

Sherkin Newsletter

October 2011 - Issue 43

Even more fog! However the Sherkin ladies have been very busy again, Dolly has published a book and Cliona has run the Berlin marathon. Very well done to two courageous girls!!

Never judge a book by its cover, so they say, but in this case you could because the cover of a new book of poetry by Dolly O'Reilly is gorgeous, just like the contents. From a painting by Claus Havemann, the cover will never reproduce properly in this newsletter, although we will try, so you will just have to buy the anthology and see for yourselves.

'**Straight Lines**' is Dolly's first book of poems, nearly 40 in all, some very personal to herself and some particular to Sherkin, and while none are seriously long all are poignant and even a bit pithy. The collection is delightful and available at the moment only through www.amazon.com at \$8. In the near future it will be available locally via dollyoreilly@eircom.net. Two poems are reproduced inside with the author's permission!!

Congratulations also go to Cliona Walsh who ran the Berlin marathon in a great time of 4 hours and 5 minutes. Although disappointed not to get in under the 4 hours it was a very creditable performance on the fastest marathon course in Europe, but run in blistering heat on the day.

Best wishes go to young Davey Murphy, and to his family, as he found himself in hospital recently. Get well soon!!

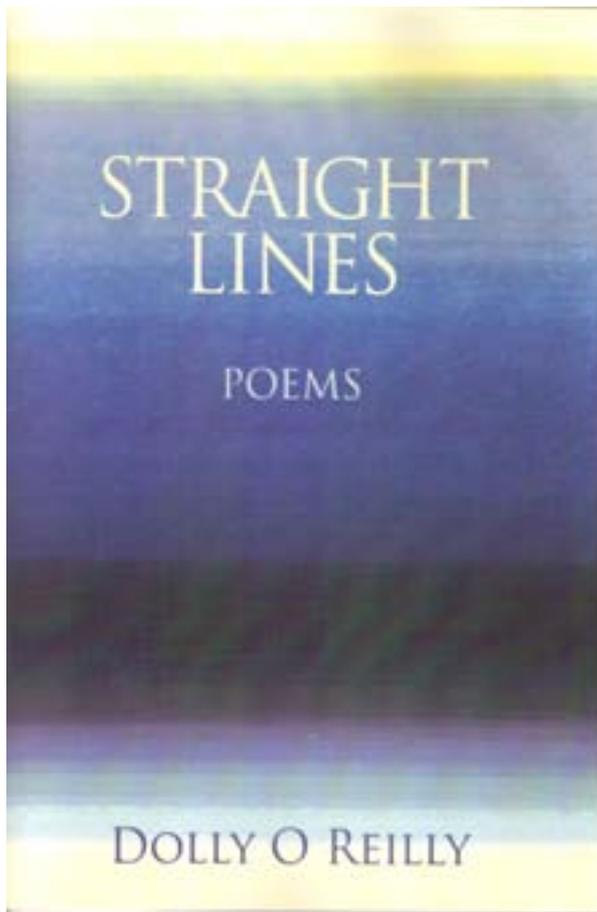
And the general profile of Sherkin will definitely be increased with the airing of 2 TV programmes that were filmed here last week. First off was TV3 filming an episode of 'Don't Tell the Bride', where the groom chose the Islanders Rest for his wedding reception. The ubiquitous fog failed to dampen enthusiasm and with wedding guests entertained by a magician and fireworks it turned out to be a lovely occasion for all. The following day the RTE1 'Nationwide' crew arrived to film some background to a piece about piracy in West Cork in the 17th century, using 'An Run' skippered by Nigel Towse to film locations from the sea. Both programmes will be shown next year.

And hooray the printer/photocopier in the community hall is repaired after being out of action since May and so this newsletter can be printed again. However, it will be continued to be sent by email to as many people as possible to keep costs down and save labour, but we are happy to print for those who really prefer a paper copy. Just let us know.

This newsletter is produced by Karen Mould and Sue Cahalane, and published by SIDS. We welcome articles and photographs of news and of general interest, and so do please contact us with information about forthcoming events.

Articles can be sent by email to sherkinnewsletter@gmail.com, or delivered by hand, and any enquiries to 087 7715862. We look forward to hearing from you!

Next deadline 10th November!!



Rome

You need to sit down often or you might fall –
Once, twice, three times,
Under the beauty of it all-

Dark Months

October

Winter is almost here now –
Moving east across the hill
Like a speckled cow –

November

Goodbye Swallow – Swift –
Hello graveyard shift –

December

Snow falls like soft white ash –
Light as feathers
Plentiful as cash –

January

Cracked ice on lakes –
Ditched cars –
Snowflakes –

February

Such a raw heart
Such a sting –
For something that has always been
So close to spring –

March

Who can tell –
Unpredictable
As hell –
Cold as well -

Tidy Island Progress Report

At their last meeting it was decided that Barry will prepare a two/three year plan of action. Priorities will be signage and getting the situation with walks and permissions to cross private land sorted out. The other, longer term, objective will be trying to get the Tidy Towns management to understand that while we know we are a magnet for visitors and we welcome them we are not acting just to make the island a good place to visit, but making it a good place to live and a place where visitors may enjoy their visit, a subtle difference.

Finally, the Tidy Towns committee wants to thank, once again, those who helped with the work and those who worked on their houses and gardens and walls, etc., to make them even better than they were before. In 2012 we will make even more efforts to be the tidiest island in Ireland, our rightful place.

West Cork Islands Developing an Island Economy

**Thursday October 20th
11am – 4pm
West Lodge Hotel Bantry**

The event is about getting all

- 1. Island business people**
- 2. Islanders with a business idea**
- 3. Islanders who would like to start a business**

To participate on the day with the relevant business agencies. Agencies confirmed to attend with information stands are Comhar na nOileán, (Islands Leader), West Cork Development Partnership, BIM, Teagasc, Failte Ireland, Cork County Council, FÁS, West Cork Enterprise Board, Údarás na Gaeltachta, the Islands Division of the Dept of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, Bere Islands Projects Group, Sherkin Island Development Group, Comharchumann Chléire Teo.

The day is also open to Island students either in secondary school or college to give them the opportunity to meet the funding agencies and also take part in the discussion.

The day is being facilitated by Jackie Gowran who is a business mentor for the west cork enterprise board and she also runs idea generation workshops for people with a business idea or those who want to start a business. Jackie has a lot of experience in supporting start up businesses and mentoring existing ones. The day will be covered by the media and it will be a great opportunity to promote your business. Your business will also get a one page profile to display on the day. If you have friends or family that would like to take part please invite them.

The purpose of the day is to assist with:

- A Discussion on developing an island economy
- A Discussion on building the Brand of the West Cork Islands
- Building a collective approach between business/residents and agencies
- Showcasing Island businesses with a Island stand
- Learn new business ideas
- Meet staff of support agencies for advice and network
- Island Business People meeting and getting to know what they have to offer each other

We will also have an open Forum to develop some ideas together

Refreshments will be served

All are welcome – let's do business together!

Letter from la Gomera

It is the 10th of October and the deadline for this month's newsletter has arrived. I want to thank you all for e-mails, letters, cards and phone calls. Your sympathy and condolences helped a lot when I needed them most. My thoughts are with you on Sherkin, your plans, projects, daily life and how you cope with the weather that has enveloped you in a cold fog for so long. To all of you my best wishes. I'm looking forward to every Newsletter to stay in touch with Sherkin that has been our home for so long and still feels home to me. Fond greetings from
Kordula

Life in Provence.

Nuala Mahon

Today was a fairly typical autumn day here in Provence. The morning started fresh with a strong wind, known locally as the Mistral. Barry watched Ireland's defeat at the hands of Wales. Another rugby enthusiast then joined him, for the French win against England. Before it started we breakfasted together on baguette and croissants sourced from our local bakery. Despite Ireland's defeat we were jubilant that France had won against the old enemy.

We then made our way to a country market, which was being held at a local biological farm. It was small by any standards and contained the local produce like olive oil, peppers, tomatoes, courgettes and all sorts of preserves. We were free to wander around the farm, which had huge plastic tunnels in which there was a wide range of produce, some we recognized some we did not. We were not alone in that but we had the advantage of being accompanied by a local nutrition expert who kept us up to speed on what was what.

We then made our way to the food tent where we had reserved our lunch for the vast sum of €12. We ate like kings starting with two different vegetable dishes followed by a meat dish accompanied by spelt. A crisp, green, lightly dressed salad then goats' cheese and finally a dessert of pears in a very light pastry followed this. To wash it all down we had the local red wine, which tasted like nectar. By this stage the sun was up and the temperature was rising. The company was great and we were welcomed like old friends. Interesting aspect, despite the strong wind the tunnel was like an oven, the greenhouse effect in practice.



After the meal we were invited to view a film about the efforts of the French local farmers' confederation, to try to stop industrial farming and through it the exploitation of immigrant workers. They have teamed up with a similar group in northern Italy in an effort to get their voices heard. They are trying to get governments to see that mass production, intensive farming,

mistreatment of farm labourers both local and immigrant, supermarket price wars, will all serve to drive the small farmer out of the market and we will all end up eating tasteless food from factory farms. It is a terrifying prospect but it will happen unless we all pay attention to what we buy.

This group was preaching to the converted today, most of the participants were already doing what they could to try to keep farming a local activity. They buy what is in season locally from their local producers. They are passionate about Provence and its food. It seems so simple why do more people not do it?

The other part of the message was that the common agriculture policy of the EU is ensuring more and more factory farming, which doesn't, in the long term, help small farmers.

Rainfall at the Marine Station for September 2011

The rainfall for the month of September 2011 was 114.2 mm, of which 74.8 mm fell on 7 days. Rain fell on 27 days during the month.

| | |
|------------------|---------|
| 2 nd | 10.7 mm |
| 5 th | 12.7 mm |
| 9 th | 6.4 mm |
| 11 th | 7.0 mm |
| 19 th | 5.8 mm |
| 23 rd | 6.1 mm |
| 29 th | 26.1 mm |

The driest September was 1986, with 6.2 mm and the wettest month was 1974, with 215.3 mm. This month (2011) was the 11th wettest since 1972.

Children's Halloween Party



in the
Community
Hall
Monday
31st October
2011
at 7.30pm

Prepare to be spooked!

Nuacht S N Inis Arcain
Cait Ui Raghallaigh

The weather may have been dismal for September but all in the school have been working hard. This month we will be even busier. Computer lessons have begun for 5th and 6th class with Karen Mould. Rave reviews from the children on lesson one. Tús maith leath na hoibre. Well done Karen. On Friday next we will have a lesson on silk painting with Veronica O'Driscoll. We will hopefully have some creative art on display later in the month.

At Mass in St. Mona's church on Saturday next Niamh, Faye, Conor, Patrick, Aoibheann and Aidan will enrol for confirmation in May 2012, and Ronan will enrol for First Communion. Well done to all.

On the last day before mid-term we will host a fundraiser for St. Vincent de Paul with our game playing day. All islanders and beyond are welcome. October 28th, be there.

Finally, just prior to the summer break we screened all films produced to date by the children of the school. We are delighted to inform you that once again we will have a film in the finals of the FÍS Film Festival in the Helix in Dublin in November. Congratulations to Aideen Jennings and her class on producing "An Breadán Feasa". We wish them all the best on November 16th.

Library News
Sue Cahalane

Most readers probably won't have noticed too much change in the Sherkin library, in that there are still items there for borrowing and returning. However, the library has been in a bit of a wilderness these past three weeks as the complete processing system, including the phone, has not been working and no sign of a technician coming down to fix it. So, although there is an old basic system in place there is no provision to issue new stock or requests, or for any renewals of books or memberships, and of course no access to statistics for the newsletter!

Library HQ asks for your patience, while they are aware that the staff ran out of that commodity a while ago. Josephine luckily could take herself off on a study trip to Venice with DIT but in the meantime expected the fault to be fixed. An engineer did arrive on 14th Oct and happily 75% of the problems are now solved.

One vaguely good thing about the faulty system was that it didn't recognise how many items any reader had out on their account so you could borrow with gay abandon, and you should also ignore overdue notices that are still arriving by post from HQ because they are probably asking you to return items that are already back on the shelf. Of course, if you have your library card number, and a pin number, you can renew your books yourself on the library website www.corkcoco.ie.

On a more positive note, the CC Library and Arts Service, as part of Children's Book Week, arranged a workshop with Veronica O'Driscoll for Sherkin NS on Oct 14th.

SIDS AGM

Sunday December 4th
Community Hall
2.30pm

FAS CE Scheme

The Sherkin FAS CE Scheme has recently had to undergo changes and be brought to operate along the same lines as other CE schemes. In the past the island schemes were allowed more flexibility. However, this change now means that once participants reach the end of a 3year contract, and the Sherkin people are all approaching this soon, they will have to take a 26 week break and their posts advertised as vacant so that new eligible people may take a turn on the scheme. After this 26 week break the participant will be eligible again to re apply for a place, and all vacancies will be advertised locally and on the FAS website.

Crossword answers from last month :

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| 17 | I | | | 11 | R | | | 5 | O | | | | | 17 | I | | | 20 | S | | 10 | H | | | 2 | A |
| 15 | F | 21 | E | 17 | I | 23 | G | 19 | N | | | | 18 | V | 2 | A | 4 | U | 6 | L | 13 | T | 21 | E | 9 | D |
| 8 | Y | | | 21 | E | | | | | | | 21 | E | | | 17 | I | | | | | | | | 21 | E |
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| 26 | B | 11 | R | 4 | U | 20 | S | 24 | Q | 4 | U | 21 | E | | | 12 | J | 4 | U | 22 | M | 25 | P | 8 | Y | |
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Dates for your Diary

October

- Tues 18th Choir practice every Tuesday 8pm at The Islanders' Rest. New members always welcome.
- Thurs 20th 'West Cork Islands, Developing an Island' seminar and information session at the Westlodge Hotel, Bantry 11am-4pm. More info 027-75099
- Fri 21st Frances Black benefit gig for St. Josephs NS Special Needs Class at the West Cork Hotel, Skibbereen.
- Thurs 27th Polling Day for Presidential Election - cast your vote at Sherkin NS.
- Fri 28th Game Day Fundraiser at Sherkin NS, everybody welcome.
- Mon 31st Halloween Party in the Community Hall at 7.30pm

November

- Sun 13th Island Crafts will be at the Craft Fair in Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, noon til 6pm.
- Sun 16th Sherkin NS at the FIS Finals at the Helix, Dublin.

Dec

- Sat 3rd Two one-act plays from Schull in the Community Hall
- Sun 4th SIDS AGM at 2.30pm

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