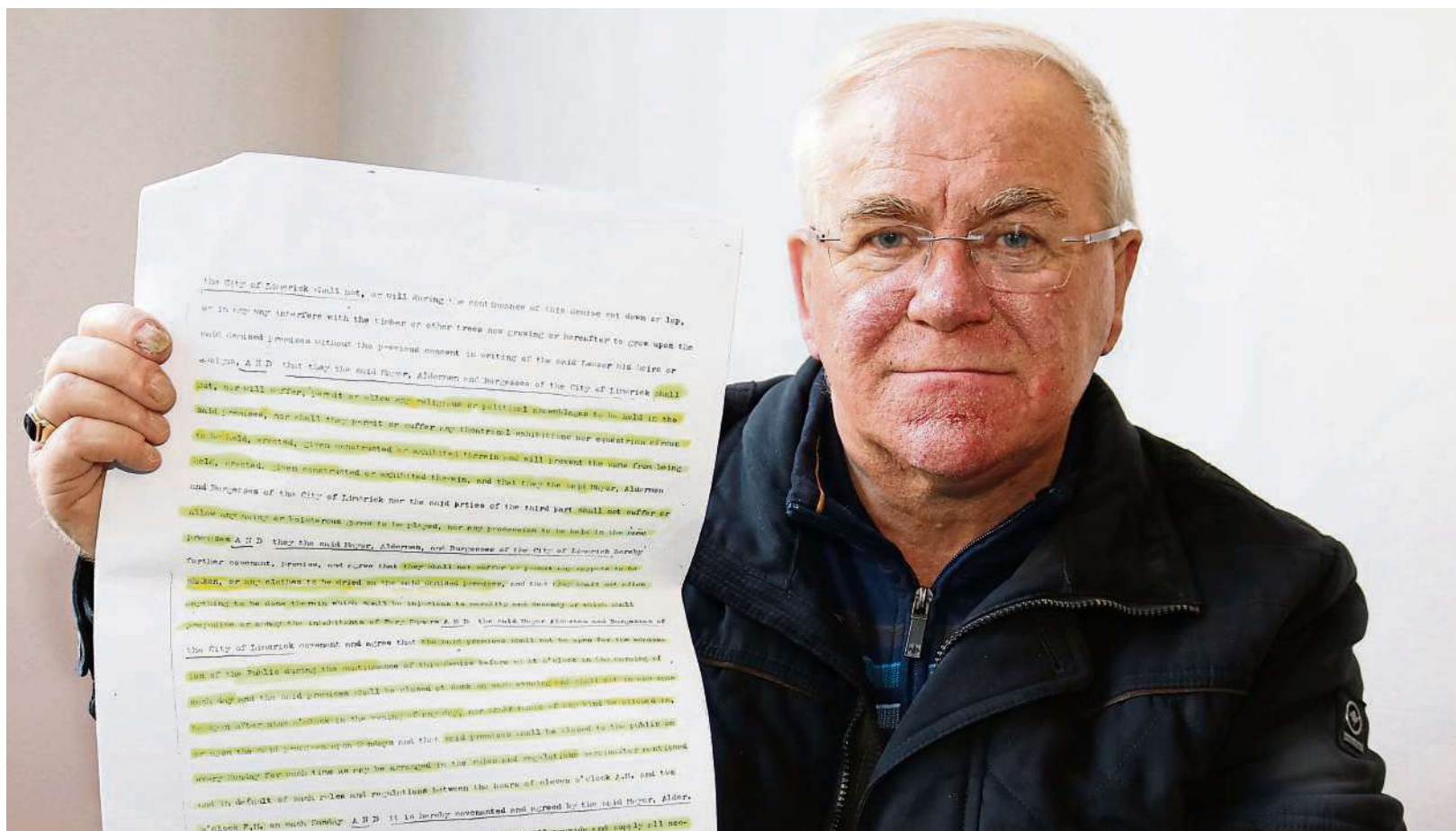
"The pressure to roll out advanced networks is huge and we are delighted to

provide smart and effective solutions that speed up delivery time for the service providers bringing fibre to homes, businesses and existing wireless networks.

"Our Fibre Centre of Excellence brings together our skills in fixed and wireless networks and our focus on doing things smarter, as well as ensuring we continue to innovate and develop the tools, thinking and people to deliver for our customers," he added.



New jobs: Minister Denis Naughten



Tadhg Moloney with a copy of the lease, which was signed in 1877 by the Earl of Limerick, Limerick Corporation and the Richard Russell Memorial Committee which states the People's Park must remain public

PICTURE: ADRIAN BUTLER

## People's Park 'should be kept for public'-claim

A LIMERICK historian believes the local authority has no right to lease the People's Park to private companies – and has an ancient treaty to back him up.

Members of the metropolitan district council have opposed plans to close off public parks in their entirety for recent events, most notably the World Barbecue Championship, which saw people pay up to €10 a day to

enter.

Tadhg Moloney, from Gouldavoher, says the council should not have allowed this to happen at the Park, pointing to a joint agreement of August 14, 1877, between the Earl of Limerick, the old Limerick Corporation and the Richard Russell Memorial Committee.

"This is a 500 year lease which was given by the Earl

and is supposed to be adhered to. The document states: 'It shall not be used for any other purpose than a People's Park'. What they are doing to be seems to be totally at odds with the contents of this lease," he added.

The lease also states that any "religious or political assemblage" should be prohibited in the Park.

"Nor shall they permit any theatrical exhibitions

no equestrian circuses to be held, erected, given constructed or exhibited," it adds.

Mr Moloney said he was "appalled" by the closing of the park for the BBQ event.

"It was never given for the use of private property. It was given for the use of the people of Limerick so they could relax and enjoy the amenity. No money is supposed to be made from it."

The historian says despite the council merger in 2014, the lease remains viable.

"This is an amalgamation of two councils. When this was written, the County Council didn't exist. It was the City Council only."

The council declined to comment, but it has previously outlined that it 'does not charge a fee' for events in its public parks.

## Production starts on Nightflyers at Troy Studios

PRODUCTION has started on the big-budget Netflix bound series Nightflyers, which is filming at Troy Studios, writes Alan Owens.

The Limerick Leader understands that production began on the ten episode series this Tuesday and is due to last until around the end of August, employing a large number of people.

It is also understood that production executives visited Troy last week and were "delighted" at what they saw in the huge 350,000 sq ft facility.

The series, based on the Game of Thrones author George RR Martin's novella and the 1987 film of the same name, is being produced by NBC Universal and Universal Cable Productions. It has been commissioned for a full series and will be shown on Netflix outside the US.

It has received funding of €850,000 from the Irish Film Board.

Huge sets have been constructed on Troy's massive sound stages, with a large number of construction craftsmen and women from Limerick and the wider region working there, while a host of local suppliers have also been engaged by the production company.

Hundreds of extras are also required for the series, while a workshop for trainees in both hair and makeup last week, with daily work available on the series as it is filming.



## NEWS

DISHARMONY: JUDGE TOLD GIRLS' MOTHER AND FATHER DON'T COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER

# Parents warned over truancy

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**THE parents of two young girls who have missed a significant number of days at school have been warned they will go to prison if their attendance record does not improve.**

Judge Marian O'Leary was told the girls' mother and father are separated and that they do not communicate with each other.

Solicitor Kevin Sherry,

representing TUSLA, said while an arrangement was in place at the beginning of the school year regarding the children, the situation has deteriorated.

One of the girls, he said, has missed 47.7% of school days since March of last year while her 11-year-old sister has missed 36% of all school days since last October.

Mr Sherry said the child and family agency is very concerned – particularly as one of the girls has lost her place on a specific reading programme due her level of absenteeism.

"It is significant educational neglect," he said adding that no satisfactory reason has been put forward for the continued absence of the two girls.

Judge Marian O'Leary was told the mother of the two children had previously agreed to drop them to school every morning and that her former partner was to ensure they were collected.

Solicitor Tom Kiely, representing the father, said his client has regularly had to contact the school to ascertain if his children are

**"I cannot allow this situation to continue where two children are not being taken to school."**

Judge Marian O'Leary

present as there is "zero communication" between him and their mother.

Solicitor John Herbert, representing the girls' mother, said his client suffers from mental health issues but said her sister was willing to bring the children to school ever morning.

The woman gave a sworn undertaking to have her children "ready and at the door" every morning while the man said told the court he would ensure they are collected every afternoon.

"I cannot allow this situation to continue where two

children are not being taken to school," warned Judge O'Leary.

Noting the contents of a report prepared for the court, Judge O'Leary warned that she does not want to hear reports that the children are repeatedly arriving late to school as has been the case in the past.

The matter was adjourned for review later in the year with judge O'Leary giving TUSLA liberty to reenter the matter within 48 hours if any issues arise.

## No jail time for role in 'botched inside job'



Neil Madigan and Hayden Johnson were prosecuted in relation to an incident at Labrokes, Cecil Street on March 17, 2015

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TWO men have avoided prison sentences for their role in what was described by prosecutors as a "botched inside job" at a city bookmakers.

Neil Madigan, aged 33, of Elton Court, Meelick pleaded guilty to making a false statement to gardai following an incident at Ladbrokes, Cecil Street on

March 17, 2015 while another man - Hayden Johnson, aged 25, of Crecora Avenue, Ballinacurra Weston - admitted stealing €6,000 in cash from a safe at the premises on the same date.

Following a sentencing hearing in December 2016, the matter was adjourned to allow both men pay compensation.

Limerick Circuit Court was told gardai were alerted to a "reported robbery" at around 9.45pm and that an

investigation was subsequently launched.

Mr Madigan, who worked as customer services manager at the store, told gardai another man approached the counter, threatened him with a knife and demanded cash. In a formal statement made the following day he said he feared he would be stabbed to death by the raider, who took the cash from a safe.

Mr Johnson was quickly identified as a suspect and

clothes matching those of the culprit were located when gardai searched his home.

The garda investigation took a twist when concerns were raised by Ladbrokes' head of security who highlighted a number of breaches of procedure having viewed CCTV footage at the store.

Judge Tom O'Donnell was told gardai later established that Mr Madigan had failed to lodge cash in the

bank on the previous two evenings which meant there was more money in the safe than there should have been.

Following his arrest a number of months later, he admitted telling lies saying he had facilitated the theft to clear a gambling debt.

Noting that compensation has been paid, Judge O'Donnell imposed 18 month prison sentences which he suspended for 18 months.

## Man charged with producing firearm during city robbery

A YOUNG man who is accused of producing an imitation handgun during a robbery at a bike repair shop has been ordered to stay out of the city, writes David Hurley.

It is alleged that Eoghan Hayes, aged 23, of Church Road, Miltown Malbay, County Clare pointed the gun at a member of staff during an incident at Hourigan's Motorecycles, John Street on March 24, 2017.

The robbery is alleged to have taken place at around 8pm.

When the defendant was brought before Limerick District Court, Sergeant Donal Cronin said a file had been prepared for the Director of Public Prosecutions who has directed trial on indictment before the circuit court.

He said there was no objection to bail subject to Mr Hayes complying with a number of strict conditions.

The defendant was ordered to live at his home address in County Clare, sign on three days a week at Ennis garda station and to stay out of Limerick city except when attending court or meeting his solicitors.

Judge Marian O'Leary also directed that Mr Hayes not to have any contact with the alleged injured party or with any potential witnesses in the case.

The matter was adjourned to May 9, next to facilitate the preparation of a book of evidence.



# Jack Spratt's

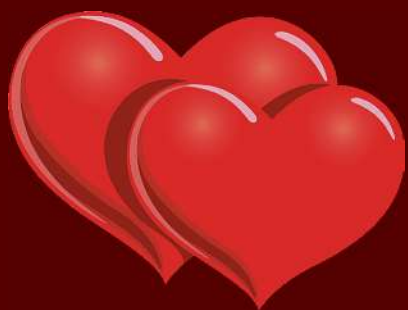


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*Jack*



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**UNEMPLOYMENT: ALMOST 18% OF HOMES WITHOUT ADULTS IN EMPLOYMENT ACCORDING TO O'DEA**

# Jobless figures belie 'recovery'

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**Ireland's rate of jobless households demonstrates that thousands of families are not feeling the benefits of the economic recovery, according to a Limerick TD.**

Almost 18% of households have no adult in employment, according to figures released through parliamentary question to Fianna Fáil spokesperson on employment affairs and

social protection Willie O'Dea TD.

"The relatively high rate of jobless households in Ireland is deeply concerning," Deputy O'Dea said.

"The figures underscore that significant problems remain to be overcome when you look beyond the main headline employment figures."

According to Deputy O'Dea, the figures show that of the 1,440,600 relevant households in Ireland, 253,000 have no adult in employment.

The latest Census found

that eight out of the top ten worst unemployment blackspots are located in Limerick.

Blackspots are defined as electoral districts with at least 200 people in the labour force and an unemployment rate of 27% or higher.

The Census 2016 identified 18 unemployment blackspots in Limerick, twice as many as any other county.

John's A electoral division was found to have the highest unemployment rate in the country, at 58.3%.

Areas of Galvone, Ballynanty, Abbey, Prospect and Glentworth also featured in the top ten.

"While the Government did launch the 'Action Plan on Jobless Households' last September, the pace at which they are tackling this issue remains far too slow," Deputy O'Dea said.

"Fine Gael have been in Government for seven years now and despite their constant spin on employment, the fact of the matter is that 253,000 of relevant households are deemed to be without a job."

"There is no real sense of urgency from the Government in wanting to meet this challenge head on."

"The response has been far too sluggish to date."

"It is essential that the 'Action Plan on Jobless Households' delivers."

"We can't tolerate a situation where tens of thousands of households are effectively living on the margins of society."

"It's clear that the Taoiseach's 'Republic of Opportunity' is far from being realised when these statistics are considered."



'No urgency': Willie O'Dea, TD

## Scoil Ide wins top prize in Mini Scientist final



Winners of the Intel Mini Scientist Ben Sheehan, Eva Donnelly, Conor Mulcahy and Cian Mulcahy from Scoil Ide, Corbally, pictured at the Grand Final awards ceremony which took at the Helix in Dublin City University PICTURE: MARC O'SULLIVAN

**JESS CASEY**  
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STUDENTS from Scoil Ide, Corbally have been crowned as winners of the Intel Mini Scientist Grand Final for their project RoboBall - Humans v Computer.

The Intel Mini Scientist,

which is now in its 11th year, gives primary school students from fourth, fifth and sixth class the chance to explore science through project based learning and exhibitions.

Scoil Ide beat almost 8,000 other students from 135 schools with their project; a complex game created using the coding language by

students Conor Mulcahy, Cian Mulcahy, Ben Sheehan and Eva Donnelly.

The object of the game is to score goals by controlling a robot, which is further hindered by autonomous blocking robots aiming to prevent the user from scoring a goal.

In order to enhance their impressive project, the

children added goal line technology and an electronic scoreboard, all through the use of JavaScript.

Participants exhibited their projects last week at the Helix to a panel of expert judges. Education Minister Richard Bruton, who awarded the students the top prize, said it was fant-

astic to see such energy and passion for the STEM subjects.

"We are living in a world that is being transformed by digital technology and it's crucial that our education system responds," he said.

As part of the prize for the overall winning project, Scoil Ide will receive a grant of €1000 from Intel.

## Limerick to Waterford and Ballybrophy lines at risk

THE LIMERICK-Ballybrophy and Limerick Junction-Waterford rail lines could be closed in the "short-term", according to a National Transport Authority report.

Documents released to the Irish Independent under Freedom of Information Act show most of the rail network faces being closed unless Irish Rail receives a €460m cash injection.

"This will require the closure of the majority of the rail network," the documents state. Only the Dart, Dublin and Cork commuter services and intercity services between Dublin, Cork, Belfast and Limerick would remain.

Deputy Niall Collins said if this is allowed to happen it is "yet another attack on rural Ireland by the government".

"Limerick Junction to Waterford is absolutely imperative for connectivity and competitiveness of the Mid-West region," said Deputy Collins, who also called for money to be invested in the intercity lines including Limerick-Dublin.

Senator Paul Gavan called on the government to commit funding to enhance and secure the local rail line which runs from Limerick to Ballybrophy. "The Castleconnell to Ballybrophy line has never received the proper investment needed. Across Europe governments are investing in rail as a key part of transport planning. Isn't it time we started talking do the same here?" asked the senator.





# **The Munster Heart Foundation Ball**

in aid of the Cardiology Unit, UHL

**Saturday 17th February 2018**

Limerick Strand Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick

Tickets €100 which include:

Champagne Reception with the Limerick Gospel Choir  
4 Course Meal

Entertainment by Liam O'Brien, Limerick's own crooner  
and star of the West End Show 'The Rat Pack'

Music by The Mad Hatters followed by DJ

**Dress Code: Black Tie**

**Raffle and spot prizes on the night**

Tickets available online at [www.eventmaster.ie](http://www.eventmaster.ie)  
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**4 Course Meal | Black Tie | Champagne Reception | Music**



REFERENDUM: GP 'ALARMED' AT MINISTER'S 'ASSUMPTIONS'

# Talks on 'GP-led abortions' urged

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A LEADING Limerick doctor has said that he was "alarmed" to hear the Government's assumption that abortion would be GP-led if it is passed into law.

The Oireachtas committee on the Eighth Amendment had recommended unrestricted abortion for up to 12 weeks of pregnancy, suggesting that the service would be GP-led.

The National Association of General Practitioners issued a statement this week, calling for immediate engagement with Minister for Health Simon Harris on the matter.

The union, which represents more than 2,000 GPs in Ireland, "strongly objects to the assumption" that abortion will be a GP-led service.

Furthermore, some members have expressed



Dr Emmet Kerin, Monaleen, NAGP president

"outrage that there has been no consultation".

Dr Emmet Kerin, NAGP president, who operates the Treaty Medical Centre on the Ennis Road, said: "I was alarmed to hear the Minister's comments and presumption that the State would direct GPs to lead an

abortion service without any engagement with our members to discuss the implications of this notion. The growing disconnect of the Minister and his Department of Health from the frontline service of General Practice is of genuine concern to me."

Dr Kerin, who is an adjunct senior clinical lecturer at the Graduate Entry Medical School, at University of Limerick, added: "General practitioners are dedicated to the health of their patients but feel that their work supporting the increasingly chaotic healthcare system receives no acknowledgment. For the Minister to suggest that our profession should lead out an abortion service without consultation with our member GPs is an affront to our profession and could pose yet another strain on the provision of general practice healthcare services."

On Tuesday morning, Minister Simon Harris sent a

tweet to RTE's Morning Ireland, stating: "Let me provide that assurance now — there will be conscientious objection provided for. Plenty of time for engagement but legislation not yet published, let alone a referendum held."

In a statement this week, the union said that it "strongly urges the Minister for Health to engage with the NAGP before progressing with the proposed legislation regarding abortion in Ireland".

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar has indicated that a referendum on the Eighth Amendment will likely take place in late May.

## HAVE YOUR SAY

THE LETTERS PAGE OF THE LEADER'S WEEKEND EDITION IS A GREAT PLACE TO MAKE YOUR POINT TO A BIG LOCAL AUDIENCE

letters@limerickleader.ie

The Editor, Limerick Leader, 54 O'Connell Street, Limerick



Limerick Rose Kayleigh Maher is to abseil the side of Thomond Park

## Kayleigh is all set to hit Thomond heights!

SHE may have scaled against the odds to make the Rose of Tralee final, but Limerick's Kayleigh Maher has an altogether different challenge next month.

Just hours before the next Limerick Rose is selected, the current holder of the role will abseil down the edge of Thomond Park in aid of Adapt, which provides refuge to women and children experiencing domestic abuse.

Avid hill walker Kayleigh will take to the top of Thomond on March 10 next.

Lorraine Gallagher, Adapt, said: "Kayleigh has been a wonderful ambassador for Limerick and we are delighted to have her taking part in the Abseil for Adapt. Particularly as she'll be swapping her abseiling gear for her sash later that day for the

2018 Limerick Rose of Tralee Selection Night at the stadium!"

Ms Gallagher added that the charity has been overwhelmed with the response to the abseil event so far.

"Over 40 participants have already signed up, including groups of sisters, cousins, friends and co-workers, all spurring each other on to conquer their fear of heights," she added.

Last summer, Kayleigh became the first Limerick Rose to make it to the televised final of the Rose of Tralee in the Kerry town's Dome for a decade.

Previously, she has climbed mountains throughout Ireland, summited Mount Sinai in Egypt and even the highest wall in Vietnam.

## Local culture on the Fringe in second year

A HOST of alternative artists will descend on city this spring for the annual Limerick Fringe Festival, returning for a second year.

Organisers of the festival launched the extensive three-day programme of events at the George Hotel last Wednesday. The second Limerick Fringe will take place from April 4-7.

The "award-winning, vibrant, multi-genre" festival is a not for profit organisation run by volunteers "who are passionate about bringing new, vibrant and accessible arts to a wider audience, utilising non-traditional spaces such as pubs, cafes and even a bingo hall. This year we are bringing international artists to the streets of Lim-

erick with a free programme of Street fringe for all ages," organisers said.

While homegrown acts are supported at the festival, which will be held at multiple venues across the city, they are welcoming a diverse range of national and international acts "with open arms".

"Our artists hail from as far away as USA, Brazil, Iran, Denmark, Catalonia, Belgium, Poland, UK, as well as Dublin, Galway, Tipperary, Clare and of course Limerick. You are guaranteed to experience daring new work, some of which has never been performed in Ireland before. With over 30 performing companies taking part in 8 venues across the city, this is a festival for everyone from one to 101 years," said organisers.



Jump for culture: Niamh Kelly, Oran Leong and Celina Jaffe from Ravenous launch the upcoming Limerick Fringe PICTURE: SEAN CURTIN/TRUE MEDIA



# STANDING UP FOR LIMERICK

# MAURICE

# QUINLIVAN TD



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**FOR ASSISTANCE  
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**'EXTRA MONEY NEEDED': QUINLIVAN URGES HEALTH MINISTER TO VISIT HOSPITAL**

# 67,800 people attended overcrowded UHL ED

**FINTAN WALSH**  
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Twitter: @FintanYTWalsh

**UNIVERSITY Hospital Limerick saw a 5% increase in emergency department attendances, with more than 67,000 patients treated at the facility in 2017.**

According to the UL Hospitals Group CEO, Prof Colette Cowan, 67,800 patients attended the emergency department last year — a 3,100 increase on 2016 figures.

A spokesperson for the UL Hospitals Group said that there was an increase in December attendances in comparison to December 2016, adding that the increase was “predominantly” in people aged over 75.

This comes after the INMO released monthly overcrowding figures at UHL, showing that there were 1,003 patients treated on ED trolleys and additional trolleys or beds in the wards last month.

It was the highest rate of overcrowding in the country.

A spokesperson for UL Hospitals said that it “apologises for any distress or inconvenience caused to patients or their loved ones



The UL Hospitals Group records a 5% increase in the number of emergency department attendances in 2017 PICTURE: MICHAEL COWHEY

who have experienced long wait times in the ED at UHL, and we would like to reassure patients and their families that we are working to alleviate the situation. We also acknowledge the work of our staff and thank them

for their continued dedication and commitment to patient care.”

TD Maurice Quinlivan said that the overcrowding figure is “a record that the Government should be ashamed of”. He has called

on Minister for Health Simon Harris to visit UHL “as a matter of urgency”.

“UHL has been suffering from severe overcrowding for years now – it is not just the flu outbreak that is causing this situation – it

has become permanent feature in Limerick. The people in Limerick deserve better. UHL needs extra money and extra beds as a matter of urgency to accommodate the patients. It’s that simple.”

## DANCE ON FILM

### Light Moves call for festival entries

A CALL for entries for the Limerick-based Light Moves festival of Screen-dance is now open. The deadline for applying for the November 8-11 festival is Friday, April 20. See [www.lightmoves.ie](http://www.lightmoves.ie) for more details.

## HEALTH

### 37 patients treated on trolleys at UHL

ACCORDING to figures published by the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation on Tuesday, there were 37 patients treated on ED trolleys and extra trolleys or beds in UHL wards.

## ACTIVITIES

### Ballyhoura Active Trail Run

AN ACTIVE trail run in Ballyhoura takes place this Saturday at 10 am, starting in Ballyorgan. For more info, visit the Ballyhoura Active Series facebook page.

## EMERGENCY

### Creche evacuated after fire blazes

A LIMERICK creche was evacuated following a fire yesterday. Three units of the Fire and Rescue Service dealt with the incident at the Wilmot Childcare facility in Annacotty.

## THEATRE

### Consequential play at The Belltable

The Friday Night Effect is a play that offers the audience to choose its ending, by Sunday’s Child Theatre Company. This Thursday, see it at the Belltable at 8pm. Tickets from [www.limetreetheatre.ie](http://www.limetreetheatre.ie)

## ANIMALS

### Loose horses seized from field

NINE horses were seized at a field on the outskirts of the city yesterday morning. The six female and three male horses were seized during an operation at Barry’s Field, Southill.

## Hospital visitor restrictions over measles outbreak

UNIVERSITY Hospital Limerick has enforced “strict” visitor restrictions in light of the continuing outbreak of measles in Limerick.

Restrictions had already been in place since late December, following the flu outbreak in the region.

The UL Hospitals Group has confirmed that there is a small number of patients with measles being treated in isolation at UHL “and the hospital is taking all necessary precautions to contain the illness”.

“However, the restrictions will remain enforced as a precaution in view of the ongoing

outbreak of measles in the Limerick City area,” a spokesperson for the UL Hospitals Group said.

Last Wednesday, the HSE announced a measles outbreak following the detection of four cases in early January in the Limerick city area.

“UL Hospitals Group is working closely with public health and community colleagues on the Outbreak Control Team set up to manage this outbreak.”

“Until further notice, it is necessary to restrict visitors to one person per patient only and to remind members of the public that visiting hours

are from 2pm to 4pm and from 6pm to 9pm only and are to be strictly adhered to. This applies to adult and paediatric patients alike and parents visiting children are advised not to bring siblings on visits.

“We regret any inconvenience caused to patients and relatives by these necessary measures, which are being taken in the interests of patient care.”

The HSE said that symptoms can include high fever; cough; runny nose; red eyes; red rash that starts on head and spread down the body; and vomiting,

diarrhoea and tummy pain may also happen.

“It is imperative that persons with symptoms of measles (full list below) do not come to the Emergency Department at UHL seeking a diagnosis unless they are very unwell. They should in the first distance contact their GP (ideally by telephone) and arrangements can be made to have symptomatic cases swabbed in their own home by public health staff. The clinical diagnosis will generally be made by the GP,” the hospital spokesperson said in a statement this week.



People urged to get MMR shot



Great pictures from the Limerick Leader archive

All our  
**Yesterdays**



Enjoying themselves at the Ballinacurra Gaels dinner in the CIE club from left: Kitty Leddin, Terry O'Farrell and Mary Hogan, all members of the ladies committee



# ALL OUR YESTERDAYS



PICTURES CAN BE PURCHASED FROM THE LIMERICK LEADER AT 54 O'CONNELL STREET OR FROM [PICTUREORDERS@LIMERICKLEADER.IE](mailto:PICTUREORDERS@LIMERICKLEADER.IE)

## PICTURES FROM THE LIMERICK LEADER ARCHIVES



At the Variety Club Annual Ball at Cruises hotel in 1986: Don Reidy, Denise Dunworth, Kathleen Dunworth and Bill Dunworth, Thomas Street



Mary Norris, Thomondgate, Catherine Ryan, Caherdavin and Kathy Sheehan, Lifford Avenue at the Variety Club fashion show in 1978



Myra Liston (left, and Marian Quinn, Garryowen were also at the Variety Club fashion event back in 1978



Tess Blaser, Blackthorn Drive, Caherdavin at the Variety Club fashion show in 1978



# ALL OUR YESTERDAYS



Pat Kennedy, Mayor of Limerick presenting the Variety club humanitarian award to Christy O'Brien at the Variety Club ball back in 1986. Also included are Rick Bourke, international ambassador (left), Carmel Sheridan, lady president and Jack Bourke, branch president



Jane Duggan at the Variety Club fashion show in 1978



Gaye Hanley at the Variety Club fashion show



Mary Kelly, Janesboro was also at the fashion show

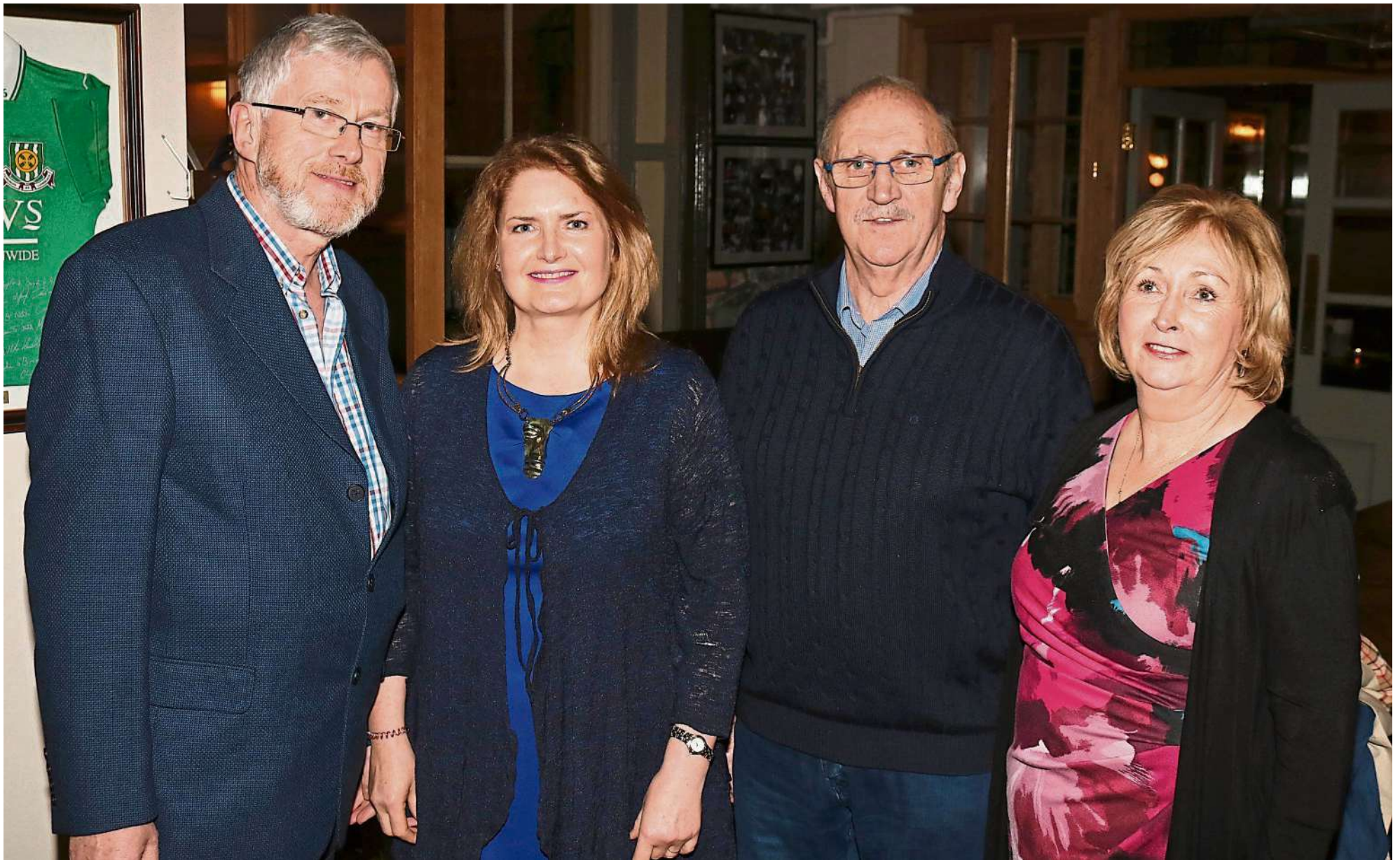


# PICTURE SPECIAL



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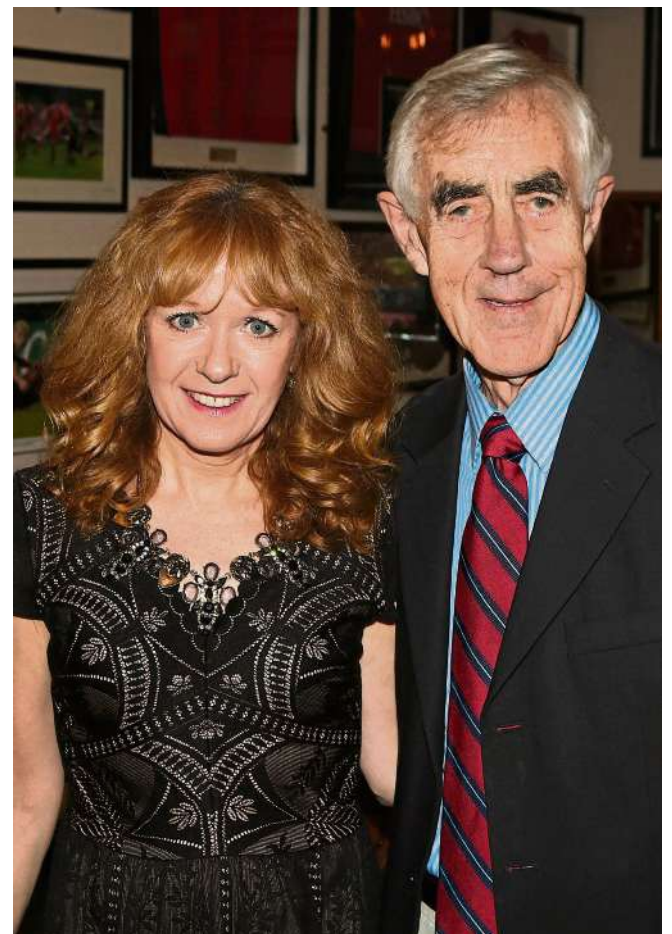
## BOBBY BYRNE'S PUB: LAUNCH OF THE CONSTANT WIFE BY THE TORCH PLAYERS



At the launch of the Constant Wife by the Torch Players at Bobby Byrne's public house. The play will be on in the Belltable from February 20 to 24 at 8pm. Mike O'Regan, stage crew, June O'Regan, Corbally and Dan and Lily Murphy, Woodview



Some of the cast of the play, Miriam Ball, Katie O'Sullivan, Joanne O'Brien, Sheenagh Murphy, Antoinette Portley, Michael Whelan and Jim Moroney



Actress, Antoinette Portley with director, Maurice O'Sullivan



## PICTURE SPECIAL



Actor, Myles Breen with Jack and Margaret McBride, Old Cratloe Road



Sheenagh Murphy, actress, Torch Players, Michael Whelan, actor, Torch Players and Kay Bedford, former stage manager, Torch Players



Michael Whelan, actor and Ita O'Sullivan, Torch Players



Two of the cast, Miriam Ball and Peter Hayes



Colm O'Brien, Lime Tree Theatre, Oliie Hayes, treasurer, Torch Players and Pius McGrath, actor



Maurice O'Sullivan, director, Mayor Stephen Keary, Katie O'Sullivan, actress and Joanne O'Brien, actress



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## CLAUGHAUN LOTTO

The results of Lotto draw for Monday  
5th February 2018  
Jackpot 5,400 not won.  
The numbers drawn were 3-10-12-17

The following won 30  
Mary Mc Carthy, Kay Greaney, Gillian  
O'Connor, Mary Bourke, Glynn  
Hannan

Next week's jackpot 5,500

## FAIRVIEW RANGERS

WEEKLY LOTTO DATE: 5/2/2018  
JACKPOT: 6800

NUMBERS DRAWN: 4-6-7-9  
No Winner:

5 x Lucky Dip; Niall Boland c/o Club,  
Katie Lee c/o Niall, Helen McQuane,  
Raheen, The 3E's c/o F.o.g, Ronan  
Hayes x/o Club  
Promoters Prize: Andy Sheehan  
Next Weeks Jackpot: 6900

## ST. MARY'S R.F.C.

Lotto Draw held Monday 5th February 2018

Winning Numbers 6-17-23-25  
No winner

4 Winners 40 each: Denis Wallace c/o C.  
Devaney; Danny Clancy c/o C. Cosgrove; Ann  
Marie O'Brien c/o Portley's; Pat Fitzpatrick  
c/o C. Cosgrove  
Next weeks Jackpot 1,600

Draw will take place in

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## GERALDINES A.F.C.

WEEKLY LOTTO DRAW HELD ON 02/02/18  
This Week's Jackpot: 500

No's: 13-14-23-24  
Lucky Dips: Whacky (Snr) c/o Square Bar; Linda  
Casey c/o Dave Connolly; Jake & Ben McNamara  
c/o Jean McNamara  
Promoters Prize: Martin Byrnes & Maggie  
O'Donnell

Next Week's Draw held 12/02/2018  
Next Week's Jackpot: 600

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### IN MEMORIAM



**FITZGERALD** (Sixth Anniversary)



In loving memory of a dear wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother Phila Fitzgerald (nee Ryan) late of 24, St. Munchin's Street, St. Mary's Park, Limerick who died on 13 February. Rest in Peace. Mass will be offered on Saturday 10th February in St. Munchin's Church at 6pm.

God gave me a wonderful wife,  
Whose memory will never grow old,  
He fashioned her smile out of sunshine,  
And gave her a heart of gold,  
He wanted a new star in Heaven,  
A beautiful light to shine,  
So out of this world of sorrow,  
He chose that wife of mine.  
And on that day God chose her,  
My whole world fell apart,  
For when He had chosen my wife,  
He had chosen the queen of my heart.  
So many times I see you Phila,  
I turn but you're not there,  
It hurts so much to be alone,  
But then I hear your prayer,  
Just take my hand  
I'll guide you,  
No harm will come your way,  
Tomorrow and forever  
With you I'll always stay.  
Sadly missed and always loved never forgotten,  
your loving husband Johnny.



You can shed tears that she is gone,  
Or you can smile because she has lived,  
You can close your eyes  
And pray that she'll come back,  
Or you can open your eyes  
And see all she's left,  
Your heart can be empty  
Because you can't see her,  
Or you can be full of the love you shared.  
You can turn your back on tomorrow  
And live yesterday,  
Or you can be happy for tomorrow  
Because of yesterday,  
You can remember her only that she is gone,  
Or you can cherish her memory  
And let it live on,  
You can cry and close your mind,  
Be empty and turn you back,  
Or you can do what she'd want,  
Smile open your eyes love and go on.  
Goodnight and God Bless I love you.  
Love from Deirdre, Andrew, Laura, Ryan and  
Leanne x x x.

Although we cannot touch you  
Your love has kept us strong  
The memories you have left us  
Have helped us carry on.  
We didn't see the sacrifices  
You made from day to day  
We simply took you for granted  
Your kind unselfish ways.  
So stay beside us Mam  
It would help to know you're there  
We thank you for everything  
Your love & all your care.  
From your loving daughter Geraldine, grandson  
Kieran and also remembering Martin Liddy,  
Kieran Liddy and Nobs O'Brien at this time

### IN MEMORIAM

I cried when you passed away  
I still cry today  
Although I loved you dearly  
I couldn't make you stay  
Your golden heart stopped beating  
Hard working hands at rest  
God broke my heart to prove to me  
He only takes the best...  
Sadly missed by your loving daughter Christina,  
son-in-law Christopher, grandchildren and great  
grandchildren xxxx

The most beautiful diamond,  
A heart of gold,  
The brightest star,  
Words can't describe Mam,  
How precious you are,  
You lived your life,  
Helping and giving,  
Yet the sickness you got,  
Was so unbecoming,  
You are one in a million Mam,  
There will be no other and we were blessed  
To have you as our mother.  
Love and miss you forever your son John and  
Grandchildren

The heartache and the sadness  
Might not always show,  
People say it lessens,  
How little do they know?  
They say I have my memories  
But they just don't understand,  
I cannot kiss a memories face  
Or hold a memories hand.  
On the outside it seems I'm healing  
But God if they could see inside,  
The pain and the sadness of losing you  
Hasn't changed since the day you died,  
But when I'm sad and lonely  
And everything goes wrong,  
I seem to hear you whisper,  
Cheer up and carry on.  
Mam you were so special  
What more can I say except  
I wish with all my heart  
That you were here today.  
Love and miss you everyday from your daughter  
Maria and Jonathan

Here we go again Mam  
Not sure what I'm supposed to do  
To say it's your Anniversary  
Or wish Happy Birthday to you  
But where do I send a card  
Mam, if only I knew  
I miss you so much, but what can I do  
Many things remind me  
Of the way life used to be  
But try as hard as I may  
It's never going to be  
A kiss blown up to the sky so blue  
Catch it Mam, it's just for you.  
From your loving daughter Louise and son-in-law  
Brian and grandchildren Shannon and Lisa.  
Give Nana Kitty a kiss from us

A special smile, a special face,  
And in our hearts a special place,  
Our memories we keep one by one,  
Things you've said and songs you've sung,  
They bring a smile sometimes a tear,  
But always a wish that you were here,  
Your not just a memory,  
Or part of the past,  
Your ours to remember,  
As long as life lasts.  
Always loved and never forgotten by your son  
Mike, Mary and family xxxx

Precious people are very few  
That's why there was only one of you Mam  
Nothing on earth can ever replace  
The sound of your voice  
Or the smile on your face.  
No verse or tears can say how much Mam  
You're loved and missed each day  
Loved dearly by your daughter Judy and son-in-law  
Eamonn xxxxxx  
Nana  
While we honour all our mothers  
With words of love and praise  
While we tell about their goodness  
And their kind and loving ways  
We should also think of Nana  
She's a mother too, you see  
For she mothered my dear mother  
As my mother mothered me  
Love always from your grandchildren Amy,  
Mark, Jason, Patrick, Eamonn, Dylan and great  
grandchildren Lee and Freddie xxxxxxxxx

### IN MEMORIAM

Six years gone by already Mam,  
Time really goes so fast,  
Our hearts may still be broken,  
But the love for you still lasts.  
We miss your smile and funny ways,  
The twinkle in your eye,  
I couldn't bring myself to do it Mam,  
When it came time to say goodbye.  
We think about you every day,  
We talk about the years,  
When we were all together,  
Oh! the laughter and the tears.  
We had no wealth only health,  
We had no fancy cars,  
But all the love we got from you,  
Outshone the sun the moon the stars.  
We love you Mam we always will,  
We wish you were still here,  
But you know you are you're not that far,  
Our minds you always fill.  
They say God only takes the best,  
Now we know it's true,  
He really got one in a million,  
The day He called to you.  
Love you lots, miss you loads, your loving son  
Desmond, daughter in law Lorraine,  
grandchildren and great grandchild xx

No matter how we spend our days,  
No matter what we do,  
No morning dawns no evening falls,  
Without a thought of you -  
The light of your love will always be there.  
Love from your daughter Margaret, Brian, Dean  
and Niamh.  
P.S. Give Joanne a kiss from us.



**HICKEY** (15th Anniversary)



Treasured memories of a wonderful son, brother,  
grandson, nephew and uncle, Mark Hickey late  
of Limerick and London who went to Heaven on  
February 4, 2003. Rest in Peace. Mass offered.  
Son  
Say hello to Mark Lord,  
And when you see him smile,  
Take him in your arms for us,  
And hold him for a while.  
Place a kiss upon his cheek,  
And simply without a fuss,  
Whisper in his ear Lord,  
And tell him it's from us.  
I opened up my treasure chest,  
And took out my book of dreams,  
I clicked through all the pages,  
And you appeared to me it seems,  
I saw your face in every page,  
In every line your smile,  
And there you stayed with me, Mark,  
For just a little while.  
I closed up my book of memories,  
Replaced it in the chest,  
And thanked the God above  
For giving us the best.  
You are too precious to be forgotten,  
And too priceless to be ever replaced,  
You are one in a million, Mark,  
And could never be replaced,  
But one day we will meet again,  
I know that this is true,  
But every day until then, Mark,  
We'll just keep missing you. xxx  
Loved and missed, your heartbroken Mam and  
Dad. xxx



### IN MEMORIAM

Mark  
I let memories surround me  
A word some one may say  
Will suddenly recapture  
A time, an hour, a day  
That brings you back as clearly Mark  
As if you were still here  
And fill me with the feeling  
That you are always near  
For if I keep these moments Mark  
We will never be far apart  
And you will always live forever  
Locked safely in my heart  
Thinking of you Mark with love and pride, your  
brother small Ger xxxx  
Mark  
If I could bring you back Mark  
For an hour or a day  
We'd express all our unspoken love  
We'd have countless things to say  
If I could bring you back again  
I'd say I treasured you  
And that you presence in my life  
Meant more that you ever knew  
If I could bring you back again  
To tell you all the things I should  
You'd know how much I miss you now  
And if I could I would  
Our family chain is broken Mark  
And nothing is the same  
But as God calls us one by one  
Our chain will link again  
Miss you so much Mark, your sister Vicky xxx  
Little angels robbed in white  
Give you uncle Mark a kiss goodnight  
Lots of love from your nieces Tilly, Bonnie-Sue  
and nephew small Mark xxxx

Nephew Mark  
As the days come and go,  
And the world moves on,  
We know you're still here,  
You'll never be gone.  
On the day the Angel came,  
And took you by the hand,  
We cried as you left  
For an unknown land.  
But Heaven rejoiced  
As you came into sight,  
For your soul was  
A diamond shining so bright.  
We wish that we could see you  
For just a little while,  
To hold you close and talk to you,  
And see your loving smile.  
But God would never grant our wish,  
Cause He would surely know,  
That if we had you back again,  
We would never let you go.  
Always loved and remembered by your loving  
aunts and uncles xxx  
As Angels keep their watch up there  
Please God just let him know  
That we down here will not forget  
We love and miss him so  
Always loved and remembered by all your loving  
cousins xxx

### THANKSGIVINGS

**GRATEFUL** thanks to  
The Sacred Heart and  
Our Blessed Lady for  
all favours received and  
also thanks to St. Padre  
Pio.  
M.J.M; A.A.A.A.S.



Those we  
love,  
  
We never  
lose,  
  
For always  
they will be,  
  
Loved,  
remembered,  
treasured  
  
Always in  
our memory.



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## IN MEMORIAM



**HIGGINS** (Ninth Anniversary)



In loving memory of a dear son, brother and father Jude Higgins, late of 22 Lenihan Ave Prospect and also Knocklong whose ninth anniversary occurs on 10th February. R.I.P.

A picture of you I carry in my heart  
I close my eyes to see it  
When the world gets dark  
A memory of you I carry in my soul  
I wrap it close around me  
When the nights get cold  
If you ask how I am I'd say just fine  
But the truth is if you could read my mind  
Not a day goes by that I don't think of you  
Jude

Sadly missed and never forgotten by Mam and Dad and son Daniel

Brother  
Today is full of memories  
Of a brother laid to rest  
And every single one of them  
Is filled with happiness  
For you were someone special  
Always such a joy to know  
And there was so much pain  
When it was time to let you go  
That's why this special message  
Is sent to Heaven above  
For the Angels to take care of you  
And give you all my love  
Sadly missed, never forgotten your brother  
Martin, sister in law Michelle  
Heavy are our hearts today  
Memory brings you back once more  
To the time you're here with us  
To the happy days of you  
Sadly missed never forgotten your brother Richie  
Will those who think of Jude today  
A little prayer to Jesus say  
Sadly missed by niece Chloe and grandniece Tia

How do I write on paper,  
The feeling I have inside,  
From a heartbroken brother  
Who has missed you since you died,  
My heart still aches with sadness,  
My secret tears still flow,  
For what it meant to lose you,  
No one will ever know,  
Call his name out softly, Lord,  
And when he looks your way,  
Tell him that I love and miss him every day  
Always loved and remembered by your brother  
Alan, Georgina, nieces Amber, Georgia and nephew Alex xxx  
No matter how we spend our days,  
No matter what we do,  
No morning dawns, no evening falls,  
Without a thought of you.  
Love from your sons Glen and Josh xx

It's only small but it means a lot  
To tell you Dad  
We have not forgot  
Someone still loves you  
Someone still cares  
Someone still whispers  
Your name in their prayers  
A place in our hearts  
Is yours alone  
A piece of love no one can own  
You live in our hearts  
& walk by our sides  
From heaven above  
You are always our guide  
Love Craig, Sarah and C.J.

In our hearts a memory is kept,  
For a man we respected,  
And will never forget.  
Johnny and Geraldine

## IN MEMORIAM

Jude  
Death is a heartache no one can heal  
Memories are something no one can steal  
May the winds of love blow gently  
And whisper for you to hear  
That we will love and miss you  
Each day of every year  
Sadly the leaves of memory fall  
Gently we gather and treasure them all  
Unseen, unheard, but always near  
Still missed, still loved, still very dear  
From your aunt Nuala, Kevin and family.  
Rest in Peace Jude xxx

## BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES



**MCCARTHY BEHAN (NEE CRONIN)**



(60th Birthday Remembrance)  
In loving memory of Ann McCarthy Behan, late of 59 Pineview Gardens, Moyross, whose birthday occurs on February 7th.

Another birthday we cannot share,  
Again our gifts must be our prayers.  
Happy Birthday from your loving partner John xx

We cannot wrap a present,  
We have no balloons to blow;  
We cannot hang banners  
As we wish to do  
But all your friends in Heaven  
Know how much we care  
And how we wish we could come  
To the party planned up there.  
Happy Birthday, sadly missed by her daughters  
Tina and Aundrea, son Michael and grandchildren x  
A birthday wish we send today  
But not on a card in the usual way  
But written in gold on a cloud above  
And sent to you with all our love.  
Happy Birthday, sadly missed by her loving Mother xx  
A birthday wish for you today,  
We miss you more than words can say;  
The pain and tears we try to hide,  
Though our hearts are broken deep inside,  
No cards to send or gifts to give,  
But you'll have our hearts as long as we live.  
Happy Birthday, sadly missed by her sister  
Kathryn, her brothers Tony Mark and Johnny,  
niece Amy and extened family xxx

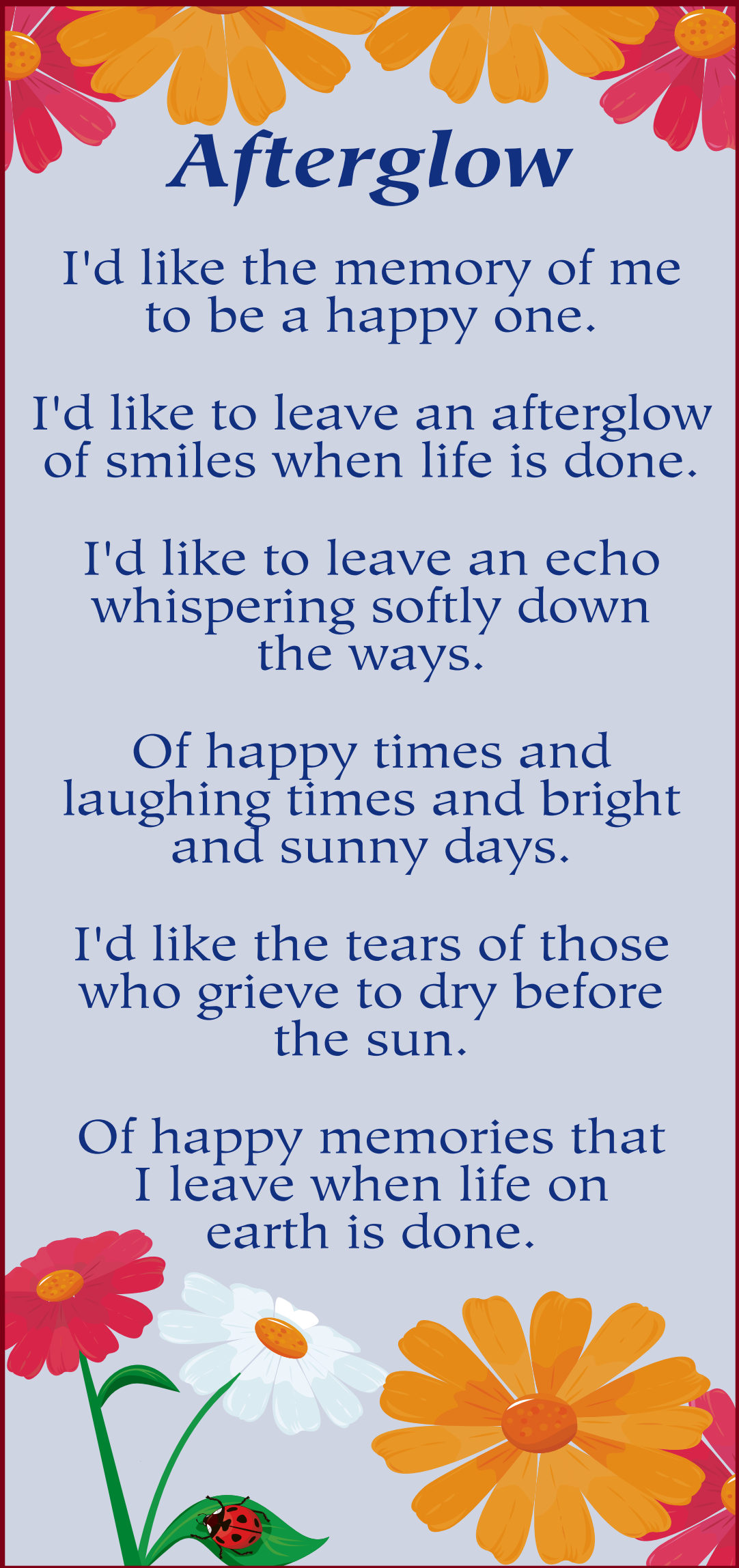


**RICE** (Birthday Remembrance)



In loving memory of Cyril (Riggy) Rice late of 61 Cross Road, Thomondgate, Limerick whose birthday occurs Friday, February 9, 2018. Mass offered on Friday February 9, at 9:30am in St. Munchin's Church.

My husband was so special,  
I valued him with pride;  
I never knew how special,  
Until the night he died,  
I still miss you so much,  
And however hard I try,  
There is always that part of me,  
That cannot say goodbye,  
You were so very special,  
No one can take your place,  
With a broken heart I whisper low,  
God bless you, I love you so.  
Happy Birthday Riggy. From your loving wife  
Geraldine xxx



# Afterglow

I'd like the memory of me  
to be a happy one.

I'd like to leave an afterglow  
of smiles when life is done.

I'd like to leave an echo  
whispering softly down  
the ways.

Of happy times and  
laughing times and bright  
and sunny days.

I'd like the tears of those  
who grieve to dry before  
the sun.

Of happy memories that  
I leave when life on  
earth is done.





Munster hooker Niall Scannell pictured at training this week at UL ahead of his side's meeting with Zebre at Thomond Park on Saturday

# Scannell: 'Bitterness will drive players'

BY COLM KINSELLA  
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HOOKER Niall Scannell says the bitter feeling of not having had much gametime in recent marquee fixtures in both the Champions Cup and Guinness Pro14 will drive several Munster players on at Thomond Park on Saturday.

Munster resume their Guinness Pro14 campaign against Italian side Zebre at 7.35pm. This is the first of four Pro14 fixtures the province will play over the course of the NatWest 6 Nations Championship period.

Hooker Niall Scannell insists Ireland's big NatWest 6 Nations Championship fixture with Italy, which takes place in Dublin a few short hours before Munster's game with the Italians, will not be a distraction for the province's players.

"We'll shut out the Irish game. It won't be a factor for

me. Lads won't be getting distracted. It's a huge game for loads of us.

"There are probably a few guys a little bitter that they haven't played much lately."

Scannell is hoping for an injury-free run after going through a disrupted couple of months.

"The first injury was my thumb away against Castres (in October in the Champions Cup).

"It got caught and a prop fell on it and dislocated it and tore a few things.

"I got back then for Leicester and Leinster (in December) and was feeling really good, until I cracked a rib against Ulster.

"It was disappointing timing but they're small injuries, contact injuries, and you're racking your brains to know what I could do to avoid them. I'm over them now and feeling good and hopefully I'll be able stay injury free for a few weeks."

Scannell's injuries have

cost him any chance of being involved in the Ireland squad for the start of the 6 Nations Championship. However, he appreciates just how quickly a call-up can come about.

"For my first (Ireland) cap, two weeks before it, I thought I was nowhere near it. Then two weeks later, Rory Best is sick, Sean Cronin was injured and I was starting against Italy.

"Those things happen, but I wouldn't be banking on anything like that. But I do have to prepare myself the best I can and fingers crossed, if you're on form and playing, you're in the mix. Sometimes being available is better than your form."

While Niall Scannell was watching Ireland's dramatic NatWest 6 Nations victory over France from home, his younger brother Rory was part of Joe Schmidt's extended squad in the French capital.

"He (Rory) was one of the extra men at the week-end

and it's a great experience for him. He's really enjoying camp and the competitive atmosphere up there.

"He obviously enjoyed the France game as an experience, but I'm sure he's chomping at the bit to try and get in the team but it's not an easy team to get in."

Scannell said the four Pro14 games which take place during the 6 Nations window provided squad players with a big opportunity to impress ahead of the big Champions Cup quarter-final with Toulon.

"This is a huge opportunity to get game time and to be honest I'm focusing on the game for what it is.

"A lot of people are asking me about the 6 Nations squad but that's not my focus. I just want to get on the pitch and put my best foot forward for there's a massive battle going on down here as well for the hooker spot, so any game time I can get is huge at the moment."

## Four local schools look to book Cup semi-final places

BY COLM KINSELLA  
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Twitter: ckSportLeader

THREE of the quarter-finals in this years' Clayton Hotels Munster Schools Senior Cup take place today, Wednesday.

Four Limerick sides remain in contention to lift the province's most prestigious U-19 schools trophy next month.

Crescent College Comprehensive will host Rockwell College at Old Crescent RFC today at 2pm.

Two more Limerick schools will also be in quarter-final action in Cork on Wednesday.

Ardscoil Ris travel to Musgrave Park to face PBC also at 2pm, while at the same time, St Clement's College are on the road to Temple Hill to face CBC at Cork Constitution's ground.

The remaining quarter-final is due to take place on tomorrow, Thursday when Glenstal Abbey take on Bandon Grammar School at UCC's Mardyke home, also 2pm.

Crescent College Comprehensive go into today's

quarter-final on the back of an impressive first round win over St Clement's College.

Crescent College ran in five tries in all to power past their Limerick opponents 31-0.

The Dooradoyle side led 24-0 at half-time, scoring four tries through Timothy Duggan, Ronan Reynolds, Jack Delaney and John Hurley, who also converted two.

The Dooradoyle side added a fifth try in the second period through replacement Nevil O'Sullivan.

Crescent's quarter-final opponents Rockwell reached the quarter-finals by defeating Castletroy College in the play-off games for first round losers.

Meanwhile, Ardscoil Ris face a tricky assignment against PBC in their quarter-final clash at Musgrave Park.

Ardscoil edged past local rivals St Munchin's College 10-5 in their play-off fixture to advance to the quarter-finals at UL 4G rugby pitch.

Ardscoil's impressive out-half Darragh O'Gorman grabbed all 10 points for the winners, including a precious try, scored on the stroke of half-time.



No hassle: Jamin Hoffman makes a break for Crescent College Comprehensive during their win over St Clement's in Round one



## FULL TIME

## SOCCER - LIMERICK JUNIOR UPDATE &amp; FIXTURES

# Limerick street leagues kick off



FAI Development Officer Jason O'Connor, centre, with Brian O'Donovan CSMT and Adrian Power Irish Street League International player 2017 at this year's FAI CSMT Limerick Street League in Delta Sports Dome

THE Limerick 'Street league' a joint initiative between David McPhillips of the Community Substance Misuse Team and FAI Development Officer Jason O'Connor kicked off this week.

The league, this year

funded by Healthy Ireland provides two hours a week of five a side games for agencies providing support services across the city. The league runs over six weeks in total.

With over 50 adult males from agencies including Southill Outreach, Cheim Ar

Cheim, Palls, St Patricks Hostel and Focus Ireland taking part in competitive and spirited games every week, it is a fantastic way for the participants to become more active and improve their general wellbeing.

The league, now in its fifth

year, has produced four international players in recent times. Darragh McNamara, Trevor Hogan, Adrian Power and Jamie Leahy have all worn the green jersey of Ireland as part of Homeless World Cups squads since 2012.

One of those internationals, Adrian Power, along with his colleague in the CSMT, Brian O'Donovan, have done fantastic work behind the scenes in preparation for this year's event.

"Both Brian and Adrian have been fantastic" added Dave McPhillips Team Leader of the Community Substance Misuse Team in Limerick.

"They have worked tirelessly contacting the agencies, booking the venues and generally putting together the six week schedule which is very demanding and has been done to a very high standard. Both the lads are very committed to the project and this really shines through in their work" McPhillips added.

FAI Development Officer Jason O'Connor sees the annual league at the core of the association's work in Limerick city.

"My work, in conjunction with Limerick City and County council, is to develop the game and it's parti-

cipants at every level. Providing weekly football with lads who in the main are not playing junior football. This league could possibly be the start of them progressing into the mainstream game. If nothing else, it provides the opportunity to take a more active approach to their lives." O'Connor admitted.

As well as six weeks of local games, there is a Munster event scheduled for later in the year leading up to the national finals day which takes place annually in Tallaght.

Alongside the football, funding has been provided to upskill fifteen participants from the league who may have an interest in coaching. The Limerick players can partake in a PDP1 course, which is the first course on the FAI coaching pathway, with those who complete the course, offered the chance to take sessions in local schools and at local clubs.

**FOR MORE SEE  
LIMERICKLEADER.IE**

## SOCCER CLUB NOTES

### Caledonians

**GER RYAN YOUTH CUP:** Caledonians FC traveled to Corbally United this past Sunday in the Ger Ryan Youth Cup with 6 new additions to our squad. 4 of which started the game. In goal was Reece McNamara. At right full a new signing from Fairview Rangers Andrew Brosnahan, our two centre halves on the day was another who joined from Fairview Jack Cross and he partnered Aaron O'Halloran, at left back was the ever energetic Johnny Travers. In the middle of the park right wing was another new Addition Josh Campbell, captain Evan Madigan, Anthony McNamara and new signing from Star Rovers Josh Neill made up the middle 3 with Nathan Kubicki left wing. Up top was Joe O'Callaghan. We started this game at a good pace and took the game to Corbally, after some good break up play in the middle from Josh Neill he got through on goal and fired home a debut goal early a great start from the new signing just what we needed. We didn't stop there as Anthony McNamara had an effort which went close. Josh Campbell was in the wars early as he got up to win a header and collided heads with a Corbally player both looked a bit shook by play continued. After good work from Johnny Travers down the left side Nathan Kubicki found the ball at feet and unleashed a super strike into the top corner to make it 2-0 Cals. Playing at a very good tempo Aaron O'Halloran carried from centre back and unleashed a 'thunderbastard' of a strike just beyond the half way line which rattled the crossbar if this had went in it would surely have been goal of the season. A dominant display as we kept going Josh Neill won a lot of headers and set up Joe O'Callaghan who put wide. Johnny Travers cut into the box after taking on 3 and was hacked down surly. Penalty but the ref waved it away to the disbelief of everyone. This seemed to give Corbally a bit of belief in itself and just be-

fore the break as we put the pressure on for the 3rd Corbally scored just on half time 2-1. The second half was a different affair as the game got scrappy, throughout the half we started to tire a bit which was too be expected 3 of our young lads had to play Lawson Cup that morning and Corbally believed they could claw this back. Cals made a sub, Dylan Bourke replaced Josh Campbell, Dylan went Centre back as we pushed Jack Cross into the middle hoping to create more. Unfortunately that wasn't the case and after a corner not the best of starts for young Dylan as he scuffed the ball which ended up with Corbally scoring 2-2. Dylan would make up for this throughout the game to he's credit as he settled in well. We came forward through Andrew Brosnahan down the right he found Anthony McNamara who put through Joe O'Callaghan but the cutting up pitch got the better of the player as Joe went to ground. A great save down the other end moments later from Reece McNamara, this was end to end now. James Elliott replaced Nathan Kubicki for Cals. We started to get back on the front foot towards the end of the half and Evan Madigan with great feet won us a corner, in it came and Anthony McNamara was inches away as it was cleared off the line into the keepers hands. Time ticked and we went to extra time. A quick first half didn't have too much to talk about with some efforts on goal but noting to threatening, we were very tired and battling hard. Into the second half and Jack Cross created something out of noting we won a free which Evan Madigan delivered a lovely ball which caused a scramble again we couldn't turn home and Corbally broke two on one Dylan Bourke our only player back he put his body on the line to stop the ball being squared to the centre forward and that was that as the whistle went for penalties. We went to sudden death in penalties with both teams missing one a great save from Reece McNamara to deny

Corbally winning the shootout sent us to sudden death Cals won 5-4 with Anthony McNamara, Evan Madigan, Jack Cross, Dylan Bourke and Johnny Travers scoring from the spot showing great nerve. Onto the next round we go. Cals Man of the Match: Josh Neill

### Fairview Rangers

**YOUTHS:** Our youths were first into action last weekend, when they faced Avenue of Clare in the quarter final of the coveted Munster youths cup. Unfortunately defeat was our lot on a day where absolutely everything that could go wrong did. A decent performance in the opening period saw us create some four or five gilt edged chances, all of which were spurned. On any other day we could easily have had a healthy lead going into the second half. Instead we found ourselves 2-0 down, with our hosts converting the only two chances of note that they created in the opening half. They extended their lead when hesitation in defence allowed them to convert, before we pulled a goal back. To compound matters we then were reduced to ten men. Avenue tacked on two more before we scored the final goal of the game, leaving it 5-2 in favour of our hosts. Our scorers on the day were Mark Gallagher and Gary Higgins. A disappointing result then, for all involved, particularly given the amount of chances that we created, but failed to convert on the day. I am sure all involved will work hard to get our season back on track in the coming weeks, as there are still trophies to play for. Our second game saw our A team make the short trip to Shelbourne park to take on Ballynanty in a league fixture. After an entertaining game it was honours even at full time. An uneventful first half saw both sides cancel each other out with little chances of note created. Balla took the lead early in the second period but we responded with a goal of

own not long after, leaving the final score 1-1. Overall a draw was probably the fairest result given the way the match played out. Our scorer on the day was Liam Byrnes with a fine finish. All roads this week lead to Jackman Park, where we meet a resurgent Charleville side, who are putting in some excellent performances in recent games, in the semi-final of the Tuohy cup. The game is pencilled in for this Wednesday the 7th with a 7.00 kick off. We would ask all Fairview supporters to come along and lend their support on the night. Finally all at the club would like to extend our Gratitude to both Jenny O'Brien and James Dedigan for all their efforts over the last number of the seasons, in their managerial roles within the club. Along the way they tasted success with the team, but unfortunately have had to step away from their role with the under 17 squad.

### Geraldines

It was back to football on last Sunday as on a beautiful Spring morning as the sun shone brightly it did indeed put the last number of weeks in the shade as cup football was on the menu. Our first game back was a cup encounter with a Lawson Cup fixture away to Hyde and we all knew that this would be a tricky game to navigate as our hosts had earlier in the season knocked premier outfit Aisling out of the Munster Junior Cup and that coupled with no football for a while this indeed then meant that we had to be at our best or else our Lawson Cup run would evaporate at the first hurdle. The management trio of Derek Hannon, Bobby Tier and Christy O'Neill had to re-jig their side somewhat due to work commitments, but in fairness to our management team they have brought in some new players prior to the transfer window

closing last week as all in the (Dines) would like to welcome Pat McGarry, Ryan Earls, Cian O'Donoghue, Cian Byrnes and the Barry brothers Kevin and Alan. For this cup fixture it was a first start in Dines colours for Ryan Earls and Cian O'Donoghue while Kevin Barry who had played under-age with us was on the bench but did play his part late in the game. This cup clash brought a fair sized crowd to Hyde Park and in the opening salvos each side carved out an opening each as firstly it was our hosts when Aidan O'Brien linked up with Evan Shine and his whipped in centre was flashed just wide by Richard Benn. Nine minutes in and we notched up our first attack when Jack Clancy raided up the right flank and his precise ball found Dean McNamara as the mid-fielder weaved his way by a couple of players and then with a slide rule pass found Shane Byrne and his first time effort just skimmed the angle. On fifteen minutes we yet again went close when Christy O'Neill slipped the ball into Cian O'Donoghue who with the dearest of touches tucked it into the path of Eddie Lee and his curler from the edge of the area just whizzed wide. Four minutes later and our next salvo into the Hyde area reaped rewards when Tom O'Grady's headed clearance found Shane Byrne who quickly fired the ball out wide to Eddie Lee and the speedy winger went dashing down the right flank doing extremely well to evade a couple of would be tackles as his pace took him into the area and from eight yards cool as you like drilled the ball over the out-coming Hyde net-minder Martin Dinan for a quality goal. With this goal it saw us settle as our mid-field of Dean McNamara, Christy O'Neill and Ryan Earls began to dictate play but in fairness to our hosts they worked hard and almost got on terms in the 26th minute as some slack and poor defending on our part left Luke Kennedy in space but his hurried

shot was saved at the second attempt by our net-minder David Fitzgerald. Just then passed the half hour mark we doubled our lead as a neat one-two in mid-field involving Cian O'Donoghue and Dean McNamara saw the lathers sublime ball finding Christy O'Neill and with self-assurance he eased his way by two Hyde players and then with a well-weighted pass he picked out the inrunning Eddie Lee who finished off the move with some aplomb to leave us with a two goal cushion at the break. On the turnover this cup tie ebbed and flowed and even with our lead our side had to be alert as our back line of Jack Clancy, Clifton Carey, Tom O'Grady and Glen Bussloi had to be alert to curb the running from deep by our hosts. We knew a third goal for us would be vital and out this game beyond Hyde as we did indeed go close through Shane Byrne, Clifton Carey and Eddie Lee. It was in the 66th minute that our pressure finally reaped its rewards as Cian O'Donoghue did well on the left flank and he carved out space for Ian O'Donoghue who with a precise centre that saw Kevin Barry turn his marker and his effort nestled in the bottom corner. Nine minutes later we were slack in defence as Hyde's centre forward nipped in and saw his shot rattle the butt of the up-right. It was then in the 88th minutes that we went four up as Glen Bussli raided down the flank and with a brilliant through ball it saw Cian O'Donoghue nipped into slot it away and in the end we advanced to round two from what was an entertaining game as it was indeed great to be back playing football. **CLUB NEWS:** Club lotto is on-going and tickets are just €2 each and can be got from many sources. On next Sunday its round two of the Lawson Cup and we will be away to Knockainey with an 11am kick-off.



## SOCCER - CAREW PARK V JANESBORO



Darragh Rainsford, Carew Park, in action against Michael Ryan, Janesboro during the Premier Division clash which was abandoned after 80 minutes on Sunday morning



Mark Slattery, Carew Park, in action against Shane Clarke, Janesboro



Officials answer questions after the game is abandoned last Sunday morning



Management from both sides chat to officials after the game is abandoned last Sunday morning



Chaos breaks out after Carew Parks Kieran O' Hanlon is sent off which results in the game being abandoned



Fistcuffs: Players from both sides get into a deep discussion towards the end of the game. No replay date has been set



Supporters watch on confused as the game is abandoned



Players from both sides break up an argument on the pitch during last weekend's top of the table clash at Pearse Stadium



Darragh Rainsford, Carew Park, in action against Adrian Power, Janesboro



Mark Slattery, Carew Park, in action against Shane Clarke, Janesboro



# Janesboro, Pike and Murroe chase cup glory



Cup Fever: Keith Mawdsley, Janesboro, in action against Joey Mulcahy, St. Michaels when the sides met in the Champions Cup earlier this season. The two Munster powerhouses are in Munster Junior Cup action this weekend

By PAT SHEEHAN  
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ON SATURDAY afternoon, Limerick play their second Inter League game when they visit Galway in the Inter League Youth Cup.

A disappointing 2-2 draw with Clare DL in the opener, allied to Galway's 3-1 win over the Banner County in the first round, means Limerick must beat Galway to advance in the competition.

Cian Power scored twice in the opening tie but a last concession soured the performance.

At the time of writing the panel is still to be finalised but no doubt all will be in readiness come Saturday.

Following Pike's success in the FAI Junior Cup last weekend they are on the road again this Sunday when they travel to Sporting Ennistymon looking for a spot in the last eight as they bid to retain the Munster Junior Cup.

While little is known about the opposition, En-

nistymon are in place thanks to a 2-1 win over Rockmount in Round Four.

The hosts are lying mid-table in the Clare League and with home advantage, will be more than eager to pull one over on the Limerick visitors.

However, Pike Rovers have shown they can deal with an away fixture with no fuss, winning nine of their 12 away games to date. I expect more of the same this weekend.

Murroe have a more daunting task as they host St Michaels on Sunday afternoon.

Murroe pulled off a superb result beating Cork Premier side Grattan in the previous round but Sunday's opposition are another step up. Since they lost 2-1 to Janesboro in the final of the Champions Cup back in December, St Michael's have played five games scoring 22, conceding zero.

Last weekend the Tipperary side beat Tolka Rvs to advance in the FAI Junior Cup. At the same time, Murroe were going down 3-2

to Hill Celtic in the Lawson Cup.

No doubt the Limerick side will up the ante for the weekend but whether they contain the likes of Jimmy Carr remains to be seen.

Limerick's remaining Munster hopefuls, Janesboro, are favoured with a home draw against Cork side Pearse Celtic.

'Boro will be glad to get back to action after the fiasco of last weekend's abandoned game with Carew Park. We all know the firepower they possess and hopes are high it will be in evidence on Sunday. The Cork side come into the tie following a 5-3 win over Kanturk last weekend and will always give it a good shot but at home Janesboro should prove too strong.

The Premier sides join the fray in the Lawson Cup this Sunday. Ballynanty Rvs will be strong favourites at home to Newport while Moyross will take a welcome break from League action at home to Croom.

Aisling will go into the tie

at home to Abbey Rvs and need no reminding of Hyde Rgs in the FAI. Holycross will not get things all their own way t home to Kilfrush. Likewise when Nenagh host Cappamore. Carew Park will be too strong for Glenview Rvs while Charleville with their strike force back should be too strong for Ballylanders.

Regional Utd host Caherdavin while Kilmallock face a tricky game away to Athlunkard Villa.

There are two games listed in the Open Cup. Hyde Rgs B and Weston Villa meet in a local derby while Knockainey take on Cappamore.

Tonight (Wednesday) the first of the Tuohy Cup semi Finals takes place.

Fairview Rgs take on Charleville for a place in the decider versus the winners of next week's second semi final between Carew Park and Hill Celtic.

PREMIER	Pl	W	D	L	Pts
Janesboro	11	10	1	0	31
Regional Utd	12	8	3	1	27
Ballynanty	14	8	2	4	26
Carew Park	12	8	1	2	25
Aisling Annacotty	15	7	1	7	25
Pike Rovers	9	6	1	2	19
Nenagh AFC	12	6	2	4	20
Fairview Rgs	12	4	3	5	15
Kilmallock	12	4	0	8	12
Charleville	14	2	1	11	7
Moyross	13	2	1	10	7
Holycross	11	0	0	11	0

DIVISION 1A	Pl	W	D	L	Pts
Prospect Priory	10	9	1	0	28
Cappamore	11	8	2	1	26
Geraldines	12	8	1	3	25
Summerville Rvs	10	8	0	2	24
Mungret Reg	11	5	1	5	16
Murroe	10	5	0	5	15
Corbally Utd	10	2	4	4	10
Knockainey	11	3	1	7	10
Fairview Rgs B	10	2	3	5	9
Castle Rvs	12	2	2	8	8
Aisling Ann B	10	1	2	7	5
Granville Rgs	9	1	1	7	4

DIVISION 1B	Pl	W	D	L	Pts
Coonagh Utd	11	8	1	2	25
Athlunkard Villa	11	6	2	3	20
Shelbourne	10	6	2	2	20
Kilfrush	12	6	1	5	19
Hill Celtic	9	5	2	2	17
Southend	11	5	2	4	17
Newport	13	4	3	6	15
Regional Utd B	11	5	0	6	15
St Pats	13	3	2	8	11
Croom Utd	12	3	2	7	11
Caherconlish	11	3	2	6	11
Caherdavin Celtic	10	3	1	6	10

DIVISION 2A	Pl	W	D	L	Pts
Geraldines B	12	10	1	1	31
Ballylanders	11	8	1	2	25
Glenview Rvs	12	8	1	3	25
Hyde Rgs	11	8	1	2	25
Charleville	12	5	2	5	17
Nenagh AFC B	11	5	1	5	16
Corbally Utd B	12	4	0	8	12
Caledonians	11	3	0	8	9
Ballynanty Rvs B	11	0	3	8	3
Moyross B	11	0	2	9	2

DIVISION 2B	Pl	W	D	L	Pts
Kennedy Park	13	9	2	2	29
Newport	12	8	1	3	24
Star Rvs	12	7	3	2	24
Holycross B	12	5	3	4	18
Pallagreen	12	5	2	5	17
Mungret Reg	11	4	3	4	15
Summerville Rvs B	12	4	3	5	15
Athlunkard Villa B	12	3	2	7	11
Aisling Annacotty C	13	2	3	8	9
Murroe B	11	1	2	8	5

DIVISION 3A	Pl	W	D	L	Pts
Aisling Annacotty	9	5	2	2	17
Knockainey B	8	5	1	2	16
Caherdavin Cel B	8	5	1	2	16
Abbey Rvs	8	4	3	1	15
Meanus	9	4	2	3	14
Prospect Priory B	9	4	1	4	13
Janesboro B	8	3	2	3	11
Parkville	7	3	1	3	10
Herbertstown	9	1	1	7	4
Bruff Utd	9	1	0	8	3

DIVISION 3B	Pl	W	D	L	Pts
Kilmallock B	8	6	1	1	19
Wembley Rvs	8	5	2	1	17
Castle Utd	8	5	2	1	17
Weston Villa	9	5	1	3	16
Northside	7	3	2	2	11
Cappamore B	8	3	1	4	10
Hyde Rgs B	7	2	0	5	6
Shelbourne B	9	1	1	7	4
Newport C	8	1	0	7	3

DIVISION 4	Pl	W	D	L	Pts
Coonagh Utd B	9	9	0	0	27
Summerville Rvs C	8	6	1	1	19
Aisling E	10	5	0	5	15
Dromore Celtic	9	4	2	3	14
Kilfrush B	8	4	1	3	13
Parkville B	9	4	1	4	13
Mungret Reg C	9	3	1	5	10
Athlunkard Villa C	9	2	3	4	9
Coonagh Utd C	9	2	1	6	7
Murroe C	8	0	0	8	0



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**Munster prepare for Zebre on Saturday**

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Slaughtneil's Conor McCallister, left, and Na Piarasaigh's David Dempsey pictured ahead of the AIB GAA Senior Hurling Club Championship Semi-Final between Slaughtneil and Na Piarasaigh at Parnell Park on Saturday, February 10

# Na Piarasaigh unfazed by tag of semi final hot favourites

By **JEROME O'CONNELL**  
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COMPLACENCY won't be an issue for 1/50 hot favourites Na Piarasaigh in Saturday's All Ireland club SHC semi final insists key forward David Dempsey.

The Caherdavin club are unbackable favourites to book a St Patrick's Day club final spot when they meet Ulster champions Slaughtneil in Dublin's Parnell Park.

According to Dempsey,

Na Piarasaigh are treating the Derry champions with utmost respect.

"We're not taking anything for granted," Dempsey warned.

"We're under no illusions that any day we go out we can be stopped."

Many in the Na Piarasaigh line-up already have an All Ireland club medal, along with four Limerick and four Munster club medals but they remain anxious to add more silverware.

"If we can make hay as

long as the sun is shining that's what our aim is," said Dempsey.

"We've a core group of players there from 18 to 25 or 26 that have been really successful for the last six or seven years. We're all at a good age and we're looking to keep driving forward," he said.

Two years on from their maiden All-Ireland success, the Limerick champions are 60 minutes away from making it back to Croke Park.

"We've the experience of two years ago and finally get-

ting over the line. Maybe we're not putting ourselves under as much pressure to try get the victory this time around."

He explained: "It was absolutely surreal, it's indescribable. I was playing with my brother and all my best friends - people you're playing with all over your life. It was a relief for us to get to Croke Park after failing in 2012 and 2014, to get there in itself is an achievement at this standard. To finally get over the line in 2016 and fi-

nally be the first Limerick club to win the All Ireland was unbelievable. It's something we'll definitely cherish for the rest of our lives."

Ahead of Saturday's All Ireland semi final, Dempsey said that the competitive nature of the Limerick club scene is the ideal foundation.

"You can only see that by our recent record in Limerick that we haven't been able to do back-to-back. Limerick in itself is very competitive and there are four or five teams who are all as strong as each

other," outlined Dempsey, who was speaking at an AIB sponsors event.

Dempsey (hamstring) is one of a trio carrying injuries ahead of Saturday's semi final, along with Shane Dowling (knee) and Peter Casey (appendix).

All three have missed recent challenge games against the Wexford and Waterford county teams.

Shane Dowling is out of action since the Limerick County final win over Kilmallock last October.



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