

LEADER BRIEFS

New garda sergeant

SGT Brian Broderick has been appointed as the new Crime Prevention Officer for the Limerick garda division.

Sgt Broderick, who is based at Henry Street Garda Station, replaces Sgt Liam Sheahan in the role.

Sgt Sheahan, who was crime prevention officer for more than a decade retired late last year.

Charity wash

STAFF at TkMaxx at the Parkway Retail Park will wash customer's windscreens for charity this Friday, March 4.

The event will take place between 11am and 6pm and all of the money raised will be donated to Enable Ireland.

Customers who make donations on the day could also win prizes such as gift vouchers from a number of local shops and restaurants.

Bridge morning

THE Limerick branch of the Alzheimer Society of Ireland will host a fundraising bridge morning at Limerick Golf Club on Monday next, March 10.

The event begins at 10am and admission is €15.

Man pleads guilty to theft

A BALLINACURRA Weston man pleaded guilty to stealing collection boxes from charity collectors in the city when he was arraigned at Limerick Circuit Court.

Darragh Casey, 20, of Hyde Road, has admitted the theft of the collection boxes from three teenage boys, who were collecting for the Irish Heart Foundation outside Colbert Railway Station, Parnell Street, on May 14 last year.

Judge Carroll Moran adjourned sentencing in the case until Friday, May 13.

DEATHS

ENRIGHT (Limerick), February 27th 2011. Peacefully in the loving care of the nurses and staff of the Park Nursing Home. Michael (Mick) late of Shanabooly Road, Ballynanty. Beloved husband of the late Laura and loving father of Helen (Jordan), Marie (Cowhey), Pauline (O'Leary), Geraldine (Wallace), Michael (M.P.), Jack and Ray. Deeply regretted by his sons in law, daughters in law, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Rest in Peace. Reposing at Griffin's Funeral Home, John's Gate on Wednesday eve. from 6.30 o'clock. Removal at 8 o'clock to St. Munchin's Church. Funeral on Thursday after 11 o'clock Mass to Mount St. Lawrence (ext) Cemetery.

New season marks sad closure for JR's

By ANNE SHERIDAN

ONE of Limerick's oldest and best-loved fashion houses - JR's - has closed for business after 30 years in operation.

Creditors' meetings for two Limerick based companies operated by owner Jerry Relihan and his wife Sandra will be held next week.

Formerly known as JR Fashions, the ladies boutique began its life in the Crescent Shopping Centre, and moved to a new premises at 53 Thomas Street in recent years.

However, a notice on the door of the store this week informed customers that it is closed pending an upcoming creditors' meetings.

Speaking to the Leader, Mrs Relihan wished to thank all their customers for their loyal support over the years.

"We wouldn't have survived that long without them. It's a sad time for all of us," she said.

Mrs Relihan could not comment on the reasons the store has been forced to close, except to say: "Times are the way they are."

Model agent Celia Holman Lee said she was "saddened beyond belief" to hear of the closure. "They were trailblazers in the fashion industry in the country and in Limerick.

"It's a sad day for the fashion industry in Limerick. Jerry is a great guy, an honest guy. I worked with him for years and he's one of the nicest guys in the industry.

"He's not the first to close, and won't be the last with the way things are.



End of an era: JR's in the City on Thomas Street closed this week after remaining in operation for 30 years

PICTURE: ADRIAN BUTLER

Everyone was hanging on for Christmas, but it's not a good time for business in Limerick.

"Everyone is saying the rates are crippling them and so many businesses have gone. Surely there's a message there," she said.

Ms Holman Lee said

Mr Relihan should be commended to making the brave move to transfer the store into the city, as he had "great faith in the city.

"I've been all around the country and businesses going back 30, 40 years are telling me they've never seen it so bad."

The creditors' meetings are due to be held at Rackett Hall Hotel in Roscrea, Co Tipperary, on Monday, March 14 next at 2pm.

The most recent abridged accounts for the company, for the year ending February 2010, showed it owed creditors

nearly €1m at that point.

The company - Relihan's (The Crescent) Ltd - made an operating loss of over €280,000 by the end of that year, with its net assets more than halving on the previous year.

A creditors' meeting has also been called for

JSR (Limerick) Holdings for the same date, at the earlier time of 12.30pm.

Meanwhile, Birthdays card store on O'Connell Street closed down this week, following an appointment by the High Court to put the chain Birthdays (Ireland) Ltd in liquidation.

Sporting heroes to lead parade

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of a huge 40-foot flag to celebrate Limerick's status as European City of Sport for 2011.

Fire breathers, stilt walkers and belly dancers are set to entertain the crowd, while there will be entries to the parade from city sporting events including the Great Limerick Run, the European Duathlon Championships and the Irish Festival of Speed.

Limerick's Military Entries will be led by the 12th Infantry Battalion from Sarsfield Barracks, while the city's talented arts and community groups will showcase their talents with brightly coloured floats



The international band parade will again form a central part of the St Patrick's week celebrations

and entries.

Ireland's largest tricolour will be carried by the boys from St Clement's School, who have been selected as flag

ambassadors for the city, while other entries will come from the Special Olympics, and the Centre Stage Theatre Group.

Speaking last night,

Mayor of Limerick, Cllr Maria Byrne said she is thrilled four sporting heroes will lead the city's St Patrick's Day parade.

"We're all very proud of our sporting tradition in Limerick and it is only right that we have four of our wonderful sporting ambassadors to lead our hugely popular St Patrick's Day parade in this, a special year for the city," she said.

Both parades get under way at 12noon, with the St Patrick's Day parade on Thursday, March 17, and the International Band Parade on Sunday, March 20.

For more information on the St Patrick's Festival, visit www.limerick.ie/stpatricksfestival.

Daghdha receives 100% funding cut

By ALAN OWENS

DAGHDHA Dance Company has received a "100 percent" cut in funding from the Arts Council, effectively shutting the company down with immediate effect, the Limerick Leader understands.

The annual notice of funding decisions was received this Monday, and Daghdha, which received €160,000 in funding from the body last year - down €200,000 from 2008 - has not received any funding for 2011 and is effectively now closed. Over €2 million was allocated by the Arts Council to Limerick last year, and while the full list of annual funding

awards for local arts organisations is not yet known, the Belltable has managed to retain its funding at just shy of the €230,500 awarded last year, while Fresh Film Festival and Limerick Printmakers have also retained their funding levels from last year.

In a post on Facebook this Tuesday, Daghdha artistic director Michael Klien said Daghdha had "been informed of a 100% funding cut".

"We are now forced into the process of closing down. We know this cut to be unjust," he said, adding that the company, founded in 1988, were "rightly proud of our achievements".