



Blood supply shortage eases

By PADDY MORONEY

THE problem over blood stocks eased today, with successful donor sessions in the

County Limerick area, but there is still a need for more donations, it was conformed today.

A donor session will be held in Limerick city, this evening.

A spokeswoman for the Limerick branch of the National Blood Transfusion Service said that there had been an attendance of 200 people at one session on Monday in Abbeyfeale and a probable 100 at another in

Rathkeale, last night.

This brought the numbers of units of blood taken within reach of the 300 units normally taken in a week.

Prior to this, because of the flu situation, only about

200 units were being taken over the past few weeks.

"We need to stock up," she said, explaining that there was a need to build up a reserve, in case of emergencies.

"We must have stocks in case of any major accidents. The life of blood is 35 days, so we need to keep taking blood donations."

She said that the Limerick-based service had received a lot of calls, and they were expecting a good response to tonight's blood donation session at the Presentation Convent Hall at Sexton Street.

This will be held 7-9pm.

She said the Service had given them the option of going to either this session, tonight, or to another one at Monaleen National School at Castletroy on Tuesday of next week, when the session would be held from 7.30 to 9pm.

"We cannot be lax with what we have in stock," she added. "We have an obligation to the public to have a reserve."

The spokeswoman explained that the Limerick service, like the Cork service, was part of the National Blood Transfusion Service.

"We are all the one," she pointed out.

There were two mobile units in the province of Munster which travelled the province to take blood at various donor sessions in towns and villages, as well as the cities — Mobile 1 operated out of Cork, and Mobile 2 operated out of the Limerick base.

The two met the blood needs of the Munster area. Blood collected by the Limerick unit was sent to Cork for processing, as Limerick did not have the lab facilities.

Shop is broken into on two nights

ONE of Limerick's best-known newsagents shops, the City News, in Cruise's Street, was "hit" twice in the past two mornings by burglars — on both occasions the window was broken in by a beer keg.

The shop, which is just around the corner from William Street, had its front window smashed in at about 5.20am yesterday morning and about £1,000 worth of cigarettes taken.

A beer keg, used to break in the front window, was found, but the intruders made a clean getaway.

Henry Street detectives were called in and the window repaired.

However, at 5.20am again this morning, the newly-plated front window was again smashed in with a beer keg, and the gardai alerted by the alarm.

A spokesman for Henry Street station told the Limerick Leader, today, that a man was helping the detectives with their enquiries.

City to honour Hunt family

By DYMPHNA BRACKEN

JOHN and Trudy Hunt are to receive the Freedom of the City in recognition of their family's gift of their £50m collection of priceless art to the State.

The unanimous decision of City Council to grant the Freedom to John and Trudy is expected to be announced formally at the official opening of the Hunt museum, by Taoiseach John Bruton on February 14.

John and Trudy who have continued in their parents' philanthropic attitude will no doubt be very popular recipients of the award last granted to Ted Russell, Dr Edward Walsh and Brendan O'Regan in 1995.

John Hunt, acting director of the museum is currently working very hard to ensure that everything is in

place for the official opening expected to be one of the city's major events this year.

The Hunt's parents, John and Gertrude moved to Lough Gur about 1939 where Mr Hunt senior made the first reconstruction of a neolithic house.

This prototype helped in the later reconstruction of such a house at his own experimental archaeology centre at Graggaunowen.

John Hunt encouraged lord Gort to restore Bunratty Castle and suggested the construction of the Folk Park.

Owing to the generosity of Dr Edward Walsh, president of UL, space was allocated within the university to display many of the archaeological and medieval items.

John Hunt died in 1976 and Gertrude his wife died in 1995.

The refurbishment of the Old Custom House, as the permanent home for the Hunt Museum, at last allows the collection to be shown in its entirety.



Frances Morrison, from Ballysimon enjoying the night out in Teds O'Connell Street. (LL)

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Need for crossing

THE difficulty for pedestrians crossing the road, at Quilty's, Thomondgate, was highlighted by Cllr John Ryan, at the City Council last night.

He proposed that money

be found from the Northern Relief Road budget to provide a crossing to ease the difficulty particularly for young mothers and senior citizens.

FINAL REDUCTIONS

LADIES:

Leather Boots: were £80 & £70
NOW £29.99 & £19.99

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