

## LEADER BRIEFS

## Raheen ICA

The next meeting of Raheen Guild of the Irish Countrywomen's Association will be held in the Parish Centre, Raheen this Wednesday, May 7, commencing at 8pm.

A Cookery Demonstration has been arranged, which should prove to be of interest to Members. Members are also reminded that the annual Membership Fee is now due; in addition, fares for the forthcoming excursion to Galway will be collected (the coach will depart Raheen Church at 9am sharp).

## Blood Donor Clinic

A mobile blood donor clinic will be present at the Greenhills Hotel, Ennis Road next Monday May 12 from 6pm to 9pm. The Irish Blood Transfusion Service are encouraging new and existing donors to attend. For more information, log on to [www.ibts.ie](http://www.ibts.ie) or phone 061 306 980

## RTE's GAA schedule

RTE have announced their range of programming for this year's GAA hurling and football championships. 2008 will be the state broadcaster's 30th year of GAA coverage, and they are to mark the occasion with a range of television and radio programmes.

Limerick Leader columnist Martin Kiely will be among the pundits on Radio 1's match coverage, while staples such as 'The Sunday Game' and 'Sunday Sport' are to return.

## Fewer graduates hired so far

A quarter of large employers believe their graduate intake will decrease in 2008 compared to the previous year, a new employment survey has shown. Gradireland conducted the research with 211 graduate employers around the country between January and March 2008. It found that only 2 per cent of the surveyed firms believed they would increase their graduate intake this year.

## TV Licence

THE Communications Minister Eamon Ryan has launched [www.tvlicence.ie](http://www.tvlicence.ie), a secure and easy new website facility for buying and renewing a television licence. As well as buying or renewing a licence, householders and businesses can use the new on-line facility to update their contact details, should they move house or premises during the term of their licence

# An Taisce objects to Boatclub plan

By ANNE SHERIDAN

THE heritage body An Taisce have said they intend to lodge an objection against the proposed €20m development on Sarsfield Bridge, which would see the Boatclub demolished in favour of a new modern building which would facilitate the rowing club.

Local An Taisce spokesperson Dan Sullivan said they will also be urging people to lobby their city councillors to ensure the Boatclub, which is a protected structure, is not de-listed and that they do not change the zoning of the site from open use to mixed use development.

"I would challenge each councillor in turn that might seek to renege on their previous position to explain what exactly has changed. It is sad that what was proving to be a thriving alternative music venue was shut down so the Boatclub building could be allowed lie vacant in order to justify this application," said Mr O'Sullivan.

He said he agrees that the "boat sheds aren't exactly architecturally inspiring" but believes that the building should be retained.

The public have also been voicing their views on the proposed development on architectural websites and the local Limerick Blogger site since the Limerick Leader exclusively revealed the full plans proposed by Fordmount Developments last week.

Some bloggers described the plans as "a bloody disgrace", while others said they are "bold, ambitious and certainly a break from



The proposed new €20million Boat Club on Sarsfield Bridge as envisaged from Shannon Rowing Club

the norm." One blogger on the architectural website, [archiseek.com](http://archiseek.com), said: "I can see both sides of the argument - the developers want to create something modern and striking, while others want to see the past preserved."

Others said while they liked the designs drawn up by the Belfast based architects McCann Moore, they believed it may not be suitable for that location and instead should be located in another area of the city, such as the docklands.

Concerns regarding traffic flow during construction, if the development is given the go-ahead by the city planners on June 26, was also expressed as a concern by a number of people.

Developer Michael Daly of Fordmount Developments has said he will simply "walk away from the plans" if the public are unhappy with the designs. "I really hope people will look at these plans and say 'That's fantastic.' That's the reaction I want to get. If they don't want it, we'll forget about it. It's now a question of whether the city wants

this building or not," said Mr Daly. To date, Labour Cllr Joe Leddin, Fine Gael Cllr Jim Long, Fine Gael Cllr Kevin Kiely have all given the development the thumbs-up, while Limerick Boatclub, who would be rehoused in the new four storey development believe, it is a "win-win situation" for the rowing club. Independent Cllr Kathleen Leddin said she believes the current Boat Club - which is a protected structure - should be upgraded, rather than demolished.



An artist's view of the proposed boatclub from Sarsfield Street

Admirals Colours: Navy, Navy bordoux, Brown, Navy Green Sizes: 3-13 €99

LEAVY'S SHOES

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15 William St. Limerick