

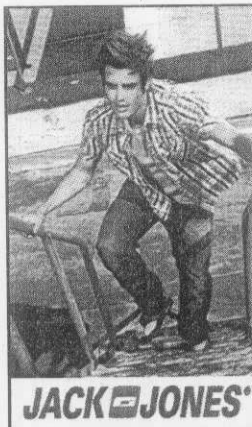
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## Boat club trade-off

Exclusive by  
Marie Hobbins

YET ANOTHER towering 20-storey glass fronted building could soon dominate the Limerick skyline

The building is proposed for the riverside site at Limerick Boat Club, who, as part of the package, will be provided with a new headquarters, at the same location. The club is also promised a yearly financial bonus.

The Limerick Post has learned that Michael Daly, who acts for the Fordmount Consortium, is behind the project. Fordmount are responsible for the Marriott Hotel and shops on Bedford Row. It was earlier revealed a footbridge across the river, from the Boat Club to Poor Man's Kilkee, and leading into Bedford Row, was in the pipeline.

Concerns regarding the development have been expressed by Cllr Kathleen Leddin, who claims a devel-

oper has been in communication with City Council executives regarding the structure, to be built when the boat club is demolished.

The councillor, who earlier this week was told by director of services, Kieran Lehane that he was unaware of any preplanning process, called on the city planners to be sensitive to all aspects of the design plans, with particular relevance to the building's impact on the prime quayside site.

"We must be very careful that we don't ruin this vital part of the riverscape and also what we do with the Limerick Boat Club. Unfortunately, on the other side of the river, the Hilton Hotel complex is very disappointing, architecturally - we must ensure that whatever goes up here is vastly superior, more appropriate to its setting and more attractive to the eye".

Continued on page 4

Sarah Lynch, Eightball Promotions, Shane O'Connor, Absolutehotel.com and Tara Hartigan, ID Essential pictured at the launch of this year's River Feast - The World BBQ Cook-Off at the Absolutehotel.com Limerick



### weather



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## Westbury clash with GAA club

by Marie Hobbins

RESIDENTS of Corbally's Westbury, who mounted a protest on Tuesday evening against the development of an all weather GAA pitch opposite their homes, are angry that they were not consulted by the local club.

However, Harry O'Boyle, administrator of the Parteen/St Nicholas GAA Club, which has submitted a planning application for the new pitch and facilities, said they are more than willing to meet with the residents.

The residents insist that, if granted, the new facility will bring substantially increased road traffic into their residential cul-de-sac, will prevent their young children playing safely on a green area outside their homes and will reduce the value of their properties.

There are 21 children under the age of 13 residing in the cul-de-sac area.

Another concern is the floodlighting, which, residents claim, is excessive.

"We feel that twelve 1000watt lights is too much, the positioning of the lights is questionable as side lighting rather than corner lights are proposed," said a spokesperson.

"We are also bothered that the timing for the lights is 8am to 10pm, which indicates that the pitch will be used 14 hours daily, added to which there will be traffic during these hours in our cul-de-sac. We've already witnessed the cul-de-sac being blocked by queues of cars waiting for the opening of the entrance gates to

Continued on page 4



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## Editorial

### Cop on, motorists

All men are equal but some are more equal than others, or so the adage goes. However, in Limerick, the same could be applied to the city's motorists.

It seems that qualms over the blocking of traffic, the progress and safety of other road users or the obstruction of the view of other motorists, are non-existent considerations when certain moron motorists take to the roads.

Motorists park, convenient only for themselves, along double yellow lines, atop footpaths or well outside them, on corners, in loading and taxi bays, even in disabled spaces.

Vehicles can be seen double parked on Limerick streets in rows - more than likely, a kickback to an era when fewer cars shared the city's wide thoroughfares. But, with an ever growing number of cars on our streets, this practise is increasingly impractical.

One vehicle sporting learner plates and hazard lights but no driver, was spotted straddling the lines between two lanes on one of the city's busiest streets on Wednesday morning, while those motorists behind were thrown into confusion and traffic congestion ensued.

"I only ran into the shop for two minutes," the guilty will respond. But the two minutes turns into five while other motorists are forced to veer into the opposite lane or risk edging out into traffic they can't see coming.

To all those vehicle users who consider themselves a step above - we are all equal on the road. Cop yourselves on.

### Work stoppages deferred

WORK stoppages at the Mid-Western Regional Hospital and St John's, have been deferred, pending negotiations being held by the National Implementation Body (NIB).

Nurses were due to take part in a one-hour work stoppage at St John's Hospital, this Wednesday, April 25, between 11am and 12 noon. And further stoppages were due to take place at the Mid-Western Regional Hospital and Limerick Mental Health Services this Friday, April 27, at the same time.

The NIB is involved in talks with both the INO and the Psychiatric Nurses Association, in an effort to resolve their demands for a 35-hour working week and 10 per cent pay rise.

The nurses work to rule, where they are refusing to answer phones and input data into computers, however, will continue.

## Diary Dates

### THURSDAY 26

CLIODHNA Shanahan plays piano, Goodman Room, Mary Immaculate College, 1.10pm. Berg, Kinsella, Beethoven. Free in.

LOST Futures, support group for bereaved parents, meets weekly Pastoral Centre, Denmark St, 7.30pm.

LIMERICK Philosophical Society: Treasa Campbell MA on Bridging The Fact Value Divide: A Humean Approach. Room 37 in Mary Immaculate College, 8pm.

### FRIDAY 27

FRIENDS of Hunt Museum hold biannual corpo-

# Boat club trade-off

continued from page 1

Cllr Leddin told the Limerick Post that although she failed to receive confirmation of preplanning discussion, she is reliably informed that the project is in train.

When contacted, Mayor Joe Leddin who is a longstanding member of Limerick Boat Club, disclosed that a leading city developer is actively engaged in driving the project forward.

"The boat club, which was built in 1870, is in a rapidly declining state of repair and professionally, we've been told that the best option is to demolish it and rebuild but financially, the club is in dire straits. The developer has come up with a deal on the basis

that we surrender the site and he would build us a state-of-the-art boat club, slipways and the finance to buy new rowing boats. From the rents he secures from the upper floors of the building, which will be anything from 10 to 20 storeys high, he would pay us a fixed annual income, to be reviewed periodically. We would get a beautiful new club, great boat facilities and rowing on the river - as it is we've almost ceased to exist."

"I can tell you there has been discussion with the officials in City Hall and the next step is to look at the drawings".

At a meeting of Limerick City Council, John Field, head of finance, said that as the boat

club site is zoned residential, a rezoning would be required to facilitate commercial development.

Mayor Leddin points out that should the developer opt to install a gym, leisure centre and other sports facilities in the new building, a rezoning would not be required.

"As part of the project, a new footbridge would link the site with Poor Man's Kilkee. The city would retain one of the oldest boat clubs in the country and gain a new landmark building to enhance the riverside, but I share Cllr Kathleen's concern that the project must be one that will greatly enhance rather than diminish the riverscape," he said.



Cllr Kathleen Leddin in front of Limerick Boat Club on Sarsfield Bridge

### Westbury clash with GAA club

continued from page 1

the existing pitch on both match and training days, which poses a risk to our safety and a hindrance to emergency services, should the need arise."

The residents claim that damage has already been caused to their vehicles by traffic going and coming from the present pitch.

Speaking to the Limerick Post, Mr O'Boyle said that the project has received great support from the local youth club.

"Unfortunately, there's already a lot of anti-social activity in Westbury and people are claiming that youngsters have nothing to do. We could have sold

the ground we own to developers but we made a commitment to the people and feel that the pitch will be a benefit to the area. Our club, which is in existence for 27 years, can't stand still

"The people objecting knew the pitch was there when they moved into the housing estate - did they not ever think that this would be further developed.

"However, there's no problem so big that we can't find a solution to it," he said.

The residents, however, are also concerned that if granted, the extended pitch facilities will bring bush drinking, loitering, noise and visual pollution and a disturbance to natural habitats for wildlife.

### Water protesters removed

DEMONSTRATORS who staged an overnight sit-in at Limerick County Hall on Monday to protest over being connected to the "highly polluted," river Deel, were removed from the building.

Limerick County Council confirmed that it sought an injunction in the High Court to have the protesters removed "as a result of this unacceptable

protest".

Members of the Kildimo/Pallaskenry Bleach Lough Water Retention Committee initially disrupted Limerick County Council's monthly meeting, by shouting at management and councillors from the viewing gallery. They were eventually told that they could give a statement after the meeting was over. However,

they refused to leave after they didn't receive an assurance that the Deel water would be disconnected.

The protesters maintain that the County Council has broken a High Court order by disconnecting their homes in Pallaskenry from the Bleach Lough water supply and connecting them to a supply from the "filthy" Deel. See pg 22 for more.

rate golf classic at Limerick Golf Club. Tee 9am, 4 players at 600euro. Sponsor a tee 250euro. SATURDAY 28

LIMERICK City Sports Partnership in conjunction with Irish Red Cross with Sports Specific First Aid course; 58 Henry St, 9.30pm-4.30pm. 30euro.

SIMON Open Door Day sees Limerick RIAI architects volunteer professional advice for 60euro/hour; book on via [www.simonopendoor.ie](http://www.simonopendoor.ie).

### SUNDAY 29

SHERRY FitzGerald Walkathon departs Henry St 2pm. 10k walk to raise funds for Temple Street Children's Hospital; David Wallace leads. Register T. 418 111 or email [walkathon@sherryfitz.ie](mailto:walkathon@sherryfitz.ie)

WORLD cinema at the Belltable season screens

at 8.30pm the bi-op Leonard Cohen: I'm Your Man. Guest 6euro and members.

### MONDAY 30

INTERCESSION Marian for Priests weekly 8-9pm at Reparation Convent, Sth Circular Rd. tel. 087-7679511.

WOMEN in Business Initiative presents Michele O'Dwyer, Entrepreneurship at UL, 7.30pm Woodlands Hotel, Adare: Marketing for Profit. Free but register 061-319319.

### TUESDAY 1

PHOTOGRAPHY course for men improving information skills; 8 weeks, transport between Kileely CDP, St Munchin's and UL; tel. 087-6283659.

FIT4LIFE resumes for 7 weeks Tuesdays, 7.30pm at University Arena Sports Bar. 2.5m

## in brief

### Asgard to dock in Limerick

THE Asgard will arrive in the Shannon Estuary on May 3, overnighing in Kiltrush marina. It will arrive in Limerick docks where the ship will be made ready for viewing by the public on May 5.

A competition will be held and every visitor will be entered into a raffle for a trip of their choice from the sail training programme on the Asgard.

### Arthritis Limerick 25 years

ARTHRITIS Limerick Branch, is celebrating 25 years of supporting people with arthritis and those who care for them in the mid-west. They are looking for people to take part in the women's mini marathon on June 4. Contact Anne on 0863127935

### Body building c'ships

THE Millennium Theatre will host The Irish Open Body-building championships this weekend. Dorian Yates, six time Mr. Olympia, will fly from the US. Yates will host a seminar on nutrition and fitness from 2pm to 4pm, open to everyone.

### 1.34mn boost for city arts

CITY arts venues are benefiting through the 1.34mn euro allocated to facilities by Minister John O'Donoghue. The Belltable Arts Centre was given 882,000euro while St. John's Square was allocated 460,000euro, through the Access 11 2007 - 2009 scheme.

Upwards of 70% of the funds under the scheme will be directed towards the enhancement and/or refurbishment of existing facilities, with 30% available for new facilities.

### Prospects for peace at UL

A free one-day international conference Prospects for Peace and Democracy in the Democratic Republic of Congo, will be held at UL, on May 5.

The day will be followed by a Congolese evening of music at the The Stables Bar.

The conference will bring together academics, international analysts, development experts, human rights activists and politicians, to explore the root causes of the ongoing conflict in the DR Congo.

### Boherbouy win titles

BOHERBUOY Band have bridged a time frame of almost three decades in becoming National Champions for 2007. Under musical director, Derbhile De Paor, they took an impressive series of awards at New Ross.

They won all three prizes in the Concert Section Category 3: Overall Winners, Best Test Piece and Best Choice Piece.

### JP aids Down Syndrome

JP McManus has come to the aid of Down Syndrome Limerick to the tune of 650,000euro. The money will go towards a new building at the Castletroy Park complex and will benefit 160 families who are members of the organisation.

walk or jog. 061-468542.

### WEDNESDAY 2

LIMERICK Alzheimer Society hosts Career Meeting at 7pm, 1 Grattan St, off John Street. Tel. 061-313456, 24hr answering service.

SI Schizophrenia Ireland carers group meets Social Services Centre, Henry Street, 8pm monthly. Tel. Noelle 061-451480.

ALAN Garvey is White House Poet's guest for 9pm; much published poet and MA scholar bar in Carlow. Finger food.

### THURSDAY 3

ADD Mid West support group meets 8pm. ADD office, Limk Enterprise Development Park, Roxboro Road. All welcome; helpline 01 312621.