

15.00  
is like Tag Rugby/Spongees  
(Uni Hoc) for one hour on our  
your way to fun on our new  
sports party guarantees fun

oice of four of the following  
rts plus Bouncy Castle  
etball, Indoor Soccer, Spongees  
Tag Rugby or Uni Hoc  
ur court activity  
mins Bouncy Castle fun

4pm-6pm  
& Sun: 1pm-6pm  
€ 20  
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arsity Arena member of staff

1.00  
at hour of fun and play on our  
or all!!  
Bouncy Castles  
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4pm-6pm  
& Sun: 1pm-6pm  
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arsity Arena member of staff

our indoor courts,  
two of the following sports  
Indoor Soccer or  
y

ir activity  
4pm-6pm  
& Sun: 1pm-6pm  
itional child €5 each

**NEW Wrecking Ball Inflatable**  
High Energy Fun Game

Abarna

**12TH MEMBERSHIP**  
blic €125 Under 18, €65  
years €65

IM Swimming Pool during Public Hours  
Room - Extensive Cardio Fitness Centre  
m, 3 lane Suspended Jogging Track  
tal Body Workout

# Lena's Phelan sew good about reopening shop

Anne Sheridan

KNITTING is back in vogue for thrifty followers of fashion in these recessionary times, the proprietor of one of Limerick's longest running knitting and sewing shops has said.

Crecora resident Lena Phelan, originally from Kilkishen, Co Clare, opened the store in 27 William Street 14 years ago.

"It's an age-old craft that really has come to light and become very fashionable. The recession has been a good thing for us. There have never many as many people knitting in all their lives as in the recession, and there's lovely patterns to choose from now. You can knit what you want and what you like," she said.

Knitting, she agrees, has suddenly become very fashionable thanks to the likes of actresses such as Julia Roberts knitting in between film takes, and top models knitting back stage at runway shows.

The year 1995 is one that Ms Phelan will never forget - she opened her store, and Clare won the All-Ireland hurling final.

However, the morning of Thursday, January 14 last, was equally memorable, but for all the wrong reasons.

"We came in here to find water pouring down all over the place. The ceiling had fallen down, and the lights were hanging from the ceiling. It was one whole mess. Since then it



**Back in business: Lena Phelan of Lena's sewing and Knitting Centre which has reopened following an enforced closure due to flood damage** PICTURE: JOAN CROWLEY

has been a nightmare really. I would never go through it again," said Ms Phelan.

However, Lena's Sewing and Knitting Centre is due to re-open this Friday, February 19, at 9.30pm, after being forced to close for five weeks due to flooding from an upstairs premises.

She estimated that thousands of balls of wool, among other items, were completely destroyed, while other items can't be replaced as they were old stock.

"It really happened at the worst possible time for us, as it's the busiest time for us in taking orders for confirmations and communions. Only for all the help I got from people I wouldn't be opening at all," she said.

Ms Phelan said she and four specialised staff members are excited about the opening, and welcoming back their many loyal cus-

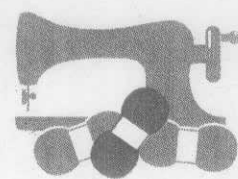
tomers from Limerick city and county, who offered their support during this setback.

This week staff were busy re-stacking shelves with balls of wool, embroidery and crochet threads, and every kind of material imaginable in this field.

"One man came in recently and said 'I know you won't have what I want'. I said 'Go on, try me'. And it was for the stiff pieces to put behind collars of shirts, and I just pulled it from the wall."

The mother of five, and a keen knitter since national school, has dressed her children in her own designs. At some point they all worked in the store, and has also imparted the craft to her grandchildren.

Lena's Sewing and Knitting Centre will re-open this Friday, February 19, at 9.30pm, and discounts will apply.



# Lena's

SEWING & KNITTING CENTRE

27 William St, Limerick. Tel: 061-310383 Fax: 061-310383  
Email: info@lenassewing.com www.lenassewing.com

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**FRIDAY 19TH FEBRUARY**  
**IN OUR NEWLY**  
**REFURBISHED PREMISES**

**Flood Stock @ Fantastic Prices**  
**Special Offers on Sewing Machines**

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**BUSINESS FROM HOME**

**OVERLOCKERS STEAM PRESSERS KNITTING MACHINES**

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*We look forward to seeing our existing & new customers*