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**LIMERICK LEADER**  
**BECAUSE**  
**LIFE IS**  
**LOCAL**

## DEATHS

**STORAN**, (nee O'Connell), Limerick, Kickham Avenue, Prospect, on the 30th January 2012, peacefully in the loving care of the nurses and staff of Riverdale House Nursing Home, Christina (Christie), formerly of Friends of the Elderly and The Limerick Senior Citizens Club, beloved wife of the late Michael. Very deeply regretted by her loving sons Gerry, Sean and Raymond, daughter Miriam, daughters in law, son in law, sisters in law, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews, nieces, other relatives and a large circle of friends. May she Rest In Peace. Removal from Cross's Funeral Home this Wednesday Evening at 7.30pm to Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Requiem Mass Thursday at 12 noon with burial afterwards in Mt. St. Lawrence (old) cemetery.

# Garda is hailed as a hero by colleagues

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Friends of Mr McMahon have said he enjoyed fishing and hunting and was a member of Ballysheedy Gun Club.

"His brother Paddy still lives in Janesboro and people who knew Tony are devastated. It is very hard to understand what happened because the McMahon family are well liked and respect-

ed," said former mayor, Cllr Ger Fahy.

A garda source said the actions of Newport-based Garda Gerry Brassil on Monday night were heroic.

"He approached the car and as he did a shotgun was produced. One shot was fired at him but missed. He then wrestled with the gunman as Sgt Deborah Marsh used pepper spray," said the source. "There is no doubt

that Garda Brassil's actions saved his life and probably that of Sgt Marsh."

It is understood that following the initial struggle, Mr McMahon fired a number of shots from a rifle which hit the garda car.

As the two unarmed gardai took cover behind their patrol car Mr McMahon turned the rifle on himself.

A taxi driver friend of the

deceased man said he could not believe what happened.

"You couldn't meet a nicer fella, he loved hunting, fishing and dogs and we are all amazed that he could be involved in something like this," he said.

Although investigations are continuing, friends of Mr McMahon, who was widely liked, believe that a personal issue may have driven him to his actions.

His removal will take place from Cross's funeral home at 7pm on Thursday and his funeral mass will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Janesboro at 11am on Friday.

Afterwards he will be buried at Mount St Oliver cemetery.

Tony McMahon is survived by his son, Tony; sisters Geraldine and Joan and his brother Paddy.



**New owners:** The home of Kate O'Brien (inset), Boru House, on Mulgrave Street has sold for over its reserve price of €85,000

Picture: Owen South

# Sale agreed at last for literary home

## New owner lines up for Kate O'Brien property on Mulgrave Street

A SALE has been agreed for the home of famous Limerick writer Kate O'Brien in advance of the upcoming annual literary weekend in her honour.

Auctioneer John de Courcy confirmed that the sale of the house on Mulgrave Street has been agreed for fractionally in excess of its asking price of just €85,000.

However, this does not include the expansive lands to the rear of Boru House.

The sale of the house is currently with both parties respective solicitors, and Mr de Courcy could not comment on this time on what the plans are for the property, or disclose the identity of the buyer. It is expected the sale will be confirmed

**ANNE SHERIDAN**  
**News Reporter**

next week.

The house and site was originally valued at €1.4m, while the house itself would have been valued at €350,000 during the height of the boom. Its price was written down by 76 per cent to lure a buyer, as the property had lain on the agents books for some five years and had declined into a state of dereliction.

During that time numerous city councillors called on the council to purchase the property for it to be used for a civic purpose.

The detached two-storey redbrick building spans

3000 sq ft property and includes seven bedrooms and four additional rooms in the attic.

It was built by the writer's grandfather, Thomas O'Brien, in 1880 and is described of possessing "rich architectural, artistic and historic interest."

The protected structure, has been damaged by fire due to acts of vandalism, but still retains many of its original architectural features.

The works of the writer, who passed away in 1974 aged 77, have given rise to the annual Kate O'Brien weekend in Limerick which will run for three days from Friday, February 24.

The theme for this year's

weekend is 'Tell it slant', a quote from an Emily Dickinson poem about telling the truth.

The Kate O'Brien lecture will be given by Nobel prize winning poet Seamus Heaney on Sunday, February 26 at 12 noon.

Other speakers will include John Boyne, author of the novel *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, which was made into an award-winning film; Frank McNally, a journalist with *The Irish Times*; Susie Boyt, novelist and columnist with the *Financial Times*, and poet Katharine Towers.

Limerick born sociologist Dr Niamh Hourigan will give a talk entitled 'Tell it slant: intimacy and integ-

city in post Celtic Tiger Ireland'.

The annual literary weekend, which is now in its 28th year, is funded by the Arts Council and Limerick City Council.

The readings, lectures and seminars will take place in recently renovated Beltable Arts Centre on O'Connell Street.

Tickets for the events are priced from €10 to €15.

The University of Limerick's Glucksman Library acquired the Kate O'Brien papers in 2002, which include her personal diaries and coverage of her literary life and death.

See [www.kateobrienweekend.com](http://www.kateobrienweekend.com) for full listings of all events.