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GARDA FILE

#### Road rage investigation

by Andrew Carey andrew@limerickpost.ie

GARDAÍ in Mayorstone are investigating a road rage incident at Island Road on Saturday January 4, shortly after 1pm

It is understood that the initial incident occurred at the Athlunkard Road/ Island Road junction as the injured party was turning onto Island Road when a black Toyota starlet pulled out at speed.

'The driver was unable to let the driver of the Starlet out on to the junction as they were already committed to the turn. He was stopped in traffic further down Island Road, when the driver of the Toyota Starlet got out and assaulted him, causing injuries to his face

Gardaí are seeking assistance from anyone who may have witnessed the manoeuvre at the junction of Island Road/ Athlunkard Street or the incident on Island Road.

Mayorstone Gardaí can be contacted on 061-456980.

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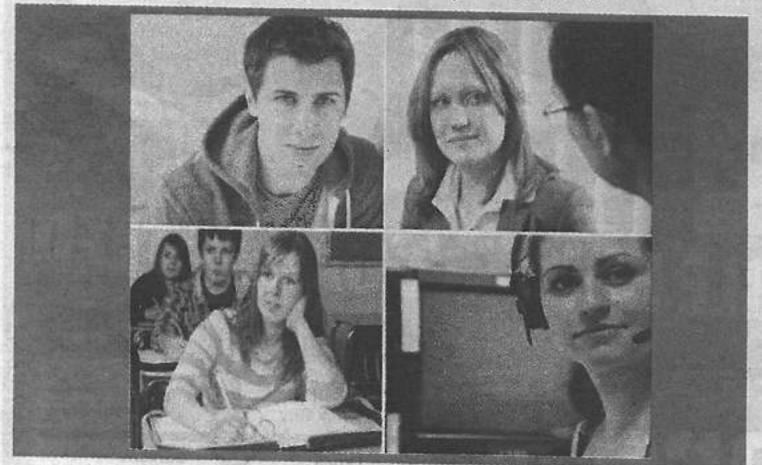
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www.samaritans.org

Limerick Tipperary Samaritans are holding a INFORMATION/OPEN NIGHT ON MONDAY 13TH JANUARY AT 7.30PM AND SATURDAY 18TH JANUARY @2PM

This is taking place at the Samaritan Centre, 20 Barrington Street, Limerick.



The purpose of this meeting is to inform members of the puplic who are interested in becoming a Samaritan volunteer, about the organisation, and provide details of what is involved in the training to become a volunteer. Samaritans offer confidential emotional support 24/7. For further details call 087 - 2255525

**OBITUARY** 

# Joe wore the Limerick colours with pride

John O'Shaughnessy looks back on the playing career of the late Joe O'Mahony

THE unexpected death of loe O'Mahony, at the age of 65, on this Tuesday 7, resurrected memories of a golden era in Limerick soccer to which he made an outstanding contribution.

Often referred to as the quiet man of football, he had a distinguished career in the blue of Limerick, and his loyalty to his home city was such that he resisted overtures to sign what might have been more lucrative deals elsewhere.

Prospect-born Joe was one of a select band of local players to lay claim to two FAI Cup medals, as well as League of Ireland honours.

His first national success arrived in 1971, when Limerick captured the FAI Cup for the initial time, beating Drogheda United, 3-0 in a replay, at a rain sodden Dalymount Park, after the sides had finished scoreless three days earlier.

He had the honour of captaining the club to only their second (and last) League of Ireland trophy in 1980, when, under the management of Eoin Hand, they snatched a 1-1 draw with Athlone Town, in their last game at St Mel's Park, to pip Dundalk to the title.

Two years later, again under the astute management of Eoin Hand, and with Joe once more wearing the captain's armband, Limerick shocked fancied Bohemians in the FAI Cup final, courtesy of a Brendan Storan goal.

What is not generally known is that he was on the Ireland panel in a World Cup qualifier against Czechoslovakia, in Prague, in

"I had to be content with a place on the bench, but it was great to be recognised by your country", Joe remarked to me in a recent conversation with Mick Crowe, his long time friend - who passed away some months ago.

He also played twice for the League of Ireland, against Scotland and Australia.

Only last year, the Professional Footballers Association of Ireland, honoured Joe at a banquet in Dublin, for having played over 400 games in Irish football.

I had to be content with a place on the bench but it was a great honour to be recognised by your country

THE LATE JOE O'MAHONY

It was back in 1963 that Joe O'Mahony first shot to prominence, when presented with a Schoolboy Soccer Star of the Year award.

He had played at under age level with Reds United and Prospect, and made his League of Ireland debut with Limerick, as a central defender, in 1968.

One of his greatest moments,



in his own words, was becoming the first Limerick player to score against Manchester United.

The teams met in Pat Nolan's Testimonial at the Markets Field, and Joe netted from the penalty

Local talents such as Al Finucane, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Tony Fitzgerald, Pat Nolan and the late Tony Meaney bolstered the Limerick teams of the O'Mahony era, when the most significant 'imports' were Ireland international, Andy McEvoy, and Newcastle's Richie Hall, both deceased.

Speaking from Spain this week, Cork born John Herrick, who shared in many of Limerick's finest days, described Joe O'Mahony as a "thorough gentleman".

"Joe had a very quiet personality, yet was most vociferous and professional on the field of play. It was a pleasure to have served alongside him. and long after our playing days ended, we remained firm friends".

Sympathy is extended to his wife Sheila, and family.

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