



## November Newsletter



### ***President message:***

### ***Dear friends!***

October has been a whirlwind in more ways than one! We survived hurricanes and storms and have come through them a wiser lot! Thank God that none of our members were injured or worse — we can survive the damage and downed trees!

The month saw a lot of activities, and it looks as though November is going to equally — probably, more! — active! These activities are there for all members and are meant as a suggestion/guide: i don't think there is any way we can do all of them but - personally! - I like to aim high and get somewhere in the middle!

Thanks to all members for their suggestions and enthusiasm! This is what makes the Group more dynamic with each coming month, and a lifeline and support to all of us! It is what we are about!

Enjoy November! Soon it will be Christmas and Spring and Summer!

Happy Halloween!



### ***Linda***

**Iranian month:** Zohre has kindly accepted to take the lead in the newly-reinstated themed month activities and has agreed to show us how to make some Iranian specialities at her place on Monday, 6 November. If you have not yet given Laura your name, please do so — places are limited and filling up quickly! Thank you, Zohre — looking forward to it!

In keeping with our new section of discovering what brought our members to the Limerick area, this month we are delighted to present our dear friend Sarita (her own words) to all members. Sarita has been a member of long-standing and is an integral part of the organisation! Thanks, Sarita!



My name is Sarita Berges and I have lived in Limerick since September 1998. My Canadian husband John and I moved here after his retirement from the Ontario Board of Education. When we married in 1982 his Canadian education credentials did not allow him employment in the

United States where I was working in the Silicon Valley office of the company my father had created - so it was me that *had* to relocate. As most of you know, I am a keen gardener and had especially thrived in the benign Californian climate. It was a shock when I finally realised that winter in Ontario lasts for 5 months.... the ground literally frozen to a depth of 3 feet. So when John's retirement loomed ahead of us, I was keen to go some place where I could 'dig' all year round! Over the years we had come over to Ireland regularly because John's son was at Queens University in Belfast and my son was living here with an Irish girlfriend. We both liked the friendly Irish people and the green countryside, and were amused by the traffic jams on the roads caused by roaming sheep or horse drawn carts.....so, so different to the freeways into Toronto or Niagara with the fast-paced hurtling traffic.

It took some time but eventually we found a place that ticked our respective desires- mine a large unkempt old garden crying out to be transformed {right alongside the Shannon River } and for John easy access to a good sized town and a local golf club. The immediate snag was that the only way we could join a golf club was by proposal of a club member. *We knew absolutely no one!* Each year we went back to Canada to see friends and relatives so our only golfing was on *those* visits- so for exercise, John used to make do with his ride on mower and chain saw!! whilst I dug! { Pleased to brag that after just a few years our garden won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in an All Ireland Competition- we'd have preferred 1<sup>st</sup> place but it was ALL IRELAND - North and South.

I picked up the Limerick Leader one day and running across the bottom of one page was an article about the International Women's Organization giving an outline of what they were about and a phone number to call. I duly called and was invited to a Thursday morning \*\*Coffee and Crafts get together. The welcome was friendly and I thought: well why not join and see if I like it. I have searched, without success, through my giant sized scrap book trying to find that article and the name of the hostess. What I *did* find were three photographs taken early in 2000 of a Plant Swap organized by Marie Morris and held at *my* home. Marie, Val, Sue Thomas, Maureen, Dorina and others bending down over plant pots and boxes. So I obviously got stuck right in! Eventually being secretary a couple of times. The warmth and support of the various women I have got to know over the years has been priceless.

Other than our resident Irish members, we have *all* come here leaving family and old friends a long way behind and that can be tough.....hurrah for emails and Skype keeping us in 'long distance contact'....AND our temporary replacement family: the amazing women in the Limerick branch of the IWO.

There is a downside, in that members come and members go. Some are able to come back to Ireland on occasion and the hashing over of old times and the swapping of memories is great fun. Sadly, there are those that we lose to ill health and that is really hard because they had become our replacement family.

\*\* At that time it was customary for each person to bring along knitting, or embroidery or crafts of some description- along the way that sort of fizzled out and was replaced with an occasional special morning of learning something entirely new: crochet, beading, origami, weaving, cake or butter making etc. etc. but always with coffee or tea and goodies on offer.

**Sports day:** Louise very kindly hosted our first — hopefully not last! — sports day at her house on Wednesday, 4 October. A great time was had by everyone who attended. Photographs by our intrepid camera woman (Lin) and see Christine's article (below) on how things had gone: - a great success by all accounts!



“Who said playing tennis in the drizzle couldn't be fun? The wannabe players mixed in with the accomplished, so we were evenly matched. Underhand serving sufficed for some and us wannabes squealed in delight, if we managed to get the ball over the net and into court. Lin hadn't played in 10 years, but was so enjoying rediscovering her groundstrokes, she was the last to come off!

Shanghai Cards was a hit with the regulars and the newbies. Who knew the subtleties of the 'joker'.....it can replace any card, but don't get left holding one or it's a 50 point penalty! Laura wasn't on her usual card winning form, but she made up for it in charades, where she was a natural.

It took a while to get 'The Da Vinci Code'....well done Mary Rose...but we did laugh a lot along the way. We were also somewhat amused by the contrast in Louise's ( more obvious) and Denise's ( more technical) mimes for 'Sex in the City'.

There were so many other games to play but we ran out of time!

Scrumptious is the best way to describe the 'Potluck' Lunch. Once again it's confirmed....IWO members are excellent cooks and as always, the combination of such different foodie offerings somehow go so well together!

We all hope the Games Day can become an annual fixture on the IWO calendar! A very big thank you to our host, who generously opened up her home, organised us all and provided everything we needed for a fabulous fun time. Thanks Louise!”(Christine)

Indeed: thank you very, very much Louise —great (and very much appreciated!) initiative!

**Adare Manor** is reopening in all its splendour on 1 November. We look forward to seeing the new look edifice and to — hopefully! — getting inside!

If you are interested in going there for **Afternoon Tea** — remember, 50 euro pp — let me know; if we have enough interested, we will find a date!

**Guest speakers:** Thank you, Louise, for an excellent and riveting presentation (October's monthly meeting) on your travels to Antarctica!

This month, we are delighted to welcome back **Sarah Morris** to address our meeting. Sarah addressed us last year and was a great success with members. Since then, Sarah has “gone out on her own” as a make-up artist/consultant and is doing very well. She's deals with private consultations/wedding make-up etc etc. She will give us some “tips of the trade” — especially helpful as we approach the party season! Don't miss it — Sarah was a great success when she addressed us last year!



**Crafts news:** Mary Rose hosted us on ..... when we began our Christmas decorations preparations and tried to make wreaths. Some ladies did very well – I still wonder at the talent of some of our members! But I will soldier on!

Next Craft get together will be held at Ya nan's on 7 November, 10.30 hrs: Christmas cards! Please let her know in advance if you intend to participate as she/Mary Rose will purchase materials! If you have a scissors, please bring it with you!

The Knitting and Stitching Show is being held in Dublin, and MaryRose is organising a trip there on Friday, 10 November. Please let her know if you wish to go to this event.

Mary Rose also drew our attention to the ongoing Saturday workshops in Hickeys in Cruise's Street. Please check out their schedule if you are interested.

Louise is also offering to show us some of the wonderful craftwork she has done!



She invites members to her house to view the opening of "Colour in Motion", a mixture of watercolours, acrylic painting, sculpted flowers, collages and other surprises. The opening will take place in her house on 27 October from 11-14 hrs, and from that day until 5 November the house will be open from 11-14 hrs each day. Such beautiful crafts, Louise!

## Monthly Meeting Minutes:

Location: Watch House Cross Library

Date: Tuesday 24th October

Time: 2-4 pm

Participants: Michele, Janet, Breda, Mary Rose, Liz, Theresa, Alyson, Laura, Louise, Lin, Val, Inez, Breda, Tyree, Donna, Susan

Apologies: Linda, Christine, Sarita, Carole, Goretti





### Subjects discussed:

1. Christmas Charity: continue donate pyjamas to adopt house like last year. Collection time: at Christmas lunch.
2. Special craft: Christmas card decoration. At 10:30am 7th Nov. in Ya Nan's house, please bring a pair of scissors and cards to be decorated.
3. Louise will open her house to show her variety arts, beginning 25th Oct. 11:00-14:00 o'clock, she will offer home bakings, tea and coffee. The house will be opened every day same time until 5th Nov.
4. Christmas Coffee and scone: 10:30am, 6th Dec. at Dromoland Castle, cost 13 euros each, Please reserve your place with Laura before 2nd Dec.
5. Christmas Lunch: 13th Dec. at Carrygerry country house, 26 euros for 3 courses (IWO will subsidise 5 euros each), Contact Laura before 9th Dec. if you are planning to go.
6. Our old friend Karin will visit the region 2nd half of November, Breda will organise a special coffee in her house on 22nd Nov. at 14:00. an exciting moment to look forwards to.
7. Linda will issue a letter to IWCD and Lin will contact them to organise some activities together. for example: they will show us Dublin and we can show them western side of the country....
8. Yearly trip abroad: A trip to Faro Portugal was proposed and tentatively will be happening end April, beginning May. Louise volunteered to help organise ( we love you so much Louise!) A special meeting to finalise the details will be held on Jan.
9. Theresa will organise a thanks giving dinner at her house on 30th Nov, starting 6pm. Please contact her if yo plan to go and coordinate with her what to bring. She propose to keep the receipt when you shop for the ingredients and the cost will be spliced at the end.
10. Lin is keeping the Facebook updated in the regular base. if you have something you would like to share on Facebook please send it to Lin. Same issue is for the website of IWO, I would like collect more information to upload to the website in order to make it look more attractive, please send me some pictures of activities you are participating or anything you think it is looking good on the website.

On the 2nd part of the meeting Louise brought us into a beautiful world of Antarctica. We could almost touch the clear crystal iceberg, and hear the cracking noise of the ice when the ice breaker was working. Well done, Louise.

Wish you all a wonderful month of November,  
Susan

