

Gardai give advice for a happy Christmas for all

By PADDY MORONEY

THE gardai, quite apart from their usual "beat" of looking after the man-in-the-street, are also concerned about the man-in-the-home.

Gardai at Henry Street

station, through crime prevention officer Sgt John Kelly, have issued a set of guidelines which should make Christmas a happy one for the household.

The main concern of the detectives and uniformed gardai are crime, especially housebreaking, and fire.

The initial advice of the

gardai is the most elementary of all: fit and use good-quality locks to doors and windows.

The old adage, that a cheap lock is a nasty one, hold true here: what is required is a reliable lock that is strong and easy to use, and so encouraging use.

A good back door is also essential: some makes not quite suited to the outdoors can "move", i.e., the timber can become warped, and new holes have to be drilled in the door-frame to allow for the slightly new position of the bolt.

It is important to have the house adequately lighted. This is well-known to householders, many of whom take care to leave a light on when they are going out. But many fail to appreciate that leaving a

light on can be a give-away to opportunistic house-breakers, and so it is very important to have lights on in the odd unoccupied room, when the house is occupied.

If one has to go away, it is important to have a neighbour, or near-relative, check the house. As to whether this should be at regular or irregular intervals is a matter for judgement, but the checks might be carried out at "vulnerable" times, so that any opportunistic housebreaker sees the car outside or at least some activity.

Alarms are a bone of contention in some housing estates. The silent kind are preferable, as some tend to go off occasionally without necessity, disturbing a whole neighbourhood. Some silent alarms do

have a flashing beacon to guide a Garda patrol car to the house.

The advice of gardai is that if a householder does have an alarm system, he or she should make sure that there is someone who will respond in the event of the alarm activating. The gardai might need to be admitted by a keyholder, if the family is away, and the house made secure again in the event of a break-in.

It may seem simple advice, but the gardai have to repeat it again: make sure that you notify them of the time that you are away on vacation.

Some kinds of houses are particularly vulnerable, particularly those which are not overlooked by other houses, or are shielded from neighbours' view by a thick screen of trees. Also those

which are at the end of a terrace or nearest the road in a cul-de-sac.

Another facet of household security which can occupy the time of the gardai is ... fire.

The gardai point to the obvious precautions of keeping a chimney clean and keeping a spark-guard up against an unattended fire, or on going to bed at night.

But what worries them, at this time of year, is the danger of Christmas tree fires.

"The use of Christmas lights should always be monitored," says Sgt Kelly, "And don't leave them on overnight."

And another problem: drinks at parties. Over-indulgence in drink at house parties can lead to tragic accidents.

BRIEFING

Limerick I.C.A.

THE I.C.A. Limerick Guild held the December meeting recently. It was the Christmas party with a sing-a-long, story telling, Santa came with presents for all. A lovely tea was served, and our president, Mary Kelly, wished all a very happy and holy Christmas.

World Cup

DUE to popular demand the closing date for the fabulous Golden Vale World Cup competition has been extended to January 31, 1994. See last weekend's Limerick Leader for details.

Mass times

LIMERICK Leader posters listing the times of Church services in the Limerick area are available free at the front office of the Limerick Leader

Aladdin contest winners

THE following were winners in our Aladdin competition.

Clement McNamara, 23 Windsor Court, Castletroy, Criona Garvey, "Orby", Clannorris Avenue.

Dawn O'Loughlin, Cappanuke, Cappamore. Majella Shanahan, 74 St Munchin's Street.

Marie Shanahan, 74 St Munchin's Street.

And successful in our competition for the School Ties videos were:

John McGrath, 19 Cill Chais, Shannon, Co. Clare. Kevin Toomey, Avilla, Milford Grange.

Michael O'Loughlin, Cappanuke, Cappamore.

Prizes are now available for collection at the Limerick Leader office.

REWARD

Strayed/missing/lost from the Parteen area (opposite Co-op.), 5 year old Yorkshire Terrier, black/blue and tan, answers to the name Teddy. Missing since 8.00 am Friday, 3rd December (collar with name tag and phone number). £250 cash offered. Telephone Frank Moloney 061-340152.



receiving their certificates from the Institute of Bankers were Kevin McGarry, Angela O'Brien, David Ryan (AIB regional manager), Noelle Chambers, Barry Kenny and Denis O'Keefe.

Fuel vouchers should be £8 claims Hannon

By AIDAN CORR

LIMERICK people who qualify for fuel vouchers are being short-changed, according to community worker, Noel Hannon, who claimed that there is a shortfall between the value of the coupon and the price of a bag of coal.

"The value of vouchers given to people is set at five pounds while the price of a bag of coal is between seven fifty and eight pounds," he told the Limerick Leader.

"People who qualify for fuel vouchers should be given the full amount to

enable them to purchase coal during the winter," he continued, adding that setting the value of the coupons below the price of the coal is "short-changing those in most need and hitting the poorest in the community."

Mr. Hannon has met the Minister for State for Health, Willie O'Dea, who, he claims, has promised to raise the matter with the authorities in a bid to have the value of the vouchers brought up to a more realistic level.

"The minister is concerned about the short-fall and he is to meet with Department officials in the coming days. It is a matter which must be rectified straight away," said Mr. Hannon.

Historic 'Limerick Journal' launched

THE 30th edition of the Old Limerick Journal was formally launched, yesterday evening, by Mayor Jan O'Sullivan, at a reception in the Pike Inn.

In the presence of editor Aid Jim Kemmy TD, she warmly praised the work which had been put into the journal, particularly the article by Des Ryan on the suffragette movement in Limerick.

"Many people, when they think of the suffragette movement, think of the Pankhursts and Hannah Sheehy Skeffington," she said, "but this shows that there was also a vibrant campaign in Limerick also."

She added: "The Old Limerick Journal has established itself as one of the leading journals of Limerick history, providing as it does a wide variety of articles on local events."

She also praised the regular contributors to the journal, over the years, who had, she said, added to "the great store of knowledge about Limerick", as well as occasional contributors.

Editor Jim Kemmy TD, in a tribute to the late Seamus O Cinneide, warmly praised his dedication to furthering local knowledge about local folklore, history and tradition, as well as his enthusiasm for the Irish language.



Cranberry sauce! Dolores O'Riordan, lead singer with The Cranberries, at the Gay Byrne Show national carol concert at the university concert hall on Monday.

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