

Sherkin Newsletter

Issue 42 June 2012

The month of May was kept merry, not by the unseasonably chilly weather but by the varied spectacles provided by art and by boats. The island hosted the BAVA final year students' art exhibition which brought unprecedented numbers of people to Sherkin over 19th and 20th May. Then the following weekend brought boats to the harbour for the Baltimore Wooden Boat Festival and this was swiftly followed by a bunch of real old ladies of the sea - the pilot cutters from England. See inside for photos.

This theme of boats and art will continue this month with the Cork Midsummer Festival stretching itself outside of the city to Sherkin for the first time ever with a performance of 'Drift' in Horseshoe Harbour on 30th June (full details inside) and there's a call from Caroline McDaid who is starting a Community Drama Group on Sherkin. More water based activities will be to the fore with Sherkin Regatta on July 22nd, and then the dramatic arts get another outing with the return of the West Cork Fit-up Theatre Festival. Blood in the Alley Productions will be bringing four plays to Sherkin Community Hall on consecutive Fridays, beginning on July 27th and ending with a real scoop on Aug 17th with an appearance by a living legend of the stage, Rosaleen Linehan, in 'The Ghost Show'. Full details next month!



Dylan Murphy, with his family, having received his First Holy Communion at the Sacred Heart Church, Rath, on 26th May. Congratulations!

This newsletter is produced by Karen Mould and Sue Cahalane and published by SIDS. We welcome news and ideas of general interest and please do contact us with information about forthcoming events. Articles can be emailed to sherkinnewsletter@gmail.com, or delivered by hand, and any enquiries to 087 7715862. We look forward to hearing from you! **Next deadline 10th July 2012**

Pirates or Pilot Cutters?



A small fleet of boats slid into Baltimore harbour under the cover of darkness on 31st May, anchored below Dun na Long, and three days later disappeared again having stolen one of our young. Well not exactly but almost!

These weren't 16th century pirates but a group of friendly Bristol Channel Pilot Cutters, 40 -55ft long, with at least three of them being over a hundred years old, namely Marguerite, Peggy and Mascotte , who



sailed here primarily for their inaugural Falmouth – Fastnet race.



After enjoying themselves immensely while ashore in Baltimore and Sherkin, and having chosen one of the quietest days of the year to flap their sails around the bay on

1st June, they quietly departed on Bank Holiday Sunday with Isobel Towse bagging herself a berth to Penzance.



These beautiful old boats were a glorious sight, captured on camera by Robbie Murphy, and it is hoped they will return next year.

The West Cork Islands' Annual Open Weekend June 23rd & 24th 2012.

Be an islander for the weekend and enjoy reduced rates on activities, services and accommodation. Come and explore the islands, experience island life, enjoy activities and fun events for all the family, while sampling the local culinary delights. Or just simply ramble around and immerse yourself in a tranquil island atmosphere.

Sherkin details:

Ferry Rates: All visitors to the island on Saturday and Sunday will receive a 50% reduction on the ferry from Baltimore at a special rate of 5 euro return fare per adult, and 3 euro per child.

Food: Special menus are available at both the Jolly Roger and Murphy's Pub & Islander's Rest, 5 minutes walk from the ferry. Lunch special from 5 euro at Murphy's Pub & Islander's Rest. (Weather permitting, al fresco dining at both).

Live music at the Jolly Roger and Murphy's Pub & Islander's Rest.

Sherkin Island Marine Station exhibition is being hosted at Murphy's Pub & Islander's Rest.

Accommodation: For those wishing to stay overnight, Murphy's Pub & Islander's Rest are offering B&B plus evening meal at 60 euro p.p.s. – 028 20116.

Horseshoe Cottage B&B are offering a double room, with breakfast, for 75.00 euro – 087 9961 557.

Safe bathing for all the family can be enjoyed on Sherkin's magnificent sandy beaches at Silver Strand, Cow Strand and Trabawn.

Sherkin Island National School will be having an open day on Saturday 23rd between 12.30 p.m. and 3.00 p.m.

Sherkin's Visual Arts (BA course) students will be exhibiting their work over the weekend at the Community Hall.

Birdwatching: Those interested in birdwatching will be conducted on a tour by our resident ornithologist Julian Wyllie. Tel: 087 061 9186

Scenic rib rides around the bay at 5 euro per head (minimum 8 people) will be available all weekend at Murphy's Pub & Islander's Rest.



Tidy Island Fundraiser

June Bank Holiday
Monday was a busy day for the Tidy island group and all their supporters who gathered at the Mahon's garden for a 'Bring and Buy' cake sale. The weather was mostly kind and thankfully there wasn't a healthy option in sight! A fantastic array of goodies appeared from all

corners of the island which were munched on site with cups of tea, or brought home in carefully constructed origami-esque containers, and for a very good cause everyone could forget about diets, cholesterol and other sins for a couple of hours anyway. Just over €300 was raised and thanks must go to Barry and Nuala for hosting the event, to all the tea and coffee makers, furniture shifters, the bakers, eaters and buyers. Well done all! *Photo courtesy of Emma Harte*

Blond arrives at the Jolly Roger.....

No, not Reese Witherspoon, nor according to the Southern Star her well known lookalikes Julia Roberts and Mel Gibson, but a Cork blond.

The Franciscan Well brewery pub in Cork produces award winning beers, stouts and ales which have won all kind of awards all over Europe. We are delighted to announce that we now have their gold medal winning pale ale "Blarney Blonde" on tap in the Jolly Roger. Apart from a few bars in New York I think we are the only "offshore" licensed premises that they supply. Another first for Sherkin!

A different blond will also be taking up residence on Friday nights in the Jolly soon as we welcome back Katy Salvidg , that exquisite pianist who will be delighting patrons with everything from Bach to the Beatles. And 'One Horse Pony' who lifted the roof last Bank Holiday has promised to return with their acoustic cajun blues set.

Mark Garry 'Drift'

A new work by artist Mark Garry in collaboration with composer Seán Carpio, a live sound art performance in the magical surroundings of Horseshoe Bay in Sherkin Island, West Cork.



Drift brings together one of Ireland's leading contemporary artists, Mark Garry, and jazz musician and composer Seán Carpio, to create a unique outdoor visual and auditory experience on Sherkin Island in West Cork. Mark has worked with a boat builder based on Sherkin Island to transform a

sailboat into a floating Aeolian wind harp. This sonic sculpture will be accompanied by a new composition, based on Sumerian Hymns, written for wind instruments.

This 40 minute performance takes place in Horseshoe Bay on Sherkin Island between 7.30 pm and 8.30 pm on Saturday 30th June. Access to this performance will be by a specific DRIFT ferry only and audience numbers are limited. Early booking is highly recommended.

ALL booking for this event must be done through the Cork Midsummer Festival booking office. RSVP to tickets@corkmidsummer.com or purchase online. Tickets for the ferry are €10 which must be booked through Cork Midsummer Festival and cannot be bought on the day.

Our special DRIFT ferry has been organised to transport the audience to Horseshoe Bay and it will leave from Baltimore at 7 pm (sharp). Outdoor event, please dress appropriately and wear suitable footwear.

Festival Talk: 27 June, 1pm, National Sculpture Factory

Artist Mark Garry presents a lunchtime lecture and presentation on his practice.

This event is a collaboration between Cork Midsummer Festival, National Sculpture Factory and West Cork Arts Centre.

The Cork Midsummer Festival Director says Mark Garry is one of Ireland's most prolific and diverse visual artists, and this will be a truly memorable detour to Sherkin Island. This marks a renewed series of collaborations with the National Sculpture Factory, and also the beginning of the Festival's attempt to extend the programme beyond the City and into County Cork.

Rainfall for May 2012

The total rainfall recorded at Sherkin Island Marine Station for May 2012 was 52.2 mm. 36.1 mm fell on four days:

3 rd	8.4mm
6 th	7.2mm
9 th	8.7mm
18 th	11.8mm

The wettest May since recording began was 1981, with 175.8mm and the driest was 1991, with 1.7mm.

Sherkin Library News

Josephine Jefferies

Statistics

Visitors 105

Books Borrowed 159

Internet Sessions used 8

Memberships new or renewed 5

Opening Hours

Tuesday 1.30pm – 5.30pm

Thursday 11am-2pm

Friday 5.30pm-8.30pm

West Cork Literary Festival 2012

Don't forget to pick up a brochure from the Library for the full itinerary of the Literary Festival held in Bantry Sunday 8th July to Saturday 14th July 2012.

BA Visual Art



Maureen O'Neill (chair of SIDS), Donagh Carey (student of the year), Majella O'Neill Collins (art facilitator), Peter Murray (chair of Crawford Gallery), Ann Davoren (chair WCAC), Bernadette Burns (BAVA programme chair)

President Mary McAleese, who attended the last Graduation here (in 2010), talked about the sense of energy derived from the BA Visual Art programme and noted that it was very obvious to her that this programme belonged to the Sherkin community. The President said she believes in Ireland's potential as "a knowledge economy," and she said she was truly delighted that an island off the shore of West Cork was "leading the way."

Sherkin Island was buzzing the weekend of 19th and 20th May as hundreds of visitors came to view the work of the 19 students due to graduate this year from BA Visual Art this year. This was a very unique Degree exhibition, as it took place in venues across all of Sherkin, on the pier, in the Abbey, in the businesses, ruins, fields and homes of the island. It was an amazing testament to the openness and generosity of the Sherkin community. The sun shone and people wandered the island with maps in hand enjoying both the art, and the wonderful locations where the art was sited, from large scale photographs on the pier to paintings and light box installations in the Abbey, from a building constructed from used plastic water bottles in Mahon's garden, to large scale drawings in Kelly's house, from live performance art in Jo Jefferies house to paintings installations in the Jolly Roger and Islanders Rest...and lots more...

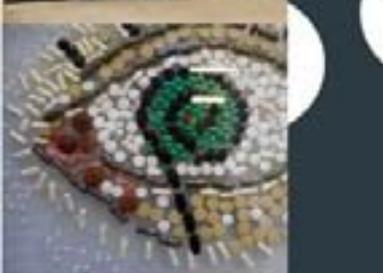
A very different exhibition of works by these students opened at WCAC and the O'Driscoll building on 1st June, and is currently on view. Thanks to Ann and to Majella for the wonderful hanging of this show. Donagh Carey was awarded the Rachael Walsh memorial prize for 'student of the year'. This prize was given by Rachael's mother Ellen Walsh, and also by Evans Art Supplies.

This programme is delivered by DIT in partnership with Sherkin Island Development Society and West Cork Arts Centre. DIT, who are committed to lifelong learning, and to access to education for non-traditional students, are very proud of these students.

Congratulations to again to Anna, Anne, Chris, Danny, Diarmuid, Donagh, Gana, Ginny, Klair, Jane, Janet, Jo, Jocelyn, Luisa, Margrit, Maureen, Michele, Paul and Wendy on completing four years of study on Sherkin.

We will be holding interviews this week in the Community Hall with a view to welcoming another 20 students to Sherkin next September. This will happen subject to continued community funding. There will be an exhibition of work in the Community Hall as part of the West Cork Open Islands Festival on 23rd and 24th June.

There will also be a Pop Up Exhibition of very affordable works of art by students and staff in August. We hope everyone on Sherkin will join us in celebrating at our next graduation on Saturday 6th October.



out there

Dear Sherkin Islanders,

We, the final year students would like to thank all of you for all your kindness, generosity and help with making last weekend such an enormous success.

To all that gave up their houses, gardens, sheds, and parking space on the pier, thank you, it is what made the weekend special and no ordinary art show. We had so much positive feedback about the settings of all the shows. People really saw a different perspective of the island and had a real sense of a community pulling together.

Thank you from all of us.

Anna, Anne, Chris, Danny, Diarmuid, Donagh, Gana, Ginny, Jane, Janet, Jo, Jocelyn, Kiar, Lusia, Margrit, Maureen, Michele, Paul, and Wendy



Nuacht S N Inis Arcáin

June has arrived and is flying by. We are so busy that the holidays will have arrived and we will wonder why! It is a far cry from what many of us thought of June when we were in school.

Confirmation



The Confirmation took place in the church of the Sacred Heart Rath on Friday the 18th of May. The celebrant was Monsignor O'Callaghan who was accompanied by Fr. Martin and Fr. Anthony. It was a beautiful ceremony and all the children from both schools were absolutely word and action perfect. Aoi bheann, Niamh

and Faye took part in the singing of the opening hymn and were delightfully angelic. Aidan and Patrick said prayers of the faithful while Conor read the first reading. The boys read clearly and were audible throughout the church. After the church ceremony all families went to celebrate separately and all reported that although torrential rain fell all day each child had a magnificent Confirmation Day.

Birds.

Many people reported that they had visited our web site and viewed our bird's nest. We hope you enjoyed your viewing. The birds took their first flight on the June Bank holiday weekend. Six in total flew and only an unhatched egg remains in the nest. Our next task will be to retrieve this egg and examine it. Our nest is no longer broadcasting live and will remain so till next spring. We miss our baby birds.

FÍS 2012

This year we again we took part in the FÍS project(Film in School) The 6th class created an animation film entitled "Coming Home" Firstly the children had to design the set and build it. Paint was splashed in all the right places and the class worked very hard to make a set that



any professional animator would be proud of. Next came the painstaking job of taking still photos of each move their characters took. Almost 1700 pictures were taken in all. When completed the film lasts approximately three minutes. It was the hardest film to make to date. 6th class have been part of FÍS since they were in senior infants, and so they have grown up with film making. They are well accomplished at this stage. On Tuesday the 12th of June “Coming Home” was shown at the FÍS Awards ceremony in Dunmanway and received an award for Best Music. Well done 6th class.

Sherkin Island N S Open Day

The school will hold an open day on Saturday the 23rd of June. This is in conjunction with the Open Island’s weekend. All our school projects will be on display as well as our new Fís Film. On that day we will also have the official opening of our Art exhibition. All the art at this exhibition was created during art lessons hosted by Annemarie McInerney our artist in residence. The artist in residence programme was funded by Cork County Council Arts department and was a wonderful opportunity for the whole school. Also on the day we will have sports and busking. Our parent group are working hard organising this day so please come along and celebrate our years work with us. We will have posters with further details on our open day, so keep an eye out for them.

Green Flag

On May the 22nd Niamh, Aoibheann, Dylan and Miss Jennings travelled to Cork to receive our second Green Flag. This Flag was achieved for Energy as we have mentioned before. Our only problem now is that we had to promise to have a party to raise the flag and we are quickly running out of time. I wonder would school in July be an option. What would the boys and girls think????????????????????

May/June birds

Julian Wyllie

I’ve only got a vague memory of what the weather’s been like this past month, so presumably it’s been a fairly typical nondescript spring. A few remarkably wet days no doubt, and quite a lot of dry but cold ones, with about four when there was enough warmth in the air to leave the house with a look of spring-like confidence.

On one of the latter (30th May), I took myself off to Clonakilty for a change of scenery – sitting at the red benches watching the tide ebb or flow is on a par with any urban waterside experience. After a couple of hours of that, it was time to hit the bus-stop for the 2.05 to Skib, where I got a phone-call telling me there’s a bloke in the hotel saying he’d just seen a Woodchat Shrike at Horseshoe. So bang goes two hours of blood-pressure therapy and it’s straight into panic mode. As sometimes happens on these occasions, everything fell into place remarkably well and by 5.15 I was watching a pristine male Woodchat Shrike in the scrubby field just west of Horseshoe Harbour. April 2011 was something of an unprecedented bumper month for this Mediterranean ‘miniature Magpie with a bright chestnut crown’ in Ireland,

with ten individuals being found between Wexford to Kerry, including birds on either side of us at Rosscarbery and Mizen Head. 2012 wasn't looking too promising for the species, with only a single one-day bird in Waterford back in March, so having searched high and low for one last year, this was something of a bolt out of the blue. And although it always gives more satisfaction to find yer own birds on your own 'patch', I can't begrudge the finder of this one - a Mr Sherwin on a day-trip from Schull to his near-namesake island. It was last seen yesterday (9th) looking quite comfortably settled, although an hours' search on the 10th proved fruitless. And so, as wished for last month, my Irish list goes up by one thanks to a Sherkin first.

Two other scarcities in late-May paled in comparison to the shrike but are nonetheless well worth a mention. Black Redstarts are a fairly regular late autumn migrant but there are only three previous spring records, so a female that popped up in a West Slievemore garden for 30 seconds on 26th May before making its way onwards was most welcome. The following day provided a bigger surprise when a well-timed decision to gaze out the kitchen window coincided with a fly-by 2nd summer male Marsh Harrier, the fifth Sherkin record but only the second of a male. Marsh Harriers bred in Ireland for the first time in a century in 2009 and records of males are slowly becoming more frequent. There was a female on Cape Clear at the same time as this bird – might they have met up and gone off in search of a reed-bed big enough to accommodate them next year? There's always hope...

And a quick mention of some potential/confirmed breeders – Long-eared Owl chicks have been heard squeaking in Sleivemore/Kilmoon, at least three Blackcaps have been singing in the vicinity of The Lane (surely this year...), a pair of Ringed Plovers are still acting furtively in Farranacoush and at least one pair of Collared Doves are lingering (at Horseshoe) with on/off sightings of another pair in Kilmoon. And finally, with all that's been going on, the Sherkin year-list is now up to 92, the newbies being Whitethroat, Black Redstart, Marsh Harrier, Woodchat Shrike and Long-eared Owl. Fab, eh?

For more info or to report sightings, contact Julian on 087 0619186 or at jhwyllye@gmail.com

Photo of motor yacht 'Air' while at anchor in Baltimore harbour May 2112

photo courtesy Robbie Murphy



Community Drama Project



I am interested in working with dramatists young and old to produce and perform a Community Drama production on the Island.

The emphasis will be on, participation,

And above all having fun!!

THE PROJECT WILL BE VOLUNTEER LED

For further information please contact:

Caroline Mc Daid @ 086 6600266

Baltimore Wooden Boat Festival

Once again the Baltimore Wooden Boat and Seafood Festival had the best and worst weather to contend with over the last weekend in May. A howling south-easterly gale turned the harbour white for most of the Saturday, so that made the decision to cancel all water based events a straightforward one. But the sun was shining which kept the spirits up, and minds were kept occupied with demonstrations of the lobster pot and fender making. The evening was balmy and the square filled with music and a great crowd out to enjoy themselves.

Thankfully, Sunday was a glorious day for sailing with a very entertaining sailing and rowing event to start the morning where rowers obviously forgot to switch on their radar after the night before.....

This was followed by more antics with the launching of the craft constructed on the Saturday in the 'build a boat in a day' challenge, and then on to the grand finale with over 30 boats dancing around



the harbour in the Parade of Sail. With such a lot of boats all endeavouring to manoeuvre around the harbour this parade is often hard to choreograph and this year there was the added attraction of the impressive but most untraditional boat to venture into the boat festival weekend with 'Air' anchoring mid-harbour, 81m of steel and looking more like a bridge between Sherkin and Baltimore than any craft capable of floating. The whole weekend was once again a most convivial occasion, with people meeting up with old friends again with tales to tell and nobody noticing that a whole day on the water was lost with the bad weather!

Photos courtesy Robbie Murphy

West Cork Islands Community Council News

Syd Cheatle and Aisling Moran represented Sherkin at the West Cork Islands Community Council meeting on Bere Island on the 8th June. In the course of the meeting the most immediate needs of each individual island were identified and listed for presentation at the Cork County Council Interagency Group meeting in Bantry, on July 6th.

Sherkin's immediate needs were prioritized as follows:

1. Acquisition of funding for the continuation of the BAVA Arts Course.
2. Maintaining primary school on Sherkin Island.
3. Necessary Infrastructure (e.g. road, refuse, disposal etc)

Green Pages

Have you something you no longer want, something you would be happy to give away FREE to a new home, rather than throw it away? Why not advertise it here? If you are interested in the item(s), contact the person who is offering it directly.

Description	Photo	Contact
Small verbena bonariensis plants (perennials).		Susan 028 20491
Two types purple sprouting broccoli for planting out now for veg in august or november		Sue 028 20415
Candleholder for 9 candles		Sue 028 20415

Ideas of things you might want to give away: Old furniture, a half bag of cement, plant seedlings, flower pots, plates, envelopes - the list is endless! A photograph is not necessary, but might be helpful. Send details of the items directly to the newsletter.

(Tidy Islands Group)

Sherkin Island Art Workshops:

This summer will be the Fourth year for the “Sherkin Island Art Workshop” which brings together for the first two weeks in July experienced, beginner and emerging artists who have a common interest in art, relaxation and this beautiful island landscape.

The week long workshop is run by two vibrant and colourful women;

Majella O'Neill Collins and Cora Collins.

“We have noticed that this holiday appeals to people who are interested in Art but who may not have any experience. We also notice that people are happy to come to on their own as everyone is in the same boat [literally] and they bond as a group almost instantly. Friendship have been made here and we are finding that people who met here before arrange to come back again the following year together” says Majella.

Cora and Majella were very proud when some previous participants applied for the BA [hons] degree in Visual Art course as a direct result of their workshops. This summer is no different with some participants living locally who are coming as day students.

One satisfied participant said of Sherkin, “ I could not say one negative thing about my whole experience, everyone I met from the ferry crew and bus driver to the hotel and bar staff were helpful, kind and full of friendship. The Island itself could not have been more beautiful, clean and well kept – I will definitely come back again” .

The timetable for the workshop offers plenty of variety - drawing, painting, life drawing, exploration of different techniques and materials, artists' talks, studio visits and a field trip to Heir Island to explore different landscape. The numbers are restricted to no more than 10 people for a more intimate atmosphere and to encourage the sharing of ideas and experiences as the group makes art together. “Any local artists who would like to do a talk about their work for our group would be most welcome, so please get in touch” says Cora.

Contact www.sherkinart.com or Cora at [087] 8319929

St. Colman's Cathedral Chamber Choir visiting Sherkin Island

Some members of St. Colman's Cathedral Chamber Choir will sing at the weekend mass on Sherkin Island on Saturday 30th June 2012. To accommodate the visit, mass will be a little earlier, **at 4.30pm**. All are welcome for this beautiful celebration of the mass.

The Parish Assembly of Rath & the Islands will be visiting Sherkin Island on the day and attending the mass as part of their annual outing. Ferries leaving Baltimore at 2.00pm and 4.00pm.

To welcome both the choir and the parish assembly, a tea party will take place outside the Church after mass. If people would do some baking for this, it would be much appreciated.

KILMOON GARDEN

Nuala and Barry are happy to show the garden to anyone who is interested in visiting it. So if you have friends or family visiting or if you just fancy a walk then call by and have a wander around.

Dates for your Diary

June

- Sun 17th Father's Day!
 Sun 17th **SIDS AGM**, Sherkin Community Hall at 2.30pm
 Fri 22nd - O'Driscoll Clan Gathering in Baltimore
 Sun 24th
- Fri 22nd MISE Otter information talk at 7.00 pm at the Baltimore Community Centre
- Sat 23rd - West Cork Islands Annual Open Weekend, reduced ferry fares for
 Sun 24th visitors, Sherkin NS open from 12.30pm – 3pm, birdwatching and rib rides etc.
- Sun 24th June Baltimore Rowing Regatta
 Fri 29th -July 1st Baltimore Pirate Festival, reliving the 17th century 'Sack of Baltimore', starting with music and storytelling at the Glebe at 7pm Friday, continuing with pirate conference in Dun na Sead on Saturday at 2.30pm, pirate tours, treasure hunts, and ending with re-enactments of history and prize-giving of best dressed pirate etc on Sunday. More details www.baltimore.ie
- Sat 30th June Visit of St.Colman's Cathedral Choir, Cobh to St.Mona's Church for Mass at 4.30pm. Refreshments available afterwards.
- Sat 30th 'Drift' – a unique outdoor visual and auditory experience by Mark Garry and Sean Carpio in Horseshoe Harbour at 7.30pm. Part of the Cork Midsummer Festival.

July

- Sat 14th Damien Dempsey @ The Islander's Rest
 Sun 22nd Sherkin Regatta

