

## Cardiology concern

LIMERICK Fianna Fail TD Willie O'Dea has slammed the HSE policy of transferring cardiology patients from Limerick to University Hospital Galway at evenings and the week-end. Describing it as an "extremely dangerous cut", he said he was sceptical of a HSE claim that a 24-hour service will be resumed in the near future. Deputy O'Dea remarked, "People cannot simply choose not to have a heart attack at the weekend, in the evenings or overnight. They can't choose not to have a certain type of heart attack just so they can be treated nearby."

## MollyMoo's hat trick

LIMERICK mum Michelle McInerney is still in a daze after winning three awards at last Saturday's Blog Awards Ireland in Dublin.

With over 2,000 nominations from all over Ireland in categories varying from politics to food, craft and photography, MollyMoo took the awards for best craft blog, best designed blog and best personal blog.

Michelle McInerney started her MollyMoo blog a little over two years ago. It has grown into a widely followed online home for her ideas on crafts, encouraging children's creativity, stylish finds and personal stories of her journey with her six-year-old daughter Molly.

## Vatican II at Mary I

MARY Immaculate College this week hosted a major conference celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council. The theme of the Conference was Religion and the Public Good and speakers examined contemporary issues affecting the relationship between religion and society in Ireland and Europe. The conference also explored the current relevance of Vatican II's Declaration on Religious Freedom. As well as Bishop Treenor of Down Connor, speakers at the Vatican II Conference included Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor, the Emeritus Archbishop of Westminster; Dr Patrick Connolly of Mary Immaculate College and the journalist Mary Kenny.

## Barnardos' collection

LOCAL volunteers will collect on streets and in shopping centres in Limerick city this weekend for children's charity Barnardos. Its annual national bucket collection will be held on Friday and Saturday when volunteers hope to raise €100,000 to help the charity continue its vital work. Barnardos operates Family Support Centres in Moyross and Southill, working with young people at risk and their extended families. Family support services include projects that provide targeted 'early years' support as well as intensive family and individual support.

## Christmas market

Sixmilebridge Mart will host a Christmas Market on Thursday evening, December 6.

The market will provide an ideal venue for trading in the warmth and light of an undercover market. The market will raise money for St Vincent de Paul and local community groups and the organisers are inviting traders to book their slot early for this event. This can be done by contacting don@smitzcafe.com. People selling crafts and novelty items, Christmas items, home baking, Christmas floral arrangements and other artisan products are all welcome.

## Quiz for centre

WITH the support of Dell making a difference, Our Lady of Lourdes Community Centre is holding a fundraising table quiz night in Fennessy's Pub, New Street on Thursday night, October 25 when there will be fun, refreshments and pot prizes galore. Tables of four cost €20 with a first prize €100. To book a table, contact 061-228596 or just turn up on the night.

# Ger's courage comes to life - 'The Summit'

by Marie Hobbins

THE extraordinary courage of a County Limerick engineer and mountaineer is the subject of a documentary that has just been premiered at the London Film Festival.

Four years ago, Ger McDonnell (37) of Kilcornan was one of the climbers from several international expeditions who converged on high camp at K2, close to Pakistan's northern border with China.

It was their last stop before tackling the summit of Mount Everest, revered among climbers as one of the most dangerous mountains on earth.

48 hours later, 11 of them had lost their lives and Ger McDonnell, who was the first Irish person to reach the summit of Everest, was one of them.

It was the worst climbing disaster on K2 and it occurred when a huge serac (a column of ice) slid down a treacherous gully, known as the Bottleneck, located about 350 metres below the summit.

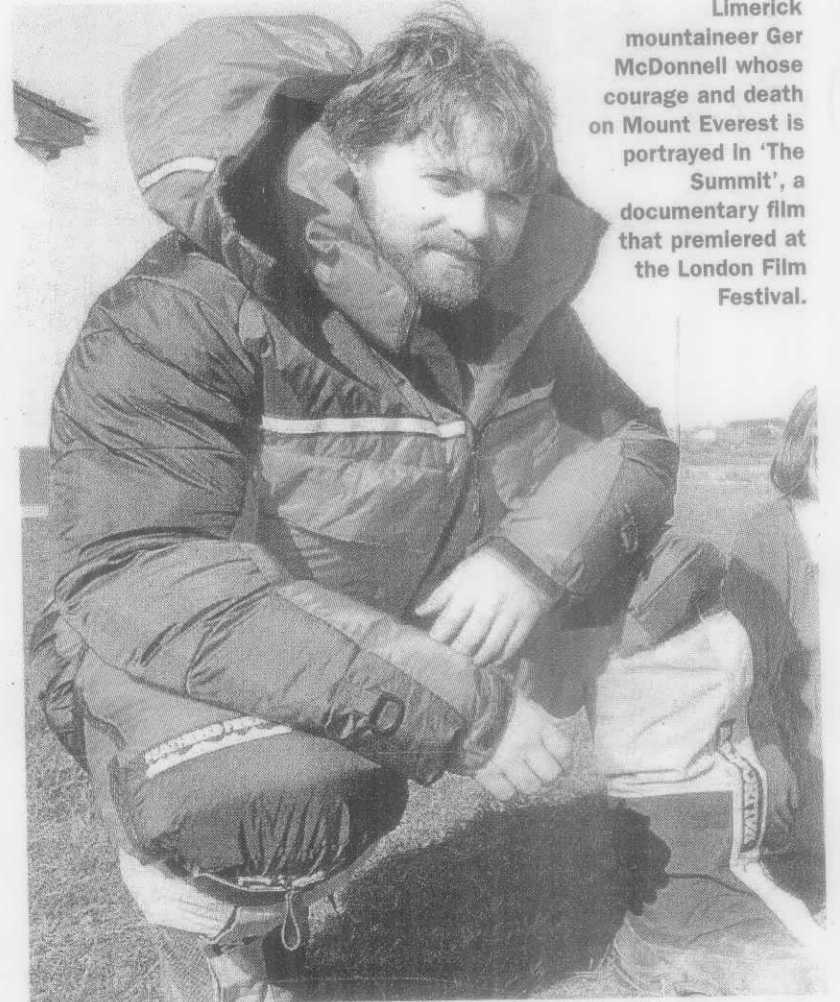
As reported in the Limerick Post at the time, survivors of Ger McDonnell's team said the Limerick man had refused to descend because he was helping injured climbers, a number of whom were left hanging upside down, suspended by their ropes.

In the introduction to the film 'The Summit', the dogged determination and courage of Ger McDonnell in remaining with the climbers to try to rescue them, is highlighted.

In his message of thanks to the production team, a fellow adventurer also acknowledged all those who participated in being part "of this amazing story and for the support given by all of the families and climbers in the making of this film documentary".

"When a climber falls or wanders off the trail, the unwritten code of the mountain is to leave them for dead. Had Ger McDonnell stuck to the climbers' code, he might still be alive", he told the audience.

Since its premiere, 'The Summit' has been as one of the entries for the London Film Festival's Grierson Award for best documentary.



Limerick mountaineer Ger McDonnell whose courage and death on Mount Everest is portrayed in 'The Summit', a documentary film that premiered at the London Film Festival.

## Open House Limerick will uncover the city's secrets

EVER passed a gorgeous house in Limerick, or drove past a hidden gem in the county and would love to have a closer look? Is there a building that you haven't been in since you were a child?

Well, next week you can as some of the city and county's most interesting and unexplored buildings will throw open their doors to the public for the inaugural 'Open House Limerick'.

Gillian McCarthy, co-ordinator of Open House Limerick explains how the concept works.

"From Friday October 19 to Sunday October 21, the inaugural 'Open House Limerick' will allow people to visit buildings usually off limits to the public. You may have often passed some beautiful houses and would love to see what they are like from the inside. Well, we'll be opening the doors of some stunning properties

and the public are welcome to visit as part of this unique weekend in Limerick", she explained.

Some of the houses that will be open to the public include a beautiful 220 year old terraced home on Lower Hartstonge Street and a 1840s city centre terraced property on Wolfe Tone Street which has been extended, renovated and totally modernised. You can even explore one of the underground vaults that are present all over the Limerick city at John's Square.

"There will also be some lovely new buildings open for public viewing in Mary Immaculate College including the new Lime Tree Theatre while UL will also open up Plassey House and the newly built Quigley Residence for public viewing, as well as running an open top bus tour of the campus".

Other buildings involved include The Dominican Biblical Research Centre, Upper Cecil Street, The Chamber of Commerce, O'Connell Street and a number of properties in the county such as Station House in Patrickswell, Fanningstown Castle, Adare and Ballinivrick House, Askeaton.

'Open House Limerick' is delivered in partnership with the Irish Architecture Foundation, The Architects Departments of Limerick City County Councils, Limerick Arts Office and Limerick Regeneration Office. The few days will feature over 30 buildings inviting visitors to explore the city's architecture.

"We are also really excited to be visiting some of the city's very first homes completed under the Limerick Regeneration scheme in Cliona Park, Moyross" continued Gillian. "Visitors will also have a unique opportunity to visit the brand new Critical Care Unit at the Mid-Western Regional Hospital. See it in a way you will never see a hospital again".

"You don't need to be an expert to appreciate impressive architecture. It's all around us, there are so many interesting types of properties in Limerick and I'm delighted to be involved in such a great project," she said.

The event, which is free of charge, has something for everyone, particularly the kids with Junior Open House taking place in Hunt Museum and in Daghdha Space, John's Square. Walking tours including a guided 'Archi-cycle' for all the family from Lock Quay Mills to The Pavilion Restaurant at UL which will take place on Sunday morning, October 21 at 11am.

All the buildings will be manned by volunteers while the architects/homeowners will also be available for tours and to answer any questions.

Admission is on a first come basis and the Critical Care Unit is the only building that requires booking by calling 06-415584.

Full details will be announced at the official launch on this Friday at 6pm in Limerick City Gallery of Art, where Limerick will be welcomed to the Open House family. The schedule is available on [www.openhouselimerick.ie](http://www.openhouselimerick.ie)

