



IWO NEWSLETTER

Oct 2017



Message from the president:

Dear friends,

We are past the Welcome Back Coffee and beginning a “normal” month for the IWO where we have our regular weekly coffee mornings (organized by Val) and the first of this year’s monthly meetings. Time flies.....



The ***Welcome Back coffee*** was a joy to participate in. We had 19 members cosily squeezed together, some new, some longer-term members! It was great to have a *tour de table* where everyone introduced themselves and we got to hear from those who were members from the very beginning to the newer members. One thing soon became very clear: the friendships made and support offered to all supersedes generations and remains

a forever golden nugget throughout our lives. This is also very visible in the number of past members who remain in contact and offer ideas/suggestions/support (even participating from afar in our monthly bookclub!).

The ***personal histories*** of members was so well received by those present that we have decided to introduce a new section into our Newsletter: each month, we will invite a member who has been with us for many years to introduce themselves and talk about their history of their membership/what the IWO means to them. This month, we have invited ***Marie Morris*** to prepare

her IWO “bio” and you will find her contribution below. Marie has always been – and continues to be - a stalwart of the Club whose help and advice continues to be invaluable! Thank you, Marie!



My name is **Marie Morris**. I have lived all of my lifetime in Limerick; born here, educated here and got married here to a Limerick man with a very foreign sounding name! Our three, grown up children still live here too although each of them has had spells living in Dublin, England and British Columbia.

When we moved into our home in Meadowvale in 1979, we found ourselves surrounded by foreign nationals. We had English, Scottish, Canadian, American, Australian, Czech and Dutch neighbours; all of them here on employment contracts with the Aughanish Alumina project. We all got along great and there were lots of to-ings and fro-ings socially.

I quickly became the 'Local Information Officer' and 'go to' expert on all matters local. I had several special friends: Vera Bubla (who invited me to become a member of the IWO in 1980, thus becoming the first Irish member), Tineke Van Schaik (a superb tennis player and former magistrate in Holland). Tineke had triplets who were the same age as our David. The triplets spent as much time in our house as they did at home. Hennie Bentzen (an extremely funny character) and Loretta Deptuck (who loved to travel the length and breadth of Ireland specialized in obscure questions, which often required some extra research on my part). We had a lovely community life and it was sad to see them all leave one by one.

The personnel may have changed as people came and went but the philosophy and *modus operandi* of the IWO has remained constant. I have enjoyed my membership and was always willing to help newcomers with my local knowledge whenever I could.



Mary Rose - our **Special Crafts Coordinator** – organized a get-together/meeting of those interested in upcoming projects in her house. Two of the ideas being planned are to create a small **Christmas Wreath** and to make some **lovely handmade Christmas cards** (under the expert guidance of YaNan). It is also planned to go to **Dublin for the Knitting and Stitching Show** in early November – date to be decided, so

please let Mary Rose know if you are interest so that she can gauge numbers! Also: Those members who are interested in the craft mornings should make sure to let her know in advance so that she can organise sufficient materials for participants!

The Christmas Wreath project get-together will take place in Mary Rose's house on **9 October at 10.30.**

Above is a picture of the beautiful Christmas Wreath which will be made by the Group – beautiful! Thank you Mary Rose and YaNan!

Members' corner/happenings suggestions:

We would love to include suggestions from our members in our monthly Newsletters. If you intend going somewhere, please let us have your “mark the date/suggestions” and we'll include them/send off a pre-warning message to members! Here are some suggestions from me re the Gaiety(Dublin) over the coming months! I hope you can make one at least!

Dublin/Theatre: As many of you know, I go regularly to matinee productions in the ***Gaiety in Dublin.*** As a forewarner, I'd like to let anyone interested in joining me know that I will be going to their production of ***Sive by JB Keane*** in Jan-March 2018. The matinees will be each Thursday and Sunday from 27 January. If you are interested in coming with me, please let me know! I have not decided when i will go yet but I will shortly and will make my booking! Matinees are at 14.30 hrs so plenty of time to get up and we get home at a reasonable time! Tickets for this work out at around 36 euro.

As I like to plan WELL in advance for these things: in March 2018, the Gaiety will put on ***Ibsen's "Hedda Gabler"***. I'll probably go to the matinee on Thursday, 8 or Saturday, 10 March. Let me know if you are interested! Tickets for this work out at around 40 euro.

A third happening (comedy) also takes place in the Gaiety on 19-24 March 2017: ***"Three men, Three friends and One White Painting"*** starring Nigel Havers, Denis Lawson and Stephen Tompkinson. I will probably go to the only matinee on 24 March, 14.30 hrs. Tickets for this are around 57 euros.

Let me know if any of the above tickles your fancy!

Comedy in Limerick

Chez le Fab plan on organising a regular comedy club on Fridays – highly recommended! I went to their Canopy of Comedy show last Saturday and it was a night of laughter to be recommended! We can all do with a good laugh – especially now that the winter is coming (brrr) so if you are looking for something to make you laugh and keep you warm, check them out. Entrance is 10 euros and very well worth it! check their site for more information!

Monthly Sunday Brunch in House

We will continue to leave this in the calendar each month as it has proven to be very popular before the Summer. Unfortunately, we have been 'slow' to get back into the routine of these get-togethers (spouses/partners/friends very welcome!) and we have had to cancel the September booking. To avoid any misunderstandings in future, we would ask you to let us know if you are interested in coming each month by the day before (Saturday, 12 hrs). If we do not hear from you by then, the reservation will be cancelled. It is a very nice get together so I hope that we will get back into the swing from October!

Occasional alternative? I have seen that from October, the French Table will be open for Sunday lunch (24 euro for two courses and 29 euro for three courses). Could be worth checking out some Sunday if there is member interest (with spouses/friends/partners of course). Again: to be discussed at our next meeting!

IWO Flyers

Lin has created some beautiful flyers to help publicise our organisation and thus encourage membership. We place them on notice boards where we think they will be seen. To widen the scope, we are enclosing a sample for all members with this month's newsletter! Please feel free to print it out and place it where you think it will be seen! We would like to increase our membership and expand our reach to interested women in the area who meet membership criteria – so, the more we are visible, the better! Thanks, Lin - great poster!

Monthly meetings

We restart our monthly meetings (with coffee!) this month and hope that you will be able to join us! As you know, they take place on the fourth Tuesday of each month, from 14-16 hrs in the Watch House Cross Community Library. Our speaker for October is Louise, who will speak of her life and travels. Thank you, Louise - looking forward to hearing her and to seeing you all there!

October Sports Day chez Louise

A great (sports!)day is being organized by Louise at her house on 4 October! Let's pray for good, rain-free weather on the day to enable us to avail the maximum of ALL the possibilities she is proposing: "light-hearted" tennis, mah jong, other board games (feel free to bring a game you like to play)! Lunch will be potluck and those participating are kindly requested to bring a sweet or savoury offering. ***Please let Louise know by 1 October (and indicate if you will bring a sweet/savoury dish for the potluck!)*** if you plan to participate in this great initiative she is organising. Thank you, Louise – great initiative!

Nordic Walking

Lin has restarted the Nordic Walking initiative - every Friday, from 10.30 hrs. this is a bracing, very enjoyable activity and I recommend it highly! If you find yourself at a loose end and looking for something to do, come by and join the group! It is not necessary to have the poles – but if you are bitten by the bug, Lin can advise you on how best to get them!

Coffee mornings/lunch

Val continues to be the organizer of our weekly gatherings. Please see the Calendar for venues for the month. We may have a lunch in the Japanese restaurant on O'Connell Street on one of the designated coffee-morning days (suggested by Janet – good idea!). More details later!

Films

Donna continues to keep us informed of What's on in the Cinema each week for all those film-buffs among us. Venue (usually) is the Odeon in Castletroy.

New Theatre company/Book publishing (for charity)

A new theatre company ("New Hope Theatre Company") has been set up recently in Limerick and all proceeds will go to four local charities (Docas, Marine Search and Rescue, Enable Ireland, Milford Hospice). Performances will take place on 15, 17 and 22 November. Venues are being finalised and I will keep you posted.

Also, 5 ladies (yours truly included!) are publishing a book of short-stories/poems ("*Spring shoots: Thoughts and Memories of Five Women*") with proceeds going to the same charities.

The Book/Play launch will take place on 6 November. Venue (probably Dolan's – will confirm nearer the time) – please come along if you are free to support this very worthy cause! Books will cost 10 euros.

Themed monthly get-togethers

Due to popular demand, we have decided to reintroduce themed monthly get-togethers! Here is a draft outline of what is planned so far:

November: Iran (Zohre has agreed to give us a cooking lesson in honour of Iranian month - thank you, Zohre! More in our next Newsletter!)

December: No theme – too much happening around Christmas!

January: British (Christine will let us know what she plans!) (thanks, Christine!)

February: China (NB Chinese New Year!!)
March: Ireland
April: To Be Confirmed - volunteer?
May: To Be Confirmed - volunteer?
June: To Be Confirmed - volunteer?

If you would like to suggest a “theme” to be followed up (or to volunteer!), please let us know!

Limerick Walking tours

An experienced guide (Declan Hasset) organises tours of the Georgian Quarter and the Medieval Quarter, each lasting 90 minutes. Cost of the guided tour is 10 euro, and tour and admission to the Hunt Museum is 12 euro. I think it would be a nice idea to organise a group to do one or both of these walks – anyone interested? If so, please let me know and i’ll follow up!

Christmas special project?

Suggestions on fundraisers/which charity(ies)etc welcome! Please let us know if you have any ideas on what we should do this year for a good cause. This will also be discussed at our monthly meeting in October – so put on your thinking caps or send us an advanced idea which we can discuss then!

Christmas coffee and Christmas lunch: dates for your diary!

We are planning our Christmas coffee morning and Christmas lunch. In the past, we have gone to Adare Manor for our Christmas coffee morning in December. However, it looks as though this will not be possible this year: they have offered Afternoon tea instead, at a price of 45 euro pp. We feel that this may be a bit too pricey for our usual Christmas get together and are presently exploring other venues. More on this and the date later.

Christmas lunch: we plan to go back to Carrygerry House on Wednesday, 13 December at 12.30 hrs. Cost will be 26 euro pp. More on this nearer the date.

Staying in touch

Calling all members who have left Limerick and still stay in touch/receive our Newsletter: we miss you and would love to know how you are getting on! If you would like to drop us a line, we will include it in a forthcoming Newsletter! Out of sight does not mean out of mind/out of heart!

That's it for this month! As you can see, we are "back in the saddle" and ready to go! It looks like being an exciting few months and looking forward to seeing you all at many/all of our upcoming events!

Stay well and warm!

Linda

Secretary's news:

Dear Friends,
our president Linda has drafted a very detail message which includes loads of exciting events ahead of us. October will be a month full of activities and excitement. Details please refer to the monthly calendar sent out separately .



Last Saturday I took the Mediaval Quarter walking tour with Declan Hassett and enjoyed it thoroughly. Declan is very easy to chat to and knowledgeable to the Quarter. Highly recommended.





Lin's IWO flyer will be sent out in a separate email. Please save it in your computer so you can print and post it wherever you think it is possible. Thanks

Susan

