First Aid

IF you've ever wanted to be equipped to handle a medical emergency then a first aid course will appeal. The Red Cross will this month run a course specifically designed for accidents on the sports field. It costs €150, if interested get in touch with the Henry Street office.

Get Fit

STREET Steppin', the exercise initiative for Limerick women, is again organising evening walking groups across the city. The groups are always in need of volunteer leaders. For more information call 085-8752742.

Garda payouts

GARDA pay-outs to the public in cases taken against the force grew by a staggering 500 per cent last year to nearly €6m. The previous year the figure was just €1.1m.

Reckless Driving

A new survey reveals that a high percentage of motorists believe they will not be caught for speeding or drink driving. The Irish Insurance Federation study found that one in two drivers feel there is little chance of being caught while driving under the influence.

Astronomy Ireland

ASTRONOMY Ireland

Plans lodged for club at GPO site

By DAVID HURLEY

THE FACE of Lower Henry Street could be transformed if planning permission is granted for a multi million euro development on the site of the former An Post GPO complex.

Limerick based Sloeberry Developments, which is backed by developer Robert Butler, has applied for permission to build a bar, restaurant and night-club as well as four stories of office accommodation.

The planning application, which was lodged with Limerick City Council on September 12 also proposes the demolition of three existing buildings and the reinstatement of the arched facade of the former Roche's Hanging Gardens Building.

Limerick banker, William Roche Esq., M.P., built the gardens in 1808 to the rear of his residence at George's Street — now O'Connell Street at an expense of £15,000.

According to one historical website: "The gardens form a singular ornament to the town; they are raised on ranges of arches of various elevation, from 25 to 40 feet. The vaults thus formed being converted into storehouses for wine, spirits and other goods."

It's thought the facade of the gardens extends about 200 feet and to a height of around 70 feet above street level.

The proposed development will also include retail and commercial units and a new pedestrian link is being proposed from Post Office Lane. Mayor of Limerick, Cllr Joe Leddin has welcomed the planning application: "It's a significant investment by the developer in the city centre, particularly in the Henry Street area; The building itself is a protected structure so obviously whatever developments would take place there they would have to take cognisance of the conditions that would be imposed." Mayor Leddin is also eager to point out that the planning process is just beginning in relation to the proposed development: "Of course members of the public now have a change to submit their views and opinions over the coming weeks."

A decision regarding the planning application is due to be made by November 6.

Plans: the former post office site on Henry Street (LL)

Fashion college is just the business

By ANNE SHERIDAN

that breaking out on her own was "a jump and a