

# SHERKIN NEWSLETTER

November 2012

Congratulations to the Sherkin National school children and staff on winning the FIS Best Film Adaptation in Dublin last week. They will have to get season tickets soon for all the trips they have to keep making to collect all their prizes! (lots more of their news and pictures inside)

If you would like to see the video it's at : <http://vimeo.com/52994291>

It was with deep regret that the island heard the news of the passing of Neillie O'Driscoll, Slievemore, in Bantry hospital on 9<sup>th</sup> November. Although living in recent times in Baltimore, Neillie is well remembered for his many years work on Sherkin with Cork County Council. Condolences go to his family, friends and neighbours.

Congratulations to Julian Wyllie and Anthony McGeehan for their book 'Birds: Through Irish Eyes', published by Collins Press. Several islanders made the journey to Cork for the launch last month in Waterstones and had a very enjoyable evening. This very attractive edition would make a lovely present!



And watch out for our neighbours of Cape Clear who will be appearing in a new TV series on RTE1 on Monday nights at 7.30pm, 'Ar an Oilean'. Filmed over the course of a year in both Cape and Inis Meain the 4 episodes explore the attractions of living on an island.

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

# Sherkin Island Development Society Fantastic Summer Draw Winners

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize Peig O'Driscoll, O'Driscoll chieftain - 2 nights at Inisbeg Estate for up to 6 people  
2<sup>nd</sup> Alan O'Donovan, Leighcloon - 2 nights B and B for 2 at the Islander's Rest  
3<sup>rd</sup> Billy Mundow, Inish Boffin - Half day sail on the Ann M for up to 5 people  
4 Helen Boyle, Douglas - Dinner for 2 at the Jolly Roger  
5 Paul McGee (c/o Finn Walsh, Sherkin) - Family Ticket for the Ten Island tour  
6 Emma Harte, The hostel - Voucher for Island Crafts, Baltimore

## Library News Sue Cahalane

### Stats for October

Number of visitors	112
Internet sessions used	12
Memberships new/renewed	4
Items borrowed	96

### Opening times

Tues	1.30pm - 5.30pm
Thurs	11 - 2pm
Fri	5.30 - 8.30pm

The Library gets its fair share of visitors who wander in, and the latest bunch were 3 people from Belgium who work in a library near Antwerp (100,000 items on its shelves). They were very impressed by the selection available in Sherkin's tiny library, particularly by the number of new and up to date books. At the moment the library has the new novels by J.K.Rowling, Mellissa Hill and Eugene Kerrigan, and newly arrived in a completely different field is the new Draft Register of Electors for Sherkin and several slim volumes of material garnered from the 2011 Census for those interested in various aspects of sociology.

One of the snags with a library is that items may only be borrowed and must be returned on time otherwise the borrower has to pay a fine. To avoid having to pay a fine you can do either of the following:

1: phone the library during opening hours and ask to have your items renewed.

2: renew online from home through [www.corkcoco.ie/library](http://www.corkcoco.ie/library). On far right of the library home page click on 'my account', enter the number on the back of your reader membership card and the pin number of your library account. This enables you to renew your books, DVDs etc, but also to see if anything you have requested has arrived in Sherkin yet.

NB. If you are going away on holiday you can always ask to have the loan period extended to cover the time you are going to be unable to return items borrowed.



### Sherkin Annual Christmas Carol Service Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 3pm at St.Mona's church

The choir is busy practising for this event but if you would also like to participate with a song, piece of music or a poem please contact Susan Murphy 086 8711778 asap.

### Rainfall for October 2012

The rainfall for the Marine Station for the month of October 2012 was 98.5 mm. 71.5 mm fell on 7 days:

5 <sup>th</sup>	6.2 mm
7 <sup>th</sup>	7.8 mm
8 <sup>th</sup>	19.5 mm
10 <sup>th</sup>	13.0 mm
15 <sup>th</sup>	6.1 mm
16 <sup>th</sup>	11.1 mm
30 <sup>th</sup>	7.8 mm

This October was the 13<sup>th</sup> driest since 1972. The driest was 1978, with 26.4 mm, and the wettest was 1988 with 216.7 mm.

**Sherkin Island Development Society Ltd**  
require  
an **Administration Assistant**

Duties will include: Assisting with the secretarial and book-keeping work of the Society, assisting in communicating with public bodies and government agencies.

19.5 hours per week

Applicant must be eligible for Community Employment

Apply in writing to  
Skibbereen Education & Environment Project Ltd,  
The Old Credit Union Building, North Street, Skibbereen.

### Tips for November

**See and be seen!** Remember when out walking or cycling after about 4pm to wear light coloured clothing if possible but ALWAYS to wear reflective armbands/jacket, carry a torch, and check that back and front lights are working on the bike. Reflective gear is available at hardware stores like Drinagh Co-op.

For those who suffer from **cold feet**, it is reported that Penneys in Cork have marvellous fleecelined longish socks called Feet Heaters for €5 that are quite wide at the top and so don't restrict circulation and add to problems!

# SHERKIN BUS

## CHRISTMAS SHOPPING TRIP TO CORK

**MONDAY**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2012**

ANYONE WHO WISHES TO GO ON THIS TRIP PLEASE  
GIVE YOUR NAME TO DAN REILLY OR ANY OF THE BUS  
DRIVERS

*BEFORE 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER.*

**RETURN TICKET €5.**

Phone 086 0431956

**Part-time Courses -  
educational, social or just for fun!**

Eleanor Calnan from the V.E.C will hold a meeting

**Wednesday 14 November 2012**

**6 P.M**

**SHERKIN COMMUNITY HALL**

Eleanor will discuss a range of courses that may be available on the island so if  
you would like to see something happen please come along.

Hi All,

There is a lot happening over the next few weeks. To start with we have Eleanor Calnan coming to give a talk on courses that the VEC could run on Sherkin during the winter months. This will be tailored to meet the needs of the community so if you are interested in something come along and let's see if we can get it up and running. I have a list of courses available in the office.

The One Million Trees project is progressing also, with a representative from the organisation due out in the next week. This is a charity organisation which aims to plant a million trees all over Ireland. They will provide the trees free of charge and if you have enough land will help prepare and plant. Anyone interested in this can call in to me for a chat.

Over the coming weeks we aim to get An Taisce out to have a talk on a greener island. They are already involved with the school through the Green Flag Programme. A green island status does not exist but a representative from An Taisce is willing to come and talk through a pilot programme with us, discussing the pros and cons of doing this in Sherkin.

We have one place still open on the CE scheme for an Administration Assistant. The criteria for the scheme are different from that of the mainland but you do however have to be on the live register. There is a job description in this newsletter.

Governance Training is to be made available to islanders on the evening of the 26<sup>th</sup> and the 27<sup>th</sup> of November. This is a once-off service and will help with the effective running of our voluntary committees.

The date for Sherkin Island Regatta 2013 is 21st July; I know you are scribbling it into the diaries already!!

Much talk and media coverage has been given to 'The Gathering'. It would be fantastic if we could organise some events incorporating crafts, music, art and inviting people home for the weekend. I am looking for volunteers to get involved in this fun initiative.

Finally on a serious note, we are all aware that the national school numbers are dwindling. Over the coming weeks I will be starting a campaign targeting pre-schoolers on the mainland. Accommodation on the island for a family is the biggest hurdle we face and therefore we will be looking at attracting children from the mainland to experience a unique and privileged education on the Island.

My door on Sherkin is always open so if you want to discuss anything with me please feel free to call in or give me a buzz on 087 7669657.

Aisling

## **PARTICIPATION & GOVERNANCE:**

### **TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN**

#### **A TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS**

The participation of people from local communities in the local organisations that exist to improve their communities is vital. However this participation brings with it responsibilities - legal responsibilities, responsibilities to the organisation and responsibilities to the community you are representing. This training pro-

gramme will support you to explore these issues within the framework of information on what the legal and organisational expectations are.

### WHAT IS IT?

It's a series of sessions that will help to ensure that you will be able to actively and effectively participate and engage with a range of local organisations.

### IS THIS FOR ME?

Yes - if you are involved or thinking of getting involved in a local or community organisations – including Boards of Local Development Companies and other structures.

### WHAT WILL IT TEACH ME?

It will teach you/help you to explore what your legal and other responsibilities (such as to the community you are representing) are and how to fulfil those responsibilities so that you can be active and effective.

### WILL IT BE BORING?

A bit – there are a few legal issues that we will need to go through but hopefully we will make it as interesting as possible. The approach will be a combination of training, presentation, facilitated discussion and small group discussions. It will emphasis participation and acknowledge participants as people with experience and expertise. It will be as interactive and participatory as possible.

### WILL THERE BE NOTES?

Yes – there will be notes of all the sessions

### WHO IS GOING TO TEACH IT?

The facilitator will be Ann Irwin. Ann has 20 years experience in community development and has been teaching in universities and in the community for most of that time. She has done this and similar programmes with lots of communities and organisations.

## Nuacht S N Inis Arcáin

This month has been busy for all at the school. We held our game playing day in aid of the lifeboat. The crowd may have been small but many games were played. Trivial Pursuits was a firm favourite on the day and brains were taxed. Murder mysteries in the form of Cluedo were also a head wrecker. Thanks to all who attended and helped to raise the sum of €40.

Roisin Meaney author of “Don't Even Think About It” visited us before the mid-term. This visit was made possible through Cork County Library and organised by Sue. Her talk to the children was informative and interesting. Thank you Sue for the enjoyable morning spent with Roisin.



On the 8<sup>th</sup> of November a Sherkin contingent travelled to Dublin for the Fís Film Festival 2012. We set out by bus from Baltimore at the early hour of 5.30am!!!!!! Blankets and pillows along with sleepy eyes were loaded up and off we went. Well rested, we arrived at the Helix in DCU. At an award ceremony hosted by Sinead Kennedy we were delighted to be awarded Best Film Adaptation for our animation film entitled “Coming Home”. This is a short film adapted from the story of the three little pigs. It shows three boys leaving home as very angry young men. They attack a man who eventually exacts his revenge on them and they return home to

their Dad as changed people. Heavy or what?

The parents who travelled on the day were Clíona, Mags, Nicole and Rosaleen. We would like to thank them for all their help and the care they took of all children. They were brilliant.

Coverage of the event is available on



[www.fisfilmfestival.com/](http://www.fisfilmfestival.com/)

On Friday we sent off all the boxes to Team Hope. For a very small school we managed to send 10 boxes this year. These presents will make Christmas a special time for the children who receive them and so thanks to all who prepared them.

Next month we are taking part in the Young Scientist Exhibition in Dublin (again). We will have more details on our experiment for the December issue.

We are about to begin rehearsing for our Christmas play any day now so watch the next issue for that date!



**‘Amour’ a performance by PlayActing Theatre Productions @  
The Islander’s Rest Sat 1st December at 8pm.**

*Amour* is a short play written and directed by Karen Minihan based on the Guy de Maupassant story of the same title. The play involves two actors and two dancers and in their vision for this performance the production team presents a sensory experience that combines acting, dance, and a haunting sound score including the music of Kíla.

There will be a raffle held on the night with all proceeds to the BAVA course Sherkin.

**Dates for your Diary**

**Nov**

- Wed 14<sup>th</sup> Eleanor Calnan, Cork VEC, to lead discussion on classes available which may be held on Sherkin. Community Hall @6pm.
- Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Talk by Dr Maureen Griffin on cyber bullying, on-line chatting and mobile phone safety for parents of teenagers. Mercy Heights Sec School Skibbereen @8pm, tickets €5 from school office 028 21550.
- Mon 26-27<sup>th</sup> Training programme for community activists. (time to be confirmed)
- Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Opening night of the Glebe Christmas Emporium, Baltimore. Crafts and carols, mulled wine and mince pies!

**Dec**

- Sat 1<sup>st</sup> ‘Amour’ to be performed at the Islander’s Rest @8pm.
- Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> Proposed shopping trip to Cork city, €5 each but seats must be pre booked by phoning 086 0431956.
- Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Christmas Concert at St. Mona’s church @3pm. All proceeds to St.Vincent de Paul.
- Mon 31<sup>st</sup> Special New Year’s Eve Dinner at the Islander’s Rest – enquiries and bookings to 028 20116

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**SIDS Committee request again that drivers refrain from leaving their vehicles for any length of time on the pier. Working space is continually cluttered by parked vehicles which could be left at home and the bus used for that journey. Thank you!**