

Sherkin Newsletter

February 2012 Issue 47

Spring has been around for a few weeks now judging by the masses of daffodils that have bloomed and the antics of the ducks in the Cuinne pond, so there can be no excuses for not tackling the Spring Cleaning and starting a bit of decluttering in the home. This task is always easier if you know where you can put any outcasts so this is a reminder about the Greenpages in this newsletter which has been used quite successfully by some residents. At time of going to print no one has submitted an entry for this month, so get Spring Cleaning and unearth clutter from the attic and under the stairs which someone else may have use for if they know it is available.



Birthday Boys celebrating in the Jolly Roger.

Pictured are Finn O'Reilly and Richard Collins who shared 150 years on 29th January , and Conor O'Reilly who was 12 on the 28th.

Best wishes are sent to Lizzie O'Connor who is recuperating in Cork after receiving a new hip, expecting to be back in Sherkin in good time to catch the Easter Bunny!

And we welcome Caroline McDaid to the island CE scheme where she has begun working mainly with the elderly. A new face is always very welcome.

And look out for Isobel Towse who will be appearing, perhaps briefly so you must watch closely, in a new commercial on TV for SuperValu, due to start airing in March.

Newsletter Distribution: Paper copies are again available for Sherkin residents, just let us know if you prefer this format.

It has also come to our attention that there seems to be a glitch in every months email distribution in that there are always one or two recipients who fail to receive a copy (even though the computer says very plainly that they have all gone off successfully). So if you find the newsletter hasn't reached you by email please let us know and it can easily be sent again.

This newsletter is produced by Karen Mould and Sue Cahalane, and published by SIDS. We welcome articles of news and of general interest, and so please do 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 Mar 2012**

News from SIDS

Joe Aston (Interim Chair)

Perhaps one of the hardest aspects of parenthood is the seemingly endless task of disposing of a new human being's waste products, and it remains a fairly unpleasant business for adults. When it comes to a community or even a whole culture, we might perhaps rate its standard of genuine civilisation by its performance in this regard! River banks and beaches covered with bits of plastic are not a pretty site, and it's rather depressing to think of the effects of it all in the sea.

Well, we have a problem here on beautiful Sherkin, and what's happening about it? With SIDS being suspended between two halves of an AGM, maybe it's not surprising there's a bit of a crisis. The sad fact is that we still can't say when the Rugher will be open again. It got into a bad mess, which is more or less cleaned up, but the problem is that it needs a serious bit of work if it is not going to soon get back to the same state. Meanwhile between a practically paralysed SIDS and a County Council that is very hard to pin down, it's very hard to get anyone to take responsibility for it.

However, it's a good time to take stock and do a bit of thinking so that we can get stuck into action as soon as the new Committee is properly established next weekend. It seems to me that the double or treble handling involved in getting our household waste to the Rugher and out of it again is most inefficient at the best of times. Personally I can't see why we can't do here what I see done in so many other places, viz, everyone has their own wheely- bins, colour-coded for different kinds of waste, which they haul out to the road when a compactor truck comes for it.

What with texts and email, it should be possible to arrange collection on an *ad hoc* basis, in other words, just when there is more or less enough waste to fill a truck. One would have to have enough bins for maybe a month in the winter, while in the summer probably for just a fortnight. If we get our act together, we can surely still drag some money out of the Council, but yes, there would be another bill to pay. Anyway this lark of paying out six euro here and there is not satisfactory, especially when one takes into account the little matter of keeping it together and getting it safely into the bank!

Part of the trouble is that we have been leaving too much responsibility to one or two people. **We need volunteers to go on a new sub-committee to work out the best system and get stuck into making it work. If you feel you could help, please give your name to Martin O'Driscoll or myself.**

Another little thing, would people leaving the island for extended periods please leave their car at home and take the bus to the pier, instead of using its precious space as a long-term car-park?

Rainfall for January 2012

The January rainfall at Sherkin Island Marine Station was 121.0mm, with 78.4 mm falling on 6 days:

2 nd	20.1 mm
14 th	6.2 mm
16 th	6.8 mm
25 th	16.4 mm
28 th	7.2 mm
30 th	21.7 mm

Rainfall of 0.2 mm or greater fell on 28 days. The month was the 17th driest January since 1973. The wettest January was 1974 with 234.7 mm and the driest January was 1992, with 50.8 mm.

Nuacht S N Inis Arcáin

Spring is here and the days are getting longer and all at the school are in shock that the mid-term break is upon us. Our final year in the school will be over in a blink. This term so far we have been busy with spellings and quizzes.

The Credit Union Quiz.

On Friday the 3rd of February S N Inis Arcáin was represented by two teams in the Credit Union School's Quiz. On the under thirteen team were Patrick O'Driscoll, Conor O'Reilly, Dylan Healy and Aoibheann Murphy while on the under eleven team were Niamh Murphy, Eric Wickens, Farran Healey and Ellie Walsh. Both teams were well supported by family and teachers and an entertaining night was had by all.

Eason's Spelling Bee.

Our school took part the spelling bee for the first time this year. Parents and children gathered in the school for our school spelling bee late last month. Miss Jennings called out the spellings and children from 5th and 6th class wracked their brains and scratched their heads and finally Conor O'Reilly won. He was to represent the school in Ballinora for the county final Thursday last but alas the previous night he came down with the bug and missed the event. There will always be next year.

Our Valentines Verses

*Love is for life
And you are my wife
For this day
I will go out of my way
To make you so happy*

*Happy Valentines to you
Hope you have a good one*

From Aidan

Patrick O'Driscoll

*Happy Valentine's Day to you,
For you are the only one for me,
I would bake you a cake,
Buy you a rose,
But nothing is better than you.*

Dylan Healey.

*You may not "carrot" all for me,
The way I care for you,
You may "turnip" your nose
When I plead with you.
But if your heart should beat with mine,
Forever "lettuce" hope,
There is no reason in the world,
Why we two "Cantaloupe"*

*Roses are red
Violets are blue
Valentine's for me and you,
It's very nice at this time of year,
We can watch the sunset
Down on the pier.*

Conor O'Reilly

Aoibheann Murphy



The two teams representing Sherkin school on their way home from the Credit Union Quiz on 3rd Feb

Tidy Towns Meeting

Nuala Mahon

On 19th September seven of us got together to discuss the Tidy Towns report for 2010 and to see where we go from there. We discussed how we could improve signage and historical information and also how more adults and children could become involved in the Tidy Towns projects. While remaining very conscious of the island's natural beauty and rich wildlife, we tried to work out broad strategies for maintenance and cleaning of hedgerows and borders.

You will already have seen the "Green Pages" in this Newsletter which was something agreed at the meeting. Fundraising was also discussed and the very successful December Quiz was just the first step along this route. Let's hope you will be equally generous for any further events.

Finally volunteers are needed to keep our island looking as beautiful as possible. We meet about once a week so if you would like to get involved just contact either Susan Murphy Wickens or myself Nuala Mahon. Thanks!

Sherkin Library News

Josephine Jefferies

Library Statistics

Books Borrowed	110
Memberships	3
Internet Sessions used	39

Opening Hours

Tuesday	1.30pm – 5.30pm
Thursday	11am – 2pm
Friday	5.30pm – 8.30pm

We know from 2009 Mindlab International research that reading improves mental well-being, and reduces stress levels by 67% (taken from the Launch of Mood-Boosting Books and Stop! newsletter) why not celebrate the uplifting power of reading by regularly visiting your Library. Well, what can I tell you except that there are books in the Library and they need readers to pore over their pages to keep them feeling wanted and loved. One islander said on her way out of the Library clutching an armful of books "when you have a book you have everything", and that should go up in print and now it has, and now it should go up in marble.

Fundraising for Friedreichs Ataxia

Kate O'Kelly

This piece has been sent to us from a librarian in Mallow who suffers from this disability.

Friedreichs Ataxia is a genetic and progressive disorder of the central nervous system which usually manifests itself in children between the ages of six and sixteen years. However, in some instances the onset for Friedreichs and other Genetic Ataxias can be much later. Because of the genetic factor more than one person in a family may be affected. The general symptoms are clumsiness, difficulties with balance, lack of co-ordination and, in time, a slurring of speech. There is no specific treatment for any of the known Ataxias.

I am doing a Charity Tandem Skydive (Jumping from a Plane) in aid of F Ataxia Ireland CHY 7076, from 10,000 feet or higher. I am doing the sky dive along with other ataxia sufferers to help pay for the week long holiday we go on every year. It is a holiday where we all meet and have a blast, it consists of early mornings and late nights, and even better we are treated like normal, able bodied people on the holiday. The holiday costs an astronomical amount every year and because the money is in short supply the holiday is in danger of not going ahead in the future. The members do not want to end the holiday as it is a great holiday and we look forward to it each year. So hence we are doing the sky dive along with some family and friends.

If you would like to help me with my fundraising you can go onto the Skydive 4 Charity website at www.Skydive4Charity.ie and hit the Sponsor a Fundraiser button. Just insert Kate O'Kelly 2338 in the fundraisers name section. If you sponsor me you will get an immediate email receipt and I will be notified by Skydive 4 Charity. There is a video on the site so you can see what I will be doing to support this cause. Anything at all would be greatly appreciated. You can find out more about the work they do here www.ataxia.ie and please do not hesitate to contact me on my facebook or email okellykate@gmail.com

Indexing: an exhibition of video work made by students of BA Visual Art, Sherkin Island.



Indexing: An exhibition of video art made by students of BA Visual Art, Sherkin Island, was opened by **Cllr. Tim Lombard, Mayor of the County of Cork** at County Library HQ, Carrigrohane Road, Cork, last Friday 3rd February at 12 noon. This exhibition showcases examples of video art made by students of this programme and is a celebration of the diversity and range of work created by these students on Sherkin. The exhibition will continue throughout the month of February, Monday to Friday, from 9.00 to 5.30 and is well worth a visit. The opening

was attended by Martin Riordan Cork County Manager and Louis Duffy DOS Cork County Council. They both praised the work of the students, and the partners of BA Visual Art.

The BAVA partners gratefully acknowledge the interest and assistance of Cork County Council and its officers, in particular Eileen O'Brien, Cork County Library and Ian McDonagh, Arts Officer in the realisation of this exciting exhibition.

Congratulations to all the 39 students on the good results from their assessments in semester 1. We are all looking forward to working with you again. In particular we wish the best of luck to our 19 final year students in this, their last semester working with us on Sherkin.

Dates to put into diary: Saturday 19th May and Sunday 20th May, Sherkin will host the Graduation Show of our Final Year students as an Art Trail around the Island. Many thanks to all in the community who have agreed to open their doors to the public for this exciting event.

West Cork Arts Centre will host the Graduation Show in Skibbereen, opening first week in June. We are also in discussion regarding a Cork City venue for this show. BAVA work will be showcased in Dublin as part of DIT's Graduation Show.

The date for the Graduation event on Sherkin has been provisionally set for Saturday 6th October. This event will be opened by Dr. Brian Norton, President of Dublin Institute of Technology.

Bernadette Burns, Programme Chair, BA Visual Art.

The Strange Boy who will Eat Anything

Jason Murphy

The strange boy eats lots of cakes
He eats anything his mum makes.
He runs through doors,
When he sleeps he snores.

He ate his brother
He is halfway through his mother.
He lifts up houses
To find the mouses.

He ate the tarts
The house he just ate was filled with farts,
He went to jail,
I think he was released on bail.

He put the world in his mouth,
Then he hurled it back out.
Then he went to France
The Eiffel Tower was in his pants.

He ate the Twin Towers,
He ate his wedding flowers.
He almost ate me,
He ate the Statue of Liberty.

The Origin of Sayings

Darragh Taaffe

SHOW YOUR TRUE COLOURS

Pirate ships would approach their intended target showing a false flag to lure them into a false sense of security and when it was too late for the captain to alter his course they would SHOW their true colours the bold "JOLLY ROGER".

TO CUT AND RUN

In times gone by, sailing ships in an emergency rather than hauling up the anchor a sailor would be ordered by the captain to cut the anchor cable and let the ship run with the wind.

FREELANCE

In the middle ages "freelances" were soldiers who fought for anyone who paid them, they were literally free lancers.

GO TO POT (for Joe)

Any farm animal that outlived its usefulness, such as a hen that could no longer lay eggs, it would literally go to the pot. It was cooked and eaten.

BY HOOK OR BY CROOK

This old saying comes from the medieval law which stated that peasants could use branches of trees for fire wood if they could reach them with Shepherd's hooks or bull hooks, hence by hook or by crook.

KICK THE BUCKET (for Jean Paul)

In olden times when slaughtering a pig one tied its legs to wooden beam (in French a buquet) so as the animal died it "kicked the bucket".

A LONG SHOT

A long shot is an option with a slim/small chance of success. In the past, guns were only accurate over a short distance so a long shot (fired over a distance) only had a small chance of hitting its intended target.

MAUDLIN

This is a corruption of Magdalene. Magdalene was a prostitute who became a follower of Jesus. In paintings she was often shown as weeping tears of repentance so she and it became known with sentiment.

RED TAPE

It comes from the days when all official and government documents were always bound in red tape.

SCOT FREE (for Mr Simpson)

It has nothing to do with Scots or Scotland, "scot" is a very old word meaning payment so if one went scot free it meant you did not pay!

Dates for the Diary

Feb

- Wed 15th 'Alan Massey', the new all-weather lifeboat for this area due to arrive in Baltimore at 2.15pm.
- Sun 19th Reconvened 2010 SIDS AGM at Community Hall, 2.30pm. It is requested that all membership renewal forms and monies are handed in to the secretary before this day.
- Wed 22nd Ash Wednesday
- Mon 27th Launch of West Cork Islands Community Council and new website at County Hall, Cork.
- Wed 29th 'Man of Aran' a documentary made in 1939 about life on the Aran Islands, being shown at the Algiers Inn Baltimore @8pm as a fundraiser for the Baltimore Wooden Boat Festival.

March

- Sun 4th 'Vegetable Gardening for Beginners' at the Glebe Gardens, Baltimore. A 1-day course, 10.30 – 3.30, €60 includes lunch. Further information 028 20232.
- Sun 11th 'Making the most of your Polytunnel/Greenhouse' (details as above, further courses are running until end of April)
- Sat 17th St. Patrick's Day!!
- Sat 31st Due date for householders to register and pay the new Household Charge. Forms are available at the Library, more details can be found at county council offices or the website www.corkcoco.ie

