

THURLES CONNECTION

Connecting Business & Quality of Life

Issue 7 Winter 2009

Welcome

Welcome to the winter edition of Thurles Connection. In these challenging times, we have some fantastic news stories with the announcement firstly of the 'Tipperary Venue' project which when up and running will deliver 2000 jobs in the Thurles area.

This project deserves our support and it is important that all the agencies work together to ensure its speedy development. It is fantastic that one of our business ambassadors is the promoter of this visionary venue and is wished every success in his venture.

In addition it is very welcome that Thurles is the magnet for businesses setting up in the environmental/renewable energy sectors. The announcement by Arlo Group of their

Acorn Recycling project with the capacity to deliver up to 30 jobs is very welcome. The Arlo Group Ltd currently employs 100. The location of Thurles for projects in the renewable energy environmental sector is to

be encouraged as there are already a number of other related businesses operating in the area and Tipperary Institute is also the lead agency in the Tipperary Energy Agency Ltd.

The business environment for all sectors of business is extremely challenging in these difficult times, but I would encourage all people to support the 'shop local' campaign being operated by Thurles Chamber to ensure the viability of our local businesses, without whom many more people would be on the jobless register.

I believe the capacity and energy of the owners and employees of local small/medium enterprise will see them through this recession, and from which they will emerge a stronger and more profitable business. Finally I want to thank my colleagues on the board of Thurles Marketing for their assistance and hard work during the year and I wish our business ambassadors, businesses and retailers a very happy and holy Christmas.

Tim Looby, Chairman.

The Tipperary Venue

With a commanding air, one's gaze will be drawn across the panoramic view that is home to The Tipperary Venue.

Located in Two Mile Borris on the Dublin Cork N8, this development which is situated on 800 acres will create long term sustainable employment for the area. To the left lies, the magnificent building that is the **Hoban Memorial**. To the west, your eye will take you to the five star **Hotel** and **Casino** designed with a remarkable level of architectural innovation. A walkway will facilitate access to a luxury **Shopping Mall** featuring a selection of high end retail outlets showcasing the finest couture that Ireland has to offer together with fine restaurants. To the east of the Mall lies **The Venue**, a state-of-the-art music, sporting, cultural and conference centre that will showcase some of the world's greatest events. Further east the sheer size and scale of the project will become evident as the **Racetrack**,



Edward O'Grady, Johnny Murtagh, Richard Quirke, Aidan O'Brien & Michael Lowry T.D.
Photo by Brid Ryan Photography

Equestrian Centre and **Greyhound Track** appear. An eighteen hole signature **Golf Course** will complete this extraordinary development, situated in the heart of Ireland.

Thurles native **Richard Quirke**, best known as the driving force behind Dr. Quirkey's Good Time Emporium in O'Connell Street, Dublin, is the promoter behind this exciting venture and is

to finance the €460m project with a group of investors.

The state of the art development is expected to create up to **2,000 full time jobs**, with **1,000 people being employed during the three years of construction**.

The project is the largest ever to be put before North Tipperary County Council. A special team has been assembled by the Council to examine the proposals and a decision is expected by Christmas. While the race track and stable facilities were especially welcomed by legendary horse trainer, Aidan O'Brien, champion jockey Johnny Murtagh, and Christy Grassick of Coolmore Stud.

The facility will have 5743 car spaces, 136 Bus parking spaces, 72 greyhound box spaces, and 100 horse Box Spaces. An overflow capacity of 2,000 spaces for special occasions will also be available. An exact replica of the White House as it stood in 1829 will form the

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Unveiled, plans for a huge new development that will put Thurles on the map.



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Tipperary Technology Park reports expansion well on target



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Looking at the positive aspects of the local retail industry.





Hugh Ryan & Wesley Quirke. Photo: Sinead Ni Riain

centrepiece of the project, aimed at highlighting Ireland's US links. It will be known as "The Hoban Memorial" in homage to local man James Hoban who designed the original Pennsylvania Avenue building as a banqueting hall and will be connected to the development's 5-star hotel via a discreet underground tunnel. The plans have the backing of The White House Historical Association in Washington.

The 5-star hotel will ooze style and atmosphere and will have 500 rooms and a luxury spa.

Boutiques stocking some of the fashion industry's leading designers will line the promenade which leads from the hotel to the main meeting area.

A magnificent National Hunt and fully lit all weather racetrack will be created to provide all-year racing and is supported by Horse Racing Ireland. A Greyhound Stadium with capacity for up to 2,000 people will provide premier facilities to sporting enthusiasts.

The eighteen hole Golf Course will be surrounded by acres of mature parkland and will embrace all the qualities of an internationally recognised course.

A timber built chapel will nestle amongst the mature trees that comb these landscapes. Ceremonies can be delivered in the true beauty of this meticulously designed woodland building.

A major casino aimed at American high-rollers will also be incorporated in a 500-room, five-star Hotel.

The Venue is an underground emporium and is designed to capture the ultimate in live sound and provide the most thrilling of experiences and will have a capacity of 15,000.

This development when completed will be a major employer for Thurles and it's hinterland and a huge boost to the economy of the town.

Building for the Future

The new €3.5 million expansion development at Shannon Development-owned Tipperary Technology Park in Thurles, Co. Tipperary is on target for completion at the turn of the year.

"In turbulent economic times it is critical that we continue to invest in high quality infrastructure to entice potential investors," remarked Brian Keating, Regional Development Manager for Tipperary, when I caught up with him recently on the very busy site on the racecourse road in Thurles. "We must send an unequivocal message to all developers, investors and entrepreneurs that Tipperary and Thurles in Particular is still an attractive and competitive business location, a county with a skilled, highly educated and flexible workforce. This investment is another step in that direction."

Since opening Tipperary Technology Park (TTP) in 2000, Shannon Development has invested €3.8 million in developing two buildings (IW1 &



IW2) at the Park to provide property solutions for indigenous and foreign direct investors; both of these buildings are almost fully occupied. The completion of this third building (IW3), which represents a further investment of €3.5million, will bring total investment at the Park to €7.3 million.

I had to ask what the IW stands for. It stands for InnovationWorks, this is the brand name Shannon Development have for the technology and Incubation buildings in its network of Technology Parks across the Shannon Region.

And judging by the numbers and the variety of business on site I have to agree Innovation works here in Thurles.

"We are targeting new business whether large or small. Our offer of world class space in Thurles is available to indigenous and FDI business whether the one person start up or a much larger operation" commented Mr. Keating. "We provide "Concept Development" workspace (Hot Desks) to support the County Enterprise Board and Enterprise Ireland who both have clients working from TTP. We also have large expansion space in a variety of configurations to suit client needs".

Shannon Development are promoting TTP with the assistance of the Thurles Marketing Group, across Tipperary, Ireland and overseas; "We welcome new leads from our many Tipperary Ambassadors and business contacts" concluded Mr. Keating

If you want to know more or have a potential lead for TTP please contact **Brian at (0504) 29300 or keatingb@ShannonDevelopment.ie**



AQS Develops Its Domestic Service

As well as its many innovative plans, not least the development of the Littleton Composting Plant, Arlo Group are also currently expanding its other wide range of activities, most particularly those provided by AQS Environmental Solutions.

AQS is the leading provider of next generation environmental solutions to the national commercial and domestic market and delivers an increasing

range of drainage, environmental and waste management solutions to its vast clientele.

It is committed to delivering safe, environmentally responsible and cost/time effective solutions. It constantly strives to improve the range and quality of environmental solutions which it offers to clients.

Septic tank management is one key area of activity. It is a proven fact that seven out of ten callouts to deal with septic tank problems are too late. Septic tanks should be emptied every two years to avoid saturation and clogging of the percolation area. If the septic tank is overflowing, it usually means that the problem has become irreparable.

However, with AQS householders can be assured that their septic tanks will be cleaned and maintained to optimum effect.

And, an added advantage is the fact that with AQS the waste taken from septic tanks is processed and mixed with peat to make an environmentally friendly compost used in gardens. Two good reasons for making the AQS service a must for the domestic sector.

Exciting Times Ahead For Acorn Recycling

Progress on an exciting new facility, which will cost 7 million euro and create over 30 new jobs, continues apace at present and the completion of the most advanced composting system in the country is now expected by April of next year.

The facility being developed by Acorn Recycling Limited, a member of the Arlo Group, will be located at Littleton, 3 kilometres from the M8 motorway, on the Ballynonty Road, and will be a fully enclosed indoor composting facility with forced aeration, air extraction and a bio filtration system.

This exciting development will not just provide very welcome employment at a time of economic crisis but will also play a pivotal role in assisting the Government in meeting its obligation to divert biodegradable waste away from landfill.

The state-of-the-art facility will also provide significant spin-off employment to the local community and will provide opportunities for local tradesmen, farmers, transport businesses and logistics providers.

The sod on the facility was turned in late September by Tipperary hurling star, Eoin Kelly, and Independent T.D., Mr. Michael Lowry in the presence of guests and Arlo Group Directors, Liam and Donal Kearney.

The Arlo Group Ltd., which has its headquarters in Archerstown Industrial Estate, was formed in October 2007 to coordinate the development of the various companies within the group, consisting of the A Quick Sharp Ltd., trading as AQS Environmental Solutions, AQS



Environmental Solutions N.I. Ltd., Acorn Recycling Ltd. and JHL Sales UK Ltd.

The Littleton Composting Plant, located on a 90 acre site, will be the most advanced facility of its kind in Ireland or the UK for the treatment of biological waste. It will produce high quality compost for use in landscaping, horticulture, agriculture and domestic gardens and will be licensed to deal with up to 45,000 tonnes per annum of biodegradable waste. This will include 'brown bin' food, catering waste, food and drinks industry residues, amongst other matters.

Of added advantage is the fact that the use of the product in agriculture will mean that it will replace the need to import chemical fertilisers, which has patent economic and environmental benefits. In horticulture it can also displace the use of peat from native bogs.

This exciting new addition to the infra-structure of County Tipperary is expected to open in April 2010 and will prove to be vital to assist the

country in meeting its obligations under the EU Landfill Directive.

Commenting on the project, Mr. Ronan Beasley, Managing Director of Acorn Recycling, stated that the development of the composting plant substantially enhanced their goal to bring their environmental performance to a new level.

The only facility of its kind in Ireland the development of the plant is a tangible example of local innovation at a time when such faith and trust has never been more necessary. There has, rightly, been an air of celebration in the Arlo Group and in Acorn Recycling since the official turning of the sod in September and that excitement will mount considerably as the completion date looms in the Spring of 2010.

In the words of Mr. Lowry, a firm supporter of the project, this is a very competent and efficient organisation which had built up a well deserved reputation of providing a reliable, quality service.

Arlo Offering Full Turn Key Management

The Arlo Group, founded by two local brothers, is a perfect example of a full turn key operation, with equipment provision, waste collection and subsequent composting of material the essential components of its operations.

The Group consists of three companies, AQS Environmental Solutions, Acorn Recycling Waste Management Company and JHL Sales UK.

Based at the Archerstown Industrial Estate, it was founded by Group Managing Director



Liam Kearney and his brother, Donal. Both men started out over ten years ago with just one used transit van but they quickly and skillfully adapted to the needs of their customers and their

base now ranges from the largest local authority to householders.

AQS Environmental Solutions is the leading provider of next generation environmental solutions to the national commercial and domestic markets. It delivers a range of drainage, environmental and waste management solutions to clients in the Local Authority, food processing, mining, retail, construction, pharmaceutical, aviation, power generation, transport and agriculture sectors as well as to private householders.

Acorn Recycling is a waste management and environmental consultancy company specialising in the handling and treatment of all organic waste.

JHL UK is engaged in the sale of large environmental equipment, which are manufactured in Denmark. These are sold to the companies in the UK which are involved in the same services as AQS and the operation, based in Leicestershire, also offers repairs, back up services and supports.

In a true turn key cycle, the equipment is sold through JHL to service providers such as AQS who in turn collect the waste which is then composted via Acorn Recycling, turning full circle all within the umbrella of Arlo.

Thurles a Cutting Edge Destination

If there is one very clear advantage the town of Thurles enjoys amongst its many counterparts it must surely be the sheer range and extent of its excellent retail outlets.

The town boasts a truly extensive range of quality stores with the breadth of choice available the envy of many centres, not just in Tipperary but far beyond.

Thurles is a cutting edge destination be it for fashion, produce, gifts or indeed any of the products necessary to ensure that the needs of your family and home are met with aplomb this Christmas.

From local indigenous retailing outlets to large superstores, Thurles has it all. It has been blessed with long established, committed establishments which have served the town for many, many years. A great number of these have been part and parcel of this community for decades and have provided generations of service to their vast clientele.



Photo by George Willoughby

That very personal dedication to the needs of their patrons has engendered a deep and lasting relationship between retailers and customers and that will undoubtedly continue into the future.

Thurles is also the centre for many large and multinational businesses and they have quickly become part and parcel of the town's retailing infrastructure. They too have fostered

a very loyal and committed relationship between their staff and the general public and their service is second to none.

That it is a town renowned for its retailing excellence is evidenced by the fact that many from towns throughout the county, and even further afield, regularly travel to it to relish a superb shopping experience.

With quality local producers, established family businesses, excellent neighbourhood stores, national and international brands, Thurles is indeed a cutting edge destination, enjoyed by so many for the quality and choice of its retailing outlets. It is the centre for quality, value for money, superb service and a true retailing experience this Christmas.



Thurles Musical Society

Thurles Musical Society has just announced that its 2010 production will be 'Jekyll & Hyde'. The show will run at the Premier Hall in Thurles for five nights from March 23-27 inclusive and will be directed by Tony Finnegan.

The society is very excited about this show which was adapted from Robert Louis Stevenson's 1886 novella "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde". It tells the story of Dr. Henry Jekyll, a brilliant young doctor and research scientist who, distraught over his father's mental illness, embarks upon a quest to isolate the dual elements of good and evil that are constantly struggling for supremacy inside every human being. However, when his experiment backfires, Jekyll inadvertently gives life to Edward Hyde, his evil alter ego, a murderous being who will let loose a reign of terror on the city of London and those who had ridiculed Jekyll's research.

Jekyll & Hyde was originally produced in 1990 at the Houston's Tony Award-winning Alley Theatre. An instantaneous success with audiences and critics alike, it went on to break box office records, and its original run was extended four times during that first summer. In 1995, the show



was remounted by Houston's Theatre Under the Stars and Seattle's 5th Avenue Theatre. Adding to the show's momentum, stars such as Liza Minnelli and The Moody Blues soon began to record songs from the show. Finally, on April 28, 1997, Jekyll & Hyde made its Broadway debut at the Plymouth Theatre. Another resounding success, this production was nominated for 4 Tony Awards. Robert Cuccioli (Jekyll & Hyde) won the Drama Desk award for Best Actor in a Musical. And Linda Eder (Lucy) won a 1997 Theatre World Award for Outstanding Debut Performer in New York.

The show is hugely powerful both musically and dramatically and should appeal to fans of drama as much as fans of musical theatre.

Rehearsals will commence on 7 January and auditions will take place on the weekend of 14/15 January. Thurles Musical Society is always open to new members and will be delighted to welcome anyone who is interested in auditioning for a part or indeed just wishing to join the company for the show.

For further details email info@thurlesmusicalsociety.com

Thurles Drama Group

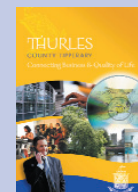
Thurles Drama Group will perform the Brian Friel play, ARISTOCRATS in the Source Arts Centre, Thurles from 22nd February, 2009 to 27th February, 2010.

This play is set in the crumbling home of District Justice O'Donnell. Three sisters and their 'peculiar' brother are home for a family wedding. An unexpected tragedy disrupts arrangements and forces the release of previously suppressed facts.. History and relationships are explored. The future for all becomes quite uncertain. This is one of Brian Friel's most beautiful plays. It is a strong dramatic piece which contains fun and very pleasing music. Aristocrats was winner of the Evening Standard Award for Best Play(1988) and the New York Critics Circle Award (1989).



Pictured left: Geraldine Delaney, Derek O'Connell Donal Ryan, Matt Treacy

contact details:



This newsletter is produced by the Thurles Marketing Group, which comprises of:

Shannon Development, Tipperary North Enterprise Board, North Tipperary County Council, Tipperary Leader, Tipperary Institute, IDA Ireland, Thurles Town Council and Thurles Chamber.

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