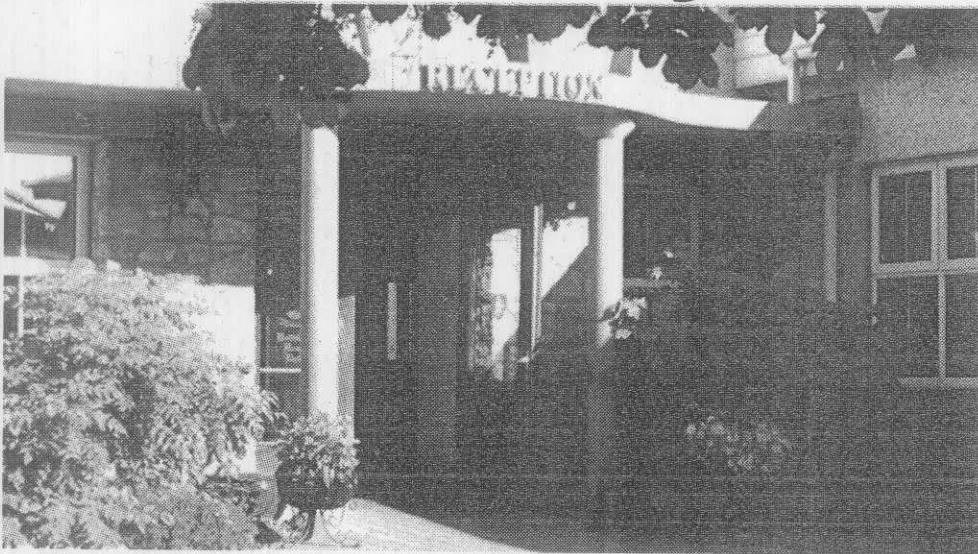


# Rathkeale House Hotel closes after 13 years



AFTER 13 years trading, the Rathkeale House Hotel closed its doors for the last time this week.

Two months ago, the Limerick Post reported that owner Tadgh O'Connor had decided to close the hotel to allow the family concentrate on other aspects of their business.

There had been rumours that it was about to be taken over by a medical practitioner, with a view to transforming it into a nursing home.

However, this was denied by Mr O'Connor.

"We did not have any direct approach for the property," he told the Limerick Post.

Times, he said, had changed since they opened the hotel in that the industry had

become very competitive and costs had escalated.

He also confirmed at the time that no family member was interested in taking control.

"We opened around the same time that Gerry Fitzgerald's Rathkeale Hotel hotel had closed," he added, and went on to thank all who had supported them.

Tadgh O'Connor runs a highly successful hardware and furniture business.

The Rathkeale House Hotel was a popular venue for weddings and GAA functions and gave valuable employment in the area.

Over 30 people were employed there, including part-time staff.

## Prepare for the Beast of Ballyhoura

THE Beast of Ballyhoura takes place from July 30 to August 1 and is a uniquely Irish 36 hour non-stop adventure race across the ancient and magical surroundings of counties Cork, Limerick and Tipperary.

Mixed teams of four mountain run, bike, kayak, abseil, orienteer and shoot, navigating the best route to win.

Entrants are advised to prepare to meet their demons during this event designed to push each team to their limits.

The Beast of Ballyhoura also incorporates the 6th All Ireland Inter Services Challenge to unearth Ireland's toughest service men and women.

The Ballyhoura Blitz takes place on Sunday August 1. The race is designed for individuals looking for the experience of adventure racing.

The race will cover a distance

of 30km consisting of a 10km hill run followed by 20km of mountain biking on the world class Ballyhoura Mountain Bike Trails. It will involve some adventure terrain, a little

orienteering and competitors should be prepared to get wet.

Ballyhoura, a wonderful amenity, is a short distance from Limerick city, and attracts thousands of tourists each year.



## Kilkee Bay Suites

## Garden Day in Limerick for cystic fibrosis

ON this Sunday, July 25, O'Connell's Foynes will host a garden day to aid of cystic fibrosis from 2-6pm.

The gardens are situated in the grounds overlooking the scenic Shannon in Limerick.

A haven for enthusiasts of a colourful collection of rhododendrons, azaleas, bamboos, primulas and many more name a few.

All funds raised are earmarked for the development by Tipperary, Limerick Cystic Fibrosis (TLC4CF).

Agnes O'Brien says they are planning a new adult unit in the Limerick branch, two floors to cater for in and outpatients.

The organisation's plans are being applied for planning permission this month.

## Dublin plans to treat Shannon water

PROPOSALS by Dublin City Council to treat water from the Shannon at a cost of 10 million litres per day, and to supply Dublin for domestic, commercial and industrial consumption, led to the introduction of the Limerick Branch of the Water Alliance this week.

The Dublin plan was revealed last week.

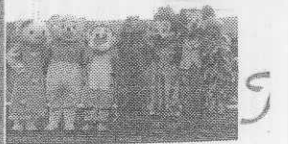
The SPA is completely opposed to any interference with these water rights, claim, signal the death knell for the water course, with untold ecological, environmental, recreational and commercial health.

Branches of the SPA already exist in Lough Derg, and the plan is being established to join in to prevent these proposals from approval.

The initial task will be to raise awareness of the proposals, the implications, than exists at present, and thereafter to plan appropriate active opposition.

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