



Widdess Fitzgibbon Pharmacy Ltd. Returns to Tradition



"A restoration rather than replacement"

WIDDLESS Fitzgibbon Pharmacy Ltd. has finally returned to No. 55 Roches Street after its long-awaited refurbishment which started in August last year. Marieanne Fitzgibbon has brought back the traditional essence of the family pharmacy.

Marieanne's father Jim Fitzgibbon moved to Limerick from Cork and took over the existing business in 1953. In time the company became known as Widdless Fitzgibbon Ltd.

Soon after he set up the business, Jim married Máireann O'Donnell from Midleton Co. Cork and they went on to have six children. Marieanne, the youngest, was the only one to follow in her father's footsteps into pharmacy. Her three brothers pursued careers in various fields of medicine: Les, a heart surgeon in Pennsylvania, Eugene, a psychiatrist in Sheffield and Edward, a doctor and head of Palliative Care in Ottawa University Hospital, Canada. Her two sisters Evelyn and Jane pursued careers in business in London.

Marieanne, married to Michael Fracklin and the mother of three young children, inherited the pharmacy when over the door of Widdless Fitzgibbon Ltd.



Original Details



A beautiful transformation, the pharmacy is restored to its true heritage. The pharmacy has been designed based on the apothecary established before Jim Fitzgibbon came to town. Using dark wood cabinets from the original pharmacy, a replica of the original, the main floor is set throughout the shop with glass cases all around. Soft lighting reflects the wood around the shop. Two floor-height mirrors opposite each other create a feeling of space, replicating the tranquility of the relaxed, welcoming and friendly atmosphere of the early Widdless Fitzgibbon pharmacy. With the painstaking attention now complete, one can see that the purpose is to encourage customers to feel at home in our 2000 linestore. By modernising the premises, but keeping the essential "core" that has kept it trading as Widdless Fitzgibbon Ltd. for so long, it's a success.

Veterinary Care

MARIEANNE emphasises the fact that the pharmacy still provides the same level of veterinary services, products and advice for a range of both large and small animals. Her father's original veterinary sign hangs over the section of indicated products, marking his legendary ability to "read" into animal movements requirements of care.

Marieanne worked with Jim closely for ten years. She has learned from the best. This knowledge, together with his remarkable attitude Marieanne continues to provide the standard of care and attention that her father Jim was so renowned for throughout Limerick City and County and the Munster Area.



Marieanne pictured on her graduation day, Glasgow 1996, with her late dad Jim.

"Back to Roots"

TALKING to the Limerick Post about taking on the reins of the family business, Marieanne is co-director with her mother Maureen. Marieanne said, "Inspired by the work my dad did and his exceptional skills in both veterinary and pharmacy, I knew I always wanted to be a pharmacist and work alongside him. After school I would come to the pharmacy and sit on the high stool, by the counter, and listen to my Dad (conversing with the customers)".

Observing all from a young age, marries as much as her rigorous training influenced Marieanne's decision in renovating the pharmacy to its original glory. Being a mother to small children is another asset in the sensitive area of knowledge and diagnostics. Marieanne knows what a fun exercise and cure are all about.

As Limerick's longest family run pharmacy, it has served three generations. A staff member for 20 years, pharmacist Mary Dwyer and colleague Margaret Casey, 141 years service provide that valued continuity of face in dealing with our customers. "It is important to us that we provide this depth of experience and familiarity with our customers. Combining all staff members' years of experience we offer more than 300 years of combined service between us".

The refurbishment plan was originally the brainchild of Jim, but sadly he fell ill and passed away last April. His wife Maureen and youngest daughter Marieanne fulfilled his dream of restoring the pharmacy to its true historical family. As Marieanne put it, "We wanted to go back to where we came from when we first established. The goal was to restore rather than replace".



Today, being able to claim 100 years of valued service matters enormously to this diligent pharmacy. As Widdless Fitzgibbon Ltd. continues to trade for all generations of families in the continuously changing era of Limerick and Ireland itself, it is admirable to see that this family run pharmacy has its traditions and loyalty.

The business has always been and still remains a family serving business. "We would like to thank all of our customers, who have become friends, for their years of loyalty. We welcome old and new customers to our refurbished shop, as we look forward to the next 100 years in business."

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday 8.30am - 6pm Saturday 8.30am - 5.30pm

**Widdless Fitzgibbon Pharmacy Ltd, Veterinary & Dispensing Chemists
55 Roches Street, Limerick. Tel: 061 - 414061**