

Simply Said.

Launch of International Literacy Year

I travelled to Dublin on 16th January for the launch of International Literacy Year. I was representing The Student Support Group in the Clare Reading and Writing Scheme.

The launch was in Trinity College and was attended by Adult Education Officers, Organisers, Tutors and Students from most schemes in the country.

Mary O'Rourke, Minister for Education, Sean Haughey, Lord Mayor of Dublin, representatives of the National Adult Literacy Organisation and a student spoke at the launch.

Rose was the student's name and she spoke of her experiences before learning to read and write. It can't have been easy for her to tell her story before a large audience. She explained how she came to grips with her difficulties in reading and writing and told of the help she got from her scheme. It was a good experience to identify with a student who has overcome her reading and writing difficulties.

It was a very encouraging day, especially for anyone who thinks that the problem can't be solved. I admire the student's courage in talking about her problem.

Our main aim in the Clare Student Support Group is to encourage and support each other through talking about our problems with reading and writing.

I hope that during International Literacy Year 1990 that more people will be aware that some people do have a problem with reading and writing.

In Co. Clare we are very proud that we have a Support Group where sharing our reading and writing difficulties helps us to overcome the fear we all had when coming for tuition for the first time.

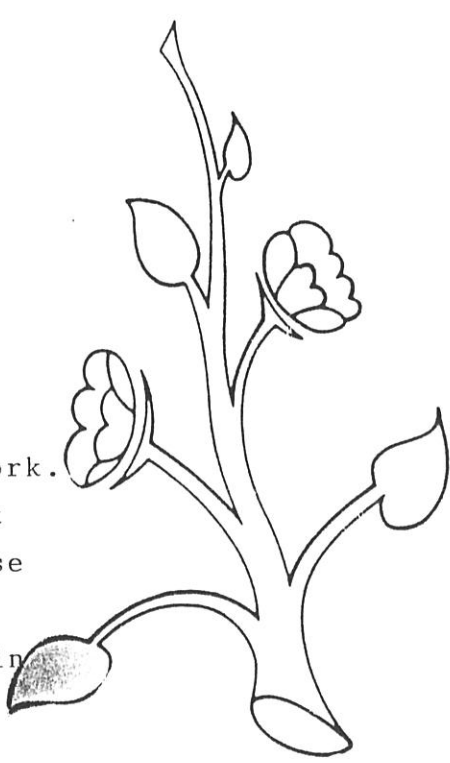
I would suggest that other schemes throughout Ireland would consider starting similar groups for the support of learners and The Clare Support Group would gladly help any scheme in starting such groups with information on how we started and how we operate.

Noel



MARTIN'S STORY

When I was a young boy going to school I never had any interest in learning to read or write. All I wanted to do was to play football, go fishing and I never done my homework. After school it just didn't seem that important to me. But now as I grow older, I can see how foolish I was and realise that its still not too late to change my attitude towards education. I see education is very important for my life in the future. It's still not too late.



Signed Martin

CAN YOU SEE GOD'S KINGDOM

Can you see God's kingdom
Is it heavenly bright.
Can you hear the angels sing
away up high.
Standing so tall, almost
reaching the sky.

If I listen carefully,
will you stand still and speak to me.
Tell all of the past, all that you've
seen, wise words for the future,
whats to be.

If I sit quietly and don't make a fuss.
Will you tell me of times when Jesus
walked here with us.
Tell **all** your secrets
all that you know.
What was it like then, when he
was below.

While the trees move, making their
silent speech. I often sit and
wonder, what knowledge what wisdom
are they trying to teach.

What in the minds of those tall kings
of the earth.
The history that behind them they have
been around, since man's birth.

Talk to me, talk to me.
Tell me what was it like in the beginning.
Did a big lightning strike.
Were you here before or after the first
glimpse of sunlight?

PAIN by June

Pain is a feeling
When you feel it then
You know it's nothing else
but a feeling.

There are many different
types of pain as in any
other type of feeling.

Love can turn to pain
just like a train going
through a tunnel, goes
in the light side, goes
through the dark and comes
out the lightside again.

Pain can also be held inside,
then it can go up and down
just like a slide.

Pain too can be a physical thing
You may not feel it or it may
sting. But remember, after all
Pain is a feeling like any other
feeling we must feel.



SET DANCING

Of a Tuesday night I go to learn set dancing.
A few girls from work come too. There is about
60 learning it. The set is called the Caledonian
Set. That's the set the Clare people dance.

We all get in groups of 8 and the teacher calls
the figures out to us. The first night he got
us all around the hall to show us the step, it
was easy. Then we all got into groups of eight.
He got a person that knew it to go with a group
of us. So we started to dance and we have great
fun at it. We also learn now to waltz and to
do more dances.

Ann



I go home at the week-end
from the hospital.

I go out for a drink and
go to the disco in the
Queens on Friday night.
On Sunday I go to Mass,
and have the dinner with
my Mam and Dad.

They live alone at home.
Mary is living in Dublin,
Rose lives in England
for the last six years.
She has two children,
Sarah and Ann.

Gerry

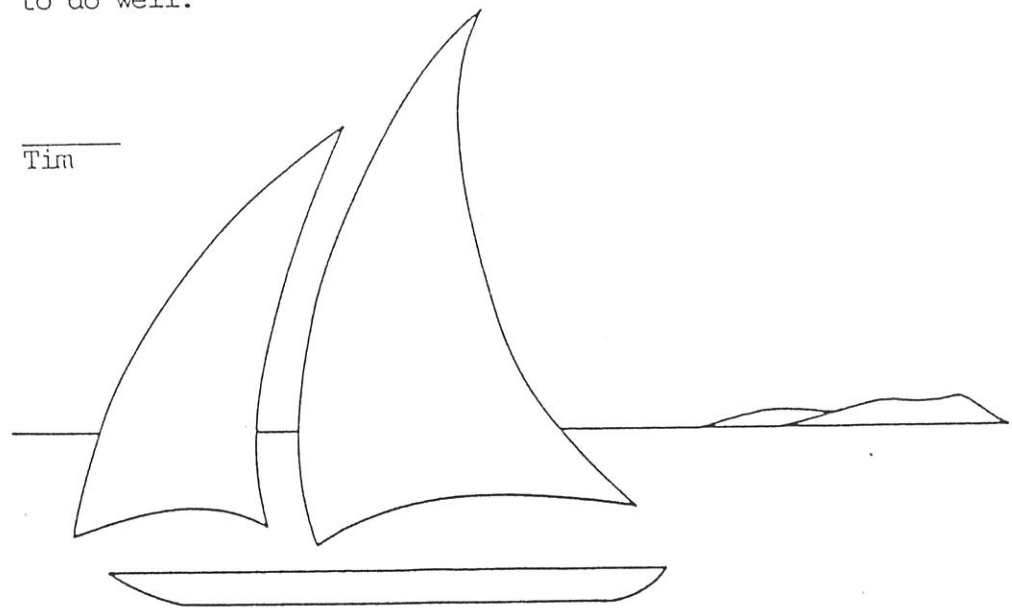
"NOT SMART ENOUGH"

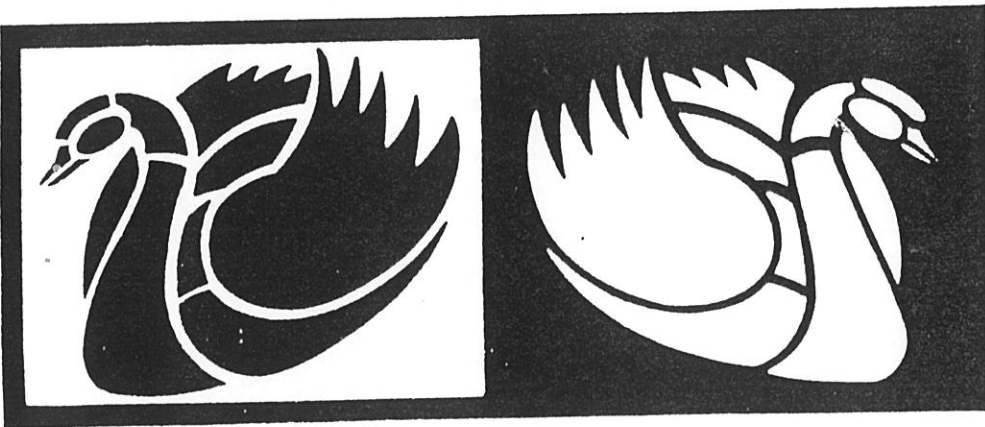
When I was at primary school I was slower at reading and writing than the others. And when I went to secondary school I was put in the "D" class the lowest of all.

Some of the teachers just passed the day. One in particular played games with us. Of course at thirteen this was great. I also had a note from the woodwork Master and this got me out of a particular class. Woodwork and art was what I loved. When it came time to leave the youth employment officer came to my school. He asked had I any job in mind. I told him I would like to be a carpenter.

He told me I could not be a carpenter because

I was not smart enough. Since that I taught myself carpentry and have worked at it for the last twenty five years. I have worked with many good tradesmen. I could do anything they could. I have worked in joinery shops, buildings sites and I have done maintenance work. Now I am going to classes in the Clare reading and writing scheme. I intend to do well.





FRIENDS

What are friends?
They are the people you depend on.
The people with whom you don't have to pretend.

Friends you laugh with,
Friends you cry with.
They are there when you need comfort and care.

They are there with a grin and wink if you just
want to go for a drink.
Friends you can't do without.

MY FRIEND UPSTAIRS, CARES

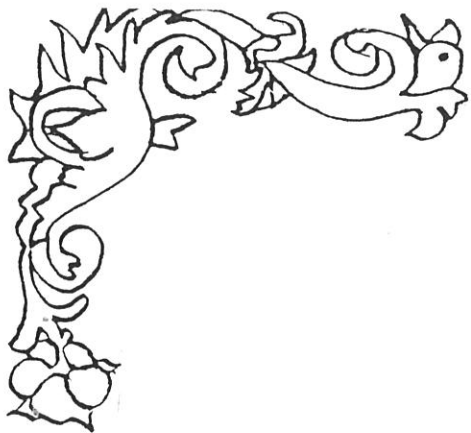
All heavens opened up, hey wait for me,
I'm coming.
Look he's here holding my hand, he
wants me to join him.
In the promised land.

I've a friend from up there,
who called today,
staying with me forever now,
never alone shall I be again.

I'm not afraid anymore, for I have
nothing to fear.
No, no more. I feel only, contentment
and peace, cheer and sing praise to him
for what is,
and all that to be.

I want to go there, open further
heavens door and wait for me,
I'm coming.
Come with me, he's here.

Emac



TO KERRY

We know what it's like to have sisters,
Friendship and Love we have shared.
In good and bad weather, we've grown up together
Then off with our boyfriends we paired.
We all ended up wedded,
One by one.

And with that our family did grow
Into brothers-in-law and sisters 'n kids.
Until then we'd only two brothers to know.

Then the sweetest thing happened,
And took us all by surprise.
One of our kid brothers,
Well, he fell in love
With an Angel fallen straight from above.
She's sweet, kind and full of joy.
We're glad she's a girl and not another boy.

For this shall be our first sister-in-law,
And we are proud to say,
Welcome to our family, our love we share with you
Our hand of friendship forever
We extend to you today.

To wrap it up and make it clear,
Here's what we want to say,
We are all in agreement,
You're perfect in every way.

And wish you years filled with love and for now,
Drink and be merry,
And raise our glass to welcome,
Our first Sister-in-law.



RAPUNSEL'S REVENGE

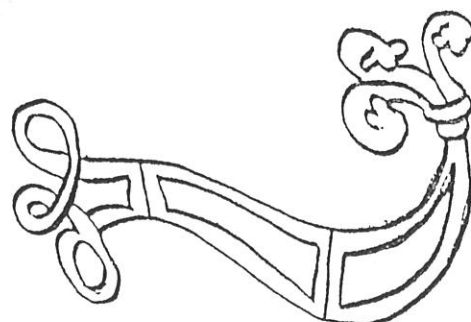
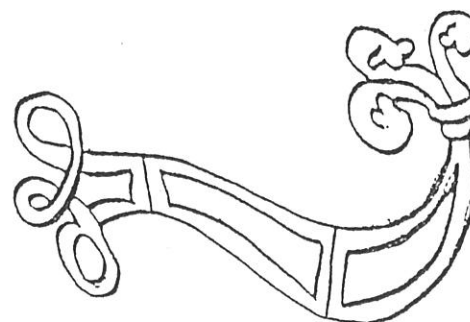
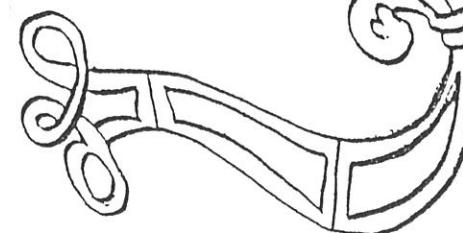
(Fairytale for Feminists)

If you are into Feminism this book is a must. It turns some of the classic fairytales written by men from a man's point of view into modern tales of Princesses and heroines from a woman's point of view. The real feminists among you would appreciate the humour. To those of you who are not really into feminism all that much or just believe men and women are equal, you might see the humour on one hand but on the other hand too you might see the insult to the male intelligence. Not all males are chauvinists.

To the males who are not chauvinist and don't have big egos this just might be the book to change your minds. Maybe you too have a good sense of humour and see the funny side of this book, to which of course there is. The chauvinists among you of whom might not even read this book but if your curiosity gets the better of you, be prepared to have the old blood pressure checked because before the second page your blood is guaranteed to be boiling. One consolation for you chauvinists - you can always get your own back.

I thought this book was well written and funny. The authors were really and truly feminists. As the title suggests, this is a book for the firm believer in feminism and any true feminist would or should not be without it.

June



LIFE'S CHANGE

Mornings go on,
days linger light.
The moon comes along
and still it's bright.

Night goes on
darkness never able to creep in.
Life, is now complete with peace
daily walking with you.
Knowing this will never cease.

That's my life's change with you,
All multi-coloured rainbows,
Golden sunshine, surrounds the blue.

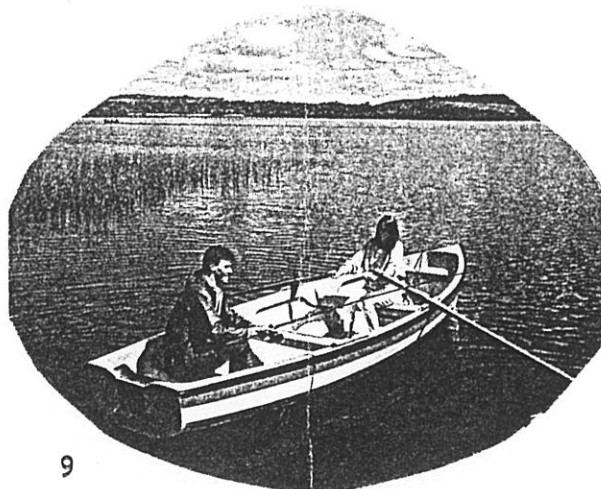
Emac



FISHING

When I started fishing,
I wasn't able to fish.
I could not cast the line out.
I started fishing for trout for a while,
then I started fishing for salmon and
I caught my first salmon four years ago.
Last year when the strike was on, I was
fishing. I caught a lot of salmon last year
and I caught a lot of hassle too,
I went fishing from the first of February,
I could not fish because the river was flooded.
I hope to get back fishing, and catch a salmon.
I hope to sell it to Pauline very cheap.

28/02/1990



OUR POLITICIANS

I have always admired our Politicians until it came to the last general election. The first Politician who called to our house was a Fianna Fail Candidate. He introduced himself and asked how I was and asked how my husband and children were. I thought this is great he is very interested. I eventually got to ask him what he was going to do about the health and education problems if he was elected. He said why? Have you got a problem? I said I was very worried about the old people living on their own who were sick and needed hospitalization, also what he would do about the uneducated people who needed more help than they are getting. His answer was I'll do what I can. That to me was not good enough so I decided I will not vote for you. It was the same with all the other candidates, promises, promises. I'll do this I'll do that. They would promise me heaven on a plate if I was stupid enough to believe them. Well by now we all know what our

politicians have done with the health and education problems. They have made a shambles of the lot. If any politician reads this just do me a favour have a look at our local hospital and think again. Please do something now.

Cecelia



PARENTS AND THE GAA

The GAA was founded over 100 years ago. Since its foundation the GAA has grown from strength to strength. In Clare alone there are sixteen senior clubs. Hurling is played in every village around the county now. From the age of ten up boys are being coached in the skills of the game by people who give of their time freely. Some of them haven't any children of their own. However, they are interested in promoting hurling and football and looking after the Youth.

Unfortunately some of the parents that have children playing hurling and football hardly ever come to the field.

They take no interest in the Youth of the Parish. If they are asked to drive their cars and bring the boys to the matches they always have an excuse of having to go somewhere else. O but, if their boys are not on the team or

are taken off during the match they are the first to complain. We hear all about how we should have placed the team and who we should have taken off.

Parents, if you want your boys to play the game of hurling and football then it is up to you, to come along and be prepared to drive to the matches or help out in some other way in the club.

James



LEMON ROULADE

5 eggs, size 3, separated
6 oz castor sugar
2 oz ground almonds
1 tsp almond essence
2 oz icing sugar, plus a little
for dusting
5 oz lemon curd
 $\frac{3}{4}$ pt cream
slices of kiwi fruit and
lemon to decorate

METHOD: Preheat the oven to 200°C/400°F or gas mark 6. Grease and line a swiss roll tin with tin foil. Put the egg yolks in a bowl with the sugar and whisk over a saucepan of simmering water until thick and creamy and the whisk leaves a trail when lifted. Remove from heat and fold in the ground almonds and essence. Whisk the egg whites until stiff and carefully fold into the egg yolk mixture with a metal spoon. Pour the mixture into a prepared tin and tip the tin so that the mixture runs into each corner. Don't spread the mixture with a knife otherwise the air will be knocked out. Bake the roulade in the preheated oven for 15 - 20 minutes or until well-risen and gold brown. Remove the roulade from the oven, leave to cool in the tin. Sift the icing sugar onto a sheet of greaseproof paper and turn out the roulade. Trim the edges with a sharp knife. Spread the lemon curd over the roulade. Whip cream until it holds soft peaks and spread on top of the lemon curd and roll like a swiss roll. Dust with a little icing sugar and decorate with a kiwi fruit and lemon slices.

PAVLOVA

8 egg whites
20 oz castor sugar
4 tsp cornflour

METHOD: Preheat the oven to 200°C/400°F/Gas mark 6. Grease a swiss roll tin. Whisk egg whites and castor sugar to a peak and add the cornflour. Put in greased tin and put in oven for 20 to 30 minutes till well risen. Leave in tin to cool. When cooled spread with whipped cream and decorate with fresh fruit.

William.



HOBBY

CLAYPIGEON SHOOT

Claypigeon is a very interesting sport. My main shoot is the hundred birds.

The way it is laid out is, there are four stands of five and we shoot twenty-five birds on each stand. Overall you shoot one hundred birds. The way the score is done is when you shoot with the first barrel you get full marks and with the second barrel you get half marks.

John



My name is KAY.
I like art and I like colours.
I like all types of paintings.
I like to paint to pass the time away.
I like all colours of the rainbow.
I like to paint flowers and trees.
Painting is very interesting.
I like to paint all year round.
Paintings can make people happy.
I like going to art exhibitions.



KAY

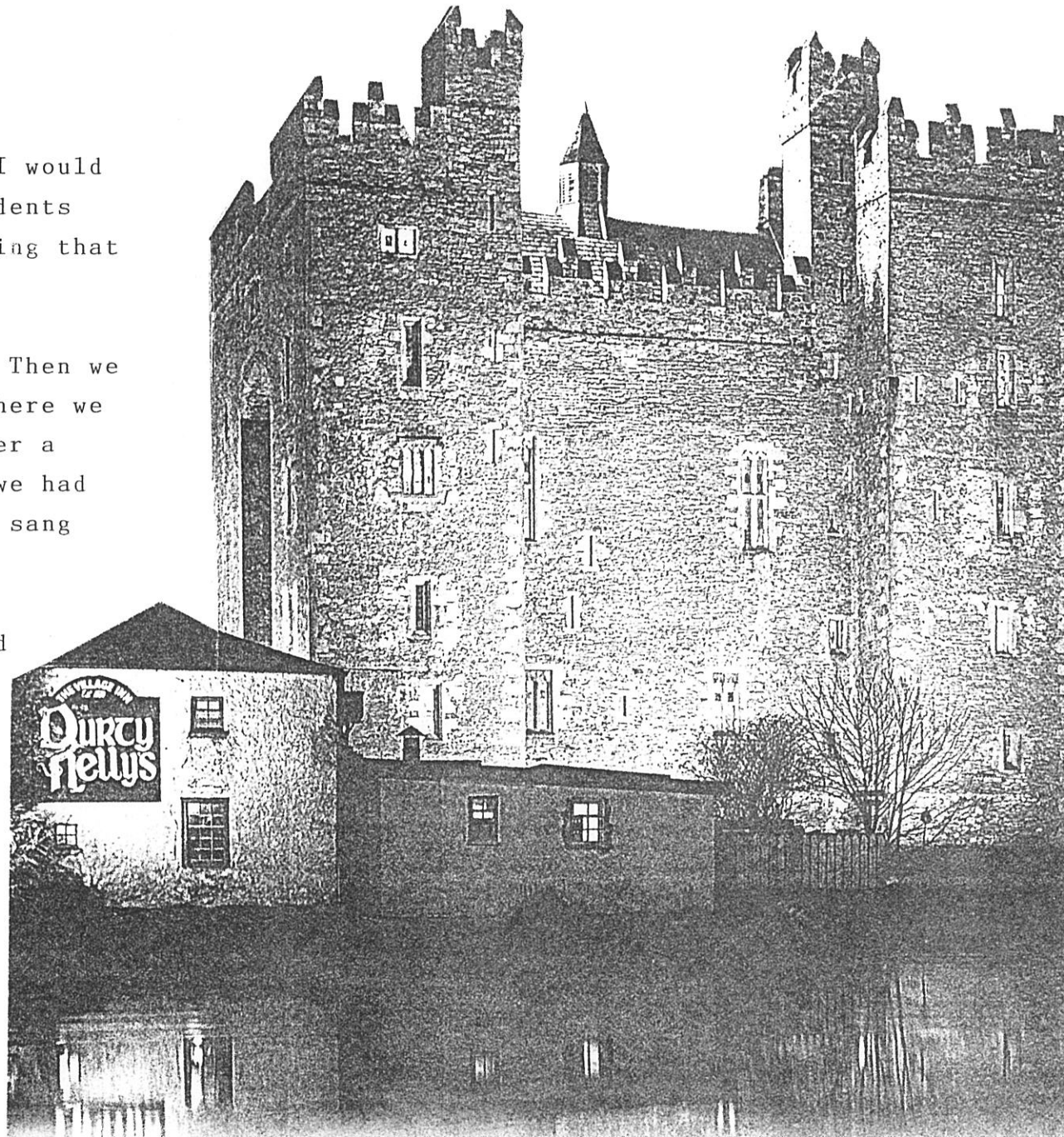
BUNRATTY

Pauline sent me a letter asking if I would like to go to meet the Limerick students and tutors. I replied by phone saying that I would be happy to go.

Pauline called for me at 8.30 p.m. Then we went to Limerick to Fibber Magees where we met the others. Everyone talked over a cup of tea. Later on in the night we had a drink and some music. One or two sang a song.

The night was brilliant. I was glad I went because I made some new friends.

Kay



THE GARDEN

Now that spring time is here again it is time to go out in the Garden. Many jobs have to be done. Tools in the garage have to be taken out and got ready for the season ahead. Some of the tools have to be cleaned and oiled so that they will be in good condition for the summer ahead.

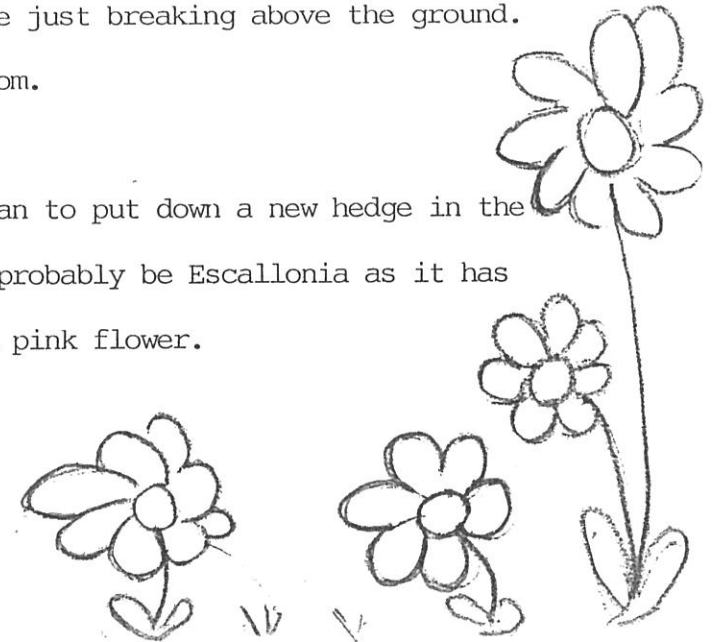
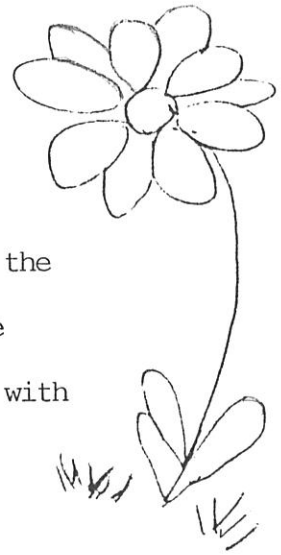
The lawnmower will need to be serviced before being put to use on the lawn. This will consist of change of oil and spark plug, sharpening the blade and cleaning the filter.

The next time I am in town, I will have to buy some flowers and shrubs, as well as flower-pots and moss peat fertilizers. A watering can would also come in handy.

The lawn is the next job to be attempted so out with the wheel-barrow and fork. I used the fork to get up the biggest of the weeds and sparyed the lawn afterwards with a weed killer.

During the winter months some of the flowers had to be well buried under ground so that they would be well protected from the frost. More of them had to be dug up and brought into the garage (for example, Dahlias, Gladiolus and Geraniums) which now have to be taken out and replanted. At the moment the Daffodils are just breaking above the ground. Hopefully they will bloom.

In the near future I plan to put down a new hedge in the front garden. It will probably be Escallonia as it has a nice shining leaf and pink flower.



THE GARDEN

When I was out at a florist I put my eye on roses at £2 each, I thought they were good value. I plan to make a new bed for them and keep them on their own. By the summer they will give plenty of colour.

The vegetable plot at the moment is in pretty bad shape. It is over grown and in need of weeding. I intend to dig the plot and clean it all up. All the rubbish will be put into the compost heap. Then the vegetable patch will be ready for planting.

When all these jobs are done the garden will be pretty well organised. So as you can see although I am delighted that spring is on the way I won't have a spare minute!

BY DAVID



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