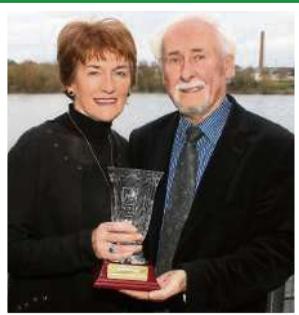
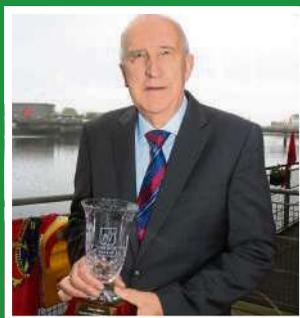




WHO WILL BE YOUR LIMERICK PERSON OF THE YEAR?



Winner to be revealed this week at gala dinner. See page 8 for more on the awards



The Leader

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

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REBEL ASSAULT Limerick ready to face Cork in city **Sport**

ALL TIME GREAT Your choice as Limerick's all time great is revealed inside **P11**



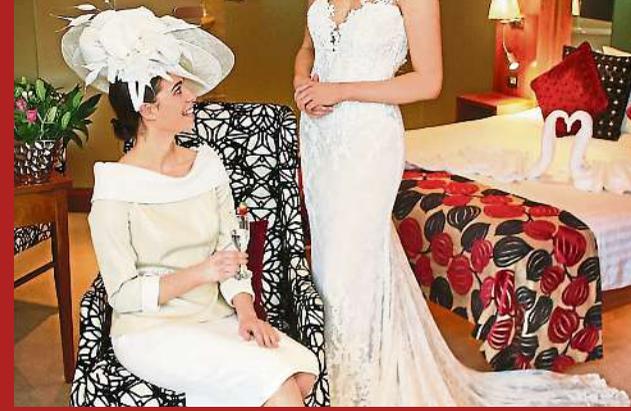
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Comments from online readers

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Limerick Leader



What you're saying about stories on limerickleader.ie and our social media platforms

ARE YOU HAPPY WITH LIMERICK'S BUS SERVICES?

Mary Fanning McGarry

I'd be half way to Portugal or Spain in the time the 304 takes to get to UL - aint that the truth



Noelle Houlihan

Sadly there is no bus for the Ballysimon road business park (halfords bnq etc) would like to see a city bus for there

Anne McGrath

No not enough rural routes

Bridin Ryan

No direct regular route to LIT from Castletroy

LIMERICK MICRO-BREWERY TO BE TOAST OF TREATY CITY AS PLANS GIVEN GREEN LIGHT

Gary Kirwan

Small companies like this are the future for Limerick, well done guys



Matthew A. Ring

Fantastic addition to a street with huge potential! Best of luck to Treaty City

Mark Carey

Best of luck Treaty

LIMERICK EMPHATIC IN FIRST HURLING LEAGUE WIN OVER KILKENNY IN 22 YEARS IN NOWLAN PARK

Bernie Fitzgerald

Still won't get recognition we deserve. Hope the critics drive the team on. Love watching this Limerick team when they in full flow



Ger Marnane

Great teamwork. A joy to watch this team. Well done

Rob Slattery

Great win John Kiely is top man doing great job has the team ticking over nicely

Dermot Minihan

9 points, one for each life. Cats got skinned, well done Limerick

'ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC': LIMERICK MOTHER-OF-THREE GETS VITAL OPERATION

Mary Mack

Wishing you a speedy recovery, I'm so happy for you, you can finally get home to your precious little family now.



Alice Purcell

Wishing you a speedy recovery

Noreen McCoy

Great news, get well soon

Sabrina Johnson Quinn

About time, it should have never come to this for you, I wish you a speedy recovery

Jennifer Tully

So happy for her

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Activist Sean Hartigan, pictured at the field where the trees have been cut, and below, Google StreetView of the site taken in June 2017. MAIN PICTURE: MICHAEL COWHEY

Activist cross over the axing of trees

Environment: Complaint as greenery cut down

NICK RABBITS
 nick@limerickleader.ie

A LOCAL activist has made a complaint to Limerick City and County Council over the felling of trees.

Green party local election candidate Sean Hartigan is appalled at the fact a number of trees and hedgerows appear to have been axed at a site in Castletroy.

He discovered this – ironically enough – after giving a talk to local children on the need to create homes and habitats for wildlife.

“That field is a huge habitat for wildlife. The amount of birds which would live in there, the bats which would have been in the trees – and the trees themselves would be absorbing carbon from the atmosphere and pumping in oxygen. We have 1% of native tree cover in this country and we need to retain absolutely everything we have,” Mr Hartigan, Lisnagry, said.

He received his first call about the tree felling from a concerned and “horrified” parent, who he said,



compared the scene to Watership Down.

“I am still getting calls from people. There was one woman here early on Saturday when it started, and she said it was like Watership Down – rabbits running all over the place,” Mr Hartigan added.

Mr Hartigan has written to council, as well as the National Parks and Wildlife Service, and Coillte to

raise his concerns and enquire as to whether a felling licence was in place at the land.

“There were some oak trees and ash trees in there. There was one oak tree well over 150 years in there of up to two metres,” he claimed, “We are talking about up to 300 metres of hedgerow, maybe up to 14 or 15 trees.” Mr Hartigan claimed they were all removed over one weekend.

Accord sees 2,783 couples attend therapy

MORE than 2,700 couples in the South West attended marriage and relationship counselling sessions with Catholic organisation Accord last year.

According to the latest figures released by the Catholic agency, in 2018 2,783 couples attended

counselling through the service, which operates offices in both Limerick city and Newcastle West.

This compares to 3,129 couples in 2017.

A further 2,484 individuals also attended marriage preparation courses in the South West last year.

Nationally, 16,048 individuals attended sacramental marriage preparation courses with the Catholic organisation last year.

A further 24,180 couples received counselling with Accord for issues like lack of trust between partners or unresolved arguments.

Minister Harris condemned for mid-2020 delay for UHL beds

THE GOVERNMENT and Minister for Health Simon Harris continue to be condemned for its lack of clarity over the delivery of a crucial modular unit at University Hospital Limerick.

The UL Hospitals Group has confirmed that it is hoped that a €19.5m 60-bed project will be completed by mid-2020, despite the Government's

hopes to have it ready by autumn 2019.

Labour TD Jan O'Sullivan accused the Government of “not being up front” about the important project that will act as an interim measure, prior to the delivery of a 96-bed project, sometime in the 2020s.

“It is completely unacceptable that

patients and staff will have to go through another winter in an overcrowded hospital that is not capable of catering for the numbers of people in attendance.”

Mayor James Collins said “the constant spin cycle from Fine Gael won't wash”, adding that the political party “has proven that it can't manage public finances”.



Minister Simon Harris came under attack over the lack of clarity regarding UHL's 60-bed unit

Dolores is the All Time Great

Voting: Search for Limerick's All Time Great over with a runaway winner after a series of polls

ICONIC Cranberries frontwoman Dolores O'Riordan has been named Limerick's All Time Great after a runaway win.

The Ballybricken woman, who sadly passed away suddenly last year, is the winner of The Leader's search to find Limerick's greatest person.

Dolores, with 59% of the vote, trumped her fellow nominees in the final four after a week of heavy voting.

Munster and Irish rugby legend Paul O'Connell was second with 17% of the vote, while Hollywood screen star Richard Harris and All-Ireland winning Limerick hurling manager John Kiely shared third spot with 12% of the vote each.

The Cranberries frontwoman emerged as the winner after three rounds of online polls from a starting list of 16 contestants who were selected from hundreds of nominations as Leader readers were asked to select Limerick's All Time Great.

“Dolores is an exceptionally worthy winner of Limerick's All Time Great,” said Eugene Phelan, editor of The Leader.

“She is an iconic figure in world music but never forget her Limerick



Dolores O'Riordan: Named Limerick's All Time Great. PICTURE: KEN COLEMAN

roots and her love for her native place. We are proud that she has been named the All Time Great after an exceptionally popular series of online polls. All 16 candidates would have made for a worthy winner, but there can only be one!”

A huge thank you to our sponsors, Specsavers, Lyons of Limerick, McMahons Builders Providers, Thomond Asset Management, Limerick Tutorial College and the Crescent Shopping Centre.

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