

# Sherkin Newsletter

Nov 2011 - Issue 44

A big thank you to everyone who nominated people for election to be a Sherkin representative on the West Cork Islands Community Council. The full list of those willing to stand will be available shortly and voting will take place on the weekend of Dec 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

Congratulations go to the children of the school with their film making. The younger class are off to the final of the 'Film in School' competition at the Helix in Dublin on Wednesday where they are up against schools from all over the country but know they will be collecting at least one prize, and the older class will be in Galway where one of their earlier films has been chosen to be part of a film festival. A wonderful achievement for all concerned!

A new initiative by the Sherkin Tidy Island group is being launched through this newsletter this month, the Green Pages. This is an attempt to decrease the amount of unwanted items being taken off the island into landfill, which will save us money in the short term by having less to transport, and will help save the environment in the longer term. The idea is that instead of dumping unwanted items they are recycled by advertising them here in the newsletter as **FREE** to anyone who wants to take them away. This may be a way of redistributing things like curtains, furniture, toys, gardening items, building materials, in fact anything you no longer need but might be of use to someone else. See inside for further information.

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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](mailto:sherkinnewsletter@gmail.com), or delivered by hand, and any queries to 087-7715862. We look forward to hearing from you! **Next deadline is 10<sup>th</sup> December**

**Nuacht S N Inis Arcáin**  
Cáit Uí Raghallaigh

Over the last month the children of the school have been busy having fun. Ah we did some work too but please remember the school was closed for a week for mid-term.

On Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> of October members of our families came together in the school for our annual game playing day. Much fun was had and this year we raised €70 for St. Vincent de Paul. Thanks to all.



Sixth class were visited by David Barry of St Fachtna's De La Salle and Stephen Gilbert of Rossa College. Both principals invited the children to attend the open nights of their schools to help them and their parents to make an informed choice of secondary school for next year.

Last month I informed you of the success of our FÍS Film "An Bradan Feasa". Aideen's class will travel to Dublin on Wednesday next to the Helix so cross your fingers for them. Good Luck All

Two years ago we produced a film "Go Sona Sasts" which was screened in Dunmanway and the Helix Dublin as part of FÍS. It later progressed to the Fresh Film Festival in Limerick. The whole school was overjoyed with the success of this short film, which brought our children and Grandmothers to the big screen and won many awards for the school. It came as a great surprise this week when we learned that "Go Sona Sásta" has progressed even further. It will be screened as part of the Galway Film Fleadh on Friday next the 18 of November. It is a great honour to have

our film screen again and the sixth class will travel to Galway for the event. Well done to all involved.



We spent a wonderful afternoon with Veronica O'Driscoll where the children produced beautiful silk paintings. There was a lovely buzz during the lesson and every child was so engrossed in their work. Thank you very much Veronica, pictured here with the children holding their silk paintings.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of November the sixth class and the second class will enrol for the sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion. This ceremony had to be postponed last month due to unforeseen circumstances. We wish all the children well on the day and in their year of preparation.

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### **Notes From Another Island**

Syd Cheatle

Sardinia, though it has recently become part of the Ryanair empire, has not enjoyed the high profile of some of its more familiar counterparts – Majorca, Ibiza, Sicily etc. Still, for those who like to soak up a little local background along with the sunshine, it offers some fascinating insights in the turbulent history of the Mediterranean. Like ourselves, a small island surrounded by powerful neighbours, its two thousand year saga of invasion and conquest makes our own colonial experience seem like a stroll in the park. Neatly situated halfway between Europe and Africa, its key location made it a prime target for repeated assaults from Carthaginians, Greeks, Romans, Vandals, Goths, Saracens and Spaniards – not to mention our old friends, the Barbary pirates who made up for their slim pickings in Baltimore by launching attacks whenever the weather was fine which, unfortunately for the Sardinians, it usually is. Even the British had a crack at it, occupying the capital, Cagliari, and it was from the Sardinian coastline that Nelson shadowed the French fleet for a year or more before delivering the coup de grace at Trafalgar and earning his bird's eye view of London from his column in Trafalgar Square, and Dublin from his perch on top of the old C.I.E. bus terminus know as 'the Pillar'.

Reminders of the island's troubled past are everywhere. Most of the coastal towns remain heavily fortified with seaward facing battlements, bastions, lookout towers and launching platforms for giant catapults which hurled cannonballs and flaming torches at the approaching enemy fleets. Until a century and a half ago (when it fell into the lap of Italy) the clear blue waters were less an attraction than a source of imminent danger and residents around the coast took care to conceal their houses from the sea to escape the attention of passing marauders.

With nothing planned in advance and, after a scouting expedition inland, we settled for the seaport town of Alghero whose old town has remained unchanged for centuries with narrow lanes and cobbled squares whose names (after three centuries of Catalan occupation) are still in Spanish and whose sea defences, including two giant catapults, have been preserved intact. Here, we were lucky enough to find an apartment overlooking the sandy beach at a modest rate of 40 euro per day which, along with the guaranteed sunshine, wine and cigarettes at giveaway prices, compares favourably with some of Sherkin's summer lets. Alghero's beach extends for five miles around the bay and, even in mid October, was in full swing with clear blue skies, warm water and, of course beach bars to supply the necessary refreshment. If you keep on walking you will come across more secluded beaches and coves, some of which you can happily claim as your own. Further still, at Capo Cassia, you will discover the 'Grotto of Neptune', an underground stalagmite cave complex formed between 40 and 60 million years ago with a spectacular freshwater lagoon surrounded by a forest of stalagmites and stalactites projecting up or down to as much as sixty feet. (It takes 300 years to create a single centimetre). Apart from the wonder factor, a hazard in my case was that, of course, smoking is strictly forbidden within the cave and there are notices everywhere warning that one stolen puff of a Benson and Hedges in a corner will not only kill you (having already rendered you impotent and left your surviving children dull witted) but will also reduce one of Nature's masterpieces to a heap of rubble.

The one area of Sardinia to be avoided, unless you've just won the Lotto, is the much touted Costa Smeralda in the northwest, developed by the Aga Khan in the 60's as a millionaires playground, where the creations of the designer boutiques and even the ice creams, change hands at Bond

Street or Fifth Avenue prices, and where, among others, Signor Berlusconi maintains a string of palatial villas (40 rooms, pool, many reclining areas), to conduct his private business, (let's face it, all Bertie ever wanted was a nice house in Drumcondra).

And so this year's two weeks of virtual reality flew past in a flash, as it always does, and as we were transported homeward from idyllic island to idyllic island, and from 25 degrees C back to 10, there came the old familiar daydream...

If only....

But then who could afford to live on the Costa Sherkina?

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### **Rainfall for October 2011**

The rainfall at the Marine Station for the month of October 2011 was 66.4mm, of which 34.9mm fell on 3 days. Rain fell on 25 days during the month.

1 <sup>st</sup>	7.3mm
22 <sup>nd</sup>	4.4mm
23 <sup>rd</sup>	23.2mm

The driest October was 1986, with 6.2mm and the wettest was 1988 with 216.7mm. This October was the ninth driest October since records began in 1972.

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### **A viewing of the movie 'Sherkin'**

Pauline O'Driscoll



Pauline, Mark and family would like to thank everyone who attended the showing of the "Island", directed by Tony Barry, on Sunday 31st October at Murphy's Pub & Islander's Rest. There was a great crowd of over 140 people, with standing room only.

The movie was made in the early '70s and is an accurate record of life on the island at that time. A lot of the "characters" in the film have passed away and it was great to be reminded of them again.

The film was inspired by the award-winning director, who was given "artistic licence" to create an impression of what life was like at the time. Will we ever again see the bounty of the sea harvested with such simple means, or the land tended so gently and caringly?

A big thank you to John Caden for helping to put the day together. It was John of "pink fir apple" fame (spuds) who told me where to get the DVD - the RTE Archives had no problem posting me out a copy. Apparently there are three other films in the series called "Pieces of Land".

A special thank you to Mr. Tony Barry for coming out to Sherkin to give his personal views on the making of the film.

Nearly time to do another film about life on Sherkin???????

## Notes from SIDS

A big thankyou to all those that sent in nomination forms. Over 30 people were nominated and at present we are contacting these people to ask them to stand for election.

**SIDS AGM**  
**Sunday December 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Community Hall**

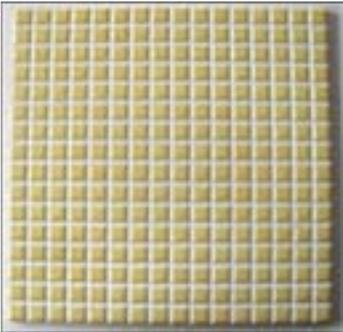
**2.30pm**

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		9	3	8				
8		5					2	
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	3					5		8
				5	3	4		
		1	8					2

9	1	5	8	3	7	4	6	2
4	8	7	9	2	6	3	5	1
6	3	2	5	4	1	9	8	7
5	4	9	3	1	8	2	7	6
8	7	6	2	5	4	1	9	3
3	2	1	7	6	9	8	4	5
2	6	4	1	9	5	7	3	8
1	9	8	6	7	3	5	2	4
7	5	3	4	8	2	6	1	9

# 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
16 boxes of yellow wall tiles. 28cm x 28cm (11in x 11in), with 1.5cm square mosaic.		Jez at 087-9831834
A Beko widescreen television, 22". Stuck in widescreen!		Susan at 028-20491

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. This is an initiative of the Tidy Islands Group who hope this may help decrease the amount of landfill sent off island.

‘Straight Lines’ a book of poetry by Dolly O’Reilly is now available directly from the author who may be contacted by email,  
**[dollyoreilly@eircom.net](mailto:dollyoreilly@eircom.net)**

## Sherkin Library News

Josephine Jefferies

### Statistics for October

Books borrowed	182
New or renewed memberships	2
Internet Sessions used	41

### Opening Hours

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

Due to Elves messing and playing with the WAN system (Library's own intranet) we had no stats for September but all is well again as the Elves have been recalled to the North Pole to help Santi get things ready for Christmas. So please don't take to heart any letters, emails or text messages telling you to get books back to the Library that you may have already brought back. These are computer generated messages from the main HQ computer and **that** computer did not know about the Sherkin Elves in the system. All problems can be fixed on your next visit to the Library.

### Website Newsletter.

Monthly articles appear on the website *Irish National* and news on events, activities, conferences, and businesses providing sustainable products and services all over Ireland. Many islanders are interested in self-sufficiency in food and energy that's why I included this info in this month's Newsletter.

[www.localcampus.com/irishnational.html](http://www.localcampus.com/irishnational.html)

News on Food, Renewable Energy, Arts, Education, and lots more.

Hopefully Ireland is very close to approval on 'feed-in-tariffs' for electricity generation from renewables. Information from the Irish Bio energy Association in the *Irish National*.

If you are organising any national events please email them to [walter@localcampus.com](mailto:walter@localcampus.com) for next month's issue which will come out in early December. The December issue will also have a special for businesses selling Christmas gifts online! Advertising is extremely good value, from €20.

The *Irish National* is produced by Local Campus [www.localcampus.com](http://www.localcampus.com), a movement to help develop local and national charities and businesses, to promote self-reliance, food and energy security. Please add to the *Irish National* as much as you can to promote national events around the country. Your views are much appreciated.

If you don't have a computer to look all these nice things up I can show you them on the Public PC (computer) in the Library when you are in the Library.

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### **'Amour' a performance by PlayActing Theatre Productions comes to Sherkin Community Hall on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 - Con (played by Isaac Slaleia) and Karl (Peter FitzGerald), and two dancers - a Man (Ben Townsend) and a Woman (Terri Leiber). 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 Kila.

PlayActing Theatre Productions was set up in 2004 to harness talent and creativity in theatre in the West Cork area. It evolved out of the Community Arts Group, Sult Scoil Mhuire in Schull. Since its inception the Company has staged a number of successful productions in West Cork including; *Tales from Ovid*, by Ted Hughes, *Play* by Samuel Beckett, and *Marilyn & Eileen's Dinner Theatre* by Minihan & Leiber.



## ***Halloween Eric Wickens***

On the night of Monday 31st October, the Halloween Party took place at the hall. As spooky as it was, many people turned up. Cliona, Susan, Deirdre, Fergal, Pauline and others helped organise the party. The walls were covered in black paper. There were pictures of pumpkins and masks on the walls. Jason Murphy was the DJ. There were games: pass the parcel, musical chairs, musical statues, the witch's body bag (which was a terrible idea), the flour and grape game, apple bobbing and apple on a string. There were sweets and fizzy drinks on the table. In trick or treating some children got millions of sweets and some children got small amounts of sweets. The best costume for a girl went to Eimear Murphy, who went as a witch, and the

best costume for a boy went to Frankenstein's son - me! Everyone looked really good and enjoyed themselves.

### **Dates for your Diary**

#### **Nov**

- Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Protest march in Skibbereen 12.30pm against the proposed cuts to the ambulance service of west cork. See [www.westcorksos.com](http://www.westcorksos.com)
- Sat 26<sup>th</sup> – 14 Jan 'A Different Dimension' – an exhibition at West Cork Arts Centre by a ceramicist, a film maker and a painter who together present a narrative about the former Wolfe's Bakery in Skibbereen.

#### **Dec**

- Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Give Blood! The Irish Blood Transfusion Board will be at the West Cork Hotel to receive your contributions.
- Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> 'Amour' in Community Hall 8pm, €7.50
- Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> Grand opening of the Christmas Craft Fair at the Glebe, Baltimore. Open every weekend in December until 18<sup>th</sup>, then 19-24<sup>th</sup> inclusive.
- Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Two one-act plays from Schull in Community Hall
- Sun 4<sup>th</sup> SIDS AGM at the Community Hall at 2.30pm
- Sun 4<sup>th</sup> WinterWonderland opens in Skibbereen, where Mr and Mrs Claus and all the elves will be in attendance.
- Sat 10<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> Voting weekend for your 2 island representatives on the W Cork Islands Community Council Committee.
- Sun 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Carol Concert at St. Mona's church 3.30pm (TBC)