

Willie Daly's off to Paris with love

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LISDOONVARNA matchmaker, Willie Daly, could soon be plying his trade on the romantic boulevards of Paris as plans are in place to host a version of the Lisdoonvarna Matchmaking Festival in the French capital next year.

Paris based Irish woman, Patricia Killeen, has committed to hosting a festival of culture, dancing and matchmaking in Paris next September and is hoping to entice Willie Daly to attend.

Killeen published a thesis based on the Lisdoonvarna festival at the Sorbonne University last year and made her first trip to north Clare to see the festival first hand, just last month.

The festival will include a number of Irish cultural and artistic events but, similar to the Lisdoonvarna festival, the main focus will be on dancing and love.

"I am so enthusiastic about bringing the Matchmaking Festival to Paris. I was very impressed with Willie Daly and his daughter and I would love if they can all come over to Paris," she told *The Clare People* yesterday.

"If Willie Daly does agree to come over we'd ask him to pass on some of his matchmaking tips to the Irish barmen who are working in Paris. Paris is a magical place and so is Lisdoonvarna, the

alchemy between the two places could be fantastic. I want to create a real link between Lisdoonvarna and Paris.

According to Patricia, the single people of Paris are crying out for someone like Willie Daly to come along and fix their love-life.

"I think the people of Paris will take to matchmaking straight away. I have many single friends and they are so fed-up with Tinder and all the websites," she said.

"People are getting more into going out and dancing again."

"The websites are grand and they will always exist but people are always looking for new ways to meet people.

"It would be amazing if Willie Daly did make it over to Paris. I think it could be a great preparation events for European women who are planning to travel to Lisdoonvarna.

"I would really like the people from Lisdoonvarna to come and be involved.

"The people who run the

festival, people like Willie Daly, they are probably taken for granted in Ireland. But

looking from the outside in, they are very

special people.

"They are making something that you wouldn't find anywhere else in the world."



NEWSIN BRIEF

Avoids conviction for phone thefts

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A MAN who admitted stealing mobile phones from his teammates during a hurling training session has avoided a criminal conviction.

Barry Guinnane (33) stole an Apple iPhone 6s and an iPhone 5 after rummaging through the owners' bags in dressing rooms at Clarecastle GAA grounds last April.

Last July, Ennis District Court heard Mr Guinnane was attending training at the GAA club when he asked the trainer to leave because he felt unwell.

Following a garda investigation, Mr Guinnane was forthcoming with gardai and admitted having the phones.

Mr Guinnane, with an address at Cluain Ard, Clarecastle, pleaded guilty to two charges of theft of phones at Clarecastle GAA club on April 25, 2017.

Defence solicitor John Casey explained his client stole the phones in order to pay of a drug debt and did not make any gain. He said his client is remorseful.

The case was adjourned for 12 months to allow Mr Guinnane time to engage with the Probation Services.

The services confirmed in Ennis District Court last Wednesday, that Mr Guinnane had complied fully with the services and no further intervention was required.

Mr Guinnane told Judge Patrick Durcan that he is back in employment.

Judge Durcan wished him well and told Mr Guinnane he had trust in him to continue with the progress he has made.

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