in brief

Boardwalk on Clancy's Strand

THE estimated cost of a new boardwalk, to be installed between the Treaty Stone Plaza and the new park on Clancy Strand, is in the region of 750,000 euro.

The city council approved the terms of a grant from Failte Ireland to the council for a grant of 75 per cent (562,500 euro) of the total cost of the project,

It is estimated that completion of the boardwalk will be March 2009.

All kinds of everything in Moyross

LEGENDARY Eurovision songstress and former Irish presidential hopeful, Dana, has two upcoming performances in Limerick this week.

The singer/politician from Derry will perform the 'Holy Hour' with the Monks of Moyross, at the Corpus Christi Parish Church on Friday, November 7 at 7.30pm and Saturday, November 8 at 8.30pm.

Dana, who was the first Irish winner of the famous song contest in 1970, paving the way for future Irish successes, played for Pope Paul II in New Orleans in 1987, singing 'Totus Totus'.

Ten years later, after receiving US citizenship, making her a dual Irish and US citizen, she ran as an Independent candidate in the Irish Presidential elections, but lost out to Mary McAleese. In 1999, she became an MEP representing Connacht-Ulster until 2004.

Northside candidates

RESIDENTS of Caherdavin and part of Moyross, will have the opportunity to vote for their choice of Fine Gael candidates for Limerick City North, (in the local elections of next summer) in the party's selection convention in the Woodfield House Hotel, Ennis Road, on Monday, November 10, at 9pm.

The nominations received are: Cllr Michael Hourigan, Cllr Kevin Kiely and Cllr Cormac Hurley.

Jobs go at Banta

SIXTY-five jobs are to be lost at Banta Turnkey Solutions in Raheen as the company seeks voluntary redundancies.

The Dell sub-contractor supplies computer parts and outsourcing solutions and it is understood that compulsory job cuts will be introduced unless people opt for redundancy.

Banta Turnkey Solutions employs around 700 people, and this news follows additional job cuts at Dell and Flextronics recently.

Blood donors wanted

THE Irish Blood Transfusion Service are holding Blood Donor Clinics in E.G.O. 10, University of Limerick , from Monday, November 10 to Thursday, November 13, inclusive, from 12 noon to 3pm daily.

Open to UL students or staff only, the Irish Blood Transfusion Service is urging donors to come forward as a matter of urgency as it was unable to fill all hospital orders received last Thursday and Friday. And 16,500 donors are needed in the next four weeks.

"Stocks currently stand at 4.5 days, however blood groups A positive and O negative are at three days stock level," said a spokesperson.

Patients on trolleys

THERE were 24 patients on trolleys in the Mid Western Regional Hospital's A&E department this Tuesday, because of a shortage of beds.

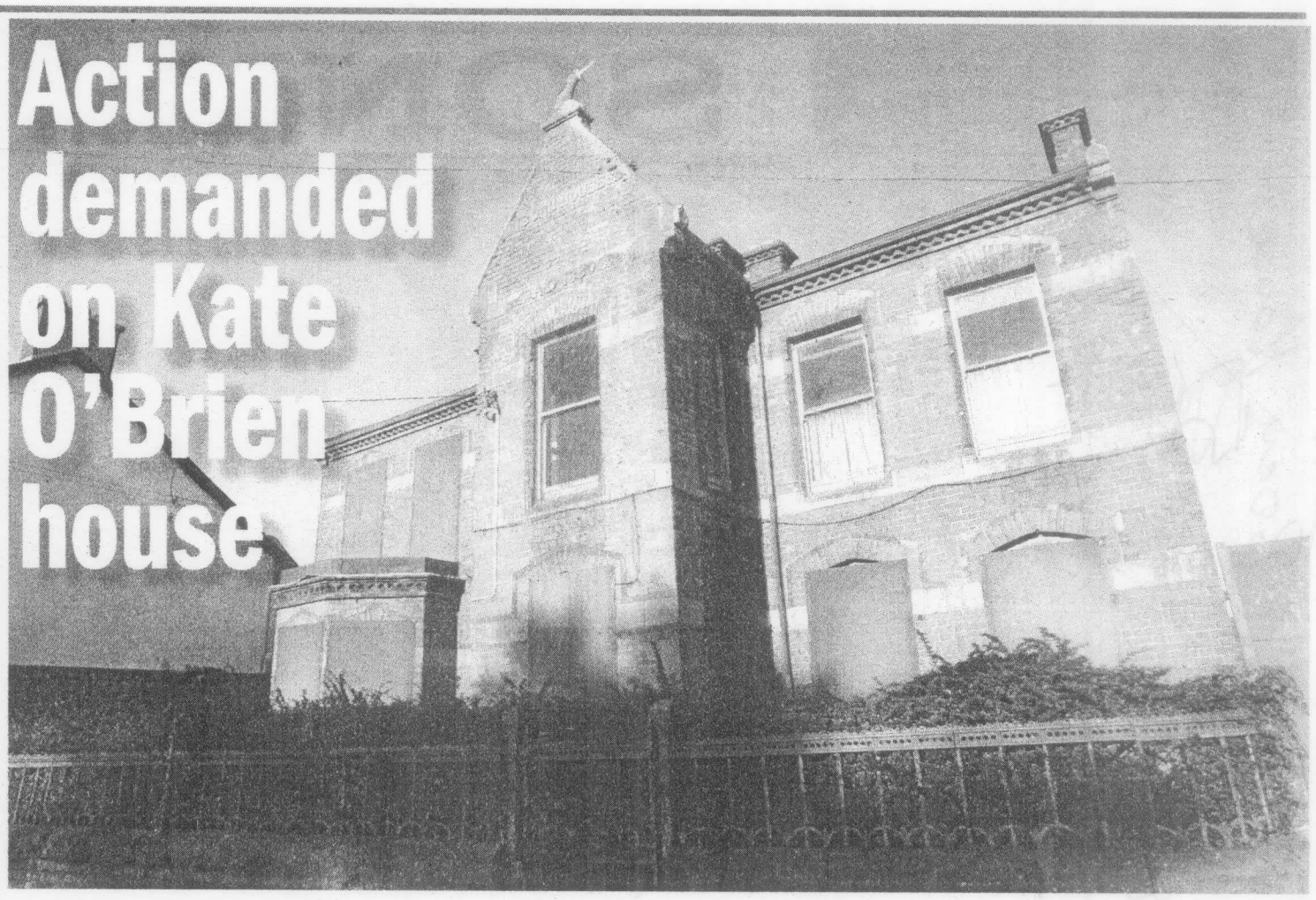
This is according to the Irish Nurses Organisation's Trolley Watch figures, who also report that there were 14 patients on trolleys this Monday.

Heroin valued at 300,000 euro seized

GARDAI seized heroin with a street value of more than 300,000 euro in a planned raid of a Moyross house this Tuesday night.

The "significant" drug's haul was made at a house in Cosgrave Park around 9pm and a woman in her 20's was arrested and questioned in relation to the haul afterwards.

Action demanded on Kate O'Brien house



by Marie Hobbins

CONCERN for the future use of the former home of Limerick's internationally acclaimed author, Kate O'Brien, has been raised by Cllr Pat Kennedy.

Over the past year, Cllr Kathleen Leddin and Cllr Jim Long have frequently called for some plan of action in relation to the Mulgrave Street, red brick residence.

"The house is in a very bad state of deterioration and I suggest that the heritage section of the Board of Works take a look at it, with a view to having it restored," suggested Cllr Kennedy who added:

"I'd like to see the council take a direct approach on this - we could approach Environment Minister, John Gormley, who has such strong links with Limerick city, and see what can be done," he said.

Cllr Kieran O'Hanlon supported Cllr Kennedy's recommendation.

Director of services, Pat Dowling, said he would consider what can be done regarding the house.

'"Maybe an application can be sent to the heritage section of the Board of Works regarding the house,," he told the councillors.

Kate O'Brien was born in 1897 and died in1974

Her mother died when she was five, and she became a boarder in the Laurel Hill convent. On graduating from University College, Dublin, she worked on the Manchester Guardian and as a governess in Spain. She returned to England to marry a Dutch journalist, but they soon parted. Her play Distinguished Villa, was well received in 1926, but she preferred the more solitary occupation of novelist.

Her first novel, Without My Cloak (1931), won both the Hawthornden and James Tait Black prizes. A chronicle of middle-class Irish life, it is, in effect, an Irish Forsythe Saga. Its theme would be constant throughout her novels, namely the struggle (particularly the struggle of Irish women) for individual freedom and love against the constricting demands of family, bourgeois society and Catholic religion.

The heroine of The Ante-Room (1934) is torn between love and Catholic conscience, as is Mary Lavelle (1936). The latter was banned under the Irish Free State's censorship laws, as was O'Brien's novel of convent life, The Land of Spices (1941).

O'Brien's most successful novel was That Lady (1946), set in sixteenth-century Spain. Its heroine is Ana de Mendoza, Princess of Eboli, an independent spirit martyred by the despotic King Philip II. O'Brien adapted it for Broadway, where it enjoyed modest success in 1949 with Katherine Cornell in the title role. It was later made into a film.

Mayor asks - do you litter?

IF the old saying that, perseverance pays off, comes true, then Limerick City Council's ongoing efforts to get people to change their minds about discarding litter on the streets and pathways, must surely pay off.

A recent city centre initiative to encourage smokers to bin their butts was attended by the city's first citizen, Mayor John Gilligan, who encouraged people to ask themselves - Do I Litter?

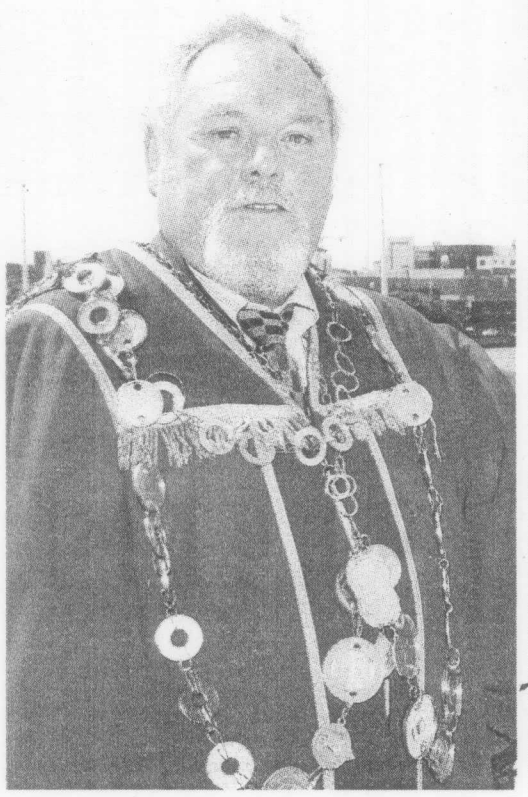
"If the answer is yes, then change your behaviour and put your litter in the bin. Litter is a scourge in our streets and if we are ever to solve the issue, we all need to look at our own habits and behaviour in relation to litter," he urged.

In a recent exercise, 20 city centre shoppers were rewarded for putting their litter in a bin with a 20 euro voucher, and on hand were Live 95FM shadow crew to distribute Bin Your Butt personal ashtrays. Pens and rulers with the free phone litter line, 1800 216 816, and the Love Limerick, Don't Litter message, were also distributed.

Recent surveys show that cigarette related material accounts for 38 per cent of the litter on our streets, and that passing pedestrians account for almost 35 per cent of litter, with gathering points and fast food outlets between 10-15 per cent.

The public is encouraged to use the council's free phone litter line 1800 216 216 to report litter and illegal dumping.

Litter continues to be a major problem on our streets.



Funding for dockers' memorial

THOUGH it is likely that some funding will be secured from the Shannon Foynes Port Company for a new memorial to honour generations of Limerick men who worked in Limerick Docks, it is feared a balance will still have to be found.

However, City Council has been informed by Cllr Kevin Kiely, that there is a tidy little sum of 70,000 available in their coffers, left over from the Main Drainage Scheme, that has been allocated for street sculpture for the city centre.

""Now with that sum given for the Dockers Memorial, we'd only have 30,000 to find and surely that could be obtained from the Book of Estimates," he suggested.

Director of services, Pat Dowling, said they will be seeking financial assistance from the port company for the memorial, which is currently a work in progress that will be unveiled and located on Bishop's Quay in early Spring.