

into their lives and a glimpse into the physical and mental lengths they go to for

ASSOCIATION WITH HORSE  
**Racing Ireland (HRI) airs on RTÉ One this Thursday at 8.30pm.**

when I was young. We used to go in and spray ourselves at the

late mother. While many have criticised the

them to be able to sit back and relax while you give your mum

point of the day was breaking her Lenten fast.

Lydia, who is an only daughter, describes

# Iconic Limerick hotel goes into receivership

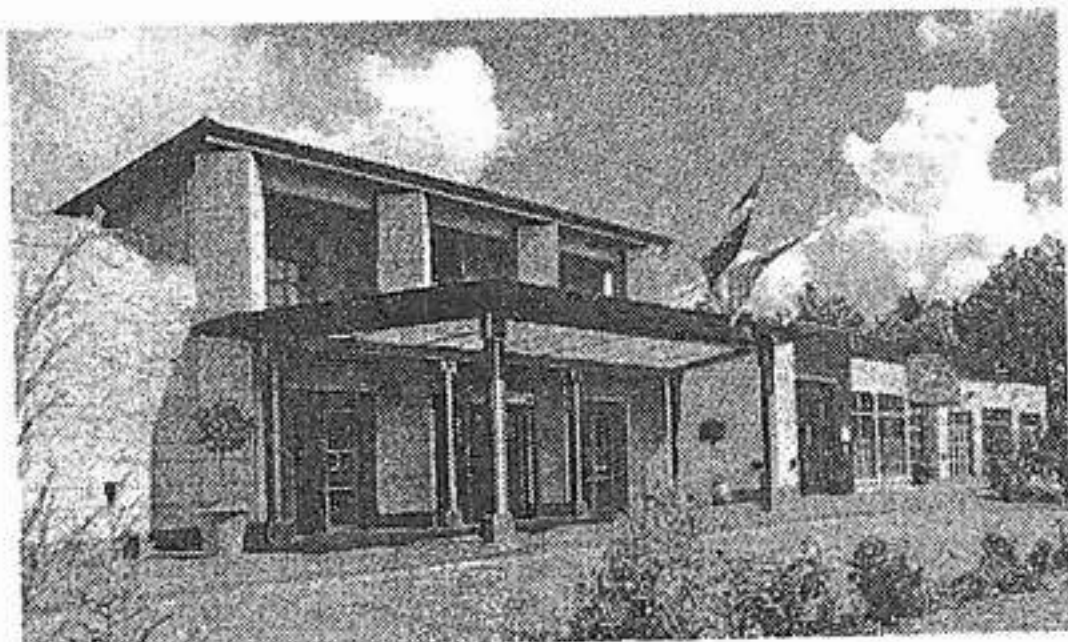
**Nick Rabbitts**

ONE of Limerick's most iconic hotels is facing an uncertain future.

A receiver was appointed to the Radisson Blu Hotel on the Ennis Road this Tuesday, leaving 60 staff at the four-star chain fearing for their jobs.

The business was continuing to operate as normal on Wednesday, and it is hoped a receiver can find a solution to keep the business operational.

From its opening in 1970 until approximately ten years ago, the hotel was



**The Radisson Hotel on the Ennis Road has gone into receivership, with 60 jobs threatened**

known as the Limerick Inn, and was popular with generations of local people.

Set in landscaped gardens at the foot of the Clare hills, the hotel is a popular wedding venue.

Business events have

been held there in the past, and it was the count centre for many general elections.

When the American hotel chain, Radisson, bought the hotel, they invested millions in refurbishing it.

At the night of its

reopening, more than 2,000 people turned up.

They were treated to a sumptuous buffet including lobsters and champagne.

The Limerick Inn was opened in time for former American president Richard Nixon's visit in 1970.

It was a race to get the building in a safe condition ahead of the high-profile visit, with a planning row erupting in the run-up.

Irish Hotel Federation president Michael Vaughan believes the hotel can remain open.

"It is a crucial piece of infrastructure for the Mid-West. It is a hotel

with a huge potential. If everyone puts their shoulders to the wheel around the Radisson, then I think we will have a decent outcome. I think there is a future for it," he said.

Mr Vaughan said many hotels in the country are facing similar problems.

"Generally, the receiverships are brought in to try and make sure the hotel has a future going forward and gets restructured," he added.

It is not the first hotel to face problems: the nearby Two Mile Inn closed two years ago after going into receivership.

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# Lifelong festival of learning

**Anne Sheridan**

FROM learning how to bake bread to how to calm a frazzled mind, almost 200 free courses will be available to the public during the Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival.

Running from March 18 to 24, the festival is encouraging people to pick up a skill they have always dreamed of or venture for something completely new.

At its launch



throughout the county, including a walking tour of the Blackhill Organic Farm in Newcastle West and a Grow your own fruit and vegetables event at Abbeyfeale community education centre.

Many of the events will be featured in the Thomond Park Showcase on Saturday, March 23, from 11am to 2pm. It also includes free entry to the Thomond Park Museum.

The online radio

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