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Editorial

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Premature hype

A RECENT spate of newspaper articles and lectures delivered by eminent sociologists and academics centred on the materialism of today's society. That's a topic that may cause many to yawn and shrug their shoulders in disinterest. It may tweak the conscience of a few who feel slightly uneasy, every now and then about the amount of food that ends up being thrown out, the toys that are rarely played with and the clothes that jostle for position in an overpacked slide robe.

For those whose conscience is still a force to be reckoned with, however, there is a problem with the hijacking of Christmas from its status as the strongest Christian symbol of goodwill and generosity to the overblown orgy of marketing and selling that now commences even before the first tinge of autumn touches the leaves on the trees.

Days after the children returned to school in September, and way before Halloween pumpkins began to make their appearance in the supermarkets, Christmas decorations and other festive fare were enjoying prominent positions in shop displays. Toys were also lining the shopping centre aisles, probably giving mothers pushing trolleys and trying to keep control of little tots, a huge headache. Whatever happened to the exciting lead-up, mounting anticipation, hints to parents, letters to Santa and prayers to God that the much-hoped-for present would make its way into your stocking this Christmas?

This fast-forwarding of the Christmas hype and the proliferation of all things Christmassy, months before the birthday of Jesus Christ, is not the practise in many European countries who wait until just two or three weeks before Christmas to lead into the festivities.

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"About two years ago, the area in question was restored by members of our council - there are many

Neither do we want a building looking on to the school"...

It was their understanding that the site was to be leased for development to a

ing but will wait until we see the plans submitted to city hall. We saw what happened at the Edward Street side of the People's Park, so it is only rea-

be sold and redeveloped.

Limerick City Council said that while the property was owned by the Harbour

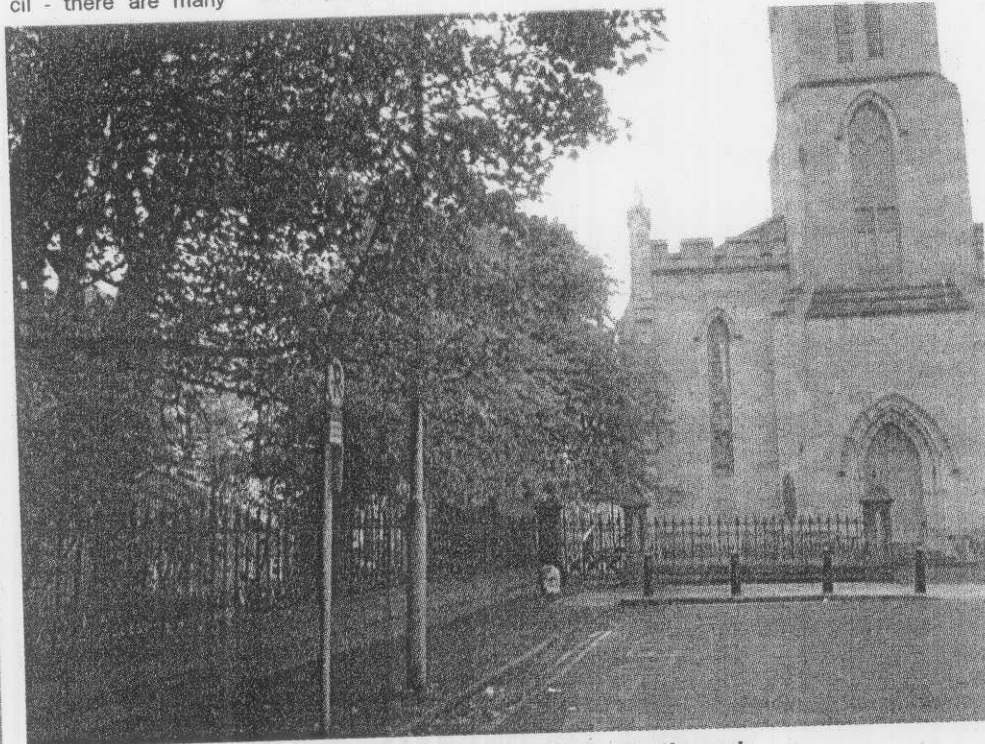
copy of the boatclub lease. While speculation regarding the future of the premises continues, no planning application has been lodged by the committee.

The Limerick Boat Club is 126 years old and is a protected structure. The site on which it stands is classed as open space under the Limerick City Council's Land Use Zoning Map.

The Limerick Boat Club, one of the oldest in the country, is 126 years old.

Efforts by this newspaper to contact officers of the LBC failed.

It has emerged that the LBC, which was one of Limerick's alternative live venues for music, is to close next month after a licence renewal was refused. The venue will close on November 9.



St Michael's church on Pery Square which is adjacent to the park.

old plants and trees there and it would be a shame if they were to be removed.

"The feeling among many parents is that any new building would not be in keeping with the area, and detract from the beauty of Pery Square and its magnificent Georgian facades.

local professional firm, and would continue to remain in the ownership of the Church of Ireland.

A spokesperson for the Limerick Archaeological Society told the Limerick Post that they were keeping a watching brief.

"We are aware that something is happen-

sonable that a watching brief be kept. "The Church of Ireland may have the best intentions for the site, we just don't know at the moment".

Meanwhile, there is speculation that the Limerick Boat Club and the site on which it stands under Sarsfield Bridge, is to

Commissioners they transferred their interest to the council in the early nineties. This means that Limerick City Council hold the "superior lease" on the premises.

However, the Limerick Boat Club committee have recently asked for a

End of era as O'Sullivan's Shoes close

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customers find more convenient for free parking and handy locations.

Unfortunately that O'Sullivan's Shoes is clos-

Centre and the Savoy Centre will change things," she said. Ms O'Brien added that the high rates have also affected small businesses.

"They did come down this year and we are hoping that

Mayor puzzled at lack of a CIE response

by Marie Hobbins

LIMERICK City Council's interest in acquiring a city centre site owned by CIE have failed to elicit a positive response from the transport company.

Despite ongoing approaches, CIE has given no indication so far of its plans for the four acre site on Carey's Road. Adjacent to another site, formerly owned by Guinness, and which City Council purchased some years ago, the combined sites would provide the local authority with a substantial city zone for appropriate development

The fact that CIE has categorised the site as "non-essential" to their requirements, makes it all the more puzzling, according to Mayor Joe Leddin, and also that the company is displaying no active interest in selling on the site.

Talking to the Limerick Post, Mayor Leddin said: "The Council is frustrated that we can't secure the land. "Combined with the old Guinness site now in our possession, this would provide great scope for a desirable mixed development of housing, retail and recreational components. For years as a councillor, I raised the issue of the old Guinness site and now as mayor I'm going to write to the Board of CIE to ask them to dispose of their unused site which is now attracting illegal dumping, anti-social behaviour and all sorts of