



CO. CLARE
READING AND WRITING SCHEME
MAGAZINE



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Foreword

I would like to congratulate everyone who contributed to our fourth issue of Simply Said.

It is the largest magazine we have produced to date, reflecting a great deal of effort, commitment and progress.

Congratulations again!

I would on a more personal note, like to thank every one of you for your support during the last five years.

I would like you to know that the development and expansion of the scheme has been due to an enormous team effort involving the dedication of students, voluntary tutors and the V.E.C.

I am proud to have been part of that team.

Pauline

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The Day I Met The President

I went to Dublin on Friday 6th of September 1991. We were invited to Dublin for International Literacy Day.

It was held on Saturday 7th September 1991 in Liberty Hall, Dublin. The theme of the day was making our voices heard. It was on from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Official Opening was by Her Excellency Mary Robinson, President of Ireland.

There was an exhibition of work from students and people who help with reading and writing groups and Adult Education. The students read some of their stories in the hall.

I met the President, Mary Robinson and I had a handshake from her. She is a very nice lady.

I stayed in Dublin overnight, It was very nice. I had a wonderful day on Saturday, I met lots of people from all over Ireland. They were very nice to me and I had a great time.

I would like to thank two wonderful people, Mary and Pauline, for Inviting me to Dublin. It was the greatest day of my life and It was great to be part of Adult Education and also be part of Adult Literacy Day.

Thank you all once again. I enjoyed myself.

Fiona

The Upton Steam Rally

I went to the Upton Steam Rally in Cork last year.

There were old tractors there. There were Fordson Majors and Ferguson 20's. There were men thrashing and sheep shearing.

My sister came with me. She enjoyed it too. We had a picnic and had chips on the way home.

It was a good day and a good weekend. I was sad going home.

Christy

Reading Is Fun

I like reading a lot because it helps me to get to know a lot of words and how to spell them. I enjoy a good story. It helps me to relax.

I like to get to know the people in the book, because then they are real to me. I would know after reading the first two pages whether I was going to continue reading the book.

It is a great past-time to read in the evening when it is quiet and there is nobody to bother you.

*I don't like books with killings in them and I would leave them down. When I get better at my reading I want to read *The Great Hunger*.*

Tina

Myself

When I was younger my hobbies were running and walking. Now that I am older I like to do Judo and Karate. I like to go out on Saturday nights and play pool.

On Thursday nights I train for my judo and on Monday and Wednesday nights I practice my Karate. On Tuesday night we practice for grading.

We are training to do a demonstration for the public in May.

We practice falling, throwing, arm locks and other self defence techniques.

I am a blue belt but I hope to get my brown belt soon.

James

Ennis

I have lived in Ennis for 63 years. It is a lovely town.

I have a lot of friends living in Ennis. I go to Bingo with my friends every Tuesday night and we have a great time.

Ennis is growing every year. There are many new houses all over the town and Dunnes Stores is opening later this year.

I am glad that I live in Ennis.

Kathleen

My Favourite Sport

My favourite hobby is fishing.

The season starts in April. I go fishing to a big lake near my house. The name of it is Dromore Lake.

I go fishing for trout and the bait I use is flies and worms. There are two types of fish in the lake. There are brown trout and farm fish.

I like going fishing, because it is nice and peaceful.

The lake is about two miles away from my house.

I also go fishing in the sea. I go to Green Island to fish for mackerel. It is near Miltown Malbay. A lot of people go to Green Island, because it is nice.

Mackerel are not always easy to catch, because the tide can be in or out. The last time I was there I only caught one.

I would like to go there soon again.

Pakie Bonner

The Seaside

Every Sunday we go to the beach. I enjoy a long walk on the sand, listening to the waves and sounds that come from the sea.

Sometimes I walk alone, talk to myself, take deep breaths. I feel you can talk to the sea.

In the last weeks, we find our beaches are polluted. "What a shame." The birds will die, the fish will die, the fishermen will lose their livelihood. There is so much work to be done to clean our shores. Please God let it be soon.

After a week of hard work, the beaches are looking a lot better. A week of hard work has gone into getting them clean. The County Council is doing some survey to try and find out what caused the pollution.

I am sure our beautiful beaches will be nice and clean for the summer. It would be nice to see our "Blue Flags" flying once more.

It would be a good time for all of us to take a good hard look at ourselves to do something about the way we pollute our own beaches.

Young mothers and fathers should show good example to their children. If each person took home his or her rubbish, we could guarantee the Blue Flag would always be flying at full mast.

Kathleen

Shannon

*So much pain and suffering
In this troubled town,
Where God will take their mothers
With cancer all around.*

*With children left to follow on
And try to understand
Why God has given their wee backs
This cross to carry on.*

*We know they are in heaven
To keep an eye on them,
To help them through their mourning,
With darkness all around.*

M. O'R.

Last Christmas

*Last Christmas, all my family went to
Liscannor for a party in Irene's house.*

*Irene is a friend of my family.
Her mother's name is Sheba and her
daughters name is Emily.*

*We all had a good time.
Irene made a lovely dinner and we watched
video tapes.*

*We stayed all day until 9 o'clock at night.
We were all happy going home.*

Mary Donovan

At Last I Did It

Not being able to read and write is a great disadvantage in life.

I was embarrassed every day of the week when I met anyone.

One day I got the courage to do something about it, when I heard people like myself talking on the radio about the help they got. I took the plunge and asked for help in the Clare Literacy. The lady there, Pauline was her name, put me in touch with a patient teacher.

For the first time in my life, I learned to write my name and address.

This is very useful for me in my business. I kept pretending for a long time and was always making excuses.

*Now I can sign a cheque, read road signs,
pub signs and parts of the Farmers' Journal,
and the Clare Champion.*

*I still have a bit to go, but I am a happier
man.*

William.

Launching Of "Simply Said" In Kilrush

The third set of short stories entitled "Simply Said" was launched at the Community Centre, Kilrush, on Saturday evening the 20th of April. Like its two predecessors its contents were written by students of the Adult Education Scheme in Clare.

The book launch was organised by Pauline Chadwick the co-ordinator for the Clare Reading and Writing Scheme.

At the book launch were representatives of the Urban Council, the clergy and religious. Tutors and students also took part in the proceedings.

The book launch was officially opened by Ernie Sweeney, a tireless worker for the Adult

Moving

This is my story about the first time we moved into the house.

When we moved to the house, it was strange because we weren't used to it.

It was much bigger and wider and there were three big rooms upstairs and three downstairs.

There is a shed which my father tried to make into another room for the boys.

The water and the cleanliness are very nice to have and the boys love it, because they have so much room to play.

Theresa Donovan

My Pastimes

My favourite pastimes are colouring, drawing and going to art classes every Wednesday afternoon.

My art teacher's name is Brian. He is a great artist.

I like drawing trees and flowers and places and houses. I find it hard sometimes, but I keep on trying.

A lot of my friends are doing art as well.

I would love to enter for a competition. I have won a few prizes for colouring.

My friend, Noel, is a great artist and he helps me as well. I enjoy art.

Philomena

The New Arrival

Last October on the 29th, we had a new addition to the family.

A baby boy.

We called him John.

He is our fourth child.

Now we have two girls and two boys.

The whole family felt great.

He rounded off the family and gave us someone to make a fuss of.

It's been five years since there was a baby in the house.

It's been a lot of work, but worth it.

Christy

F.C.A. Camp

Every year I go with the F.C.A. to Tralee to camp for a week. It's usually in the middle of July.

The camp runs on a very tight schedule and everybody has to toe the line.

The duty commander wakes up the camp at 6:30 a.m., usually by hitting the ends of the metal beds and making a hell of a racket. There are about 16 to a dormitory and we all clean up the room before breakfast which is at 7:30 a.m.

Everybody has to be ready for a full dress parade at 9:00 a.m.

Names for different duties are called out after the parade. The duties are ; guard duty, stand to, kitchen duty, and officers mess duty.

Soldiers march as a group with their duty commander to relieve soldiers already on duty at various posts.

There are usually two duty commanders with each group. One for "stand to" and one for "guard duty".

Weapons are drawn after the parade and all soldiers train on arms or foot drill, depending on their service with the F.C.A.

Lunch is from 12.30 - 2.00pm. After lunch there is another parade of all the troops to account for all the soldiers. After parade, soldiers return to the same duties as before lunch.

4.30pm is finishing time.

Dinner is at 5.00pm and after that, the evening is free for the soldiers to do what they want. Most of us go down to the pub, relax and have a few pints.

Michael

Rambling Rose

I met up with the band about 5 or 6 years ago in a pub in Kildysart and became friendly with them. I help them with equipment at concerts.

I went to the Terminal Building at Shannon Airport for an evening of country music. I was picked up in Ennis by the drummer of the band.

The Rambling Rose band has had many successes over the years. They were prize winners on a number of occasions. They won two senior Ceili Band titles at Fleadhanna, first at Kilmihil and then at Toonagh.

The band are into some Jazz and Country and Western too. The band play at a lot of very popular socials and weddings. They play all over Clare and beyond.

The Barry family live in Ballyuraneen, Ennistymon. The members of the old Rambling Rose were Tom Barry, Christy Barry, Joe Rynne and James Devitt.

*The members now are ; Tom Barry on drums,
Michael Sexton on keyboard and accordion
and Kevin Sullivan on lead guitar. Joe Quinn
left the band some months ago.*

Leslie

My life

My life was very happy for years and I enjoyed those years very much.

I will never forget them as I will treasure them forever.

All credit is due to my mother who taught me everything that I know and I love her very much.

My father is very good to me and my brothers and sisters are very good too but no one can take my mothers place.

Marian

Myself

My name is Nancy. I work every day at a bakery. I start at eight in the morning and I finish at half past four in the evening. It is great fun but hard work.

I have Monday's off and I get three weeks holidays. On Monday's I come to Springfield House to brush up on my maths.

I like it and I enjoy it and I feel that I am improving. I hope to continue at it until I am really good at maths.

I have fair hair and I am 5ft 4" tall and i have green eyes. I visit my brother's house a lot and his family are very good to me. I am very lucky to have them.

Nancy

Video Launch

When we went to Limerick to see the video, the people in the bank were very nice and everyone was treated with the utmost courtesy and the atmosphere was very friendly.

The students, who took part in the making of the video, came together and shared their experiences of the problems they have faced and of going to the classes.

Everyone who took part in the making of the video accepted that they had reading and writing difficulties and were trying to overcome them.

One case of the problems faced in the everyday life of a person with reading and writing difficulties was highlighted in the video. It was when a person went into a supermarket and could not tell the difference between a pound of butter and a pound of margarine because that person could not read the wrapper.

I feel that if I attend the meetings every Tuesday I will learn more and more about reading and writing and maybe someday I will be able to teach others how to read and write.

It is hoped that the video will encourage people to come forward and try to overcome the burden of illiteracy.

Great praise was given to the video, showing once again what people can do when they come together.

Great praise was also given to the people who came forward and highlighted their difficulties with reading and writing.

Overall impressions of the video launch were very favourable and it was a very enjoyable evening.

Michael

Harry

We got Harry as a pup. He was about two months old. He was jet black in colour, but there was a resemblance of a red setter in him. We looked after him well and all the household really took to him.

He always came for a walk with me. He would come out on the farm when I would check the animals. When they saw him, they knew who was in charge. When I would be away for a day, he seemed to be happy to welcome me home. At times I thought he was the only one who really appreciated me.

Harry always got on well with who ever came to the house. Sometimes he would bark at strangers, but when he was tired, it was O.K. He would settle down.

Then one sad day, as I stood at my gate, Harry was there with me, I don't really know what happened, all I heard was the screech of brakes and there was Harry lying on the road, really badly hurt.

The driver of the car was really sorry and we put Harry in the car and took him to the vet, but the advice we got was to put him to sleep. I felt so sad and all our household was in shock. We took Harry home and buried him in the field at the back of our house. My daughter puts flowers on his grave regularly and we all still miss him very much.

Bridget

A Day In My Life

I spent about ten years in a school for the handicapped. I had to get up at 7:00 a.m. to help the night-nurse dress the beds for the ones who weren't able, maybe twenty beds. Then I helped to dress some of the children. Then we had to sit on a chair beside our beds until the nurse came in at eight o'clock.

Then we had to go to the dining room for breakfast - if you were skinny you could ask for more!

Then I helped with the wash-up. After that we went to the dormitory to clean up. We had to wait until we could go together in twos, holding hands, to school down the road.

We had to hold hands going for dinner. I hated to hold hands. We were never allowed to walk alone.

I had to help bath and dress the others every night. Then we had to watch television until the night-nurse came and we went to bed at nine o'clock.

I'm free now and I am happy.

I can go out alone and meet people and talk to them. I can travel, I can wear what I like, I can go to bed when I like and get up when I like. I eat what I like and when I like.

Catherine

My Special Friend

I have a friend. I would like to say something about her.

I have known Theresa Donovan for over six years or more. She is like my sister and I think the world of my friend, because she is always there when I need someone to talk to and always helps me out when I am in trouble.

If I need anything, she will help me get it.

She never fights with me, but sometimes, when she is in a bad mood she would probably get thick. But she is a great pal and a good person and we are like sisters.

*She will always be there for me and I will be there for her.
Best of pals forever.*

Imelda Quinn

The Bank Strike

The bank strike is a nuisance because no one can get money without passing pickets.

They should try to fix it because a lot of lads are out of work and they have good jobs and are well paid.

Because of the strike no one can cash cheques.

The business people can't lodge their money because of the strike and they have to hold a lot of money over and it's hard to keep it safe from robbers.

Joe

Memories

My earliest memories take me back to the little cottage where we lived two miles outside the town. It had two bedrooms and a small kitchen. We had no water and no light in the cottage. I remember that my dad had a motorbike and he would carry two buckets of water on it for us.

At the back of the cottage, we had a shed and a very big field. In summer, the farmer would come and cut the grass and make hay stacks. We would play all day in the hay and we all had a great time.

One day my mother asked my dad to make me a swing, so off we went with a rope and looked for a good tree. We found one not far from the cottage. The swing gave us many a happy time.

We got lifts to school on tractors. I don't remember much of my school days, but I do recall that I couldn't learn Irish. However, I was good at games and loved basketball.

I left school at sixteen, though now I wish I had stayed at school, because I would like to be a nurse.

During school holidays, I worked in the kitchen at the Lakeside Hotel.

I remember going to Scotland to see my father's brother, whose name is Brian. He lived outside Glasgow in a tiny town. Brian was younger than my father. Brian came to Killaloe when my brother Glen was born. At that time, I was five years old.

When we met again, I was sixteen and Brian talked of times gone by. He told me how I had once gone into his car with my hands all sticky and played with the steering wheel.

I lived for a few weeks just a tube-ride away from Victoria, London. I got a job as a cleaner in a pub on the Herald Road with the help of a woman from Wexford whom I had met. She introduced me to the owner, who told me I might start the next day. My employer was not difficult to work with and I stayed there for four months.

At the end of that time, we moved to Bournemouth. This was a very pleasant town. In summer the gardens were beautiful, being filled with flowers of many colours and fragrant scents.

We also spent some time in Torbay in Devon. It is a great town and the scenery is breathtaking. People came from Liverpool and London for work in the hotels. I got a job in a hotel near the beach and after work the other workers and I used to go swimming. Later in the evenings, we went to the night clubs.

There were many students from abroad.

I remember leaving Torbay and going up to London by bus to get a boat for Holland. The journey to Holland was long and very tiring.

Central Station in Amsterdam is a very busy place and the city itself was crowded, so that for a while I felt quite lost in a strange place. At first I thought that the people would not be able to speak English, but I soon found that their English was excellent. We began to

go to English pubs, where we met old friends of my father. He lived there for twelve years and learned to speak Dutch.

Not much work was to be had there, but we managed for a few days until some work became available.

After being in Amsterdam for a while, we went to live in Oster Park. There were good living people who were the real Dutch. On my street were families living and children playing. We got to know one family and they took us around the town. They had a little place that they called 'The Club House'. They also had a holiday on a big ship. In the Club House, they sold cheap wine and had billiard tables.

One Sunday, we went to the park. There we listened to music all day. All my friends were Dutch and they could tell me that the group 'The Police' had played in Oster Park. One of my friends took me around an island called Tecol where we spent the day and we missed the ferry home, so we stayed the night at the house of a friend. My friend's people

thought that I was very young to be away from my family. They all wanted to hear about my home place and Ireland. The island was very busy in the summer, but in winter it was very lonely. They led very simple lives. They were farmers.

Since I returned home, I have helped to look after old people, but now I prefer to spend more time with people of my own age.

I have been attending the Adult Literacy sessions for about eighteen months and I feel that I am improving in my reading and am less nervous than I was when I first joined the classes.

Tina

***DO YOU, OR DOES SOMEONE YOU KNOW
NEED HELP WITH READING AND
WRITING?***

IF SO, CONTACT

***(065) 41183
(MORNINGS)***

IN CONFIDENCE

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