

# Another Limerick landmark set to pull down shutters

By Alexandra Ryan

## Gleeson's cease trading after over half-a-century

AFTER over half-a-century of serving the people of Limerick, the family run store affectionately known as Gleeson's, Shannon Street, is about to bring down the shutters for the last time.

The store was originally founded by Kathleen Gleeson, the eldest of eight girls, while her other siblings created establishments of their own with fashion and home-ware stores around Limerick.

Not only have the Gleeson family conducted business from Shannon Street, but they have also lived there for many years, with Kathleen's late husband, George Gleeson, having owned what is now Myles Breen pub next door.

The small old-fashioned ladies and children's wear shop is set amongst modern buildings with the George Boutique Hotel across the street. The quaint shop replicates a family home, with a soft carpeted floor and oil paintings of the city placed eloquently around the store.

As a Limerick landmark departs from our streets, the Limerick Post spoke with current owner Ms Rosemary Gleeson, about the past, and the passing of an era.

She told us it had only hit her the night before that her busi-

ness was coming to an end. Although she says it's time for them to go, the changing face of Ireland, and the downturn in the economy, could be viewed as a factor in the decision to cease trading.

Warm red and brown colours predominate the store, creating a comfortable atmosphere. The shop is spacious as stock levels are reduced due to their 30% sale offer on all items, including ladies wear, children's teddy's and babies clothing.

With friendly staff and loyal customers in the store, it's clear that over the last five decades, the Gleeson's have been 100% dedicated to their customers. Rosemary says of their service: "We have always had a personal approach when dealing with our clients. Whatever they needed, we provided it for them. Even if we lost a sale, we have always made sure that our customers were happy walking out of the store".

The charming premises will close at



Rosemary and Joan Gleeson who are closing their shop after 80 years of business on Shannon Street Limerick.

the end of the month. It is deemed sad that small family run businesses like Gleeson's have to suffer and leave the market. As Gleeson's say goodbye to the city centre, there is a sense of great nostalgia as you stand in the shop, with pictures of their family and the city, taking

customers back to a more simple time.

It's a sad moment for Rosemary and her two sisters, Joan and Diane, who help out. Rosemary still talks of the staff like a family, and the shop like a

home. It's safe to assume this has been her real home for most of her life.

When asked what she feels about this long experience, she said: "We have had a great time. We have

loved our customers and we have always felt loved back. We will always cherish the memories".

As the front door closes, the sign reads: "Thank you for being with us all the way".

## Irish teenagers second in level of drunkenness

IRISH teenagers are found to rank second-highest in a level of drunkenness when compared to international countries.

This is according to figures contained in the State of the Nation's Children report that found 29% of 15 year olds in Ireland claim to have been drunk at least once in the last month. Declan Jones, director of the Aislinn Foundation, a drug-free rehabilitation centre for adolescents aged between 15 and 21 who are addicted to alcohol and/or drugs, is urging parents to wake up to the issue of drunkenness among young teenagers.

"This report demonstrates the fact that there is a very real problem with alcohol consumption among teenagers. Young people are consuming lethal amounts of alcohol on a regular basis. Parents must take responsibility for the fact that their drinking habits hugely influence those of their children".

## St. Brigid's Day celebration

BALLYHOURA Folklore Project are holding a St. Brigid's Day Celebration in Bruff G.A.A. Sports Complex on Monday, February 2, at 1.30pm. The day will include a talk on the History of St. Brigid and the Legends and traditions surrounding her. There will be a demonstration on how to make the world famous St. Brigid's cross. This is an opportunity to keep one of our more noted feast days and its traditions alive. This event is open to all. Tea and coffee will be served afterwards.

Check out our  
Premiership Season Packages  
**letsgotravel.ie**  
a Limerick Travel Company  
061-204444

**ClubOptislim**  
the delicious and complete  
weight loss programme  
**NOW IN STOCK**  
**FREE:** • Second Set of Prints  
• 35mm Film  
**FERGUSONS  
PHARMACY**  
20 O'Connell St. Limerick 061 414917  
TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY

**FOR SALE**  
**CITY CENTRE**  
**LAUNDERETTE/  
DRY CLEANERS**  
**FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY.**  
**GENUINE INTEREST ONLY**  
**CONTACT 086 7940319**

**One small step for you...  
One giant leap for  
your career!**

Special Needs Assistant  
Courses Now Enrolling  
Locations near you

- Programme delivered by suitably qualified primary school teachers
- 60 Hours classroom training
- Froebel Accreditation
- Certificate includes two FETAC Level 5 Component Certificates
- Programme materials provided on first evening

Call us today at...  
**01 4884300**

THE COLLEGE OF  
**PROGRESSIVE  
EDUCATION**  
sna.progressivecollege.com

**Griffith College Limerick**  
**Spring 2009 Courses**

**Full Time Courses**

- Postgraduate Diploma in Strategic Business Information Technology (PgD SBIT)
- International Certificate in Computer Studies (ICCS)
- Advanced Diploma in Personal Computer Technology
- Professional Diploma in Management Studies
- Higher National Certificate in Travel & Tourism Management
- Higher National Diploma in Electrical & Electronic Engineering

**Part Time Courses**

- Postgraduate Diploma in Strategic Business Information Technology (PgD SBIT)\*
- Higher National Diploma in Manufacturing Engineering\*
- IPICS Certificate in Production & Inventory Management
- Certificate in Management (Supervision & Leadership)
- Certificate in Psychology
- Diploma in Legal Studies

\* New courses  
Please contact the college for further details, or visit our website.

**Griffith College Limerick**  
31 / 32 Upper William Street  
Limerick City

Phone: 061-310031 / 310043  
Fax: 061-310059  
Email: info@gcl.ie  
Web: www.gcl.ie

**OPEN EVENINGS:** Come and see our new facility and check out our courses on January 15th and 22nd - 4.30pm to 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Places are limited - please apply on time. To celebrate our relocation a 10% discount is on offer for early enrolment with full payment.

Would you like to be a  
Samaritans Volunteer?



## Samaritans Open Information Night

at  
20 Berrington Street, Limerick.

**Mon 2nd FEB 2009  
at 7.30pm**

"Listening to someone who is perhaps depressed, worried, frightened and/or suicidal and who doesn't know where to turn to, is perhaps the most valuable thing we can do for a fellow human being."  
Samaritans volunteer

**SAMARITANS**

LEADERS IN CARE TRAINING SINCE 1986