



FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

2018 has gotten off to a SLOW start. I suppose this is normal after the build-up to Christmas, over-indulgence, etc - but with the onslaught of February, let's give the year a kick-start! Days are already getting longer! While we cannot say that the bad weather has turned the corner — we continue to live in hope — buoyed by the Spring season and the many events we are planning in the month of February/March!

Happy St Brigid's Day — and Looking forward to seeing you all soon!

Linda



Member Focus

This month's member focus is **Donna O'Donovan, from USA**. Donna came to Ireland many moons ago and fell for the charms of a handsome Irish man. Many moons later and two beautiful sons, she is still here, "more Irish than the Irish themselves" (with a touch of NJ character!) and has been a very active and supportive member of the Organization since the beginning. Here is her story:



"I moved to Limerick from New Jersey in 1981 to marry a lovely man who I had met 4 months earlier while doing a European Tour with a friend from university! That's not a typo... we met on August 19th and got married on December 28th having spent 5 weeks with each other in the meantime! It truly was love at first sight. We were the happiest people I knew for about ten years. I had Terry a year after we married and Sean 2 years later. I loved

my years as a young mother. We had so much time back then...not a lot of money, but so much time for the children and friends.

It truly was a simpler time. When my best friend moved to Germany in 1994 (I think), I decided I needed to make some new friends. I'd known about the IWO for years from a neighbour, but thought it was a blue-rinse-brigade club and wouldn't suit me in my early 30's! Well, I was very wrong! Back then there were plenty of young women - we even started a Mum's & Tots Morning. I LOVED the Crafts Mornings. This was a mainstay of the club - similar to the Thursday Coffee Mornings now. Within a year I had been asked to run for President and happily served two years in that role. This was before emails and text messages, so it involved A LOT of phone calls. I remember my husband saying, "Are you sure you're not getting paid for this? It seems like a full-time job!" I threw myself into the club and loved everything about it. Later I was Secretary and that was a big job - 100 newsletters to be written, printed, stapled, folded, put into labelled envelopes, stamped and posted (thank goodness for email)!!! I have friends all over the world that I met in the club and we visit each other as well as keeping in touch electronically.

Over the years I've drifted in and out of the amount of time I spend with the club, but I always know it's there. As many of you know, a few years ago I was unemployed for 17 months and ended up taking on the Vice President position when Sue had to move up to President due to Julie moving back to Australia. The club, once again, supported me when I needed it. Not to mention the time my house was flooded and I had to move out for 3 months. When I was going back and every inch of my house (and item in it) needed to be dusted, the people that helped me most were my IWO friends. The IWO is very special and we all need to work to keep it going and growing!"

Crafts morning chez Mary Rose

Nine members met in Mary Rose's house on Monday, 14 January 2018, to discuss upcoming plans/projects and to get stuck into the year's first Craft Undertaking! Mary Rose was delighted with the turnout and enthusiasm - see her following report and pictures:

"Ladies...first of all I want to wish you all Happy Crafting New Year! I hope we enjoy many hours together doing some of our favourite crafts.

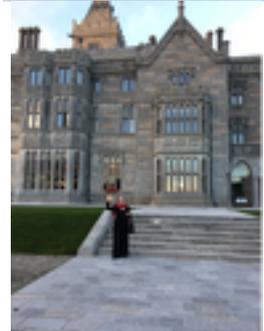
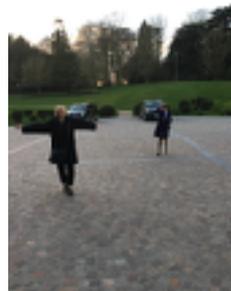
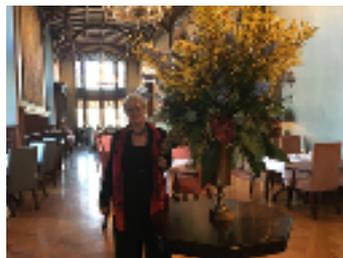
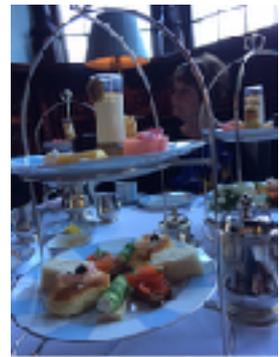
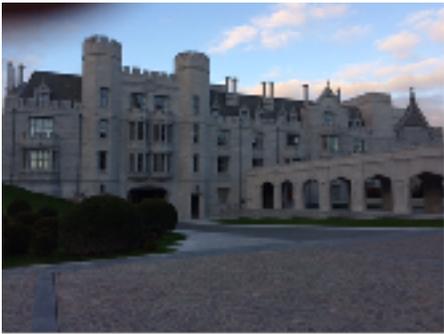
We began 2018 by starting an easy knitted cowl project. All nine of us hardly felt the afternoon go by as we chatted and knitted.

We will meet again next Friday Feb 2nd in my house at 2.30pm to continue our neck warming project. Later in February we will hope to start something different. More info and a date to be announced later in the month."



British Month – January!

Christine organised an archetypical British treat for members in celebration of British Month: Afternoon Tea at the newly-refurbished Adare Manor. The manor and grounds are spectacular! Six members attended and were very impressed with both the venue and the tea/goodies! We were delighted to go to the Manor and see the changes for ourselves - not to mention to celebrate British Month! Thank you, Christine! — a great time was had by all!



Monthly meeting speaker - Soo Ling Koh

Soo Ling told us of her experiences when visiting an orphanage in Bielorrussia last year. It was a sad and harrowing account — but the kindness of Soo Ling and those who accompanied her on the trip shone through. Thank you for this, Soo Lin, and we will do our best to contribute to your next trip and to help these poor children.

She went with a group called PASHLI (meaning Let's



Go in Russian), which is a charitable organisation under the banner of Christian Churches of Ireland and has been working in Belarus for the past 12 years. In spring 2017, she joined a team of 18 (all of whom were strangers, mostly from Dublin) because she wanted to give some love and hope to the orphans and old folks in a village called Vilejka. It makes it all the more real for us when we have someone we know going to these horrific places and showing us what is happening outside our protected shores. She described in detail the work they did renovating the orphanage rooms and bringing with them love and hugs to children who do not receive much of either the rest of the year. They also spent time with older people in an old folks' home, and it really touched our hearts to hear her describe the conditions in which they live and how they reacted to the visits and love. Next year, she will go to Togo. We are very proud of you, Soo Ling and I wish I had a modicum of your enthusiasm and energy!



Chinese New Year Celebrations

We are very lucky to have such active Chinese members in our organisation! Susan and Lin are our secretaries and do an excellent job in preparing and sending out the calendar, following up on, organizing and publicising events, overseeing the Facebook page, and overseeing our IT needs etc. And, of course, Ya Nan, who has been with us for many years, is very active with Mary Rose planning and organising our craft projects — not to mention the organisation of our annual Chinese New Year events!

This year, Ya Nan will organise the Chinese New Year meal on **Monday, 19 February, 18.30hrs.** She will need to know asap how many people are interested in attending the meal, so please contact her so that she can start making arrangements with the restaurant. This is usually a great success, with a wonderful meal and good time had by all! **Please let Laura know by 12 February at the latest if you intend coming** so that Ya Nan can inform the restaurant of the numbers.

This year also we are lucky to have an extra in celebration of the Chinese New Year; Lin will do a Tai Ji Quan demonstration on **26 February** at 14 hrs in Susan's house in Croagh. Following the demonstration, Susan will prepare a traditional Chinese tea ceremony. She will send out details nearer the time — **please let Susan/Lin know if you are interested in participating** so that they can plan accordingly!

March — Irish month

Just to let you all know that i am TRYING to organise a cheile in honour of Irish Month! I am hoping to get the ok on a venue for the last week of March — not done yet but I am

trying! More on this when I have details one way or another. If I am successful, of course this would include partners/spouses/children (older); if I am not successful, then I guess we will go to a restaurant on/around St Patrick's Day! Stay tuned for more updates!

Misc activity information

Gaiety theatre: I will go to the matinee of JB Keane's Sive on Thursday, 1 February. See you there if you are interested!

Dance Limerick: The 50/55+ classes have begun again - Thursdays, 14-15.15 hrs. They are as much fun as ever (this is my third year there now and I enjoy it as much as I did the first days: fun-filled training for people of all levels of fitness, and a great atmosphere - many of the participants have been there as long as I have and we have great fun! Come along and give it a try — everyone welcome!

This year's show will take place on 20 May. Intense training will take place every Thursday and Friday 14-16.30 from 12 April. Do not be put off: I did it last year when I was recovering from the chemo and if I could do it anyone can! Listen to your body: have fun and get fit! Hope to see you there!

Also: some good dance events coming up this month: see the programme at www.dancelimerick.ie. In particular, the upcoming What's Next programme is very interesting and well worth a visit: see details below:

WHAT NEXT DANCE FESTIVAL : DIVE IN, DISCOVER DANCE (9-10 February 2018)

What to expect at What Next!

At What Next Audiences will experience a programme of fresh and evocative interactions and performances with a new generation of artists on the cusp of establishing their choreographic voices. Dive into all 3 Programmes across Friday & Saturday or sample a selection before enjoying a free pint of Treaty City beer at our closing party, *Music for Chameleons* by Pádraic E Moore.

A line about each show, to use separately or together:

What Next has an amazing line up of local and international artists over its 3 Programmes. The festival is a treasure trove of amazing performances from rising stars in dance.

- In *Kudoku* by Danielle Ninarello (Italy) and Dan Kinzelman (USA), live saxophone mixes with dance in an electrifying spectacle.

- *with no name* by Isabella Oberländer (Ireland/Austria) is a visceral collage, ethereal and inscribed with the necessity to 'shake it up'!

- Lucia Kickham and Marion Cronin (both Ireland) perform *Oscillate*, a flowing sequence of movements where bodies are spun across the floor.

- *Folds of the Crane* by Justine Cooper (Ireland/New Zealand) is ambitious and cinematic, and a highlight of the What Next festival programme.

- In *Ruby* Tanin Torabi (Limerick / Iran) explores her voice of protest and voice of love in a touching and personal piece.

- *Begin* by Rachel Sheil (Limerick) looks at the artist's multi-layer practice, it is a response to her passion for contemporary and hip-hop style. An uplifting piece of work from a very talented young dancer.

- *Abacus* by Laura Murphy (Ireland) has been described as enthralling and fascinating to audiences. Watch as 9 women and 18 buckets move in unison as if by clockwork, mirroring, with eerie precision, the beauty in work and repeated gestures.

- *Sinter* is a new piece by Limerick dance artist-in-residence Mary Wycherley (Limerick) in collaboration with H  l  ne Cathala (France). Featuring music composed by J  rgen Simpson (Ireland) *Sinter* is another highlight of the festival.

- *Alien Express* by Aerowaves artists Žigan Krajčan and Gašper Kunšek (Slovenia) will bring you on an astral train to a journey of transformation! The piece is dream like and disarming, an unmissable duet to finish the festival's dance programme.

- Help us celebrate the end of an amazing weekend of creation and dance with our closing party *Music for Chameleons* by Pádraic E. Moore (Ireland). This musical event will have you on your feet for the night with a bar sponsored by Mother Macs and free pint of Treaty City beer thrown in too!

What else is on at What Next?

In **Let's Talk About Dance with Jo Slade** we invite you to participate in a lively, exploratory, informal discussion about the role of contemporary dance and movement as an expressive art form. We will attend some of the performances in the festival with enthusiasm and absorb the subtle language of movement and dance. Later, as a group, we will reflect on our individual responses to the performances. We will consider writing as a vehicle to express those responses, to articulate our experience of the connection between mind and body and how contemporary dance and movement can broaden our understanding of art. Nelly's Corner, (across from St Mary's Cathedral) Wed 7th & Wed 14th Feb, 7:30pm.

Join us for a brown bag lunch in our **Artists' Café** Saturday 10 February, 12.30–2pm. Meet the artists over a bite to eat. Bring lunch, thoughts, observations and questions.

Limerick Spring Festival of Politics and Ideas; This year's multi-faceted festival will take place in various venues around Limerick from 19 to 25 February. See the full schedule of events at www.limerickspring.com — and see you at many of the events I am sure!

Belltable: Dark, dreary Monday evenings are offset again by the Belltable's wide-range of Monday evening films. Have a look at their website if you like films and are looking for something to do on a Monday evening!

Sunday Brunch in House: It has been quite a while since we included this in our programme so we are making another effort in February! Come along, bring your spouse/partner if you like or come alone! We'll meet in House on Sunday, 18 February, from 12.30. If you are interested in coming, please let me know by Saturday, 17 February, 12 hrs and I will make a reservation. Otherwise, go along if you are free. I will come if I hear others are going so see you there!

IWO dishes

We have not collected/distributed these dishes yet — more a question of logistics than a question of the spirit not being willing! We are trying to arrange for Laura (the Zimbabwean lady from Direct Provision (Breda's contact) to come and address our meeting in February to speak of their project and so that you can see where the dishes have gone and their planned useage! At the January meeting, Tayree also told us of her volunteering with another group of asylum seekers in Christ Church on O'Connell Avenue every Wednesday (anyone who would like to volunteer to teach EN should speak with her). It seems that they also cook for themselves there so we may divide the dishes etc between both groups (if Tayree's group also need them). We are exploring the idea of having both groups address our meeting in February to talk about direct provision and their lives. I remain convinced that this is a very worthy cause — more information later!

SUMMARY OF MONTHLY MEETING (30 JANUARY 2018)

- the meeting as very well attended. We had an honorary attendee (Jacqueline, Ln's mother in law). Regrets were received from Both Bredas, Goretti, Michele. MaryRose,
- Financial overview: Christine presented the situation. Aim continues to be that we are budget neutral; for last year, there is a surplus of 96 euro. At preset, situation is +1.700 in bank (due in large part to the 1000 euro from the cashed-in prize bond. Idea of opening account in credit union not possible: we are registered as charity in the bank. Surplus will remain in bank; ideas/needs for events/outings should be submitted to Board.
- Membership: presently 35 members (will be 36); ratio of 75-25% Foreign-Irish is spot-on! (welcome to our newest member - Diane!)
- Crafts: Knitting group has started (meeting in MaryRose's house) and knitting "snoods". Next get-together Friday, 2 February.
- Louise has agreed — following much expressed interest! - to hold a "flower making" class and to show us how to make those wonderful poppies she makes. She will also organise a class to make 'wind chimes' using the shells she has brought back from Portugal/Algarve. She will check her diary and suggest two days and those interested can contact her and make these crafts. Christine will send out details once Louise had an idea of when she can do it.
- Chinese festivities: see body of newsletter for details!
- Proposed IWO trip: it was decided to postpone this for the moment and to following up (if interest exists) later on this year).
- Janet's annual Burren walk: to note — will take place first half of the month of May. More details nearer the time.
- Burren Walking Festival (May): Christine will send around details once they are to hand.
- Coffee mornings in February: 8th - chez Sarita; 15th - The Range (Childers Road); 22nd - chez Maureen (see February Calendar).

Reminder: *Photos/privacy indications on members' list:* As photos are usually taken at all IWO gatherings, it was agreed that ***the onus be on those members not wishing to have their photos taken/appear on Facebook to take measures at the time of the photos being taken not to appear in the photos.*** Members taking the photos will ensure that all know that photos are being taken so that those wishing not to be photographed have time to take measures to this effect.

Please check out our monthly calendar for the update scheduled events each week!

