

There's a pawn shop round the corner . . . in Parnell Street

Lorraine Carey investigates a Limerick premises with a range of unusual services

WHILE an air of prosperity surrounds Limerick, one new store, on Parnell Street, has turned the clock back over four decades, to the days of Pakie Browne's and Jackson's celebrated pawn shops.

While the owner rejects the suggestion that his outlet is a

are mainly electronics Most items in the store are displayed through transparent security panels and staff situate themselves behind a security panel similar to what one might find in a post office, bank or other financial establishment.

When asked if close

Their services include: The buying and selling of pre-owned and graded goods, cheque cashing, buy backs, pawn broking, pay day advances and other services on the pipeline include: unsecured personal loans, mortgages and log book loans.

So how does it work? Brian explains. "Someone comes in with their goods, and they can sell or avail of the buy-back service. The buy-back service means if someone comes in with say, a stereo and wants cash straight away, we will service-check the stereo and agree a price.

"The customer gets the cash-in-hand and we store the item for four weeks. If before the four weeks is up, the customer wants to buy back, he can do so. There is an extra fee for buying it back but that depends on the item.

People generally don't bring things of sentimental value. The majority bring items

they don't want.

As far as money lending is concerned, most of the transactions that

cross hands are under 100 euro. It's generally people who are just a bit stuck until the end

of the month and need an advance.

*Limerick's two most noted pawn

shops were Pakie Browne's on John Street, and Jackson's on Parnell Street

'As far as money lending is concerned, most of the transactions that cross hands are under 100 euro. It's generally people who are just a bit stuck until the end of the month and need an advance.'

throw-back to the Frank McCourt era, he does admit that giving cash for goods and offering the customer the chance to buy back within a month, is part of their business.

But it is more than that.

Cash Converters does exactly what it says on the tin.

'We buy. We sell. We loan cash. We cash cheques.' promises the advertising flyers and shop window signs.

Customers can 'cash-in' on any item they have of value from CD's to television sets to their dead grandmother's jewellery.

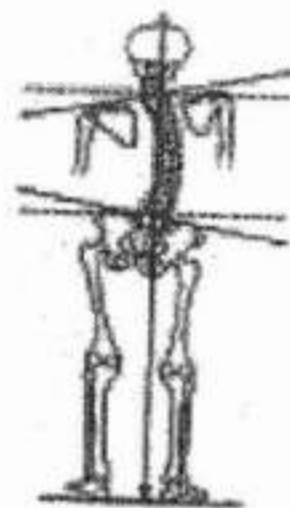
"We'll consider anything of value, really," said the store owner Brian Keegan.

"We don't entertain such items as knives or fire-arms or anything that's too large and impractical like furniture. The items we sell

proximity to less well off sections of the community was a motivating factor in choosing location, Brian denies any agenda to target a specific demographic. "We simply chose it because the rent was affordable

"Cash Converters are the world's biggest retailers of second-hand goods. They started in Australia. Pawn shops are generally given a negative image by the media but they are huge in Australia and taking off in other countries. There are 500 stores worldwide.

"A lot of people are purchasing franchises these days, but there are only so many coffees and bagels a person can eat, There were three or four pawn shops in Limerick about 40 years ago and nobody bad-mouthed them, people used them".

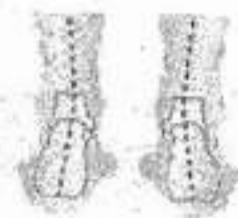


Pharmacies Leading the Way in Foot Care

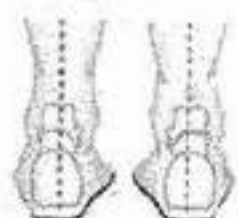
If your knee, hip or lower back hurts - It could be due to your feet

Your feet are the foundation of your entire body. Orthotics are custom made shoe inserts engineered to help your feet maintain the alignment of the body. So we're not just talking about solving a foot problem with orthotics, we're talking about fixing a body problem

If your feet are out of alignment, your whole body can suffer. The ankles break down, the knee bends inward, the hip drops, the back tries to compensate, straining muscles from the lower back to the shoulders. But with orthotics, you can help realign the heel and ankle--the knees straighten, your hip realigns. You're putting your entire body in better balance with stability and comfort. Orthotics can also be used to enhance athletic performance.



Unsupported feet tend to roll inward (pronate). The arches flatten, stretching the tissues, while bones misalign



Feet with Orthotics are comfortably supported, bones aligned and pain prevented.



Orthotics realign the feet to correct body posture, reducing pelvic tilt and internal rotation of the legs.

FIT 4 U ORTHOTICS

FIT 4 U ORTHOTICS are available through leading Pharmacy's nationwide.
 FIT 4 U ORTHOTICS are covered by a 30 day money back guarantee.
 The Orthotic module has a lifetime warranty against cracking and splitting.
 FIT 4 U ORTHOTICS are custom made orthotics that are affordable.

Presentation Secondary Convent, Sexton St. Limerick

Class of 1987 Reunion @

The Bank Bar & Restaurant, O'Connell St., Limerick

Fri June 15th @ 8pm
 Contact 086 731 9179

To find your nearest Pharmacy that supplies Fit 4 U Orthotics, please call 061 718860 or click on www.fit4uorthotics.com