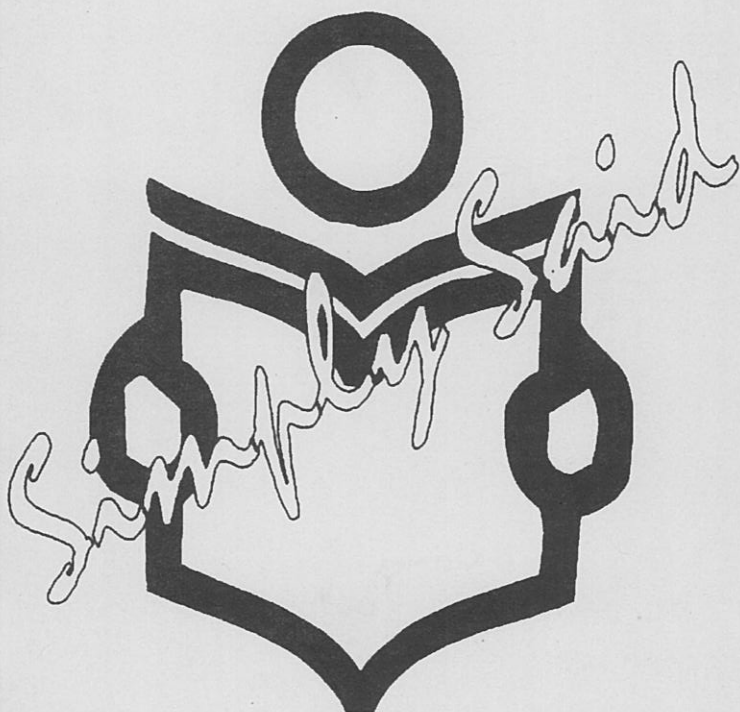


Issue 7

***Co. Clare
Reading &
Writing
Scheme***



June 1995



*A Collection of
writings by
students of the
Co. Clare
Reading &
Writing Scheme*

Clare
VEC



*Do you,
or does someone you
know,
need help with
reading and writing ?*

*If so, please contact the
Clare Reading and
Writing Scheme
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Tel: 065-41183

*Tuition can be arranged any
time and any place in Clare*

- Foreword -

This year we have another collection of work by students of the Clare Reading & Writing Scheme. There is plenty of variety as always, something to suit everyone.

Congratulations to the writers contributing to this year's magazine. A special word of thanks also to everyone who helped with the publication and in other ways throughout the year.

Well done and best wishes for continued success !

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My Home Town - Ennis

Jamie

Ennis is situated on the River Fergus.

It is the main market town in Co. Clare.

Ennis gets its name from the Irish word 'inis', which means island.

I was born and reared in Ennis, so I know the town very well.

There are three main streets in Ennis, they are O'Connell Street, Parnell Street and Abbey Street.

There are two Shopping Centres - Quinnsworth and Dunnes Stores.

I like Quinnsworth best because my cousin works there.

Motor Cycle Clubs

Margaret

My story is about motor cycle clubs. We all meet up to go to bike rallies. We go for the weekend and camp out in Winter and Summer. There is always something to do or see, bands all day and night, wet tee shirt competitions, face painting and a fun fair. There is always a tattoo artist.

We wear leather for protection. We go for a good time not for trouble but we seem to get picked on. People think we are lazy, but we are not. We all work and most of us are married with children.

Most of the bikers are house painters or electricians to name but a few occupations.

My New House

Celia

I like my new house.

I walk every morning into the Day
Centre.

I walk every evening to my new house.

My new house is lovely.

It's yellow with two brown doors. I like
my friends, Mary and John.

My Job in the Hotel

Micheal

My job was a security officer. I liked the job. I worked about 72 hours a week at the rate of £3.50 an hour.

It was shift work. One evening I would work 6 p.m. to 12 midnight and the next night from midnight to 8 a.m.

I had to go round and check the hotel was properly locked and to make sure no-one came onto the premises.

I was employed by Maguires but I was paid by Leopard Security. When I queried to know why I was being paid by Leopard Security instead of the owner it was because I would not be insured unless I was employed by a security company.

There was a new Hotel being built in Killaloe. It is called Kincora Hall. As the hotel is about to open, I no longer work there.

The name "Kincora" comes from Brian Boru times, and in the hotel there are paintings about the times of Brian Boru. There is a marina being built for the hotel.

***How I Came to Hear About the
Clare Reading and Writing Scheme***
Ann Marie

I was doing a course in computers over at the Dulick Enterprise Centre, I knew I needed help but did not know how to go about it.

One day I asked my instructor Helen for help. I was kind of nervous telling her that I had problems, especially with spelling.

The reading was O.K. and dyslexia is just a learning difficulty, so it is not a problem, it is just a different way of learning.

Soon afterwards she got a tutor for me, her name was June, she was my first tutor. We did basic English one morning a week for an hour and she helped me with my spelling.

The second year I had another tutor for English, her name is Kathleen.

Sam was my tutor in Maths, Loretta for Spelling in the evening and David for Computing.

I would like to thank them all for their help, especially Moira.

My First Trip to the Pool

Anon

The journey to the pool was way too short for me as I had very mixed feelings about it. I was afraid and full of excitement at the same time. I finally got enough courage to learn how to swim.

My first impression was "Great, I'm here and it's not so bad after all !" When I got in the water I was so afraid I would not let go of the bar. With great patience and time the instructor finally got me to let go and put my face in the water. I was so delighted I forgot my fear and moved a little bit. My first lesson was long and painful but worth every minute of it.

My teacher was very good with me and the other students. We had great fun and in the end we all learned how to swim. Now I'm so glad I can swim a little, I'm very proud of myself. I go every Tuesday night and I have a great time.

Our Visit to Spanish Point

Ramon

Last month an Irish couple, very good friends of mine, invited me to go to Spanish Point. It is a tourist place, not very far from Ennis, about 30 miles more or less, to the west of the county. The roads were very narrow. It was raining and Richard was driving carefully.

One hour later we arrived at Spanish Point. It was very windy, cold and cloudy. Waves covered the sand and rocks with foam, like I had never seen before.

Richard took pictures around a big rock which was like a monument. It was in commemoration of the visit in 1986 of the Spanish King and Queen to this location. The Spanish Ambassador organised the event because it is a historic point.

The big rock had drawings of three old ships, like those Christopher Columbus had and it says about that very important visit.

We came back to Ennis very happy that day.

My Favourite Music

Frank

I like country and western music because it is not noisy.

You can hear the words in the songs.

The music is nice and enjoyable.

I like Daniel O'Donnell and Declan Nerney, Patsy Cline and Sandy Kelly.

I like the way country and western singers dress with their hats and boots.

The most famous singers live in Nashville, Tennessee, people like Johnny Cash and Maura O'Connell.

I like to listen to country and western music on the radio but there is not enough of it. There is too much noisy pop music.

The Match in the Park on Friday
Paddy

There was an awful big crowd there. I went in early, showed my card and walked in. I was up at the back and had a good view.

They had to play extra time. They got a free in and got a goal out of it.

Clare beat Waterford. I came home and told them Clare won the football. I was delighted.

Back Seat

John

This is a true story.

I had to take a back seat all my life
because I could not read or write until I
discovered Springfield House and my
teacher who is brilliant.

Springtime

Pip

Springtime's the time I love best

The trees put on their new green vests,

The bulbs pop up their little heads,

And birds sing sweet as they build their
nests.

The world awakes to their new beauty

It's time for us to do our duty

Prepare our land for this new quest,

And sit and wonder as nature does the
rest.

Two Legs, Four Wheels

Derek

I haven't got two heads, just four wheels
under me.

Don't mind the chair, look and be amazed
at what you see.

I can think, listen and talk just like you.

Don't look at me or treat me like I haven't
got a clue.

I'm just like every other young man I
know.

Give me the chance to bloom and show.

Soccer

Martin

My name is Martin. I love soccer.

Liverpool is the best team. Phil Babb is
the best player. Anfield is Liverpools'
home ground. I play soccer every week.

The Lotto

Eugene

Everybody says they would love to win the Lotto. Well, you can look at it two ways, the good way and the bad way.

Take a sum of three million pounds, for example. Any brainy person who won that sum would like to remain unknown, because they would have relatives coming out of the woodwork and begging letters every day of the week. That's why a lot of winners wait until just before the ninety days are up to claim their winnings.

The good part of winning the money is that the person could buy a new car and build a mansion of a house, start a new business or expand on their own business, go on expensive holidays three or four times a year.

But if they are trying to hide their new fortune they can only live a hermit's life with a fortune in their bank account.

The bad part of it is they will more than likely give up their job, either go on the drink or go to the betting office to pass the time. After three or four years if the person is still alive, after abusing their body so much, they will probably become insane. So to say in one sentence - Winning the Lotto is not the answer to one's problems.

Doolin has Changed

Joe

Doolin has changed very much in the past fifty years.

All the old houses have been replaced by modern houses.

The older musicians have died. Children go to set dancing classes today but fifty years ago children learned from their parents.

The restaurants and the three hostels are new.

During the second World War a lot of men worked in the phosphate mine. Now most people have guest houses or farms. Everyone else has emigrated.

There was no ferry to the Aran islands
fifty years ago. Currachs came from the
Aran Islands with potatoes and poitin.
They returned with bonhams and asses.

Times have changed!

The Weekend

Phil

I go shopping on Friday and Saturday. I do the cleaning at the weekend. I cook dinners as well. I love the weekend.

I take a rest at the weekend and I go to look at the shops.

I look after Eamonn. I get his dinner and I clean his flat as well. I Hoover the place. I have been looking after him for six years and he has been very good to me.

Live at Three

John

I like 'Live at Three'. A lot of people come to see it from Clare, Donegal, Tipperary, Limerick, they come from all over Ireland.

They have a band playing sometimes. They do cooking and car maintenance. It's interesting when they talk about all the parts that go into cars.

They also talk about flowers and they have people drawing and painting.

There is always something interesting on 'Live at Three'.

I Moved to Clare

Jacqueline

I was born and reared in Dublin. I went to school there. My parents still live there.

I left school at the age of fifteen and got a job at once. It was easy at that time to get a job. I got married and my three children were born in Dublin.

My husband and I decided to try for a house in the country. We did not like to rear our children where drugs, drink and crime were all around us.

Through the Rural Resettlement Scheme we were lucky to get a lovely house and an acre of land in Co. Clare. We are very happy to be here.

I left school when I was young and I found that I needed help with reading and writing.

I also wished to be able to help my children with their homework. I have got that help from the Clare Reading and Writing Scheme. I am making good progress and am very happy with it and with my home in Co. Clare.

I go back to Dublin to visit, but am always happy to return.

How I Spent my Holiday

Philomena

I had a nice holiday. I took a few days off my housework so I could go to Lahinch for the day. I went with my friend Noel on a Friday. We got our belongings ready so we would not be late for the bus.

On the bus I used my bus pass. The driver of the bus was kind to us. I met a friend I knew named Mary. The day was fine. On our way we saw lovely horses cows, sheep and goats. We saw men women and children making trams of hay. It was very nice.

When we got to Lahinch we went down to the seaside for a paddle. The water was lovely. We saw lovely children making sandcastles. It was great fun.

I saw two sailboards with lovely colours of yellow, pink and white. The men were surfing over the waves in the water.

I saw a small girl with a kite going up so high, it was just amazing to see. I went for a rest and I sat down to admire everything. All the people passing by and saying "Hello" were in great form.

I saw a small dog chasing a stick and a lady throwing it into the water. The dog was friendly and quiet and happy and cute as well. I saw a few people with cameras and they were taking photos of places and people. As we were getting hungry we sat down and had ice-cream. I enjoyed my ice-cream. I had also had chips, fish and seven-up to drink.

Short Journey

Abdirashied

I started my journey from Ennis to Roscommon in the car of one of my best friend's in Ennis.

After two hours I had reached my destination. It was a very nice day and I enjoyed it. I met very kind people there.

I visited historical places such as the museum. When I left the museum I understood more about the history of Ireland. I participated in the Famine Commemoration. Two days later I came back to my lodgings in Ennis.

The Big Decision

Rita

When I was young I was ill very often.
I missed most of my basic years at school.
My reading and writing suffered.
When I grew up and married and had my
children I was not able to help them with
their lessons.

A friend told me about Co. Clare Reading
and Writing Scheme. I thought a lot
about it. One day I decided to give it a
try.

The hardest thing I have ever done was to
put my foot inside the door of Springfield
House that day. I met my tutor and I
never looked back since thanks to
everybody who helped me to be able to
write this.

Planning a Dinner Menu

Martina

I am having visitors for dinner on Sunday.
I have to plan the menu. I will have
homemade soup as a starter.

Starter

Potato and leek soup

Boil potatoes, leeks and onions in
stock.. Simmer until cooked. Put into
food mixer. Serve with cream on top.

Main Course

Roast - Housekeepers Cut

Boil potatoes. Roast potatoes. Serve with
peas, carrots and cauliflower with a
cheese sauce and some gravy.

Dessert

Fruit Trifle

Make trifle by soaking sponge cake in strawberry jelly. Put in apple, banana, grapes and strawberries. Leave to set overnight. Put custard, then cream on top. Sprinkle with chocolate flake.

Tea or coffee to finish.

After dinner go to sleep in front of fire !

Cats

Bernie

I like cats.

Cats are nice.

They have furry coats.

They like mice.

A Week Away

Kay

I went to my sister Margaret for the weekend.

She lives in Tuamgreaney which is near Scariff in East Clare.

It was very quiet and peaceful.

We took the two dogs up the woods for a walk.

It was really nice in the countryside.

I had a great time.

My Farm

Kathleen

My farm was three miles from town.
It was a 50 acre farm. It was very wet
land.

We had twelve cows, twelve calves, pigs,
and bonhams on my farm. I used to have
to feed the pigs and milk the cows. I used
to have to fodder cattle.

In the Summer we used to cut hay
depending on the weather.

When I came home from work there was
always something to be done on the farm.

I used to have to draw water from a
spring well with a barrow in the home. I
used to do the baking and the washing,
make the beds and light the fires. On
Sunday night I used to go to a local dance.

Rudy

Breeda

Rudy is Patrick's dog. Rudy has fawn and white coloured hair. He is six years old. He is a shih tzu breed of dog.

His father's name is Freddie and his mother's name is Sonsirae Delta Day. Before we got him Rudy's name was Park Regent.

I walk Rudy up O'Connell Street, down Abbey Street, around by the Old Mill Road and down the Limerick Road. Then I bring him home. Rudy eats Pedigree Chum.

Cooking and Working in the House

Brendan

Last Friday morning, Fionnuala had changed jobs above in the house. She put me washing the fridge, washing the table cloth and bringing out the bin. I hoovered the sitting room.

Ann is cooking all this week. Sometimes I do the cooking and washing up. I cook rashers, sausages and black puddings.

Root Feeding Insects

Ahmed

Flies often cause serious damage to plants by feeding on the underground parts of certain vegetables. These are the carrot fly, the onion fly and the cabbage root fly. These insects emerge in the Spring or early Summer and feed upon the underground parts of the plants.

The Carrot Fly: These tiny flies hatch out of eggs and first attack the tip of the carrot root, which they cut off later. They eat into the stouter parts of the roots and sometimes this can cause complete failure of the crop. Parsnips, celery and parsley may also be attacked.

Control: The aim of control treatments is to kill the flies before they lay eggs and before they attack the roots.

Returning to School

Catherine

Returning to school happened to be the greatest thing I ever did. I had wasted some time already. At sixteen I thought “Yes, this is my chance to make up for those times I had missed out at school.”

When I was thirteen I thought going into first year would be everything I dreamed of, but it wasn’t. It was the hardest task I ever encountered.

Surprisingly, I managed to do two months of first year. Quite frankly, I thought I wouldn’t last a week. Instead of just dropping out of school I went to another school. I did exceptionally well there and a year and a half flew by. Then I felt it was time to move on.

I went back to my previous school, thinking it would work out this time round. Unfortunately it didn't. This time I decided to go working for a year. Afterwards I went back to school again.

Now I have completed a whole school year. I would like to thank my teachers for all their help.

Puerto Rico

Vicki

I was in Puerto Rico in 1977. I swam in a very big pool twice a day. A week later the competition began. It was a fine day with sunshine. Most Cubans were very nervous because there was a big audience. They started to shout at us "Down Fidel ! Down all Fidel's people ! Go back to your country...we don't want Cuban people here !" All that was very sad for us. Immediately the police came and put everything in order. Two hours later it was my turn to swim. My times were very bad and my coach was unhappy.

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Your comments and suggestions are very welcome. Please contact

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"I saw a few people with cameras..."

***"Parsnips, celery and parsley may
also be attacked..."***

***"THEY STARTED TO SHOUT AT US
"DOWN FIDEL !..."***

*"We did not like to rear our children where drugs, drink
and crime were all around us..."*

"It's time for us to do our duty..."

***"I'm just like every other
young man I know..."***

ALL THIS AND MORE INSIDE !