

oured for oncern

Tragic climber Ger listed in book on Irish heroes

KILCORNAN

Norma Prendiville

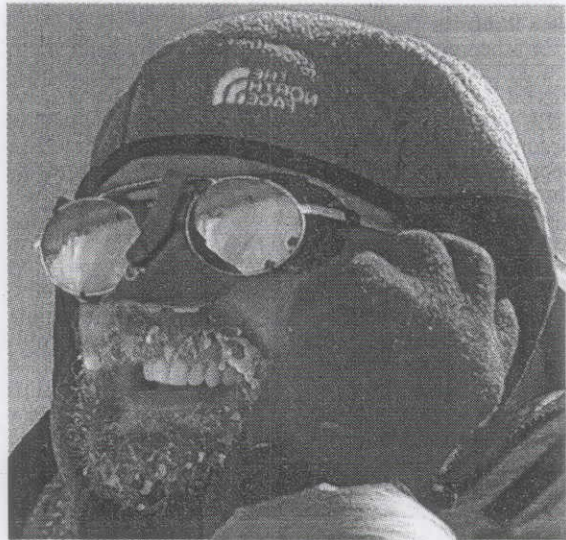
A NEW book, Give Me Irish Heroes, which is to be launched in Limerick next week, includes among its 15 heroes, Gerard McDonnell from Kilcornan, the first Irishman to scale K2. Gerard died while descending what is regarded as one of the world's most dangerous mountains and while trying to help three others to safety.

Author and adventurer Ian McKeever got the support of Gerard's family and friends in writing the chapter on him.

And his account of Gerard's life and epic adventures is a warm one – putting Gerard right at the heart of the family who meant so much to him and extensively quoting Gerard's mother, Gertie, who realised very early on she had an adventurous soul on her hands.

It charts Gerard's life through college and his first climbs – and goes into some detail about how he helped veteran climber Pat Falvey on Mount Everest. It also tells the true story of Gerard and the sliothar on top of the world's highest mountain.

Most importantly, from the point of view of historical accuracy, the book gives an extensive account of the events of August 2008 when Gerard realised his ambition to scale K2 –



Mountaineer Ger McDonnell who is included in a new book on Irish heroes

an event which quickly turned into one of the world's worst mountaineering tragedies which claimed 11 lives.

On the strength alone of what he did over the two days before his death, Gerard deserves the epitaph hero, but the book also reveals the many other ways in which this son of Kilcornan was heroic.

Joining Gerard in the ranks of heroes are Adi Roche, Gary Keegan and jockey Seamus Durack.

"It outlines the roller-coaster journeys taken by 15 very different individuals who come from all walks of life, men and women alike, people from all over Ireland, whose stories have effected positive

change, be that in the perceptions of those around them or in their own physical environment," said Mr McKeever.

The book is Mr McKeever's second and it will be launched in Dolan's, Dock Road, Limerick, next Wednesday, at 7.30pm. Paul O'Connell has been invited as the special guest speaker and all profits are being donated to various charities, including Gaisce and the Chernobyl Children's Project.

Mr McKeever will also visit schools in Limerick to speak about Ger McDonnell, including Kilcornan NS, Colaiste Mhuire, Askeaton, the Salesian College, Pallaskenry, and the Crescent Comprehensive.



Mary O'Riordan, Southern Advertising, sponsors, Darragh Brady, general manager, Clarion Hotel,

(LL)

myself, but also support from the number of people who were praying for me and who helped me with my recovery."

Liam believes he received a miracle in Brazil when he went to see the doctor, John of God, as he was in Brazil, who he describes as "an amazing

what is, I suppose, the amazing memory I have in the last 20 years that was only recently fully."

no matter what life was like for him, Liam always sees himself as on a journey. As he got over that initial shock of having terminal cancer, he refocused himself deep within his resources.

He prayed a lot, and a labour of mine who is a spiritualistic Minister brought me Communion every day. I really, really

found great strength in that – that's something that I would have never found before.

"For my sins, I don't go to Mass every Sunday – I rarely go to Mass – but as I get my strength back that will change because I think I owe a lot to God, not to the Church, I just owe a lot to God."

And his life motto? It comes from one person who guided him through his Concern experience over the last 20 years, Fr Aengus Finucane.

"Do as much as you can, for as many as you can, for as long as you can. I have taken that on board and that's become my motto."

"I would however, like to discover why God has spared me, to see if there is anything specific he would want of me, or anything that I could do to help others that I'm not already doing," said Liam.

Free on-street city parking

CITY Christmas shoppers are set for a boost as from this Friday, December 4, there will be 3,000 free on-street parking spaces available.

This week Limerick City Council confirmed that on-

street parking will be free on all Friday and Saturday afternoons from 2pm from December 4 to December 19. On-street parking continues to be free all day on Sundays.

Mayor of Limerick, Cllr

Kevin Kiely said that Limerick city centre is a perfect place for Christmas shopping and Limerick City Council wanted to make it as easy as possible for people to spend time in the city.