

# LIMERICK Chronicle



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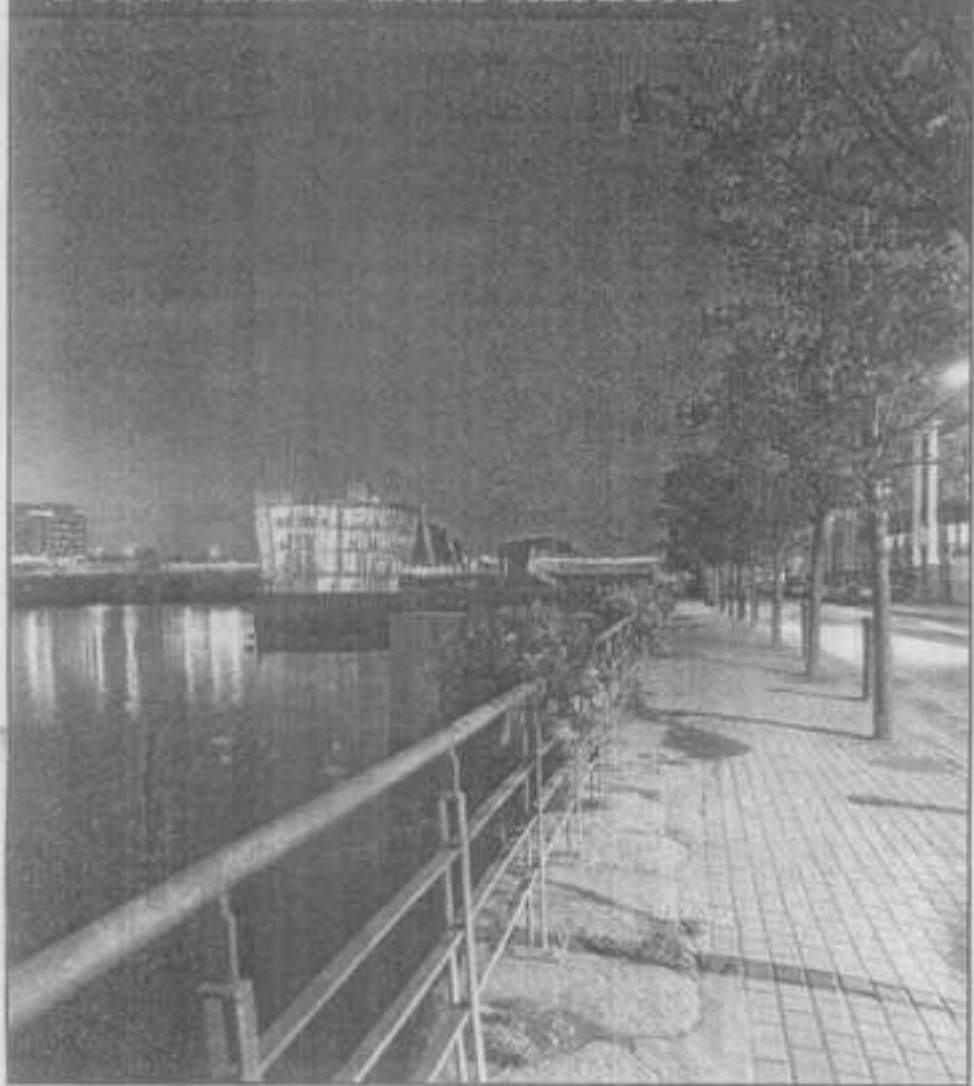
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## BOAT CLUB PLANS REJECTED



An artist's impression of the plans for Limerick Boat Club which were turned down on appeal by An Bord Pleanála this week

Anne Sheridan

THE future of Limerick Boat Club

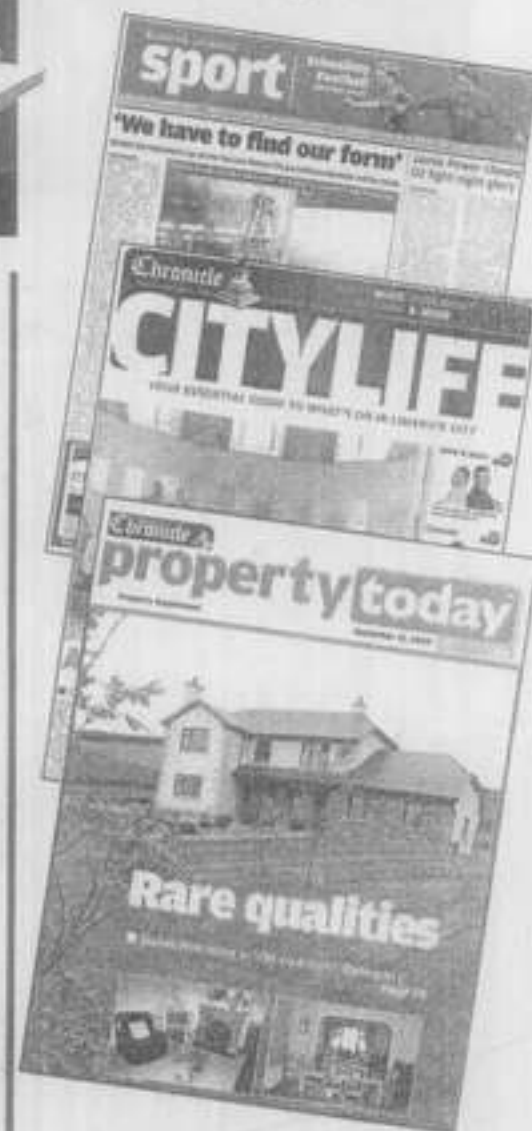
Club, which is situated across the bridge, stressed that there is no animosity between the clubs.

■ Ferguson's chemist goes into liquidation

# New blow for city as two shops shut down

Alan Owens

LIMERICK has suffered a double blow this week with news that two prominent shops in the area are to close with the



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Your guide to what's going on - plus the best sports and property sections in Limerick

**MATTHEW STEPHENS**

The Diamond Specialists

merged that An Bord Pleanála have refused planning permission for the €20m redevelopment of the club, which the club's president had stressed would save its future.

The Limerick Chronicle can reveal that the board has thrown out the plans for Wellesley Pier this week on four grounds, including that the proposal constituted "overdevelopment" of the site.

It had been hoped that the development would create 200 jobs during construction and be a public amenity when built.

The mixed-use redevelopment had been objected to by the neighbouring Shannon Rowing Club, Greg Leddin (son of Cllr Kathleen Leddin, who vehemently opposed the plans at Council) and the Thomond Archaeological and Historical Society.

However, Eugene Falconer, honorary secretary of Shannon Rowing

pleased. The board refused permission, but added: "There is no question whatsoever of us trying to impeded the operation of Limerick Boat Club.

"We were just concerned about the construction and development of the proposed building and the impact it would have on the river frontage," he said.

The board also stated that the height and scale of the development would interfere with the existing views of the River Shannon, affect the character of Sarsfield Bridge and would contravene the city development plan.

It had been intended that the proposed redevelopment would rehouse Limerick Boat Club and attract new members to the club, as the current building is no longer seen as suitable for its purposes.

Dermot Moloney, president of Limerick Boat Club, said he would

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Ferguson's Chemist on O'Connell Street went into voluntary liquidation and ceased trading last Saturday and it was confirmed this Tuesday morning that Budget Travel in Crescent Shopping Centre is to close at the end of the month.

A number of concerned Ferguson's customers contacted the Limerick Chronicle on Monday with news that the long established chemists were to close. The sight of empty windows greeted customers who were informed that "patient's files" would be available from McKenna's Pharmacy on William Street.

Seven jobs will be lost as a result of the liquidation.

A statement on the window read that Ferguson (Chemists) Ltd trading as "Ferguson's Chemist, 20 O'Connell Street, has gone into voluntary liquidation as from Saturday September 19".

The business was bought from the Ferguson family a number of years ago by a Limerick-based group who are believed to have a number of pharmacies in the area.

Brian Aherne, business manager of this



Ferguson's chemist on O'Connell Street, which ceased trading last Saturday

group, declined to comment this Tuesday. A creditors meeting is known to have taken place on Monday afternoon.

One long-term Ferguson's customer told the Chronicle that it was "sad to see all the shelves empty and just one attendant behind the counter - the whole place has been cleared out, it is very sad".

The chemist is one of the oldest and best known businesses on O'Connell Street, where it has been located for nearly 70 years. It is the second business in recent months to close on Limerick's

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## Southill for the late Jason O'Callaghan



Jason with her sons, Garry and Paddy and a photo of Jason in London in June

begged and Jason's former girlfriend in the also think of we wanted.

Paddy and who Jason mechanic; and his parents would be

But at 4.10pm last Thursday, the family received a phonecall detailing the burial was to go ahead the next morning.

They tried booking emergency flights at the last minute but it proved impossible for them to attend the burial.

Instead, his aunt Shirley placed flowers and photos of Jason in a room at her home in Mague Way,

Southill, where members of their extended family paid their respects.

A plaque in memory of Jason will also be placed in Mount St Oliver cemetery this Thursday, where it was hoped he would be buried.

His aunt said the service in Southill this Thursday will "be like a little funeral for him, even though he won't be there".

His coffin had also been picked out at Griffin's funeral home months previously and his clothes had remained there up to last weekend in the hope that his body would return to Limerick.

Mr O'Callaghan had separated from his girlfriend in 2006 but returned to London by coach this summer, on a return ticket, to give his daughter a birthday present in person. Bernadette tried to persuade him to post it over but he refused.

By 8am on Tuesday, June 2, an ambulance was called. He passed away at 10.08am, while his mother listened on the phone to the paramedics attempting to revive him.

"I was on the phone, listened to the whole lot. They were saying 'we have a pulse', then 'it's gone'."

He had been due to return home to Limerick one week after he died, and would have celebrated his 27th birthday this Thursday, September 24.

incidents in the city.

A Garda spokesman confirmed that five people have been arrested, with three brought to Henry Street

"The searches are ongoing at present and also involved the Regional Response Unit," said the Garda spokesman.

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## Double blow for city centre as shops close

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main street, coming in the wake of the closure and relocation of Clancy's Electrical shop.

Meanwhile Budget Travel confirmed this Tuesday morning that it is to close 14 of 39 shops in the Republic, including its Limerick store in the Crescent Shopping Centre. The closures will take place at the end of this month and a spokesperson blamed the "ongoing challenges facing the travel industry" as the reason for the closures.

Budget employs a total

of 12 people in its two Limerick stores - the other of which is located on Sarsfield Street in the city.

A spokesperson for Budget said that it was "business as usual" for the Sarsfield Street store and that the staff in the Crescent store were included in those on protective notice, but could not confirm at this time how many jobs would be lost, adding that the company is still talking to staff about the number of redundancies that are likely to result from the closures.

## silence Irish on foreign policy



Peter Power: 'If Ireland says pen'

ple. That has to be agreed by all 27 members. That is a major foreign policy action and that requires unanimity. If Ireland says we are not going, it can't happen. Once the mission has the stamp of 27, some decisions in relation to Darfur can move to qualified majority. But that is founded on the over-riding unanimity of the earlier decision. Also if something is regarded as a vital national priority, it can be stopped," Minister Power said.

Mr Clinton says that in practice, Ireland will not defy powerful states like Britain, Germany and France on foreign policy - "countries where a well-funded Zionist lobby ensures that EU foreign policy continues to aid and shelter Israel regardless of its crimes against humanity". Lisbon was a drift towards a federalist superstate, he said.

But Minister Power said "the whole idea of Europe is not federalist, it is a community of member states where people come together and agree to work in common. It is everything to do with agreement and consensus and nothing to do with decisions being imposed

the bigger ones. Ireland has always had a commitment to multilateralism and Lisbon will not change that".

People who put forward Lisbon would see Europe grow more militarist and belligerent on the international stage, Minister Power said, failed to recognise that "Europe, for all its complexities, is the biggest force for peace and security the world has ever known".

"Europe is about promoting peace and Lisbon will help make the EU a more effective force for good in the world."

Minister Power was speaking in advance of Ireland's annual foreign policy address at the United Nations in New York next week. This speech is normally given by the Taoiseach or Foreign Minister but with Brian Cowen and Micheal Martin tied up in the Lisbon campaign, Minister Power has been asked to do the honours this year.

He becomes only the second person outside the cabinet to make the address to the General Assembly, which Minister Power said was "a tremen-

## Plans for Limerick Boat Club rejected on appeal

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have to examine the basis of the refusal to determine the future of the club.

"Obviously, we are disappointed, but we will have to sit down and reassess the situation with Fordmount [the developers] and determine if we can appeal it," he said.

The Thomond Archaeological and Historical Society originally objected to the plans on the grounds that the boat club, a protected structure, would have to be demolished.

The site has been the home of the boat club since 1870 but conservation reports have suggested the building is not

of significant historical interest.

The "iconic structure" had been the brainchild of developer Michael Daly, who has since stepped down from the Fordmount Property Group, which he founded five years ago.

Adrian Frawley, a managing partner with Dermot G. O'Donovan & Partners Solicitors, has now taken up the position of managing director with the group of companies.

The plans for the site had been fiercely contested at Limerick City Council when it came to a vote to both delist the building and allow commercial uses on the city's "most sensitive site".

### DEATHS

**FERNANDEZ** Xavier, peacefully on September 20th in Vintage Hospital, South Goa, India, formerly of Limerick City and Patrickswell, Deeply regretted by his wife Nuala, sons Eusebio, Mario, Leo and daughter Liza and grandchildren. May he Rest In Peace.

**O'CONNOR** (Limerick), on September 20th, 2009 (suddenly), John, 36 Ballynanty Road, late of CareLine and Shannon RFC. Deeply regretted by his wife Geraldine, son Sean, brother Kevin, his extended family, relatives and friends. R.I.P. Reposing at Griffin's Funeral Home tomorrow Wednesday from 6pm. Removal to St. Munchin's Church at 7.30pm. Funeral on Thursday after 12 noon Mass to Mount St. Lawrence (Exten-