

# LIMERICK LEADER

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**LIMERICK'S BEST RUGBY COVERAGE**  
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**BOOK ROW**  
O'MAHONY'S DEFENDS SIGNING BY CRIME AUTHOR PAUL WILLIAMS **P18**

**MAUREEN ENCAPSULATES CITY LIFE IN NEW VOLUME**  
**SEE PAGES 18 & 20**



Garda David Naughton, left, and Garda Wesley Kenny at Limerick Court this week

## Two local gardai told to appear in court at trial of Dublin officers

DAVID HURLEY  
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TWO Limerick-based gardai have been ordered to appear in court this Thursday as they may be required to give evidence in the trial of two Dublin-based gardai, who are accused of assaulting two brothers in the city centre during a Christmas Party last year.

Following lengthy legal arguments, this Wednesday, Judge Grainne O'Neill informed the two gardai, who are based in the city, they will be required to attend the trial, which began on Tuesday.

David Naughton, aged 33, from Lucan and Wesley Kenny, aged 36, who has an address in Sandyford have pleaded not guilty to assaulting Luke Morrison (19) and his brother James Morrison (22) at Catherine Street on December 5, 2013.

Limerick District Court has heard that both men are stationed at garda stations in the capital and were attending a Christmas night out in Limerick when the alleged offences occurred.

While statements made by the two Limerick-based gardai were disclosed to lawyers representing the two defendants in advance of the hearing, State Solicitor Michael Murray has indicated he does not intend calling them to give evidence as part of the prosecution case.

However, Breffni Gordon BL, defending, said he requires the attendance of the gardai in court in order to prove certain statements, which he intends to rely on as part of his defence.

Earlier, Judge O'Neill refused an application to halt the trial after Mr Murray told the court the prosecution regards statements made by the defendant's as being "fictitious".

It is the Prosecution case that Garda Naughton and Garda Kenny assaulted the two brothers following an earlier incident outside Luke Morrison's home on Cecil Street. It is alleged they tried to enter the apartment complex after telling the 19-year-old they were looking for "brazzers", which is slang for Prostitutes.

See page 12 for a full report on the case

# Dolores distressed over marriage split - mother

■ Cranberries singer remains in 'a very vulnerable' state - but 'is doing much better'  
■ Dolores speaks to her children on phone ■ Mother Eileen praises kindness of public

AINE FITZGERALD  
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THE mother of Dolores O'Riordan, the superstar singer who was at the centre of an international media storm this week over an alleged air rage incident, has revealed that her daughter is separating from her husband after 20 years of marriage.

Speaking exclusively to the Limerick Leader this Wednesday, Eileen O'Riordan said Dolores is in a "very vulnerable" state and is under the care of a psychiatric doctor at an undisclosed location in the country.

"She is going through a marriage separation at the moment. That's hard for anyone," said Eileen, who lives in Ballybricken.

The 43-year-old Cranberries lead singer was arrested at Shannon Airport shortly before 5am on Monday in connection with alleged assaults on a flight attendant and a garda on board a flight from JFK airport in New York.

While Dolores, a mother of three, is "doing much better", she failed to recognise her mother when Eileen visited her at Shannon garda station following the incident. Eileen said that medical results indicated there was no alcohol or drugs detected in her daughter's system.

"Dolores was inside in a room, she was lying on the floor, curled up. She had her head covered and her face covered up. She was trying to protect herself. I gave her a hug. I tried to talk to her. She didn't realise I was there at all. I put Lourdes water on her," Eileen recalled of her initial encounter with her daughter at Shannon garda station.

"She didn't know who I was, she



Top left, Dolores O'Riordan and Don Burton pictured on the wedding day in 1994 at Holycross Abbey in Tipperary. Dolores' mother Eileen, top right, has revealed that the couple are in the process of separating

was trying to cover herself from me." Eileen first became aware of the incident on Monday morning after her son received a call.

"I was getting up at about half past

six or seven in the morning. I was expecting her, getting her breakfast ready," she recalled. She had spoken with her daughter the day previous but a mother's instinct told her

something wasn't right with Dolores. "She rang on Sunday to say she was coming. She was OK then but she wasn't herself. She wasn't Dolores. She would hide it from me. If I asked

'are you sleeping?' she would say: 'Oh I am, I am.' While she hadn't seen her daughter

**"She is going through a marriage separation at the moment. That's hard for anyone... She was lying on the floor. I gave her a hug. I tried to talk to her. She didn't realise I was there at all. I put Lourdes water on her."**  
- Eileen O'Riordan, mother of Dolores

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## City retailers optimistic of a bright Christmas

NICK RABBITTS  
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LIMERICK retailers are optimistic of a successful Christmas trading after signs of recovery in the city centre.

They are also bullish about increasing numbers of visitors to the city centre after a raft of new brands moved into the urban area, and the council

introduced a special parking initiative where spaces are free from 3pm daily.

Jeweller Matthew Ryan of Jewellery Stephens is hoping for a record festive season, while Brown Thomas boss Liam Dwan said his staff are putting their "best foot forward" for what they hope will be a bright Christmas.

Michael Gleeson, of

Gleeson's Shoes, says this Christmas is the first time he has been optimistic in five years.

"I can see there is a better spend, and people are more enthusiastic about doing their shopping. People are more confident," said the Dromkeen man, who has traded in William Street for 50 years. Brown Thomas unveiled

its Christmas window last week, and Mr Dwan said they went the extra mile this year to create their 'Christmas wonderland', incorporating animation in the window for the first time in many years, and doubling the amount of garlands previously used.

He said: "With it being the City of Culture, we made a bigger effort this year to show

off the store in its very best light. As we are right in the centre of the city we felt it important to put our best foot forward.

Mr Dwan said trade has increased: "Every day, I come in from Tipperary, and there is certainly more traffic on the roads into the city. Everyone

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Liam Dwan: 'We are putting our best foot forward' for season

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'Bandits team up with Brand for skit

ALAN OWENS  
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THE Rubberbandits and Russell Brand bonded over a shared love for dartboards and have no interest in a push for the Christmas No 1 slot.

The plastic bag-wearing duo teamed up with actor and comedian Brand to release a parody on Blur's hit song Parklife this week, which has clocked up over three million views online since Monday.

Music for the song, sung by Russell and the 'Bandits, was performed, produced, mixed and mastered by the Limerick duo, who performed at Brand's book launch in London recently.

Speaking exclusively to the Limerick Leader, Blind Boy Boat Club of the Rubberbandits said that the collaboration was a chance one and that the focus would soon move to water charges.

"One day we bought a beautiful model dartboard from the 1970s made from birch, with stained leather embroidery. A really nice piece. Anyway, when went to collect it, lo and behold,

Just a bit of craic: Blind Boy Boat Club on Russell Brand hook-up that has three million views online

Russell Brand answers the door," said Blind Boy in his only print interview since the video was released.

"Turns out he was as passionate about collecting dartboards as we were. We hit it off from there and a dartboard-based friendship developed. After a while we eventually told him that we make music."

"It was just a bit of craic - he did the video and I did the music."

"The first thing he is doing is coming over with a jackhammer

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Influence of mayoralty could yet be restored

NICK RABBITTS  
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ABBEYFEALE-BASED councillor Liam Galvin could be installed as the new Mayor of Limerick next year, if proposals to change Limerick's civic titles go ahead.

In a bid to preserve the prestige of the 800-year-old mayoralty, many councillors have called for a role reversal, which would leave the cathaoirleach, currently Cllr Kevin Sheahan, as mayor.

What is notable is that many of these calls have come from the city. It is hoped a change would aid Limerick's international cause, with many from abroad unable to fully comprehend what the cathaoirleach is exactly.

It is Cllr Galvin who is next in line to take the top job in June next year under a pact between Fianna Fail and Fine Gael.

This week the Leader spoke to many local councillors about confusion over the two roles.

SEE PAGE 6 FOR FULL REPORT

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## LIMERICK LEADER

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## JP new owner of Adare Manor

COLM WARD

A deal was being finalised this Wednesday evening that will see JP McManus take ownership of the five-star Adare Manor resort.

The hotel was put up for sale in September with a €25m price tag.

Since then, speculation has been rife that the millionaire businessman and philanthropist was planning to make a bid. Mr McManus has had a long-running association with Adare Manor, having hosted the JP McManus Pro-Am there on two occasions.

It is understood that the new owner has ambitious plans for the resort, which was previously owned by US businessman Tom Kane.

There were reports that staff were informed about the impending sale this Tuesday. However, hotel management were not available for comment.

The agent in charge of the sale, John Hughes of CBRE, could not confirm that a deal had been finalised. "It is still in a process. We have been marketing the property for sale and that process is still ongoing," he said.

Speaking to the Limerick Leader last weekend Mr McManus would neither confirm nor deny reports that he had bought the luxury hotel, saying "that would be a commercial

decision".

However, speculation had been rife in Adare village all week that he was the new owner.

"The rumours all around the village are that JP has bought it," commented one local businesswoman.

It is understood that Mr McManus is one of seven parties that lodged bids for the resort in recent weeks. US investor Tony Saliba, who recently bought Lough Erne golf resort in Co Fermanagh, was also linked to the property.

The hotel was bought in the mid-1980s by Tom Kane who made significant investments in the property over the years.

This included the development of the 18-hole championship golf course designed by Robert Trent Jones Snr. The course hosted the Irish Open in 2007 and 2008, as well as the JP McManus Pro-Am which attracted some of the world's leading golfers and a host of celebrities.

Speaking to reporters this week, Mr McManus did not rule out the possibility of another similar event in the future. "We might see another Pro-Am in the future, so fingers crossed," he said.

Other local hotels to have changed ownership in recent months include the Savoy and the Radisson Blu.

## CAB cash 'should go to community'

NICK RABBITTS

MONEY recovered by the Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB) should be set aside for local community projects, Sinn Féin councillor Maurice Quinlivan says.

The northside councillor has lodged a notice of motion at Monday's metropolitan district meeting of Limerick City and County Council that a call by made on the government to alter the Proceeds of Crime Act for this purpose.

He hopes monies would be ringfenced and directed to groups which deal with drug addictions like the Mid-West Regional Drugs and Alcohol Forum, formerly the Mid-West Drugs Task Force.

At present, all seizures by CAB go back to the exchequer.

But Cllr Quinlivan, a director of the Drugs and Alcohol Forum, thinks that money would be better spent serving local communities, in particular drugs groups, and facilities which are designed to keep young people away from drugs.

"It is turning a negative into a positive. Also, I believe if people knew assets belonging to criminals in their local area were being ploughed back into their community, there would

be a lot more interaction with the gardai, and with the services," he said.

Cllr Quinlivan said this would give people the confidence to help the gardai - on a confidential basis - in the battle against drugs.

Although he says drug use has "plateaued" in the city in recent years, he believes heroin is still a huge problem.

"Drugs workers will tell you themselves it is increasingly being seen across the city," he said.

The Sinn Féin polltopper said city communities have been "wrecked" by drug dealers - and it cannot be allowed to happen again. "I believe if assets seized went back into the local communities, it would be a positive thing to do," he said.

Cllr Quinlivan believes if the law was changed, it could be worth "multiples of millions" to Limerick community groups.

"There is a perception of dealers driving around unaffected in big, flashy cars, going on flashy holidays. We need the CAB to take it on," he said.

CAB has three full-time officers working in Limerick. It was set up in 1996 to deal with an upsurge in organised crime. The motion will be heard on Monday morning.

## Death

MCADAM (née Reid) Cape Town, South Africa and formerly of Upper Clare Street, Limerick, November 10th 2014, peacefully, in Capetown. Mary, Beloved wife of Vincent and dearest mother of Russell, Michele (Grey), and Sandra (Moore). Beloved sister of the late Tom Reid. Deeply regretted by her loving husband and family, sister Margaret (Hayes), brothers John and Dermot, sons-in-law Peter and Michael, daughter-in-law Christina, grandchildren, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews, relatives and her many friends in Capetown and Limerick. Rest in Peace. Funeral to take place on Saturday November 15th in Cape Town. Mass will be celebrated in Mary Immaculate College Chapel, Limerick on Saturday at 12.30pm.

## Honour: Limerick is the second city to receive this status

## City to be declared truly intercultural

LEADER REPORTER

LIMERICK will be officially declared as an intercultural city during the hosting of a major intercultural conference in the Mid-West next week.

Delegates from across Europe will arrive in Limerick on November 21 and 22 for the 'Sports Arts and Culture' Intercultural Cities conference and workshop in the Limerick Strand Hotel.

The conference will be addressed by speakers including former international rugby star Keith Wood, All Star Hurler Seán Óg Ó hAilpín and Grand Slam winning rugby player Niamh Briggs.

A charter will be signed by the cathaoirleach, Cllr Kevin Sheahan, officially declaring Limerick as an intercultural city - only the second Irish city to do so.

"Limerick is the only Irish city besides Dublin to participate in the European Intercultural Cities initiative, giving it the opportunity to exchange and learn with other European cities such as Barcelona, Copenhagen, Rotterdam, London, San Sebastian, Montreal and Limassol," said Cllr Sheahan.

"We have a long and proud tradition of literature, music and the arts - in recent years, we have welcomed many new residents and communities, bringing a rich new source of music, culture and tradition. I'm delighted that Limerick is signing this charter



Karen McHugh, of Doras Luimni, who was instrumental in securing Limerick's position on the intercultural index

Picture: Keith Wiseman

in our National City of Culture Year.

"Arts and culture play a key role in promoting diversity, connecting communities and breaking down communication and cultural barriers. Equally Limerick has always had a very inclusive attitude to sport and intercultural sports events have been to the forefront of integration initiatives in this region in recent years."

Forty international delegates will arrive for the two-day Intercultural Cities conference which will provide a mix of panel

discussions, presentations and group dialogue co-ordinated by the community department of Limerick City and County Council.

"We are delighted that the Council of Europe has recognised Limerick's proud tradition and excellence in sports, arts and culture in choosing Limerick as a location for this important event," said Josephine Cotter Coughlan, director of services, community, leisure and emergency services, Limerick City and County Council.

"This 2014 Intercultural

Cities Conference provides an exciting opportunity to learn first-hand from the experience and best practice of cities across the world who have benefited from adopting an intercultural approach to sports, arts and culture and created diversity advantage. Going forward Limerick remains committed to becoming an Intercultural city and region, in which all residents are equally valued irrespective of their colour, creed or culture."

Karen McHugh, chief executive of Doras Luimni, which supports and promotes the rights of migrants living in the Mid-West, said that Limerick has become a more diverse society over the last 10 years.

"One in 10 of the population are migrants who have come to work, live or study in the region," she said.

"Harnessing this diversity is a challenge and an opportunity for all residents of Limerick. The process of Limerick becoming an Intercultural City and region will take time and will require the active support of both local and migrant communities on the ground.

"This conference is an important milestone affording the opportunity to dialogue with and learn from other European and global cities and regions," said Ms McHugh. For more information on the 'Sports Art and Culture' Intercultural Cities Conference and Workshop please visit [www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/Cities](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/Cities).

## Window wonder: BT unveils festive offering as traders gear up for Christmas



Model Niamh Donnelly with Ameile Hopwood (age 4) from Limerick are pictured at the highly-anticipated official launch of the Christmas Window at Brown Thomas store on O'Connell Street. Manager Liam Dwan said BT had gone all out with the window in City of Culture year

Picture: Brian Arthur/Press 22.

## 'People were hassling Dolores to sing on plane'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for a number of months, Dolores would ring Eileen most days, and going on their conversations Eileen feared that something was going to happen.

"I was waiting for it, hoping that it wouldn't happen in New York. It would be awful because she wouldn't have the support there. She is suffering from lack of sleep over the weeks and her brain is racing all the time. She is working very hard. When she was in New York she kept saying 'when I go home to my mother in Ireland, I will be fine'. She was working in New York producing a new album."

While the singer continues to receive medical attention, "she is a lot better than what she was, thanks be to God".

"She was so bad when I saw her first in Shannon," Eileen recalled. "She is under the care of a psychiatric doctor at the moment, a very nice lady. She is still in Ireland. She has a nurse with her and a doctor visits her every day because she can't go out."

Dolores speaks on the phone to her children Taylor, 16, Molly, 13, and Dakota, 9, who are currently with their father Don Burton in Canada.

"They just know that mommy isn't well at the moment," said their grandmother.

Dolores married Burton, a former tour manager of rock band Duran Duran, at Holycross Abbey, Tipperary in 1994 with the



Dolores O'Riordan, whose band The Cranberries sold over 40 million albums, is under psychiatric care this week

reception taking place in Aherlow House Hotel.

The couple who met when The Cranberries and Duran Duran were on tour have owned a number of properties including Riversfield Stud outside Kilmallock where they lived for a number of years as well as homes in Dublin and Canada, during their 20-year marriage.

Reflecting on the alleged air rage incident itself, Eileen said Dolores

was being hassled on the flight for autographs.

"She had two glasses of wine with her dinner when she started off but she had no alcohol or drugs in her system. That is completely clear. She was accompanied by a producer and songwriter. I believe there were people hassling her to sing and for photographs on the plane. She just lost it."

Though the full facts have yet

to be established, it is reported that Dolores - whose band The Cranberries has sold over 40 million albums worldwide - stamped on a flight attendant's foot and headbutted a garda. She was arrested and subsequently hospitalised at University Hospital Limerick.

"She is not like that. Everyone is saying the media have blown it out of all proportion. There is a lot

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in the city is making a big effort. We have also had to up our games, as customers are more discerning, and want the best service possible when they are parting with their hard-earned cash."

Mr Ryan concurred, saying: "Shoppers are back spending, and most importantly spending it in and supporting our great city."

"There has been great work done by the City Council and lots of individual stores and businesses to add to the festive buzz in the city through investment in Christmas decorations and light displays."

He revealed higher-end gift purchases are again being made, and "customers are no longer afraid to spend again."

"There is a better buzz and atmosphere, people have smiles back on their faces, restaurant and coffee shops are buzzing. I think the people of Limerick have realised they must support city businesses - together we can make a difference," said Mr Ryan.

"Nothing beats the shopping experience of walking the city's footpaths at Christmas - the chill in the air, the choral singers, the buzz, the dark foggy evenings and the lights, all topped off with the excitement of Santa."

Mr Gleeson welcomed the parking initiative, but urged the introduction of a park and ride scheme to bring more people in from the county.

He said: "Perhaps our country relations in the council would facilitate us with the various parking areas, particularly out around the Dublin Road, the Ennis Road, the Corbally Road and Raheen."

## 'Bandits team up with Brand for Parklife skit

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and taking up the water meter from the front of my house."

The parody is apparently a nod to Brand's own political campaign and features lyrics such as: "Verbal dexterity plus estuary accent is what leads to a parody of Parklife / But words used efficiently can be a dangerous tool that slices through propaganda like a Sharp Knife."

Blind Boy said of Brand: "Lovely fella, very short in real life. Grey hair and looks and talks a bit like Anthony Hopkins off camera. Dresses completely differently. He's got false teeth, brown leather brogues, and cream Farah slacks."

"Goes everywhere on a bus and starts crying when anything about the D-Day landings in Normandy comes on the television."

Asked about the meaning behind the video, the Rubberbandit said that was for "YouTube intellectuals to decide as they work towards a concise dialectic in the comments section".

"Most of what he says makes sense. He ticks all the right boxes when it comes to deconstructing power. Chomsky, Naomi Klein, Marty Morrissey, Roland Barthes," he added.

Paddy Power is taking bets on the song surpassing the amount of hits gleaned by the Bandits' Horse Outside, which has nearly 13 million views on YouTube.

"The other viral phenomenon is Ebola, so it could be worse," said Blind Boy of the viral video.

"We have no interest in Christmas number one - please download it illegally, take it straight from YouTube, we don't want your money," he explained.

"Paddy Power is a clever boy, he puts out bets like that because he gets loads of free advertising."

"Childline are facing a problem that they are closing down their lines from 24 hours to 12 hours - instead, donate to Childline and don't be worried about silly bets."

Text 'Childline' to 57911 and donate €4 to the charity service.