

Cahill's lick of paint is more than a pipe dream

By Kathryn Hayes

THE owner of one of Limerick's oldest shops has allayed fears about plans to give a facelift to her old world premises.

Some customers of Cahill's on Wickham Street, had raised concerns about plans to revamp the well-known premises.

The family-run business is the oldest tobacconist in Ireland and has changed little since it first opened its doors back in 1870.

It recently emerged that owner, Eleanor Purcell, is set to give the historic shop its first lick of paint in nearly 100 years.

She has now moved to reassure regular customers who expressed fears about proposed changes to the traditional Wickham Street shop front.

"All we're trying to do is to bring the shop into the 21st century without compromising any of our traditional values. Any changes to the shop will be in keeping with the long-standing traditions of Cahill's, said Eleanor. While many inner-city buildings have been knocked in recent years to accommodate new developments, Wickham Street still retains many small family businesses.

It is probably one of the last really genuine shopping streets in Limerick, where the businesses are family owned and where the relationship with the customer is still very important, she added.

Cahill's is renowned throughout the Mid-West region as a purveyor of fine Cuban cigars and still sells pipe tobacco on an old-style weighing

scales. The shop has catered for some pipe smokers spanning three centuries.

The Wickham Street premises is steeped in tradition and, in the 19th century, it housed a snuff factory in the basement. For over 60 years, Limerick man Mr Ted McCauliffe, made slithers by hand in a room overhead the shop, until his retirement last Christmas.

Well-known barber, Dermot Walsh, still cuts hair overhead the shop three days a week, from Thursday to Saturday.

Eleanor's plans to revamp Cahill's will also see the introduction of some new products like a range of quality coffees, teas and hand made chocolates.

"This means that people who don't smoke will still be able to enjoy the experience of coming into Cahill's and, hopefully,

ly, it will also mean that we will be able to keep the door open for another 100 years, concluded Eleanor.

Sourcing health at Southill Centre

LOOK to Southill Family Resource Centre in O'Malley Park, on Tuesday, May 29, if the prospect of a healthy breakfast in a distressed body is of interest. From 9.30am to 3.30am, the aroma of grilled tomato and mushrooms and toast will flavour a day dedicated to the holistic idea of health.

HSE is providing data on a range of issues, from good cooking on a budget to testicular cancer; the Marie Keating Breast Cancer mobile unit will give information on cancer detection and support.

DON'T FORGET !!!

Staff from the Office of the OMBUDSMAN

will be at the

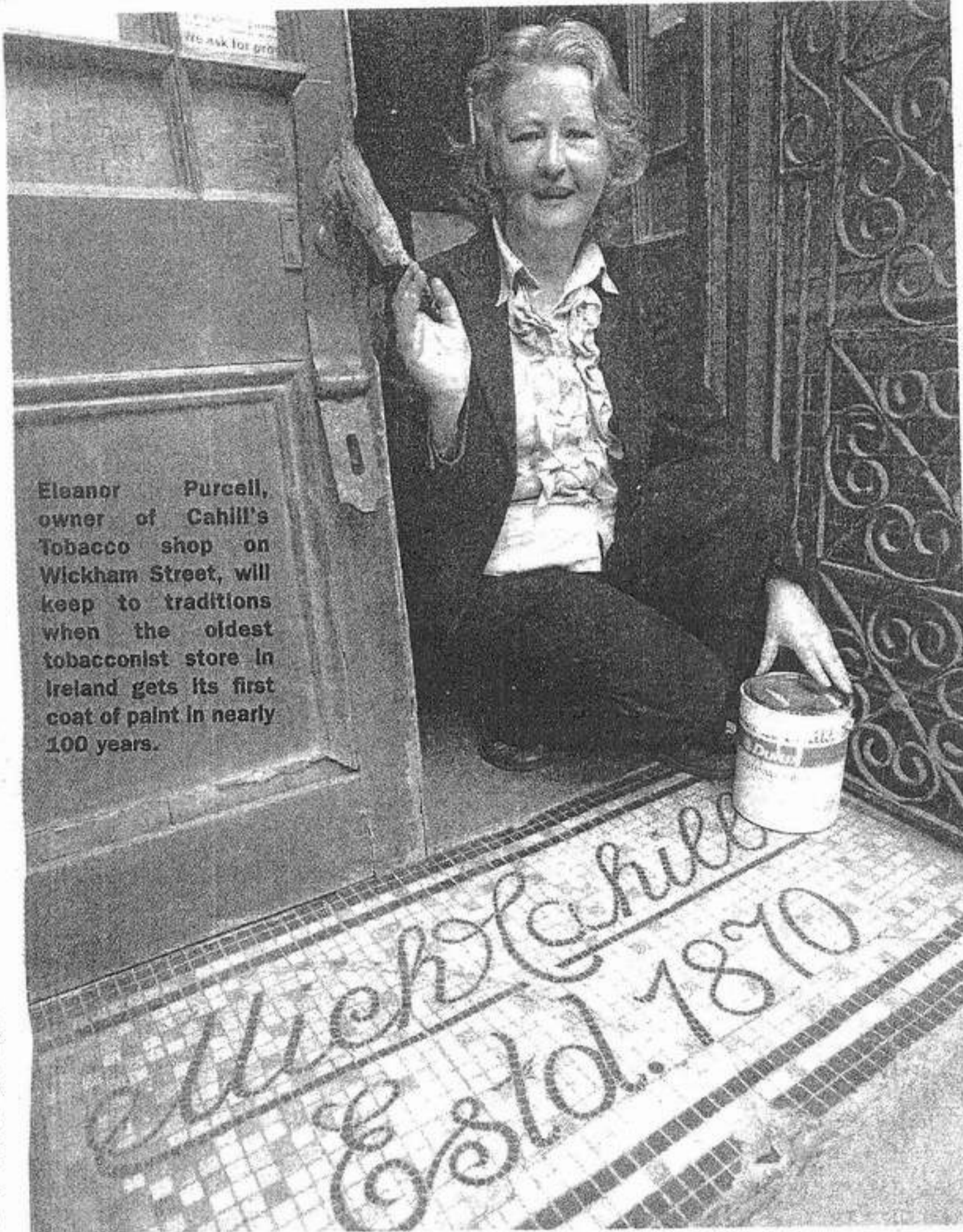
Citizens Information Centre

54 Catherine Street, Limerick

on Tuesday, 29th May 2007

10am-1.00pm and 2.00pm-4.00pm

Lo-Call 1-890 22 30 30



Eleanor Purcell, owner of Cahill's Tobacco shop on Wickham Street, will keep to traditions when the oldest tobacconist store in Ireland gets its first coat of paint in nearly 100 years.

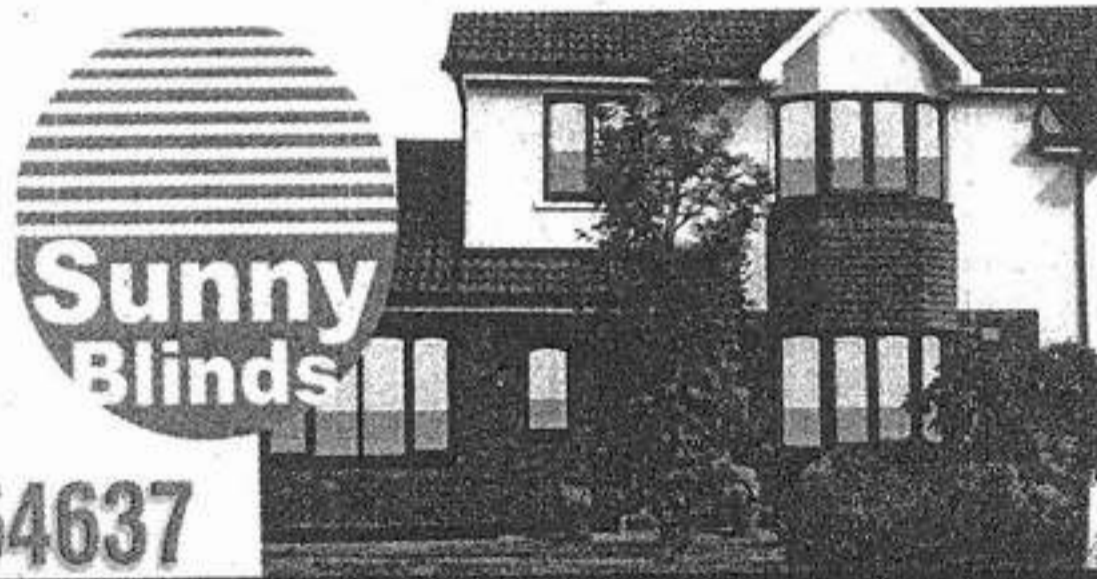
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