

LEADER BRIEFS

Stamp of approval

THE Year of the Rat or Chinese New Year began this week, marking a new cycle in the twelve year lunar rotation of the Chinese Zodiac. To celebrate, An Post has put a rat on a 78c stamp, illustrating those attributes deemed to transfer to people born under the sign of the Rat. They are thought to be charming, wealthy and attractive to the opposite sex.

Urban Scapes

AN exhibition on urban architecture will open at the University of Limerick's foundation building this Thursday, February 14, and is curated by Limerick artist Peter Carroll. The exhibition explores the potential of Dublin's urban void, following on from a successful run at the Office of Public Works in Dublin. The opening will be preceded by a discussion in conjunction with the Architectural Association of Ireland.

Tribunal winner

A LIMERICK man has won his employment appeal tribunal case against Boart Longyear Limited, Deloitte & Touche House, Charlotte Quay, James Morrissey, 81 Russell Court, Fr Russell Road, Raheen sought a redundancy lump sum payment based on his commencement date of 24 May 1989, his termination date of 31 August 2005, his gross weekly pay of €1,035.00 per week and his date of birth which was 22 June 1966. Sinead Ryan, Associate Director, Private Client Services, KPMG, was the company's representative and did not contest Mr Morrissey's evidence.

Hunt Museum

ANDY McCarthy will give a lunchtime lecture on the paintings of the late Limerick artist Sean Keating on Tuesday, February 19, at 1pm. Born in Limerick in 1889, he studied drawing at the Limerick Technical School and went to study at the Metropolitan School of Art in Dublin. A considerable number of Keating's paintings related to the Shannon Scheme at Ardnacrusha, near Limerick. The Museum is fortunate to have on loan at present one of these paintings, Night's Candles are Burnt Out. Admission is free.

Flying Club plans still up in the air

By NICK RABBITTS

OFFICIALS at the Limerick Flying Club, based at Coonagh, have hit back at suggestions they will have to move out, claiming they will fly there for the foreseeable future.

Rumours had been rife that the club - which operates rent-free on the site - would be forced to move out

after reports claimed the Coonagh Airfield may make way for housing later this year.

However, a statement published on their website claimed that although the club is in the process of

relocating, they will continue to use the land for the foreseeable future.

Michael Beston, chairman of the flying club said: "We do not want to comment too much on the issue as we rely on the goodwill of the owner of the land, Dan Lehane, to keep the club going. But the reports have not done the flying club any favours"

He added that although the club is seeking new land, this is due to expected development in the area, and the IAA would be forced into revoking their licence if this happens.

"We have nothing in place at the moment, but it takes a long time to find somewhere to operate from and get it up and running," he said.

Land values in Coonagh have soared in recent years, and supermarket giant Tesco has



recently opened in the area. The new road, which is being built from the Shannon River Tunnel around Coonagh is expected to raise land prices further.

The airfield, which was once famous for its air shows, opened in the 1940s under the stewardship of Major Toppin, who lived in Janesboro. The flying club - which

opened on the site in 1971 - continues to have a thriving membership to this day, and any eventual move away from Coonagh would represent a blow to its members.

Mr Lehane, managing director of Electrical Rewinds, was rumoured to have received an approach from McInerney Homes to

Limerick Flying Club at Coonagh

build on the land. The businessman, who also owns Auto Diesel in Dock Road, was unavailable for comment.

McInerney Homes have also denied that they have made an approach to buy the land.

Torch 'Playboy' for Belltable

THE Torch Players will be staging the Synge play 'The Playboy of the Western World' at the Belltable Arts Centre from Wednesday, February 27 to Sunday, March 2 at 8pm.

This classic comedy drama is set in a shebeen and tells the wonderful story of Christy who, having killed his Da, goes on the run and arrives in a remote corner of Mayo. The locals, on hearing his story, treat him as a hero and much to Christy's delight he is the toast of the neighbourhood and has two fine women fighting over him.

Torch, the company who recently staged Happy Birthday Dear Alice, A Life and Blythe Spirit return to the Belltable with the cream of Limerick acting talent to present another wonderful night's entertain-



Mary Jones, who plays Pegen Mike and Pius McGrath, who plays Shawn Keogh rehearsing for the Torch Players forthcoming production of the Playboy of the Western World

ment. The play will be directed by Maurice O'Sullivan. Tickets are priced at €16 euro, concessions €12 and students €8. Booking on (061) 319866.

A PUBLIC meeting will be held in Askeaton Monday night to discuss concerns about the development of a quarry at Lyclogh, 1.5 kilometres from N69 road, being proposed by Askeaton.

LEAVYS

SALE

LAST

WEEK

LEAVYS

SHOES

113 O'CONNELL STREET, LIMERICK
15 WILLIAM STREET, LIMERICK