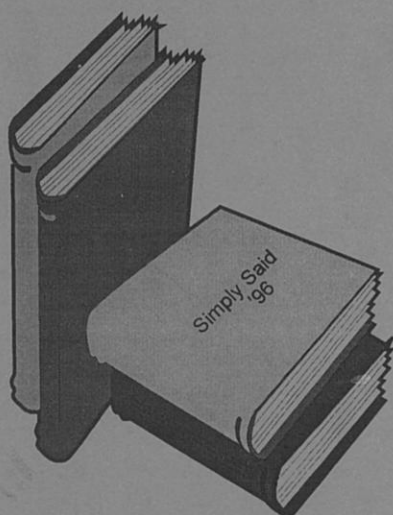


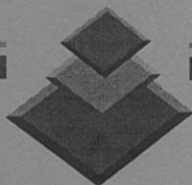
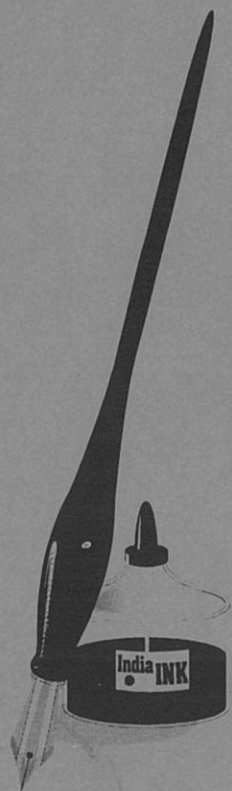


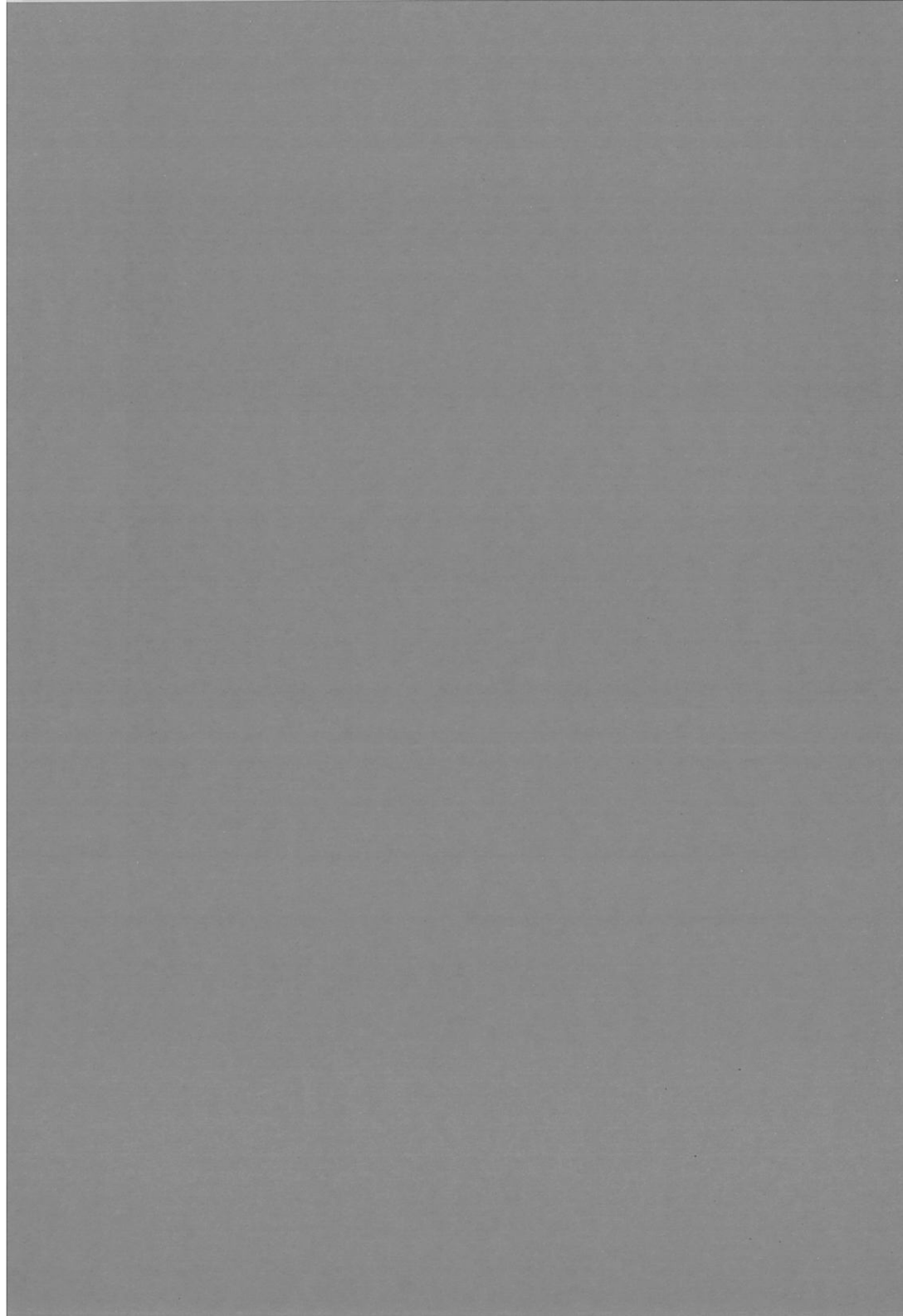
# Simply Said '96

Issue 8      June 1996

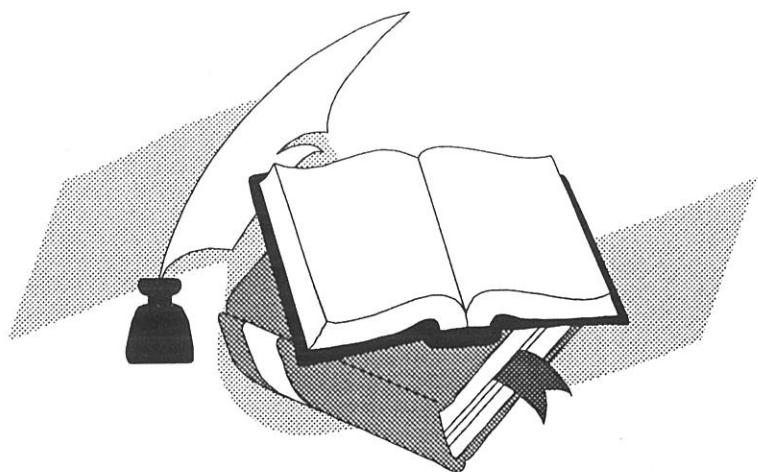


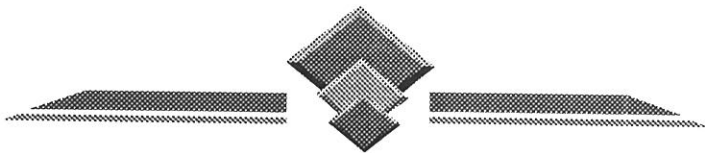
Co. Clare Reading & Writing  
Scheme





A Collection of Writings  
by Students  
of the  
Co. Clare Reading &  
Writing Scheme





## Ernest Hemingway

1899 - 1961

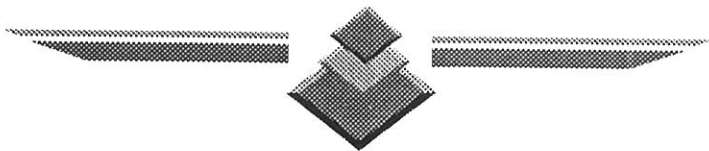
*All good books are alike in that they are truer than if they had really happened.*

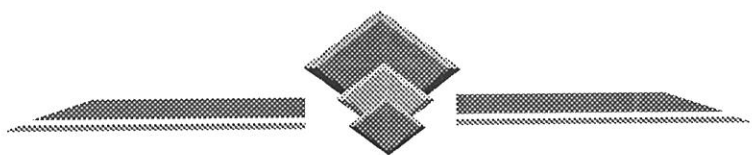
*After you have finished reading one, you will feel that it all happened to you, and afterwards, it all belongs to you: the good and the bad, the ecstasy, the remorse and sorrow, the people and the places and how the weather was.*

*If you can get so that you can give that to people, then you are a writer.*

*Esquire* December 1934

'Old Newsman Writes'





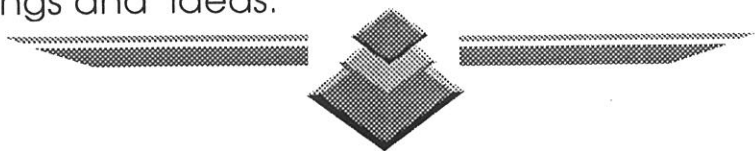
## **- FOREWORD -**

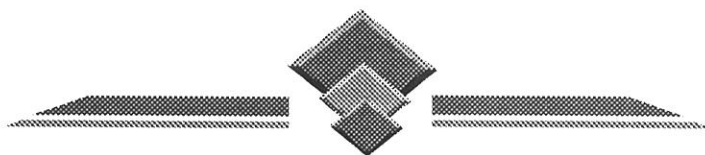
Yet another fantastic collection from the students in the Clare Reading & Writing Scheme.

This year's book seems to have grown perhaps reflecting how the scheme itself is getting bigger, now that we have moved to new premises.

Congratulations to everyone . Without the students' hard work, the tutors' support and everyone's best wishes, this would never have gotten off the ground.

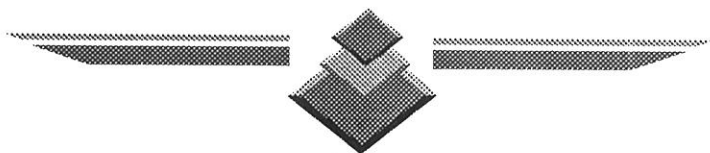
So thank you for your courage to put pen and paper together and share your thoughts, feelings and ideas.

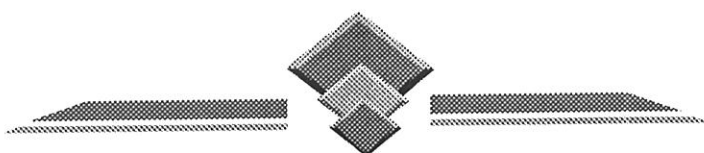




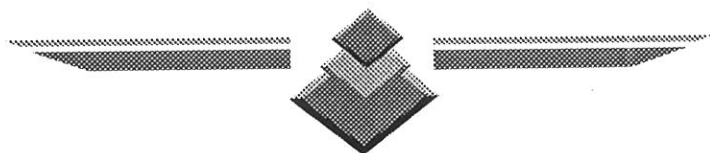
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## Adult Education Centre

There are four of us who come to the Adult Education Centre every week. We come here every Tuesday from the Gallery in a Taxi. I go to the Adult Education Centre to learn reading and writing.

I like coming here. They are all very nice people. My teacher's name is Johanna.

I get homework every night. We go home at twelve o'clock in a taxi.

*By Anne-Marie.*



# Scottie

We had a dog and his name was Scottie. He was a Scottish Terrier. He never bit anyone and loved to play ball but he was stubborn and never brought the ball back. If we went in the car Scottie came too.

He was a nervous dog and was afraid of the road. He did not like loud noise. We don't know how he died but I miss him now.

*By Frank*

## **My Life**

My life is not so bad. It is the way you get on with it.

Life means so much to me. You must fight for what you want in life. Life is precious. You should lead a good life. Be kind , understanding and caring. You should try to get on with your family; it's very important.

There are ups and downs in life. You must take the good with the bad. Life can be tough : getting the chance to improve is great.

I would like some day to be a teacher or a writer, or to help adults like myself. I would like to achieve my goals if I can.

I must try much harder. People like myself need some help from friends and teachers.

Out in the world you can get sad.  
You must be brave, and not let it get  
you down. There is a lot of help out  
there if you go to the right people.

Sometimes people can hurt your  
feelings and get you down.  
But that's life and you have to take  
the good with the bad.

I have a small disability as I am a  
little deaf. But I cope as best I can.

*By Philomena*

# My Weekend

On Saturday I went to the Disco with my friends. I was out all day. Today was a lovely day. I hope it will last all week.

The birds are out. Lambs are being born and so are calves.

On Friday we are not open because it's Good Friday.

*By Adrienne*

## Friends

I have lots of friends. I have one very special friend. She is very good to me.

I went to see her last month.

We had a good time. I will see her again soon.

*By Kathleen*

## **End of Violence in the Belfast I Love**

I got up in the morning for some light breakfast. It was a dark winter's day. I decided to go shopping. I saw soldiers hiding in the doorways, guarding against city crime, dressed in camouflaged style, with blackened faces.

There was a burst of gunfire and then the soldiers jumped up and shot back. I was shocked and I thought prayers for peace would be the only answer to the violence in my land.

*By Paddy*

## A Day in the Country

Last summer I went to the country with my friend Susan. We had a great time.

We went to the pub for a drink. We were listening to videos as well.

I helped with the washing and cleaned the house. It was a lovely weekend. Her family was very nice.

I would not like to live in the country because it is very quiet, the shops are very far away and the neighbours are far away. I like living in the town of Ennis. In my own place.

*By Phil*

## My Niece's Wedding

My niece got married in Tuamgraney on December the 29th. It was a very cold day but it did not rain.

There was about one hundred people there. The reception was at the Old Ground Hotel. We had a four course meal.

Then there was a band playing. The music was very good.

I love going to weddings.

*By Kay*



## Lahinch

Last August we went to Lahinch by bus. We made sandwiches and tea in the day centre and we took them with us.

We went to the pub in Lahinch for lunch and some of us then went for a walk by the sea.

Some of us went shopping in town. I stayed in the pub because I broke my leg.

We took hundreds of photographs . The weather was bad. It rained all day . On the way home we stopped outside a church to get something to eat and drink. We had a great day in Lahinch.

*By Mary*

# **I Like to Walk**

I like to walk.

When I was a small boy I walked to school.

Walking is good for you.

It keeps you fit.

*By John*

# Weekends

I like the weekends.

On Friday I go to O'Keefes pub with my friend, Mary.

On Sunday night I go to the Auburn Hotel with my friends for a drink.

*By Brendan*

## My Home Town

I go to the Legion of Mary on Monday nights and we have a meeting. I go off with a woman and we deliver papers. She has a car and her name is Mary.

We have tea in some houses. I go to mass and then we have the meeting.

We go out the country roads when it's dark and in the mornings I go by bus to the day centre.

I will go to town on Sunday and see Celia and then we will go to see the parade . It should be nice. People will be watching it and children will have shamrocks.

The army will be marching and the  
brass band will be there. There is a  
festival as well and there will be  
some music and singing in the pubs.

*By Marie*

# Thank You

I live at the hospital. I like to go to town and buy something for my friends and something for myself. I go into a cafe and buy an orange drink.

I hate rainy days. I do not go out to town because I would get wet.

On Wednesdays I go to classes. I enjoy them very much. I have learned a lot from my friends and would like to thank everyone for being so good.

Thank you.

*By Bernie*

# My Brothers

I have two brothers.

They are very good to me.

They bring me everywhere.

Last year we went to Dublin to see  
the match.

I like to fix things at home and help  
my brothers.

*By Paddy*

## A Visit to Lourdes

Next week I am going to Lourdes.

I am going to stay in a hotel with two other boys.

I was in Lourdes twice before and I had a great time walking around and seeing everything.

I am looking forward to going back.

*By Martin*



## Spinning the Discs

I decided to become a DJ for two reasons. Firstly, I have always loved music and secondly, when a friend of mine who happened to be a DJ asked me to help him out.

I discovered I had a hidden talent. I helped him out for a few years, then I realized I was enjoying myself and others were enjoying me too, so I decided to set up on my own.

I have been on my own for the past five years and usually have a gig three nights a week. My favorite gig would have to be a wedding, as I think people tend to let themselves go more. It's nice to get paid for something you really enjoy doing.

*By Derek*

## Returning to School

Last October I went to Springfield house to return to school. I was waiting in the grounds for some one to arrive to open the door, when this beautiful lady drove up in her car. She opened the door and said, "I am your teacher, you are very welcome, please sit in. I am waiting for Maura to arrive with the key."

My first impression was, " haven't we got a lovely teacher ?"

We sat and chatted while we waited, I felt so confident in her company. As the other teacher Maura arrived with the key the rest of the class arrived in ones and twos.

There was seven of us altogether,  
we all get on very well. We have a  
wonderful teacher, I have learned a  
lot from her, and she has a  
wonderful way of getting the  
correct views across.

I will be sorry when the class will  
come to an end.

*By Mary*

## Work

I work for Noonan's Cleaning Company and I clean in a factory. I start work at 5.30 in the evening time. There are four of us working altogether and we do our section.

I buff five and a half floors and Hoover every night and change the bags. Everybody in Boart is very friendly and helpful at times.

There are days when the work is hard and there are days when it is easy. Sometimes I nag at the lads because of the mess they have left me to clean.

One of them then turned around and said "well if the place was tidy, there would be no work for you to do."

They leave their teabags in the sink instead of throwing them in the bin and it can be very annoying.

Sometimes I am late finishing up because we'd be chatting.

The chat could start with "how are you?" to "what are you doing with yourself these days?" to just "good bye" or "see you tomorrow."

I finish work at 8.30 in the evenings and often enough the boss complains about dust lying here or dust lying there. We would see to it straight away.

I suppose like every place it has its good and bad points. On the whole though, I like the place.

*By Elizabeth*

## How to Break Clays

The first thing needed is a gun.

To get this go to a local barracks and apply for your license. They will send you to a gun dealer. He will give you the number of the gun you want to buy. Next you go back to the barracks with the gun number and they send your license application to Dublin.

You get the O.K. from Dublin if they are satisfied with the local guard's report on you.

The final step is the stamp of the superintendent.

Now you have your gun and are ready to break clays! You need a clay pigeon and a trap. The clay pigeon looks like an orange saucer. The bottom of the trap is made of

steel and has three legs which are stuck into the ground. The top is made of aluminium. To break the clays, shoot the clay pigeon out of the trap.

*By Dominic*

## Making Roast Dinner

Put the meat in the oven until it is cooked.

Check with a fork to see if it's done.

Boil the peeled potatoes until they are soft. Then put them in the oven until they are brown .

Get the vegetables and cook them until they are soft.

Dish it up!

*By Paul*



# Galway

My mum and dad and I walk  
around the town.

We buy things.

We go to Salthill and go for a walk.

We go to the garden centre and  
buy plants.

Galway is a nice town.

Lots of tourists visit Galway.

*By Helen*

# Lourdes

I am going to Lourdes in June.

My friend Mary will come with me.

We will go by plane from Shannon.

We will stay five days in a convent in Lourdes.

*By Celia*

# Aerobics

I go to Aerobics every Thursday. Our teacher lives in Sixmilebridge. We do lots of things, for example: we do knee lifts, weight lifts, back strokes. We had a raffle for red and white wine, and I won the white wine.

We do aerobics from 9pm to 11.30pm.

I love going to aerobics everynight.

*By Roisin*

## George Best

He would do what he was told to do. He would talk to no one about his troubles. He let himself down, and he started to gamble and to drink and chase girls.

The football for George Best was over soon. He began to miss training when he was at the height of his fame.

He was voted 'Footballer of the Year' and then 'European Footballer of the Year'.

Best played his first match for the Manchester United first team in September 1963.

He played his last game for United on January 1st, 1974.

He can now make a living as a coach or by playing exhibition matches.

He has worked on television during two world cups.

*By Tony*

## Making up for lost time

I came to Springfield Centre to learn so I could help my child with her homework.

I have learned a lot since and I really enjoy coming here.

My tutor is very good with me. I missed a lot of school through being sick, plus I wasn't a fast learner.

My tutor has helped me a lot. I now enjoy writing and sums.

I would love if I was a neater writer, but I am getting there.

*Anon*

# Pottery

I like to watch my mother and father  
make a vase from clay and water .

When they have the vase made it  
has to be dried. Then it goes in a kiln  
where it is glazed.

It is now ready for painting, I help  
sometimes.

Then it goes in to the kiln again .  
Now it goes in to the shop to be  
sold.

*By Leah*

## My Job

My job is in Ennis. I get up every morning at seven o'clock to go to work. My house is twenty five miles from Ennis.

I like my job very much. I am learning to work with wood. I use many different tools; some power tools, drills and jig-saws.

I make bird houses, window boxes and serving trays. I am also learning to make picture frames.

Later I hope to become a carpenter. Then I will be able to do a lot of work building my own house.

*By Daniel*



# My New Bike

I bought a new bike and I enjoy cycling on it.

It goes up and down hills.

The colour of the bike is purple and pink.

It has a front light and a back light.

The bike shines in the dark at night time.

The bike was made in Germany.

I bought the bike in Harry's.

*By Breeda*

## Feeling Good about Myself

I am married with three children and run a small Bed & Breakfast. Since I was small I had difficulty with reading and writing. When doing the books for the B&B I found it difficult, so I decided to get help.

My family gave me great encouragement. I had always encouraged them from an early age to read, as I was very aware of the problems that arise when you have a difficulty with reading.

One of the main reasons, I think for my problem, was that my sister died when I was five years of age. After this my parents lost interest, something I now can understand having a family of my own.

Looking back there was very little help available for parents who had lost a child. Even at this late stage I am delighted to have got help.

I am doing very well and have just finished reading my first book, 'Jane Eyre' by Charlotte Bronte. I find the Adult Literacy section a great help and I look forward to reading more of the books from it.

I find it difficult to get time between family and work to practice reading and writing but hope to keep it up as I feel much better about myself. I am beginning to really enjoy it.

*By Eithne*

## **The All-Ireland Hurling Final**

I was right about 1995 when Clare won the All-Ireland Hurling final. It was a great day ! I remember getting up early in the morning. I was very excited about the match and going with my friends. There were four of us. We go to all the matches together.

I remember going to see Clare v Galway in the Semi-final and I left home early that morning to go to Dublin. When we arrived in Dublin we parked the car in one of the hotel car parks. We went for something to eat and we had a lovely breakfast. Then we left the hotel and made our way to the match. We met a lot of our friends and we had lots of fun.

When we arrived at Croke Park it was very big, when we got in we went up to the new stand. It was lovely. When Clare came out into the field I felt so excited, it was my dream for so long that I would see Clare in Croke Park.

When the match was over I went down to the field. It was lovely. I was looking forward to the final. It was going to be a great day. I will never forget that day.

*By Noel*

## **My Story**

My name is Tom and I was born visually impaired due to the fact that my mother had rubella or German measles when she was expecting me.

As I was partially sighted , I had to go away to a special school for the blind in Dublin, and as a result I missed out on a lot of time with my family. Time which can not be given back to me under any circumstances.

Now while the staff at the school did their best to make it seem like home away from home for me, this attention could never replace my family life.

Since the age of eighteen years old, I was placed by the NRB in various training centres throughout the country.

These were just general training centres with no resources for people with specific special needs , such as the visually impaired.

Now, while one of the training centres I attended did purchase a computer with speech technology attached for me, I was further hampered in my training by the fact that the supervisor in the office did not know anything about its use. This meant that I could not use the speech technology provided with my computer and so could not use it to its full potential.

*By Thomas*

# My Old House

Yesterday I walked to  
my old home.

It looked so old and dirty.

But me and my family cleaned it out  
so it was like before.

We were all so proud and  
as happy as could be.

*By Mary*



## My Class

I go to classes in the Adult Education Centre, I enjoy class because it gets me out of the flat and gives me something to work towards.

I like everyone in my class because they are easy going and enjoyable to work with. I feel comfortable because we have much the same spelling problems and we help each other out.

I am more confident now. I learned a lot in my classes and I hope to come back next year.

*By Anne Marie*

## Life

My name is Brid. I have been married for the past nineteen years. We have three children. Two are teenagers and a younger child. We get on well together.

Sometimes there are ups and downs. At present we are looking forward to the summer and making lots of plans. I am beginning to understand my children much more now.

When the two older children started school, they were shy and hated school. Their dad went to London, as he had no work here. I was down and lost interest in life. I could not help them and would not talk to the teachers.

Then I changed address, and the children went to a different school. My eldest daughter improved . They made new friends.

My son did not get on well with the headmaster. He was bullied, but I finally picked up courage and tried to help them.

Then I had another child who is now 6 years old. She is getting on well at school. I have learned by my mistakes.

When there's a problem at school, get it sorted out. I now have a good interest in my younger child at school.

We have a lovely dog and two cats. The children love them. I don't have a car but when my husband comes home he brings the car and we all have a great time.

I now have an interest in life. My husband is still working away from home. Maybe we will all be together some day, please God.

I am now trying to make my life with the children, and I also have new friends.

*By Brid*

## The Darts Tournament

I played in the darts tournament in my local pub a few weeks ago. There were 45 people in the tournament.

It was a hard match. I won all my matches and got through to the final. I won the final. I got a silver cup and a big trophy. I have my name and the date of the final engraved on the cup. I can keep this cup for a year.

*By Martin*



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