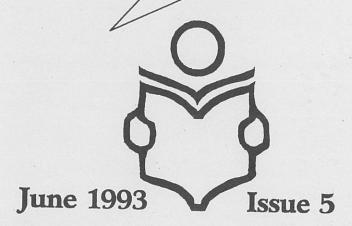
# Clare Reading & Writing Scheme









A collection of writings by students of the Clare Reading & Writing Scheme

Clare VEC



Issue 5

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#### **FOREWORD**

Welcome to the fifth edition of Simply Said, the annual magazine of student writing produced by the Clare Reading & Writing Scheme.

The magazine has grown steadily over the years and this growth reflects the continued development and expansion of the scheme itself. In this issue, we are proud to present contributions from more than thirty writers.

I would like to thank the students, tutors and supporters who have helped in the organisation and production of this year's magazine, and also in other ways throughout the year.

Most especially, may I congratulate the many students whose work is represented here. Well done and best wishes for continued success!

#### Moira



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

IF SO, CONTACT
CLARE READING & WRITING SCHEME
IN CONFIDENCE



TUITION CAN BE ARRANGED
ANY TIME AND ANY PLACE IN CLARE

CO. CLARE
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

#### LETTER TO AN AMERICAN STUDENT

Dear Gareth,

My name is Noel and at the moment I am doing an adult education course in communication skills. The class is five months into the course and I am enjoying it very much. There are four other students, three ladies and one other man, with me in the class. Our tutor, Brid, is so patient and helpful it makes studying a joy instead of a chore.

I see from your letter that you are finding the General Educational Development course tough going. After five years hard going I am glad you have not given up and I hope and pray you get your G.E.D. certificate very soon. You deserve it, if only for your perserverance and hard work.

I myself am back in the classroom after a lapse of thirty-two years and at times I find it quite strange. It's not easy to come back to the classroom at forty-eight years of age and pick up where you left off, but I get great support and encouragement from Brid and the rest of the class. I wish you and all in your class the best of luck with the course and for the future. God bless for now.

Noel

#### **EMIGRATION**

Emigration in Ireland was always a problem. But over the years it has increased even more.

I have done research on emigration and an average of 30,000 people left the Republic of Ireland in the final years of the eighties. Most were heading for the USA or Britain. A combination of poor prospects at home and good prospects in the USA and Britain accounted for the huge outflow between 1985 and 1989.

In the eighties, construction was booming. Thousands of young Irish carpenters and plumbers left for London and New York. Irish girls trained as nurses and secretaries found it very easy to get work in London and New York.

However, recent figures show that there has been a massive fall off in numbers leaving the country. In 1991 just over 1,000 people went. Many of those people who had gone returned with the onset of the recession in Britain and the US. People who did very well for a number of years in these countries suddenly found the work had dried up. It was cheaper to be unemployed in Ireland. Many people came home to wait for things to pick up again.

Recovery in the USA and Britain is expected to begin in the next year or so, and the National Economic and Social Council predicts that by the mid-nineties emigration will again claim between 25,000 and 30,000 people a year.

#### Kathleen

#### I ENJOY COOKING

*I* like cooking. I like to cook sausages and rashers and eggs. I make salads, lettuce, coleslaw, hard boiled eggs and tomatoes.

I prefer making salad because it's handy. I have to go shopping for the house. I enjoy that. I am getting a handbag in Dunnes tomorrow.

#### Celia

#### MY FAMILY

**M**y family lived in Moldova before we came to Ireland. I have a father and a mother and a younger sister, Tania.

My father is 55 years old. He is a director of a milk factory. My mother worked in a shop where they sell magazines. She is 47 years old. My father is very good to me and my mother is very good, too. My sister is 14 years old. She studies in a special school and likes karate.

They have a big house in a town called Bendery. They have a big garden with grapes, plums, and peaches.

#### Gallina

#### HITCHHIKING TO LONDON

I left Kilmaley early one morning to go to London hitching. I got a lift to Ennis in a car, then I walked to the Gort Road. Then I hitched a lift to Gort. From there I went to Loughrea. A lorry stopped. The driver asked me where I was going. I told him I was going to London, so he told me he was going to England and would give me a lift on the ferry.

When we got to Dun Laoghaire he drove onto the ferry. I had some food on the ferry. When I got to Holyhead I got a train to Birmingham.

Then I hitched a lift to London, but soon after leaving Birmingham I realised I had taken the wrong road. I was on the road to Oxford. When I got to Oxford it was very late and I was hungry. I had five pounds left and I ate. It cost three pounds.

I had to sleep in an old car that night. When I was sleeping my bag and money were stolen and when I woke up in the morning, I had nothing but the clothes I was wearing.

I had to go hitching to London in the morning. I was hitching a long time before I got a lift. Then a lorry stopped and when I got in I was surprised to see my local garage owner was driving it. He was going for a load of tractors to London. I was delighted. It had been a nasty experiece.

#### Mick

#### KARATE

Shoto Kan Karate was founded off the west coast of Japan in a country called Okinowa. The Karate is well over 1000 years old.

Karate was brought to the mainland in the year 122, then about ten years later, the West learned about it.

On January 3, 1993, there was a Karate club setup in Corofin called the Clare Shoto Kan Karate Club and on Friday, April 2, I went to Newmarket for my grading. The license was £19.00. I spent two and a half hours there, then I left.

Anon

#### **MOLDOVA**

*I* lived in Moldova for 26 years. This is a very green and fertile Republic. Moldova is situated near Romania in the south-west of ex-USSR. Kishenev is the capital of Moldova.

Through the territory of Moldova there is a river called the Dnestr. Moldova specialises in growing grapes for wine. Queen Victoria of England bought wine which was made in Moldova.

Usually in Moldova it is very warm. In the summer it is hot and many people go to the Black Sea, or rest in the suburbs beside a river.

But the most wonderful time in Moldova is autumn. It is very nice and warm. The famous Russian poet, Pushkin, who lived in the last century, dedicated many works to Moldova.

The people in Moldova are very hospitable. If you meet strangers, you will be given food and home made wine. I like this Republic.

#### Albina

#### MY FAVOURITE MUSICIAN

My favourite musician is David Sanborn. He is a saxophone player. He plays different saxophones: soprano, alto. Usually he plays on the alto saxophone.

He began his musical career in a jazz band. After four years he started to play with well known musicians and groups: Paul Simon, Eagles, Bruce Springsteen, Pink Floyd, Roger Waters and Rolling Stones.

In 1975 David Sanborn recorded his first solo album, Taking Off. His last album was produced in 1991. I like David Sanborn because his music is special to me, I like his aggressive style and harsh timbre.

#### Sergio

#### MY WORK

In Moldova I had a very interesting job. For five years I worked in a fashion house, designing clothes (artist, painter). Every day when we came in to work our director told us about our new plans. I worked in the laboratory, which made clothes for shows. I designed clothes for the next year's show.

Now I live in Ireland and I would like to work in this country because Irish people like European style. If my work will bring joy to people, it is very good for me, my work and my profession.

Sveta

#### SHANNON TOWN

I came to live in Shannon in 1973. It took me a long time to settle as I missed my family. Now that I have a family of my own, we are very happy here.

It is very peaceful and beautiful with lots of trees, shrubs and green spaces. We also have fine shops and schools.

Shannon parish is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. We will have a special open air Mass at the airport followed by a concert. All the parishioners are invited and it should be a very enjoyable night.

#### **Pauline**

#### **SPORTS**

I am a boxer for the last two years. In my first year out of eleven fights I won nine. This year I won the Clare and Limerick title in the second round.

I also took up running for St. Cronin's. I won the novice B cross country. It is finished for another year.

I am a welder by trade so I am doing a bit as a sideline in the long evenings. My job at present is a store man.

I am a qualified jockey in point to points. I used to go racing in Cork for the last year, but I left it because I got a better job here at home.

#### Mike

#### WHEN I LEARNED TO SWIM

I was in my late forties when I learned to swim. I often thought I would like to learn to swim but never got around to it.

About two years ago twelve mature women from Miltown came in to Ennis once a week to learn to swim. We had ten lessons. That got us used to the water and gave us great confidence in ourselves.

We had lots of fun learning. We all swallowed lots of water. We had hard times learning to keep our heads under water and then to pop up our heads and take a breath. I finally mastered it, and I really enjoy going to the pool now. I find it very relaxing and also very good exercise.

I am very glad that I took the plunge and it is something I will always enjoy.

#### Bridget

#### UNEMPLOYMENT

There are an awful lot of people unemployed in the country. This year seven hundred jobs were lost at Digital in Galway. It is an awful blow to Galway. Thirty jobs were lost at Clare Textiles and there were redundancies at Syntex in Clarecastle.

It is awful hard on people who have mortgages to pay back and who have families to rear. Children leaving school have very little hope of getting jobs and I feel if they were employed there would be less crime. I think I am very lucky to have a job.

Joe

#### **MEMORIES**

My working days with FAS in Craggaunowen

Four years ago I was working with FAS trainees in Craggaunowen project near Quin, Co. Clare. I was supervisor in charge of trainees.

The trainees ranged in age from 16 to 25 years, boys and girls. They worked on upgrading the project. Two hours in the morning were given over to classroom sessions where they would have to do work on computers or attend lectures given by people like accountants or wildlife officers or managers of companies. It was not easy to be a supervisor in charge of trainees. They can be very difficult when they want to be.

The course was for six months, and when it was over they could be transferred to FAS in Shannon to continue further training for another six months.

Local people were given preference because transport was very limited to the project. No bus service was available. The four years that I was there were the best years. There is never a dull minute with FAS trainees.

#### Chappie

#### COOLE PARK

I was in Coole Park and it's a lovely place. The trees are huge. I enjoyed going there.

Joan

#### **CORA**

My niece has blue eyes and fair hair. She loves animals, especially horses.

Last year, she started horseriding lessons at stables about two miles outside Ballina. The classes are from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. during the holiday season.

One sunny day, she and I were talking about myself. I said that I had always wanted to be a nurse and she said that that was what she wanted to be.

At present, Cora, for that is her name, is in national school and is good at her homework. Although she is only ten years old, obviously she has a long way to go, but I do hope that she keeps up the good work. She has great support from her family to do better in her work.

Soon she will be starting work at the secondary school, where she will need to be good at such subjects as maths and science. In time, she will probably study physics and chemistry.

Cora will need to be physically strong as the work is very hard and tiring. She will also need to be cheerful and sympathetic to help her patients to recover.

My niece will probably do general nursing first, but will go on to study other branches of nursing. I would like to see her become a district nurse. As she has already been to America and Europe on holidays, she may go to work in foreign countries.

I am particularly interested in Cora, because she has the opportunity that I have always dreamt of.

#### Tina

#### **COUNTESS MARKIEVICZ**

Countess Markievicz was the first woman to be elected to the British Parliament in 1918, but she refused to take her seat as she was in Sinn Fein. She was born into a rich Anglo-Irish landowner family in Co. Sligo. She devoted much of her life working for the poor. She was closely involved with James Larkin and James Connolly on the workers side during the strike and lockout in Dublin 1913.

Countess Markievicz was sentenced to death for her involvement in the 1916 rising, but this was commuted to a term of imprisonment. She became Minister for Labour in the first government set up by Dail Eireann in 1919.

#### Marion

#### EASTER WEEKEND

Last Easter my sister and I went to the Cliffs of Moher. My sister's children were with us. I parked my car in the car park and walked towards the cliffs.

We passed two musicians playing Irish music. One was playing an accordian and the other a tin whistle. We climbed up to O'Brien's Tower and enjoyed the scenery from there. There was a stiff breeze and the sea was rough beating against the rocks.

Then we went to Doolin and treated the children to sandwiches and orange in O'Connor's pub. Everybody had a very enjoyable afternoon.

#### Christy

#### **HOBBIES**

I go for a walk every evening, about two miles. It was half eight when I came back last night.

I enjoy my walk. I like going by Drumcliff. I like to enjoy the lovely flowers and the birds singing.

I also like swimming. I go once a week.

Theresa.

#### KILRUSH VTOS

*I* just wanted to say a few words on the Kilrush VTOS. I started last November thrilled at having got a second chance.

Let's face it, the educational system at primary level is very hard on the teachers. With 30-35 children per class, I think alot of our children are not getting the attention we would like them to get. Therefore they need help at home to give them every chance.

This is my reason for joining the course which has an excellent group of tutors who have helped me in every way possible to study maths, word processing, computers, assertiveness and all the other subjects. It has given me great confidence knowing that when my children come home from school I will be able to help them.

John

#### ON HOLIDAYS

Last year we went to Killarney for two weeks. It was my second time there. The night life was good and the people were friendly. There are alot of things to do like horse riding, fishing, walking and cycling.

We stayed for one week in Killarney and then we went to Cork where we visited Blarney Castle. We had to wait our turn before we could kiss the stone. I was a bit frightened. I don't like the way they hold you out for you to kiss the stone, especially when you are afraid of heights.

We left the castle and we headed for Dingle Bay. We found a place where we could put our tent. We met a few of our friends there. A few of us went out in a boat to see Fungi, the dolphin. We took some photos of Fungi and some of the Island. Fungi is a friendly dolphin. He came up beside the boat and you could put your hand out to rub him.

We headed back to shore for something to eat. When we had finished eating we got ready to go out. There was great music in the pubs. After the music was finished we went to the disco where we finished the night off.

We got up early the next morning and had our breakfast. When we had finished we washed up and got our stuff ready and packed it into the car. We headed for home.

We stopped on the way to Conor Pass. We took some photos of the scenery. It was breathtaking. We went for a walk up the mountain where we saw a lot of animals running around the place. We came back and we sat down for a picnic. We cleaned up after us and then we headed for home.

I had a great time and I hope to go back there next year.

#### Martina

#### **OUR JOURNEY TO LONDON**

Last summer my two daughters and I went on a trip to London by coach and by boat. We left Ennis at 3:30 on a beautiful sunny afternoon and headed for Rosslare. On the way we stopped at all the main towns and cities to pick up passengers. The journey to Rosslare was very pleasant and we arrived at 9:30. We drove on the boat and got ourselves settled for the trip across the water.

Claire and Jennifer were very excited about their trip because they were never on a big ship before. The ship sailed out at 10:30 and the two girls were delighted. They explored the whole ship from top to bottom. After about an hour they decided to sit down and have a rest.

I went up on deck to have a look at the ocean. It was a beautiful calm night and the sky was full of stars. The sea looked a choppy green, but still there wasn't a puff of air out.

Before we landed at port we had something to eat in one of the restaurants. The food was really lovely and we all seemed to be refreshed again for the longer part of our journey to London. When we arrived in Holyhead we got on the bus again and drove off the boat. It was quite dark so I decided to

sleep and so did the girls.

After about two hours I awoke with the bus coming to a halt. At first, I had to think, where am I? But then suddenly I realized I was on the coach for London. The bus had stopped for the passengers to get some refreshments. It was a very nice cafe in Wales. The tea tasted so good. It was very hard to understand the Welsh accent, but I am sure they felt the same way about us.

We got back on the bus again and continued our journey. The two girls were very tired at this stage, but being teenagers I did not feel so much for them. We arrived in London at 7:30.

I enjoyed that trip to London because it was the first time I had travelled that way. Having the two girls with me made it more enjoyable.

#### Kathleen

#### OUR PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO SOMALIA

**P**resident Mary Robinson of Ireland went to Somalia to see at first hand the terrible plight of the Somalian people. The Somalian people are living in hell. They are famine stricken.

President Mary Robinson went to see the people who work with the Somalian people, like the Concern and Goal and Trocaire and Red Cross workers. People like them saved thousands of lives in the famine. It is terrible to see harrowing pictures on the television, to see children and men and women looking like matchsticks and waiting to die. It is a living hell in this land.

I think President Mary Robinson was very good to go to the people to give them hope. She gave them her time, her love and her tears.

President Mary Robinson on her historic visit to Somalia travelled with her husband Nicholas. President Mary Robinson has given hope to the people of Somalia and to the people of the world. She highlighted the work that should be done to bring hope and aid to the people of Somalia.

#### Fiona

# THE MORNING

The weather is beautiful today.

A magpie that I see every morning comes there to the window.

I like Lahinch.

I would like to go there for a day.

Mary Ann

# MY FAVOURITE PLACE IS ENNIS

*I* like to go to town. I like to go to Dunnes. I like to go to the Derrynane for tea and chocolate buns.

I like to go shopping all around the town. My favourite place is Ennis.

Sometimes I go home. I went home for Easter. I had a good time at home in Miltown.

Mary

## MY LIFE SO FAR

I grew up in O'Brien's Bridge with my grandmother after coming home from England where I was born. O'Brien's Bridge is a small village and I prefer Killaloe where I now live because it is busier and more interesting.

My first memory is of my grandmother teaching me how to walk when I was around two years of age. She would put me against the wall, stand back and put her arms out to me. I was a late walker because I was a very big baby. I will always remember the look of encouragement on her face.

I started school at six years of age. The school was Killaloe Boys National School and there were twenty five boys in the class. There were three classes in the school. My first teacher was Mrs. Kierse. Her husband was the master of the school. I liked her. She was a kind teacher.

I wanted to join the army when I was fourteen years of age. I used to watch the FCA practising in Killaloe at the time. Now I am going on a course for my stripes to be a corporal.

## Michael

## PHIL'S STORY

I came from Rhynagonaught near Doonbeg. I love to go home from Shannon every Friday. I love walking on the beach in Doonbeg in the sunshine and meeting my friends on Sunday after Mass.

On the farm I like to drive the cows to the river and take the dog for a walk. When the weather is bad the farm gets very mucky.

I come back to Shannon on the bus every Monday morning to go to work. After work I like to go to the shops, go for a walk, or if it is wet, clean my room or watch television.

Every Tuesday I go to my writing class and I enjoy it very much.

Phil

## PLEASE DON'T LOOK DOWN ON ME

People look down on me.

Why should they?

Just because I am a slow learner
does not mean I am without feelings.

Why must they discourage instead of encourage?

A word of praise strenghtens the heart
to carry on and achieve the best I can
with the help of my teacher, Ann.

#### Phil

## MY HOBBY IS READING

I had a problem with reading and writing, so I went for help to an English class for reading and writing and spelling. I have been going for over two years.

It is great to read. I love to read books and stories. Reading is a great pastime. I learn to read poems and recipes. I enjoy myself reading books. I can read and spell.

I would advise anyone who cannot read and spell to go and get help. It is great to know that there is someone out there to help us.

My hobby is reading. I really love it. It changes your life.

#### Fiona

# RETURNING TO SCHOOL

It took me a long time to get the courage to go back to school to start reading and writing again. But as the days go by you can learn if you want to.

The time growing up is sad because you lose your friends a lot. They go their own way. It would be nice if you could keep in contact with them.

The step you take to go back to school is a big one. I hope I can learn a lot more now. But I am a little bit afraid of doing things wrong myself.

Mary

## SUMMER

*I* like the summer. It's my favourite time of the year. The days are longer and warmer.

I go on my summer holidays in July. I go with my Mum to the seaside. We stay in our mobile home which is just across the road from the beach. I go swimming and most days we walk on the rocks and collect periwinkles. When we have enough we bring them home and boil them.

The week goes by fast and then it's time to come home again.

Kay

## **TODAY**

It is a lovely day today. I like summer coming because I could go to the beach. I could go for walks as well.

I go to the Day Centre everyday. Everyday I go for walks. I like to see it sunny. I hate when it rains. I have nowhere to go.

I like shopping. I go shopping every Friday for the messages. I like that.

I go to the Queens for a coffee everyday. I want to go today.

Phil

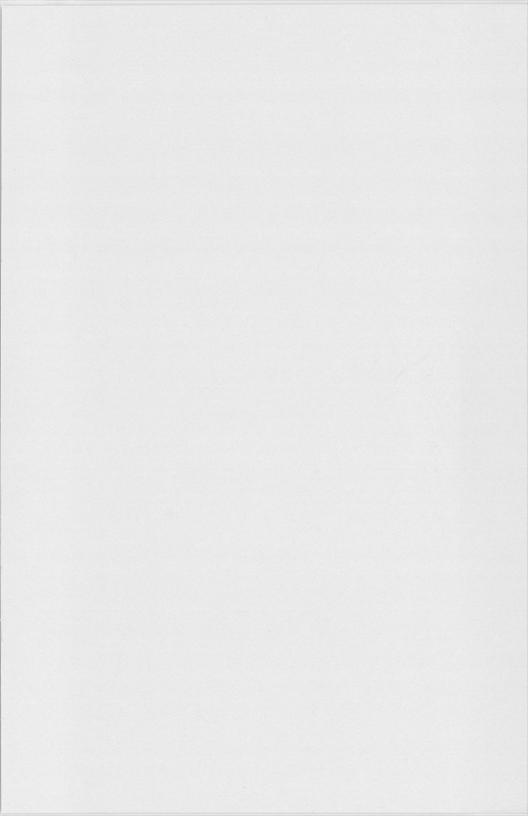
## WHEN I LIVED IN UZBEKISTAN

Uzbekistan is a republic in the ex-Soviet Union, near Afghanistan. I like this Muslim country because in Uzbekistan there are very kind people. Uzbeks are very generous, friendly, hard working and hospitable people.

In Uzbekistan they have various interesting and savoury dishes. I prefer national traditional foods.

I was very happy when I lived in Uzbekistan. Now I am missing this country.

## Vladimir





# A Sneak Preview

"...after a lapse of thirty two years and at times I find it quite strange..."

" My Family lived in Moldova before we came to Ireland..."

" I had to sleep in an old car that night..."

" Queen Victoria of England bought wine which was made in Moldova..."

"I like his aggressive style and harsh timbre..."

"We had lots of fun learning. We all swallowed lots of..."

"A Magpie that I see every morning comes to the window..."



To find out more....take a look inside!