

WE ARE ORLANDO!

LGBTI Community honour shooting victims with candlelight vigil

HE Limerick LGBTI Community honoured the victims of the Orlando shootings with two separate candlelight vigils. One vigil took place at the Treaty Stone last Monday night, while a second happened last Wednesday evening in Arthur's Quay Park.

Monday's vigil was organised by my friends Eileen O' Brien, Breandán Ó hÉamhaigh and Billie. People gathered at the Treaty Stone on Clancy Strand on Monday evening holding rainbow flags and signs stating; 'We are Orlando', plus 'Pulse', the name of the nightclub where the atrocity happened over the weekend. There was a toletthe haters win. This year minute silence held to remember, reflect or to pray for those affected by the violence in the attack.

I organised the second vigil in Arthurs Quay Park last Wednesday, which was also Irish AIDS Day, with help from Louise McCormack and Lisa Daly, two amazing ladies who are on this year's Limerick Pride Committee with HearIt.ie who provided the sound

We encouraged those attending to spread the word, to bring a candle if possible and to bring rainbow colours so we could honour Orlando victims in a way that would be colourful and memorable.

More than 250 Limerick people gathered for the vigil to show solidarity not just for the LGBT community in Orlando who experienced this hate crime, but for everybody who has been affected by acts of terror, violence or oppression in their lives.

Unity Gospel Choir Limerick led the music, each member bearing letters to read the three words 'We Are Orlando'. A moment of silence was observed in memory of the 49 people who lost their lives, and the choir then sang 'Something Inside

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in and destroy that and violate it was such a despicable act. But we cannot let the haters win, and we ain't going the theme of the Limerick Pride Festival is #UnitedColoursofLimerick and we are asking everyone to come and show their support for the Limerick LGRTI community at the Limerick Pride Parade on Saturday, July 16.

You can see videos of both vigils at IL1oveLimerick.com. You can access and sign the Limerick City and County me and Tom Walsh of Council book of condolences www.lim-

erick.ie/council/orlandotragedy-book-condolence

Limerick's Gateway to **Education Asking for School Books**

By I Love Limerick Correspondent Holly Kenny

Limerick's Gateway to Education is asking all parents across Limerick to visit their charity store at 9 Wickham Street, to drop off any school books and uniforms that they will not be using the following year to help other Limerick families

The charity is four and a half years old, are at this location for three years and provide low cost school books and uniforms to the people of Limerick. The cost for books from this charity will be a maximum of €15 which is a bargain for families who may be struggling with the cost of

sending a child to school. Karen Keane, Store Man-



At the Limerick LGBTI Orlando Vigil at Arthurs Quay Park - Cllr Frankie Daly, Deputy Mayor of Limerick City and County Council, Adam Long, Patricia Lindsay, Evan Kennedy and Sharon Tucker with Richard. For more pictures from the vigil see page 14 PICTURE: JOHNNY BAYNES/ILOVELIMERICK



At the Limerick Gateway to Education store on Wickham Street - Richard with store manager Karen Keane, salesperson Ross McCoy and charity founder Suzanne Roche picture: BILLY BUTLER/ILOVELIMERICK

ager explains: "Even if families think oh it's old, they won't want it, there will be people who will use it. It's vital that we get any books because we connect with teachers who educate children excluded from school. Those students may need just one book from the current

curriculum and one book donated by a family could make a huge difference."

Karen promises families that they will only get the schoolbook editions that are the current required edition for that specific year. Limerick's Gateway to Education also has a Homework Club

during the academic year every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

'Together'. the new Limerick 2020 video is

The Limerick2020 bid team has just released a new

European Capital of Culture 2020. Limerick residents, neighbours, friends, businesses and community groups lead by the Lim-

Ciarda Tobin.

in 2020.

video called 'Together' and it's

simply amazing. Made by

local production company Pi-

quant Media and featuring

many faces and places of Lim-

erick city, this new video cel-

ebrates the city working

together on the bid to be

European Capital of Culture

The theme of the word 'to

gether' which features

throughout the video was de-

veloped at a workshop that

Piquant Media did with

Moyross/Ballynanty com-

munity theatre group 'Miss-

fits' and theatre practitioner

For the past 18 month's

Limerick has been com-

peting for the title of

erick2020 team have been working hard to bid for this incredible opportunity and we made the shortlist! With the competition



Richard pictured saying "I Love You" in sign language with the Hands in Harmony' Deaf Community Choir who are playing at Limerick



Pictured at the Caseys Centra Love Thy Neighbour Summer Carnival Joe Morgan, Limerick Marine Search and Rescue, Pauline Reilly, Caseys Centra, Duncan Casey, Ambassador for the Midwest Simon Community, Jackie Bonfield, CEO Midwest Simon Community, Myles Breen and Richard Lynch Picture: Johnny Baynes/Ilovelimerick

heating up Limerick people can help! On July 12 the Jury will visit Limerick as part of the decision making process. With events and festivities planned to welcome our visiting jurors, July 12 is an opportunity for the whole city to back the bid and not only show but celebrate why we deserve the title of European

Capital of Culture 2020. This is your city, your culture, your bid. Play your part by joining the party! Volunteer now at www.limerick2020.ie. See the new www.limerick2020.ie or on www.facebook.com/Limerick2020.

Love Thy Neighbour Fundraiser raises awareness for Limerick Charities

Love Thy Neighbour Summer Carnival in aid of the Mid West Simon Community and Limerick Marine Search and Rescue took place last

Thursday at Caseys Centra Mouth Kenneth and raised awareness and funds for the Midwest Simon Community and Limerick Marine Search and Rescue.

Munster Rugby Duncan Casey, actor Myles Breen and were the hosts for a day of summer festivities with carnival games, free food tastings, drinks, music, prizes and giveaways galore with Limerick's Live 95fm providing music during their live roadshow.

The event concept originated when management from Caseys Centra, located on the Dock Road, saw the positive impact they had on their neighbours Midwest Simon Community after they began donating unused food to the charity's service users. Caseys Centra decided they needed to do more. This evolved into a fundraising day for both Mid West Simon Community and fellow

neighbouring charity, Lim-

fees when they are on duty. Jackie Bonfield, General Manager Mid-West Simon Community, said: "We are so honoured that our neighbours Caseys Centra and

www.limerick2020.ie

erick Marine Search and

Rescue. Since then, in a bid to

do even more, Casevs Centra

began offering the volunteers

of Limerick Marine Search

and Rescue free teas and cof-

Limericks Live 95fm have decided to support our fundraising initiatives with an event that not only shows the best of Limerick but also stresses the importance of how much we all need love and support from our neigh-

Joe Morgan, Chairperson Limerick Marine Search and Rescue told me:, "This year we are celebrating our 30th anniversary and in the spirit of community, the event really emphasises the importance of local support. Our organisation is volunteer based and we need to raise ongoing funds to continue the work we do.

Richard standing at one of the new Limerick 2020 street art pieces

on Patrick Street. See the new 2020 promo video at

There is strength in numbers and if we all support one another, Limerick would be unstoppable. It's so important that local Limerick businesses support local charities as it can make such a huge difference. Well done to all involved.

gning In Harmony at **Family Fun Day**

The Deaf Community Centre in Limerick hosted a Family Fun Day this past Saturday at the Hunt Museum, following on from last year's inaugural and highly successful event. The Deaf Community Centre is based in Limerick, it supports deaf people and their families to improve skills, by way of courses and workshops and supports the community in

issues that affect them. Included throughout day were guided tours of the mu-



Sunday, June 26 at the Lakeside Hotel, to raise much

Pink Ribbon Walk seven years strong!

HIS year the Killaloe Pink Ribbon Walk 2016 takes place on Sunday, June 26 at the Lakeside Hotel, to raise much-needed funds for Action Breast Cancer; a programme of the Irish Cancer Society. This 10km walk/run through the picturesque country roads of the twin towns of Killaloe and Ballina and finishes with a garden party, music and entertainment back

The event itself has grown into a day for the whole family to take part in, last year over 2000 people attended with over 1,000 walkers raising over a whopping €56,000, and as the walk is growing in size, we predict this year there will have even more walkers.

Over the past 7 year's the walks have become a national movement with walks taking place in Kells, Killaloe, Kinsale and Kenmare. To date there has been over 13,000 people walking, covering 19,000 kilometres. There has been 19 Pink Ribbon Walks in four different regions. Over €1.4 million in sponsorship money has been raised for the Irish Cancer Society since its inception in 2009.

The Killaloe Community has really taken the walk to heart, with local shops and businesses dressing their windows and turning the ever beautiful Ballina and Killaloe into a sea of pink in the run up to the an-

See www.pinkribbonwalk.ie for more info.

seum and sign language interpreters to make the tours accessible for all.

Activities included information stalls, games and a raffle but the highlight of the day was the two 45 minute long performances from the unique 'Hands in Harmony Deaf Community Choir, made up of Deaf and hearing people singing their songs through Irish Sign Language (ISL). ISL is most Deaf people's first and natural lan-

This Deaf choir is the first of its kind in the Midwest Area. It was formed in October 2014 and has performed in a number of churches and events. I am thrilled to announce that they are performing after this year's Limerick Pride

Parade at the Hunt Museum for the PrideFest party on Saturday, July 16. This year's Pride theme is #UnitedColoursofLimerick and they will bring something original and special to this year's festiv-

And finally

If anyone wants to keep tabs with what I am up to around Limerick, you can find me on Facebook as Richard Lynch and Twitter @Richanthon.

If you have a good news story about Limerick I could share on this page, you can contact me via email at Richard@ILoveLimerick.com. Look forward to hearing from you

Love to you all