



Transfer of Sentenced Persons in the EU

New EU legislation which will allow the transfer of sentenced prisoners from one country to another is due to be implemented by all Member States by 5 December this year.

The aim of the legislation is to facilitate the social rehabilitation and reintegration of sentenced persons by sending them to their own country to serve out their sentence or to another country which agrees to the transfer.

When deciding if the transfer would achieve social rehabilitation a number of elements will be taken into account, such as, the person's attachment to the country to which they are being transferred.

If the prisoner is still in the country in which

the sentence was imposed they must be given the opportunity to state their opinion on the transfer, either orally or in writing, and this opinion must be taken into account in making a decision.

In general a prisoner's consent to the transfer must be obtained, but there are three situations in which their consent will not be required:

- If the transfer is to their country of nationality in which they live;
- If the transfer is to the country to which they will be deported once released;

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ICPO London Stepping out

Some members of staff from the London office of ICPO doing a sponsored walk in Co. Mayo.

The ICPO

It is estimated that at any one time, there are up to 1,000 Irish people in prison overseas. The ICPO has contact with Irish people in prisons in more than twenty countries, the majority of whom are in the UK followed by the US, Australia and a range of countries in Europe, South and Central America and the Far East.

The Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas (ICPO) was established by the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference in 1985, in response to serious concerns regarding the number of Irish men and women in UK prisons. These deeply held concerns related to their trials and subsequent imprisonments.

In recent years the ICPO has been able to offer a more comprehensive service to prisoners and to expand our existing services to prisoners' families. Currently the ICPO works for all Irish prisoners wherever they are: it makes no distinction in terms of religious faith, the nature of the prison conviction, or of a prisoner's status.

The objectives of the ICPO are to:

- Identify and respond to the needs of Irish prisoners abroad, and their families
- Research and provide relevant information to prisoners on issues such as deportation, repatriation and transfer
- Focus public attention on issues affecting Irish prisoners (ill-treatment, racist abuse, etc)
- Engage in practical work in aid of justice and human rights for Irish migrants, refugees and prisoners at an international level
- Visit Irish prisoners abroad where possible both in the UK and elsewhere.

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ICPO is a registered charity with covenanted tax status under its parent body the IECE. UK: 280742 Ireland: 8503

Views expressed in 'ICPO News' are the author's own and not necessarily those of the ICPO

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The ICPO is greatly indebted to its funders for their generous support.



AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA
Department of Foreign Affairs

Hello, my name is Joanna Joyce. I have recently taken over from Brian Hanley as Coordinator of the ICPO. During his two and a half years with the organisation Brian demonstrated incredible dedication to the work of the ICPO. He worked tirelessly in the best interests of the clients of the ICPO and achieved a huge amount. I will try to serve you with the same level of commitment and understanding as he did. I would like to thank all the staff in Maynooth and London for making me feel so welcome. I am very excited to be a part of the great work being done by the ICPO. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome back Breda Power who has returned to the London office as the London prisons visitor/caseworker.



In this edition of the newsletter our cover article examines new EU legislation which will allow for the transfer of sentenced persons between EU countries. This article introduces the legislation and we hope to follow it up with another piece once the legislation has been implemented and the practical effects become clear.

Conn Mac Gabhann has provided an interesting account of the launch of the *Travellers in Prison Report* at the UK Houses of Parliament on Monday 13th June 2011. The report included some very important findings and recommendations, which are summarised in this article.

Congratulations to Paul Greenan and M.C., prize-winners in the Prisoners Overseas Short Story and Poetry Writing competitions respectively at the Listowel Writers Festival. The standard was very high this year and thanks to all those who entered. Applications for next year's competition will be sent out with our Christmas supplement. Thanks also to everyone who contributed to our Postbag and Poetry pages. Please keep your contributions coming in!

I would like to thank the regular contributors to ICPO News- Mícheál O'Ceirbhail, author of 'Smídín Gaeilge', and Eoin O'Mahony, author of the sports update. We are very grateful for all their hard work.

Finally, I would like to thank the ICPO staff and volunteers for the fantastic work they did in putting this newsletter together.

Joanna Joyce
Coordinator

Transfer of Sentenced Persons

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- If the transfer is to the country to which they have fled or returned while criminal proceedings are pending or following conviction.

The transfer process can be initiated by the country in which the sentence was handed down or by the country to which the person will be transferred.

Prisoners can request the country they are in, or the country to which they want to be transferred, to start the transfer process, but this will not place an obligation on the country to do so. They also must be informed, in a language they understand, that transfer proceedings have been started.

The country to which they will be transferred will have a maximum of 90 days to decide if it will accept the transfer. The transfer can only be rejected on specific grounds that are set out in the legislation. For example, it can be rejected if the sentence relates to an act that would not be an offence in the country to which the person is to be transferred or if the person would have immunity under the law of that country which would make it impossible to enforce the sentence. If the country agrees to the transfer the sentenced person must be transferred within 30 days.

If the original sentence imposed is incompatible with the law of the country to which the person is transferred then the sentence may be changed. But the new sentence cannot be longer or more severe than the original sentence.

The legislation provides that both the country in which the sentence was passed and the country to which the person has been transferred can grant an amnesty or a pardon. However, only the country which passed the

sentence can make a decision on an application to review the original judgment.

In Ireland work in relation to the implementation of this legislation is on going and it will most likely be next year before the legislation is implemented into Irish law.

It is not yet clear how many people are likely to be transferred under this new legislation. ICPO will continue to monitor the implementation of this legislation and we will keep you informed of developments in future newsletters.

Supervision of Probation Measures

Another piece of EU legislation must be implemented by EU countries by the 6th of December 2011. This legislation sets out the rules according to which EU countries can supervise probation measures imposed by another country. It allows one country to send a probation decision to another country in which the person is lawfully and ordinarily residing, and to which that person has returned or wants to return.

The probation measure or probation period may be changed, but cannot be made more severe or longer than the measure or period originally imposed. The country to which the probation decision is sent must decide within 60 days whether to recognise the probation decision and take responsibility for supervising the probation measure.

It is not yet clear how these rules will operate in practice. We will keep you updated on the progress of this legislation.

Joanna Joyce
ICPO Coordinator

Travellers in Prison Report



The Irish Chaplaincy in Britain (ICB) launched a ground-breaking report on the experiences of Irish Travellers in prisons in England and Wales, at the Houses of Parliament, on Monday 13th June 2011.

The report highlights the unequal hardships faced by Irish Travellers in prison, in particular, problems with literacy, access to rehabilitation programmes and resettlement services.

This is the first time that any substantive research has been conducted into the Irish Traveller population within prisons in England and Wales. The research has found that Travellers comprise around 1% of the total prison population.

Shockingly, although Travellers are officially recognised as an ethnic minority group in the UK, unlike many other minority groups there is no system in place to monitor their numbers in the prison system or to assess their particular needs.

The report aims to redress some of this imbalance. It highlights, for example, how Travellers are often unable to access educational courses and other services in prison because a prisoner needs to be literate to fill out the required forms to access these services. Particular problems around resettlement were also discovered, with many Travellers being refused permission to return to their homes on sites when released on licence. The report makes a number of cost-effective policy recommendations aimed at developing strategies for Traveller prisoners in order to aid their rehabilitation and to prevent future offending.

The report was launched by Patrick Mercer MP of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Irish in Britain; Lord Eric Avebury of the All-Party Group on Gypsies and Travellers and the Irish Ambassador, Bobby McDonagh

The report's author, Conn Mac Gabhann said: 'Travellers are a group whose voices often go un-

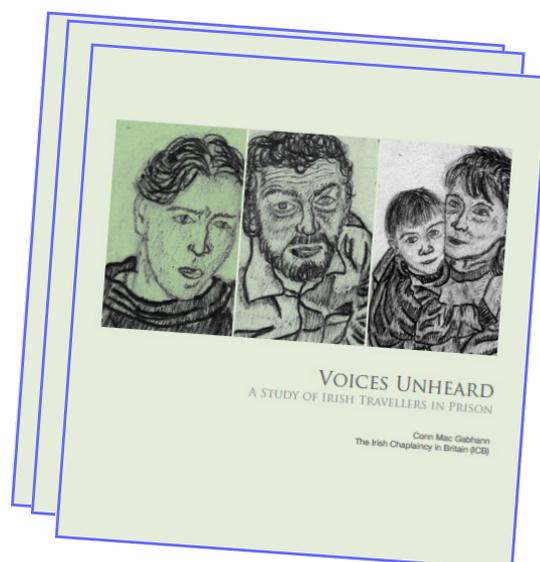
heard in society, and particularly in prison. This report aims to address that and highlight the real and particular challenges faced by Travellers in prison.'

Former ICB Director, Dr Philomena Cullen, said: 'With over 25 years of experience of working with Irish prisoners in the UK, the Irish Chaplaincy in Britain (ICB) became increasingly concerned about the isolation and hardships experienced by Irish prisoners who come from a specifically Irish Traveller background. Irish Traveller prisoners face difficulties related to both their nationality as Irish, and to their ethnicity as Travelling people, resulting in a double whammy of exclusion and misunderstanding. Our report aims to throw light on the unique challenges faced by Traveller prisoners, challenges which have yet to be adequately acknowledged by statutory agencies, let alone solved by them. We hope this report will mark a major step forward in addressing those problems, for the benefit of the Traveller community and wider society.'

Findings

The report found that there is no effective overall strategy for monitoring Irish Travellers in prison, and prisons have failed to put in place measures to ensure equality of opportunity for this prisoner group, even though Irish Travellers may represent between 5% and 8% of the foreign national population in prison, and are commonly subjected to racist treatment.

Many Traveller prisoners, (46.3%) are young adults



Launched in UK Parliament

between the ages of 18 and 21. Well over half the prisoners, (58.9%) have a child or children under the age of 18, and over half were in need of basic educational intervention (59.3%).

More than a quarter of Irish Travellers (26.1%) were identified as having one or more mental illnesses. The percentage is much higher among women at 64.7%.

Before they were imprisoned, 37% of Travellers lived on Traveller sites. At least half were imprisoned because of obtaining property unlawfully.



Left to Right: Lord Eric Avebury, Bobby McDonagh (Irish Ambassador), Dr. Tony Jeffs (Durham University), Philomena Cullen (ICB), Conn Mac Gabhann (ICB).

Recommendations

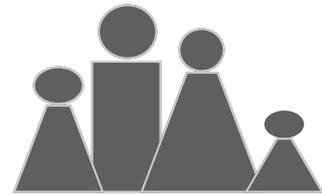
The Report made many recommendations to help Irish Travellers in prison.

They include the following:

- An effective process for monitoring Irish Travellers in prison should be introduced. It was recommended that there be a Traveller representative to help with reception, induction, monitoring and delivering services to Travellers. As well as that, celebrations of importance to Travellers, such as St. Patrick's Day, should be recognised and used to create wider awareness of their culture.
- Traveller prisoners who do not have an official address should be permitted to have visiting orders left at the prison entrance, or an appropriate designated address.
- Suitable education programmes for Irish Travellers, such as the peer mentoring reading programme "Toe by Toe", should be encouraged. Travellers with literacy problems should be helped if they wish to take part in rehabilitation programmes.
- Prisons should consider ways to make it possible for Travellers to do courses such as bricklaying and painting without having strict requirements in literacy.
- Prisons should allow Irish Travellers to buy the approved international phone card. They should also be allowed to transfer money from their canteen account to their PIN phone accounts, because of the greater cost of calls to mobile phones.
- If there are five or more Travellers in custody, regular meetings should be facilitated for the group, with access to appropriate resources.
- Resettlement services in prisons should have strategies to deal with Travellers, and conditions for release on licence should take into account the Traveller's right to live on a Traveller site.



FAMILY ISSUES



This section is for families who have a loved one in prison.

Do you have useful information that may be helpful to other families?

Have you a question you would like to see answered on this page in the future?

If so, please contact Anne Sheehy, Support Worker, ICPO, Maynooth.

SUPPORT for FAMILIES

When someone is sent to prison, their family may feel as if they too are serving a sentence. As well as the prisoner, each member of the family has to learn to cope in their own way with the stress resulting from the arrest, the tension of the court case, the possibility of a prison sentence. Then they have to come to terms with the length of a prison sentence, and the separation from a loved one with all that that entails. Gradually they will need to learn about how the prison system operates, and also how to deal with the concerns and questions of children and neighbours.

Prisoners' Families Information (PFI) Ireland is a support service for anyone affected by the imprisonment of a family member, partner or friend. It is a confidential service, and was started as a way of supporting family members during this time. If you have a simple question, say about visiting hours, or a more complex one such as "What do I tell the children?" PFI will seek to provide the sort of basic information a family might need. This information is available by email at:

helpline@pfi.ie

COMING HOME

Being released from prison is the light at the end of the tunnel for most prisoners, but it may be a stressful time too. The longer the sentence, the more adjustments that need to be made.

the prisoner's absence. Family members will have become more independent and self-reliant. Children will have grown up and may no longer ask permission to do things. Misunderstandings and anger can arise between spouses/partners.

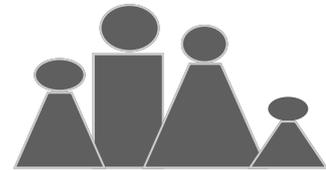
It helps to have discussed arrangements for the homecoming with the prisoner. For instance, would he or she like to return home without any fuss, or have a party? Often the person is on an emotional high at the beginning, and needs plenty of time and support in order to be able to settle back into the family.

The longer the prisoner was away, the more out of touch and disoriented he/she will be. In prison there were very few decisions or choices to be made. Now, even having the freedom to open the door and walk out into the street takes getting used to. Things may have changed in their absence. One thinks of the smoking ban in public places, stricter drink/driving laws, for instance. Many returning prisoners feel very vulnerable and alone, almost like strangers in their own homes. They find it difficult to talk about what they are feeling. It helps to take things slowly, allowing time to get used to being home again. They will need to spend time speaking honestly about the future, and get support from both friends and professionals.

Both the prisoner and the family will have been through many different experiences and emotions during the time in prison, and it will take a long time and a lot of talking and listening to learn what it was like for everyone. Even if the family has kept in touch, it is not easy to communicate well when a person is in prison.

Inevitably roles in the family will have changed in

Reference: Prisoners Abroad, "Information for Families"



WHAT SUPPORT is AVAILABLE?

THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL PROTECTION through the Community Welfare Officers can help people to access benefits they may be entitled to. Contact your local office.

ACCORD offers a safe, professional and confidential process to help couples explore, reflect on and resolve difficulties in their marriage and relationship. They have centres in various parts of the country. Ph: 01 5053112 or Email: admin@accord.ie.

GROW is a mental health organisation which helps people who have suffered or are suffering from mental health related problems. There are a number of centres around the country. Infoline: 1890 474 474 or Email: info@grow.ie.

AWARE is a voluntary organisation which aims to help those whose lives are affected by depression. Lowcall Helpline: 1890 303 302 9 or Email: info@aware.ie.

Some prisoners may also need help with alcohol or drug addiction. Among the centres which offer help with these problems are:

CUAN MHUIRE which has a number of centres throughout the country. Address: Cuan Mhuire, Athy, Co. Kildare or Ph: 059 8631090/31493.

THE RUTLAND CENTRE is a private alcohol and drug rehabilitation centre. Address: Knocklyon Rd. Templeogue, Dublin 16, Ph: 01 4946358 or Email: info@rutlandcentre.ie.

This is not an exhaustive list, there are many more sources of support, both nationally and locally which can help families when a prisoner is released.



Cheap Calls

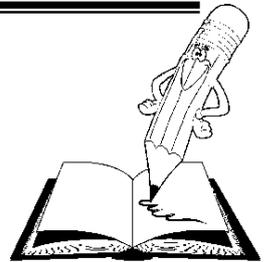
A great tip for saving money on phone calls was given by Cormac Donnelly of HMP Winchester in the October edition of *Inside Time*. You can use this if you have an iPhone, a MacBook laptop or a standard computer as long as it has a headset, earphones and microphone. An internet café can be used if you don't have a computer at home.

Cormac advises that via the website www.skype.com you can buy a personalised telephone number beginning with any prefix that you want. The 'prefix number' is the area code at the beginning of a telephone number, i.e., 0044 is England, 001 is America, etc. From €15 for 3 months you can buy a number that suits any prison, so even though you are in a different country, your loved one will only get charged the rate for a local call. It works the same for a prisoner from Liverpool who is in a London jail - if family or friends buy the prefix 0208, followed by the rest of the number, and have it put on the prisoner's pin phone list he/she will only get charged the rate for a local call.

As Cormac says, "The process is simple - (step 1) go to www.Skype.com and open a free account, (step 2) buy prefix number paying £10 (or around €15) via debit card, (step 3) add new number to pin phone in jail, (step 4) enjoy your cheap calls!"



Winner of Listowel Writing in Prisons 2011 Competition



Music Incorporated



Congratulations

to

Paul Greenan

Who won £100 sterling in the Prisoners Overseas Short Story Competition with his story

'Music Incorporated'

and to

MC

Who won £50 sterling as the Winner of Poetry, Writing in Prisons—Overseas. Competition with his poem

'Somewhere between'

Congratulations

The other day I had to meet a mate in a pub The **TAKE THAT** Arms but **THE DOORS** were closed. Someone said he was in the car park, he wasn't on the ground level, so I then looked on **ANOTHER LEVEL**, I then got told he was on **LEVEL 42**. **ALRIGHT SAID FRED** when I eventually found him, he was in such **DIRE STRAITS** worrying repeating I still haven't found what I'm looking for. He was too drunk to do anything and to know what he was doing.

I told him that **THE SATURDAYS** that he comes into town he doesn't use the car park we all leave **THE CARS** at **CLEOPATRA'S**. I had already got the **GUNS N ROSES**, I always get her indoors flowers because she doesn't like us hunting. I am glad all of our girls don't like hunting because there is no **GIRLS ALOUD** with us in our house in the country. When I and the lads get together it is like we have our own **ONE TRUE VOICE**. I told him I bought **THE CARDIGANS** in case it got cold; we had **BLUE** ones and **PINK** ones.

For no reason he started being nasty and I thought this is it, this is **THE CLASH**, every time he was drunk we fell out, he tripped and banged his **ELBOW**, when I tried to help him up he didn't seem **KEANE**. He

was struggling to get up, he really was a **DIZZY RASCAL**, we always fell out at the weekends and we always made up and most of the time we had **HAPPY MONDAYS**. I was a bit worried about him, I had not seen him this drunk since he had the row with **THE CHRISTIANS** about **THE JAM** he bought them, they said they made it with produce from their garden, someone said they had seen a **WHITESNAKE** in the garden, it wouldn't surprise me because it was such a **SAVAGE GARDEN**, it was so bad someone found a pair of **LITTLE BOOTS**. Just because these people are Christians it doesn't mean there **ALL SAINTS**, any way my mate was upset with them about The Jam.

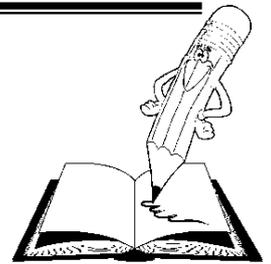
He found out they got the jam from some horrible café up the road, a really **SAD CAFÉ**. If my mate didn't sober up he would end up sleeping on **THE STREETS** tonight or in the local nick because he will end up getting **BUSTED** and he will be in a cell for the night and it won't be a **SOFT CELL**. I had to sober him up and I thought **AHA** I have got some sweets on me and asked him if he wanted an **EMINEM**, it would have been better giving him some **HOT CHOCOLATE**. All of a sudden **WHAM** he has hit me and I am in **MUDDY WATERS** on my backside, seeing

SHADOWS, he hit me with a right **BIG BOPPER**, I am in water feeling **WET WET WET**, I didn't know what was going on and I am wondering whether **TUPAC** our friendship in because he had just almost beat me to a **PULP**. **NO DOUBT** he would have carried on with **NO MERCY** if a Scouser hadn't come over and give it all the usual with **THE LA'S**.

This Scouser was one of the **NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK**, the new family **THE JACKSONS**, him **JAMES** and his sister **LIL'KIM**. Someone said there a bunch of **LIARS** and a right **MOTLEY CRUE** and always getting done by **THE POLICE**, they had all **THE ANIMALS** in the house, **THE MONKEES**, **THE EAGLES** and others, all **THE SPECIALS**. He said him, 'his uncle and his dad were **PET SHOP BOYS** and that is why they are thought of as **OUT-KAST**', but he said 'they are just **ORDINARY BOYS**.' It must be a **CROWDED HOUSE** with all the animals and the **GARBAGE** in there. He asked us to go round to his house, it would have been **BAD MANNERS** to say no, but first I had to make sure there weren't any of **THE KILLERS** in there like



Winner of Listowel Writing in Prisons 2011 Competition



snakes or **THE SCORPIONS**. I don't know what can kill us. When we went round to the house his mum opened the door, **THIN LIZZY** from **TEXAS** with **THE BANGLES** all the way up her arm, she wasn't happy when I said she was a **FOREIGNER** with her being from Texas. She had to wear funny gloves feeding the eagles and they gave her **STIFF LITTLE FINGERS**, it was a **NEW ORDER** about wearing gloves, she had been bitten once before but all she had to do was put an **ICE CUBE** on it, but it did **STING**. She said 'I used to have a tiger with a hearing problem', it wasn't a **DEF LEOPARD**. They got it from **WAY OUT WEST**, more like somewhere in **EUROPE**. She used to tell a few **WHITE LIES** saying it was safe and it was **SWEET** but it wasn't, it could never be **UNLEASHED**, she had a nice **HEART** to care for these animals but they wasn't all **SUPER FURRY ANIMALS**. You can't just **THE CARPENTERS** in to build a cage for them. I don't know what she fed them; I don't think it was **MEAT-LOAF**. She was talking about getting a **SEAL**, she knew some **SAILOR** that said he could get one.

My new mate James said his mum is ok but his dad and his uncle were a right pair of **RIGHTEOUS BROTHERS** and **SIMPLE MINDS** and there is no **CURE** for his uncle, he is one of **THE BACHELORS** of the world, spouting the bible but it is not **ALL ABOUT EVE** and Adam. The way he dressed will soon have **THE STYLE COUNCIL** at the door with **NINE INCH NAILS** boarding the doors and windows up. James said '**THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS** in the fashion world' but if they come round his house they must have **SUICIDAL TENDENCIES**. Where we live is not part of **THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTH**. Some of us round here are **BAD COMPANY**, he talks tough and he is a born **SURVIVOR**. Most of the time it is just **TALK TALK**. It is part of **THE GAME**. It is all **MADNESS**.

I told him that I once went on a **JOUR-**

NEY, he said 'What to **JAPAN?** No I went to London and seen the **QUEEN** and I had a **SNOOP** round the palace. When you are there, there are just so many of **THE TEMPTATIONS** of being there and I saw the **PRINCE**. I would like to have made a cup of tea for the queen, but couldn't in case I put any **POISON** in it. I am not on some secret **MISSION**, she is the **JEWEL** of our country, it was such a **RUSH** to meet her, I was wearing a suit at the time with **WHITE STRIPES** on the arms. She asked me if I like music and I said yes I like jazz but my brother **JOHNNY HATES JAZZ**. I was only a few **STEPS** away from royalty, so I stepped up and gave her a **SQUEEZE**; she just went **SIMPLY RED** with fury. When she calmed down she started talking about **THE SEARCHERS** looking for the **SHAGGY** dog that had gone missing from the **MINISTRY**. The dog was very affectionate, it used to like to **KISS** people but they would **RECOIL** away from it. By now this dog **DOLLAR** would be on **SKID ROW** with all the other **RUNNAWAYS**. All of a sudden I heard **THE KLAXONS** sound to indicate my visit was over, a lot of what was said was a **BLUR**. I asked if I could see her again or if she might come to see me. It is a **BIG COUNTRY** so I don't think she will be seeing me. I came out thinking will Charles ever be **KING**.

When I was in London I saw that the **TRAFFIC** is a lot **MORE TRICKEY**, I wanted to go to the Houses of parliament but couldn't because it was full of **TALKING HEADS** from different countries. I did see a few tramps there and one of them looked quite smart, he was a **SUPER TRAMP**, there was a **GANG OF FOUR** of them and I heard them talking, one of them said do you fancy going to **THE BEACH BOYS**, I want to go into **THE WATER BOYS**. I don't think they were real tramps, I think they were just **THE PRETENDERS**. I went into **SOHO** and I saw some women with no clothes on, there was four of them, I had never seen **BARE NAKED LADIES** in the street before, I

offered to get them **THE FOUR TOPS** because that was better than nothing at all, their **FACES** was a picture.

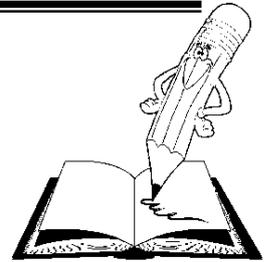
There was someone else that was in **TEARS FOR FEARS** of being attacked again, he had already been attacked by **FIVE** lads coming out from the football, they wasn't all bad but he said **10,000 MANIACS** came running out. It is so easy to fight, it is as easy as **ABC** but most of them are probably scared of **THE BEATLES** crawling round the back garden or **W.A.S.P.** I don't know if it was my **IMAGINATION** but I am sure he asked me for an **EMBRACE**, I couldn't believe **THE KINKS** of some of these **LONDON BOYS**, it was a bit **EXTREME**, he didn't even know me. He asked me back to his house for some **ICE-T**, we were having a **HEATWAVE** at the time. On the way back to his house we saw some **MEN AT WORK** fixing a **HOLE** in the road. Someone said that **MIKE AND THE MECHANICS** caused it when they were working on **THE JETS** but that was **j u s t HEAR'SAY**.



My new mate **FAT JOE**, he really was an **UGLY KID JOE** said that when he was attacked, one of them hit him **FULL FORCE**, there wasn't much **DAMAGE** done to his eye but it was cut, he would need a **BAND AID** on it. He kept going on about him being a victim of such a **MASSIVE ATTACK**, he wanted to report the attack but I said that some people might think of him as a **SUPER GRASS**. That was when he went into a **RAGE** and **LET LOOSE**, saying that he didn't **N-JOI** being attacked, he didn't remember much of what happened after **THE FALL**, by this time we was at the **CORNER SHOP** where we could get him a band aid for his eye, outside was a couple of girls that started



Winner of Listowel Writing in Prisons 2011 Competition



making funny remarks to us, **THE CHEEKY GIRLS**, we really couldn't believe how cheeky they were. I have **FAITH NO MORE** in the girls of today. I told Joe about **THE TRAMMPS** that I had seen earlier, I know it is not good for **THE TOURIST** to see them, the tourists come from everywhere, even as far away as **BERLIN**. I know that some church people do a lot for the homeless; they give **FREE** food away like soup and **BREAD**. They don't do it for **THE THRILLS** they get, they tell you that **BROTHER BEYOND** the drink and drugs 'you can have a better life because **JESUS LOVES YOU**', these people help everyone all through the year, all of **THE FOUR SEASONS**.

All of a sudden we heard **THE ALARM** going off on some cars that was parked up the road, there were some lads stood around **THE MOTORS** and one lad was on a **SCOOTER**, one of them had tripped on a **GRID** and banged into one of the cars, the lad on the scooter started riding away, he was only going about **10CC**. The other lads were talking in **BROKEN ENGLISH**, I didn't hear what was said, all I heard was **THE THE**. Why are there no police walking **THE BEAT** anymore? Not all the kids these days are **NAUGHTY BY NATURE**. My mate fat Joe told me that he has got a sister **LOUISE** and a smaller brother, he is named after his dad Richard, so they call him **LITTLE RICHARD**. They like to go to the fair all of the time but Joe doesn't understand what the **FAIRGROUND ATTRACTION** is. On the way there, they both get burgers and get **RED HOT CHILLI PEPPERS** on them and some **SALT-N-PEPA**. When we got back to Joe's house, his girlfriend was there, he said her name was **PRINCESS**, she told me how they both met, it was at the zoo, she said that every time she was looking at the animals Joe was there, **THE TURTLES**, he was there,

THE GORILLAZ, he was there, it was at **THE DOVES** where she spoke to him, she said 'look at **THE PRETTY THINGS**', after they had been speaking for a couple of minutes they went to the other side of the zoo to look at **THE SEAHORSES** and some **EELS** they had round there.

She said it was the start of a beautiful **LOVE AFFAIR** for them and it was **THE REAL THING**. They had not been together for long when they went to **AMERICA**, to **CHICAGO**, the **PILOT** said how nice it was they loved each other so much but they should not rush into marriage. It was whilst they was on the plane that they thought they saw a **UFO**, all they could hear around them was people talking about if it was a **UFO, WAS NOT WAS**, no one could agree what they had seen. When they got back to England they both decided not to move in together straight away because they both needed their own **SPACE**. It wasn't long after that they did move in together and celebrated with some toast and **MARMALADE** and a glass of **ORANGE JUICE**. They had **THE FOUNDATIONS** to have a really good life together, even if she goes mad at him when he plays darts and **THE DARTS** don't land in the board. They had a **BABY BIRD**, it was **YELLO** and white and it was so tiny they kept it in a big **MATCHBOX**; they knew that when it grew they couldn't keep it in there because it would be a **TIGHT FIT**.

Princess said she used to work in a house where people paid to get beat up, a real **HOUSE OF PAIN**, some of them liked to have a bowl of **VANILLA ICE** cream afterwards. She said it was **BIG FUN** there apart from when the police went in there **UNDERCOVER** and closed it down, she said that's when her boss **FRANKIE GOES TO HOLLYWOOD**. She was in a bad dark place

when she stopped working there but **THE DARKNESS** lifted when she met Joe.

She got a job at the **POWER STATION** and one time there was an accident in the shed next door, **SHED SEVEN** and a lot of workers were hurt in there, at first no one knew if they were **DEAD OR ALIVE**. A man that touched a bare **WIRE** in there ended up with a **BAD FINGER**, he said that when he touched this wire he saw a load of **SPARKS**, after they put some **CREAM** on it, he was sent **HOME**, other people were far worse off, when **THE FIRE ENGINES** came it looked like a **WAR** zone with people lying all



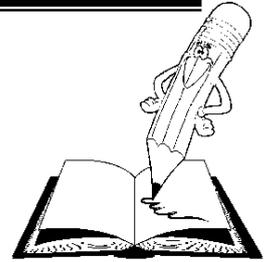
over the **PAVEMENT**, doctors and nurses were running all over and there was a **NURSE WITH WOUND** and someone was giving her some **MORPHINE**. Princess seemed like a nice lady but her conversation was all over the place, she started talking about when she spoke to the pilot of plane she asked if he was ever scared and he said that no he didn't because **GOD IS MY CO-PILOT**. All of a sudden I woke to the sound of my **BIG BROVAZ** fighting, shouting and screaming. I realised that none of this actually happened, it was a mad vivid **D:REAM**. I don't normally remember them but I remembered all of this.

Paul Greenan, UK

*Winner
Prisoners Overseas
Poetry Competition*

M.C.

Winner of Listowel Writing in Prisons 2011 Competition



Somewhere Between

walls
somewhere between
gray
and white
loom
above and
around
as I pass
beneath
razor wired fences
completely
boxed and sealed
in
nothing
to see
but
the moon hangs
in
the
afternoon
sky
above
the guard towers

they
too
somewhere between
but
hold riffled
death
above
locked
gates separate
fence
from
fence
but
a plane slides
in
the
afternoon
sky
above
the guard towers

I
grip
a
metal
barred window
inside
the cell
but
watch
the
afternoon
sky
over walls
somewhere be-
tween
gray
and white
loom
above and
around
razor wired fences
beneath
the guard towers



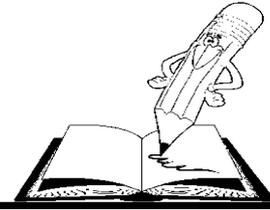
ICPO Penfriend Scheme

The aim of the scheme is to enable Irish people in prison abroad to keep in touch with everyday life in Ireland. It can also help with any loneliness and isolation that you might be experiencing.

If you do not already have a penfriend and would like to maintain a friendly correspondence with one of our volunteers, please let us know.

If you would like any further information, please contact us.

ICPO Entries for Listowel Writer's Week 2011



MY INCREDIBLE TRUE STORY

It was April 5th, Easter Sunday morning 1943. I was living with my parents, and my brothers and sisters on our farm in the village of Stamullen, along the east coast of Ireland.

I was 15 years old. We were all getting ready to go to 10 o'clock Mass. We had yoked up the pony and trap. We didn't have a motor car. The pony and trap was our Rolls Royce.

It was about 9.15 a.m. and we were all set to trot off, when suddenly there was a burst of gunfire over our heads, and over our house. We all looked up and saw two Fighter aircraft involved in a dogfight. One of the planes was an R.A.F. Spitfire, the other plane was a German Luftwaffe Messerschmitt. The dogfight went on for several minutes with each pilot trying to shoot each other out of the sky. On this occasion, The RAF pilot won the argument, by forcing the German aircraft into making an emergency landing on to a local farmer's field.

I didn't go to Mass this Sunday. (Sorry God) I found all the excitement was too good to miss. I hopped on my bike and rode to where the German aircraft came down. The pilot was still strapped in his cockpit, there was a second airman in the rear of the plane. This field belongs to PAT MALONE, a local farmer.

Pat came running across the field towards the aircraft. Pat shouted at the two Germans to come, come. The two airmen scrambled out of their aircraft and followed Pat to his house. Pat took them into his kitchen and sat them down at the breakfast table. Pat's wife Jean, and young 19 year old daughter Kate, set about cooking a traditional Irish breakfast of bacon eggs and black pudding. The two Germans couldn't believe their luck.

At this point they took out their I.D. papers. The pilot's name in Fredal Peterson, 22. The other man's name is Gunter Hintz also age 22.

The Malones didn't have enough room to accommodate these two men. Pat took them outside to the barn. He bedded them down on clean dry straw with a heavy blanket. The next morning, Pat took them into his house and to the primitive bathroom, where the two men could complete their ablutions.

After breakfast, they all walked off to Easter Monday Church service at 11 a.m. When they returned from Church at 1.15 p.m. there were two Irish Military Police waiting to take the two airmen away for questioning. But Pat said "No, no way. These two airmen are on my private property; this is a free and neutral country and you have no business coming here interfering." Pat warned the two officers to get off his private property.

After some negotiations between the German and Irish governments it was agreed, that the two men would be deported back to their own base in Bremen, Germany. This didn't go down well with the Malone family, especially Kate, for Kate formed a warm relationship with both men, especially handsome Fredal.

The Malone farm and the local area was a much lonelier place, now that these two popular German airmen had gone. However, young Kate kept in touch by writing to both men at their base in Bremen.

It was very late one Saturday night in October 1944. The Malone family were relaxing in the kitchen listening to a play on the wireless. It was 11.45 p.m., nearly bedtime. There was a knock on the front door. Jean said, "Who on earth can that be at this late hour?"

Pat went to answer the door with a shotgun in his hand. When he opened the door, who was it? It was Fredal. When Kate heard Fredal's voice she skipped to the front door, wearing only her nightie, Fredal grabbed her around the waist and said: "Will you marry me?" Kate nearly jumped out of her own skin and yelled "YES, YES, YES."

Pat reached to his medicine cabinet and took out his favourite bottle of Irish malt whiskey. He shared it around, and they all raised their glasses to drink and celebrate Kate's engagement to Fredal.

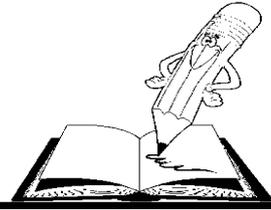
Jean said to Fredal, "Both of you should go and meet the parish priest and tell him of your intention to wed." They spoke to Father Eamon Lynch, who gave them his blessings by sprinkling them with holy water. Several dates for the wedding were mentioned but when Father Eamon suggested March 17th 1945, the feast of St Patrick, our patron saint everyone agreed it would be memorable.

The next problem is for Fredal to find someone to be his

Listowel

Writing in Prisons 2011

Competition



best man. Kate said, "Wouldn't Gunter be the obvious choice?" But Fredal said, "No!" He had his own crazy ideas. Fredal wants the RAF pilot, the pilot who forced him out of the sky on that Easter Sunday morning. It all sounds crazy, but this is what Fredal wants.

Efforts were made trying to locate the pilot who was on duty that Easter weekend. About a week later, the RAF pilot came forward. His name is Flight Sargent Barry Brogan DFC. Without hesitation Flight Sargent Brogan said, "It would be my pleasure to be best man at this airman's wedding on March 17th". Brogan made his way to Malone's farm, where he met Fredal for the very first time. There were long warm embraces, and tears of emotion, remembering. Two years ago, these two men tried to shoot each other out of the sky. Now, here they are today the very best of pals. Is this moment unique, incredible, unforgettable?

The wedding went ahead. Fredal wore his German airforce uniform which was very smart. The best man wore his RAF uniform, medals and all. Both airmen looked very dapper indeed. As for Kate all in white, a red rose in her hair to match her red rosy cheeks, her amazing sky blue smiling Irish eyes, Kate was just stunning. Father Eamon conducted the wedding ceremony, assisted by his curate, Father Patrick Collier.

After the wedding there was a wedding reception in the local village hall. The whole population of Stamullen gathered at the village hall. The singing and dancing went on through the night and morning. At about 6.30 a.m. Fredal and Kate took a stroll home to their new cottage, a cottage given to Kate from her Dad as a wedding present.

This is the beginning of a whole new world. Nevertheless, Kate will carry on with her dressmaking, just like her Mum did. As for Fredal, he is now studying to become a vet, which will be very useful, as they are now living in a very rural area with many large farms, and many wealthy farmers. The future looked rosy for both of them.

The years roll on. It is now 1947, and Fredal and Kate are now the proud parents of a lovely little girl. The Baby's name is APRIL. It was April 1943 when they first met. This is the end of an incredible true story, and I am privileged to be part of it from its very beginning on Easter Sunday morning, on April 5th 1943 to this day, September 1947.

Patrick Farrell, UK

THE DOVE

I had a dove and the sweet dove died;
I sighed.

The dove had always been happy
To coo and woo at
Other doves that flew
On the outside.

Not nice to keep a bird
Locked in a cage.
The dove was quite a character;
It would shuffle and flip
On its side; on its back
And then, would stand up again.

I watched it many times
As it looked at the outside world.
The dove didn't know I was there.
Should I let it free?
Was the struggle within.
It would have been so easy.

So now it's gone
And I'm still here
On my own.
I took its carcass
From the cage - I sighed;
And then I cried.

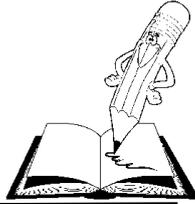
Its body still warm
Its eyes were shut.
I placed it on the ground.
A hole to dig,
And place it in
But then; the strangest sound.

A woo, a coo
And then it flew
Straight up into the air.
The crafty dove
Had used its head
To play dead.

What a fool I felt!
This overrated pigeon
Had left me
For dead.
And he, or it, or she was free
And I was still alone.

B.G., UK

**Listowel
Writing in
Prisons 2011
Competition**



The LONG ROAD HOME

Why take the long winding road
When you can take the straight one
Or even the one with the cross road

The straight one will get you there
And the one with the cross road
Will give you the opportunity
To make the right decision

So that's why there's
Twelve things to always remember
And one thing to never forget

Your presence is a present to the world
You're unique and one of a kind
Your life can be what you want it to be

Take the days just one at a time
Count your blessings not your troubles
You'll make it through whatever comes along

Within you are so many answers
Understand, have courage, be strong
Realise it's never too late
Do ordinary things in an extraordinary way

Have health and hope and happiness
Take the time to wish upon a star
And don't ever forget
For even a day
How special you are.

P.C., UK

Oíche Shamhna

I am the hallow-tide of all souls passing,
I am the bright releaser of pain,
I am the quickener of the fallen seed-case,
I am the glance of snow, the strike of rain.
I am the hollow of the winter twilight,
I am the hearth-fire and the welcome bread,
I am the curtained awning of the pillow,
I am unending wisdom's golden thread

Caitlín Matthews

To understand Samhain we must go back to our Celtic ancestors who arrived in Ireland five hundred years before Christ. Other people occupied Ireland before the Celts; they were the Fómhoraigh, the Fir Bolg and the Tuatha de Danann. We know from the burial places of these people that they believed in an after-life. The spiral symbol on their tombs is a symbol of eternity according to the experts.

The Celts then came along and their two main teachings were the immortality of the soul and transmigration of souls. They considered the after-life as an ideal world. The legend of Oisín í dTír na nÓg gives us a glimpse of their beliefs and hopes regarding an after-life.

The season of Samhain is particularly linked with the belief in an after-life and hence the link with the Celtic tradition. The Celtic year had four seasons beginning with Samhain "the coming of dark". The second season was Imbolg "the coming of light". The third season was Bealtaine "time of growth". The fourth season was Lughnasa "harvest time".

The festival of Samhain started on the eve of the 1st November. In the Celtic tradition the 24 hour duration of a day started at night-fall, time being reckoned in nights and days. For the Celts the season of Samhain, 31st October to 31st January marked the end of one pastoral year and the beginning of the next. The word 'Samhain' means assembly or gathering and it is thought that the early Celts gathered together at the beginning of the season for a special festival. Samhain also corresponds to the end of the grazing season when herds and flocks were brought

Halloween

together and only those animals selected for breeding were spared from slaughter. There is also the possibility that some animals were sacrificed to the gods in the hope that the earth would be renewed. The Celts like the Romans had many gods. Their gods were considered supernatural beings with magical powers. Therefore the people offered sacrifice to appease the gods and to beg them to look favourably on them.

Samhain was also a time when the Celtic otherworld became visible to humankind. It was a time when spiritual forces were let loose on the human world. The evening of Halloween - eve of the hallowed - is still celebrated in Ireland as the night when spirits and ghosts get to disturb the living. It was believed that the spirit of deceased members of the household returned to the homestead where they were met with tokens of welcome e.g. the open door, the fire burning on the hearth and the table set for a meal.

The hall-mark of early Christianity in Ireland was to respect the traditions of the people and to absorb them into the Christian way of life. We see this in the feast of Imbolg, dedicated to the Goddess Brigid which became the feast of St. Brigid and we see it in the Feast of Samhain - 1st November which became the Feast of All Saints and the 2nd November the Feast of All Souls. This is a definite link up with the Celtic tradition. Growing up in Donegal I knew the customs of leaving the door open, a fire lighting and food available on All Souls night for the ancestors.

We have also continued until this day the celebration of the eve of 1st November, Halloween. The tricking and treating which all Dublin children know well - without probably knowing the origins of it - follows in the steps of the Celtic celebrations. One was pre-Christian. Is the other at this stage post-Christian? Bonfires are lit at Halloween to link with the fires lit by the Celts to appease the Gods and linked also with the Christian fires built to honour the one true God. The new type of fire in many places is the



crackers and fireworks.

At Samhain in many homes there are games like ducking the apple and looking for coins, tailing the donkey and many other games. There is also a feast of barm brack with a ring, apples, nuts, pumpkins and other goodies. Children dress up as witches, banshees, ghosts etc. as they go tricking and treating. With the renewed interest in Celtic spirituality people are celebrating feasts like Samhain with prayers, ritual and sharing of various kinds. The whole mix of secular and spiritual makes for our present day Feast of Samhain.

Caitlin Matthews in her book 'Celtic Devotions, Prayers and Rituals' has the following invocation welcoming the particular gifts and qualities of Samhain into the home. This invocation is said at the front door of the house on 31st October, the eve of Samhain.

Grandmother Wisdom, open the door
Grandfather Counsel, come you in.
Let there be welcome to the ancient love,
Let there be welcome to the winter of the year.
In cold and darkness you are travelling,
Under crystal skies you will arrive.
May the blessed time of Samhain
Clarify the soul of all beings
Bringing joy and wisdom to revelation
From the heights to the depths.
In the cave of every soul.

Samhain shona dhaoibh go léir.

Poetry Corner



Home

Sitting on a rock so high
The world below
So vast, wide.
Whispers of the winds
Slowly pass us by
Free birds soaring the skies
Flowers in crevices
Green, white, gold
A piece of the land
We behold
Life filtering
Through our hearts, our eyes
Reaching for the beauty
Of the land
We left behind
Smiles on faces so wise.

S.S., UK

Endless Love

The Judge sent me to prison
But there is one thing he cannot do
He cannot take my heart away
With the love it has for you.
It's far too strong to be broken
And so tender to be touched.
My love for you is 'endless'
And our love means 'oh' so much.

There are bars that hold my freedom
But my mind just wanders through
Each night I'm at my window
To send my loving thoughts to you
I think of times we shared together
And even though we are apart
My love is forever endless
You are so deep within my heart

I write these words to you my love
As I'm sure they will get through
All the concrete, steel and locks
And prove my love is true
You are the love of my life.

T.F., UK



Far

Night falls, silent, dark, and calm,
Another day over before it's begun.
Gazing into the pitch dark night,
The beauty of the stars glitters
Peeking through the black backdrop sky.
Going nowhere.
Just resting for a few short hours,
Until the sun rises
To brighten our day.

Chirping away, feeding their young,
Killdeer break the silence of the night.

These are our friends,
They come to visit.
Just the birds, that's all that's left.
No cats or rabbits, none at all.
They've all been removed
From behind this wall.
Field mice are still around.
Scurrying about day and night,
Picking up leftovers the birds lost in flight.

P.G., USA





Your Letters



My Story

I was born in Dublin in the late 70's. I came from the Inner City. It was a struggle for many at that time. I did go to school, primary was really good for me. This is where I learnt Gaelic football, hurling and athletics. Education was not my main focus. However, I did my bit. I played for my school, local teams. I played at Croke Park. I won races at Belfield and Santry, numerous medals for running. I got into the triathlon which I won in my local area.

Secondary school I hated. It was not for me. At the age of thirteen I left school. I went working with my brother. He was brilliant and still is. I was earning £100 per week. £50 went to my Ma every Friday. I was working nights. I loved the work and the benefits that came with it. Good clothes, my own independence. I was living the dream. I started socialising at a young age where I met lots of different people. I played for numerous teams at weekends and after the matches it would be straight to the pub for a session. I loved it.

I had the world at my feet. Before long I was in Temple Bar listening to Irish songs, belting out ballads, the drink was flowing. The craic was ninety. The music I got into, the lifestyle was awesome. I was meeting people from all over the world who would visit Dublin. So what went wrong? Too much alcohol

and the introduction of cocaine. I moved from my circle of friends to be with what I thought was better friends. How wrong could I be. My family thought it was just the alcohol. My addictions were gradually taking over my life. I was unaware of this or blatantly being ignorant.

I moved to England for a fresh start with my girlfriend. She was beautiful, caring, she was everything but again my selfishness pushed her away. There were some negative events that happened over a seven year period that I could not let go. I could not let go of these people that I had passed away. I had so many questions that I wanted answers to. I have always maintained employment to fund my drinking. Drinking was now everyday before and after work. The pub was my secret hideaway. I was in a relationship which to me was good. I couldn't have been more wrong. She was controlling and I went along with it. I ended up in an argument and chose to drive. I was 3 ½ times over the limit. I got done a second time. I got banned for a couple of years.

My drinking continued. I didn't care. I lost my job. I soon found another. I had been hospitalised through drinking. I still carried on. Then I had no way out. I have been to prison and did my time. At the start of my sen-

tence I have no qualifications at all. It was time to pull my socks up. All the hurt and pain made me realise what I was doing wrong. Life was about to change. I did every single course this establishment had on offer. Education, drug and alcohol, industrial cleaning, computers, diploma in Horticulture. The total number of certificates is now 29. Social and life skills. I reflected on my life and now life couldn't be better. I am in contact with all my family. I had bridges to build. I have goals in life. I have been clean and dry for 4 ½ years. All the reports from probation, prison etc are a pleasure to read. I cannot believe it is the same person. However, I have another massive challenge awaiting me in my decision to go to rehabilitation in a couple of weeks. It is for 12 months. I have started using the gym again and my fitness is quite shocking as to what the body adapts to. I am currently training for a half marathon. To me the gym has helped me with my depression, anxiety, stress, confidence, self-esteem, decision making and staying positive. Don't fall at the first hurdle. After all we are the fighting Irish.

Finally to all my family, ICPO, sister Mary, Alison, John and all whos supported me. Thank you very much.

R.F., UK



Your Letters continued



My Journey of Faith

I am an Irish citizen, proud of my heritage, culture and faith, serving a sentence in a UK prison. I'm a sex offender who feels guilt, shame and disgust; adjectives I use to describe how I felt in 2008 when my crimes eventually caught up with me and I was extradited to the UK. My victims will have felt and continued to feel much more pain, hurt, anger, shame, disgust and self-loathing - so many more adjectives. All of which I caused and seek forgiveness for each and every day of my life.

Extradition from Ireland to the UK where my crime was committed was not an easy or stress free experience, yet just what I deserved and much more (I can hear you say). On this I will not and cannot disagree, given the widespread coverage of the child abuse scandal at home and abroad and the harm that was perpetrated against innocent victims.

Previous to this crime I had never been to court or to a prison, a rabbit caught in very large headlights is the only way I can describe how I felt. Yet through it all, the guiding hand of Christ was with me, I had committed terrible wrongs and my debt to my victims and society had to be paid. I have strong Christian values and beliefs and my mantra throughout my adult life has been to help, assist and value every human

being as I would want to be valued myself. But on my journey I strayed and became a pariah, the most despised offender of all offenders 'a sex offender'.

My Roman Catholicism does not define who I am but it has shaped who I am. I'm not one to wear my beliefs on my sleeve or preach to others. Each day of my journey through prison has allowed me to value the guiding hand of Christ in my life. I firmly believe that God planned this journey for me; it was his plan for me to be here at this time and in this prison.

He has shown me through his holy scriptures and his own life how to be a better person and a stronger Christian, he has spiritually guided me to help prisoners to read and write through the Toe by Toe mentoring programme, to be a Listener, to study for a degree with the Open University, to participate in gym activities but most importantly to honour his commitment and love for me through the work of the Chaplaincy service here in the prison. I pray for my victims and the harm I have caused them, I don't seek their forgiveness, I don't deserve it. I'm a fortunate man, not only do I have the love of my wife and family but Christ's love also, without it I would be nothing.

UK Prisoner

BOOK REVIEW

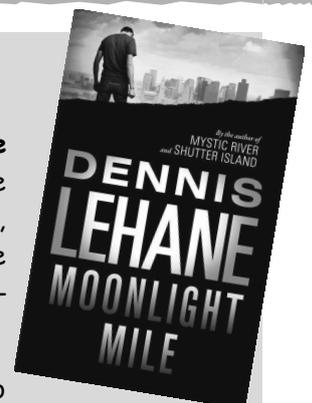
Moonlight Mile

Author: Dennis Lehane

In *Moonlight Mile* Lehane reintroduces two of his best characters, Patrick Kenzie and Angie Gennaro, who many people will remember from the hit *Gone, Baby, Gone*, which was made into a movie starring Casey Affleck and Michelle Monaghan. Twelve years have now passed since Kenzie and Gennaro investigated the kidnapping of four-year-old Amanda McCready, a case which led to a crisis of conscience for Kenzie.

Now sixteen-years-old McCready has disappeared once again and Kenzie is asked to investigate. As he attempts to track her down Kenzie is constantly reminded of the decision he made all those years ago that changed the course of McCready's life forever. He soon realises that this is not a simple case of a runaway teenager. McCready has grown into a remarkably intelligent young woman who always seems to be one step ahead. The investigation leads Kenzie down the most dangerous streets of Boston and back into a world that he had tried to leave behind.

Moonlight Mile, like all of Lehane's novels, is fast-paced, absorbing and easy to read.



Joanna Joyce

Update from the LONDON ICPO Office



Launch of "Voices Unheard" Report

On 13th June we launched our Travellers in Prison Report - "Voices Unheard" at the Houses of Parliament in the presence of the Irish Ambassador, MP's and interested parties. The report can be downloaded from www.irishchaplancy.org.uk.

In July our **Older Person's Project** held its **Annual Tea/Mass day** at Southwark Cathedral. Prayers, singing, dancing, music and craic filled the occasion. Project Manager, **Paul Raymond**, and colleague, **Stafford Cunningham**, organised the successful event.

Mayo Sponsored Walk

Another highlight of this past six months was the Sponsored Walk in Co Mayo undertaken by some 20 staff members and volunteers. The



walk, from Newport to Mulranny, and entitled "In the Footsteps of Irish Emigrants," raised over £4,000. We were delighted with the turnout, the effort of all who helped with the fundraising and the participation on the day. The weather was gloriously warm and sunny. We hope to make it an annual event. We would like to acknowledge here the very generous donation of €1,000 as well as the participation of two members from the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference office.

Farewell to Philomena

A sad note was sounded in September when we said farewell to **Dr Philomena Cullen**, our Director for the past three and a half years. Philomena left to take up an academic post as Director of Pastoral Studies at the Margaret Beaufort Institute at Cambridge. Reflecting on her time at the Irish Chaplaincy, she said: "My time at the ICB has been a real privilege, and I've enjoyed every minute of working with, and for, my own community. The ICB is a real gem of an organisation, staffed by people and volunteers who care about going the extra mile to make a positive difference in people's lives. We are now offering more support to more Irish people, which is what it's

all about. It's been a difficult decision to move on, but I know that the ICB is strong and ready for the next chapter of its development and I've no doubt that I'll watch it flourish and grow in the years to come".

Recruitment for Director and ICPO London Prisons Visitor/Caseworker

Following Philomena's departure, we await the arrival of our new Director. We are delighted to announce that **Breda Power**, a person who will be familiar to many at the ICPO, has returned to replace **Joseph Cottrell-Boyce** as the London prisons visitor/caseworker. Joseph has moved sideways to work with Conn MacGabhann at the Travellers in Prison project on resettlement and advocacy work.

Liz Power (Breda's sister), our main caseworker, has kept on top of the growing caseload while **Declan Ganly** has offered sterling service to the ICPO as well as his IT expertise on behalf of all three projects. We have also been well served by our volunteers and prison visitors, **Russel Harland**, **Sara Thompson**, **Sr Maureen McNally**, **Sr Agnes Miller**, and **Kathleen Walsh**.

Finally, along with other staff at the Irish Chaplaincy, ICPO colleagues highlighted the needs of some of



the most vulnerable Irish emigrants in Britain when we met with the Irish Presidential candidate and former government minister, **Michael D Higgins**, who visited the London Irish Centre in early September.

Fr Gerry McFlynn



Sports

By Eoin O'Mahony

Gaelic Games



The completion of the GAA All Ireland football and hurling championships threw up some quality fare. In the hurling final, Kilkenny brought the Liam MacCarthy Cup back for the black and amber after their stirring final win at Croke Park. The Cats won their fifth All-Ireland title in six years with a comprehensive 2-17 to 1-16 victory over last year's Champions, Tipperary. Captain Brian Hogan praised his team's defensive performance as the Cats claimed a 33rd All-Ireland Hurling Championship title. His team took an early lead and kept Tipp scoreless for the first quarter of an hour. Kilkenny knew that they had to regain the trophy following a bitter defeat to Tipperary ensuring that out of the last three years, Kilkenny could secure two out of three titles. It was Brian Cody's eighth All-Ireland title as manager and is looking forward to enjoying his additional reign as manager rather than telling the press about his own future.

Tipperary's manager praised his opposition and felt that they were more deserving of it on the day because they wanted it more. He stated that Tipp had failed to reach gear as a team, especially when it mattered most. In football, Dublin ended a 16 year wait for the return of the Sam Maguire trophy with a stunning last quarter display to put Kerry to the sword. The Hill was in full voice and the team responded to the calls as they

edged out Kerry by 1-12 to 1-11 in a tense and exciting encounter at Croke Park later in September. Kerry were four points ahead when substitute Kevin McManaman scored a 64th-minute goal for Dublin. And in a gripping finish, Dublin's keeper Cluxton kept his cool to make history as the first goalkeeper to score an All-Ireland final winner. His last minute point was coolly taken, despite the pressure, and afterward he ran off the pitch to the dressing room to avoid the celebrations on and off the pitch. Cluxton has since been made captain of the Irish team for the International Rules series and it remains to be seen whether his reluctance in front of the mass media can be sustained.

This was one of the most gripping Sam Maguire Cup games of the modern era, often appearing to be heading in the direction of yet another Kerry success. Even in the dying minutes, the GAA were making arrangements for a replay. But the Dubs dug deep, and staged a fantastic finish to score a remarkable win, and a 23rd title, in front of their delirious supporters in a heaving Croke Park.

The club championships in both codes have also run their course at this stage of the year. In anticipation of the upcoming League campaigns, some managers have been on the move with Davy Fitzgerald moving from Waterford to his native Clare. Limerick hurling have appointed Cork man John Allen as their new manager. It looks like Pat Gilroy will be staying with the All-Ireland football champions though.

Sports



Kilkenny players after winning the All-Ireland Hurling Championship

Football

At this stage of the year, the last few games of the FAI League of Ireland are being played. While Shamrock Rovers have been busy in Europe (Europa League group games for the first time) and domestically, Sligo Rovers have been the team to be beat this year, unassumingly trading top spot with their Dublin rivals all season. Through the autumn series of games, Rovers have been slot-



ting away the goals, beating Galway 7 goals to 1 and 5 against Dundalk. Although the Bit O'Red have one or two games in hand over the Shams, their form would suggest that the title race will come down to the wire. At the time of writing, Sligo have played 34 of their 36 games and have 67 points. Ahead of them now, Shamrock Rovers are on 68 points with one fewer game.

In the next two weeks, the league title might stay in west Dublin or move north west for the first time since 1977. Sligo may only have the Cup to fall back on if their last few games do not go their way. At this stage of the season, both St Patrick's Athletic and Derry City look like spent forces. Galway United will be relegated having amassed a total of 6 points in 33 games.



Rugby

The Rugby World Cup continues but without Ireland. Although they topped their group, beating the USA, Australia, Russia and Italy on their way, they could not overcome Wales in their quarter final pairing. Before the tournament and in the warm up games, Ireland underperformed and looked out of sorts.

Within the tournament itself however, they got better and better, pulling off a stunning victory over Australia, the first time they had beaten the Antipodeans in their own hemisphere. Italy and Russia were good victories too but the Welsh had outfoxed the Irish pack. At this stage of their careers, players like O'Driscoll and O'Gara have only a handful of games in the green jersey left.



Brush up on your Irish with Mícheál O’Cearbhaill

Smídín Gaeilge

Haló! Cé’n chaoi a bhfuil tú? Tá súil agam go bhfuil tú go maith.
Hello! How are you? I hope you are keeping well.

Uachtarán na hÉireann - President of Ireland

A presidential election is held every seven years in Ireland. The president resides in Árus An Úachtaráin in Dublin’s Phoenix Park. To date, eight presidents have served the country since the office was established in the Constitution of Ireland in 1938. They were: Douglas Hyde (1938-1945), Seán T. O’Kelly (1945-1959), Eamonn De Valera (1959-1973), Erskine Childers (1973-1974), Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh (1974-1976), Patrick Hillery (1976-1990), Mary Robinson (1990-1997), Mary McAleese (1997-2011). Mary Robinson resigned several months before her term was due to expire in 1997 to become the United Nations’ High Commissioner for Human Rights while Erskine Childers died in office. Cearbhall O Dálaigh resigned, having been criticised by a government minister for referring an emergency powers bill to the Supreme Court, following the assassination of the British Ambassador, Christopher Ewart-Biggs, by the Provisional IRA in July 1976.

Árus an Úachtaráin	aw-rus on ook-tar-awn	The president’s dwelling
Toghachán	tow-a-kawn	An election
Páirc an Fhionnuisce	paw-irk on in-isk-a	Phoenix Park
Gach seacht mbliain	gok shok-t mm-leen	Every seven years
An Bhunreacht	on vun-rokt	The Constitution
D’éirigh sé as	die-ree shay os	He resigned
Vóta muiníne	vo-ta m-win-eena	A vote of confidence

Comharthaí an Stoidiaca – Signs of the Zodiac

An Cúpla (on koop-la)	The twins	Gemini (21/5-20/6)
An Gabhar (on gow-ar)	The Sea-goat	Capricorn (22/12-20/1)
An tIasc (on teesc)	The fish	Pisces (20/2-20/3)
An Mhaighdean (on wie-dan)	The maiden	Virgo (23/8-22/9)
An Mheá (on vaa)	The scales	Libra (23/9-22/10)
An Leon (on lown)	The lion	Leo (22/7-22/8)
An Portán (on pur-tawn)	The crab	Cancer (21/6-21/7)
An Reithe (on re-ha)	The ram	Aries (21/3-19/4)
An Saighdeoir (on sigh-door)	The archer	Sagittarius (22/11-21/12)
An Scairp (on scarp)	The scorpion	Scorpio (23/10-21/11)
An Tarbh (on tor-ev)	The bull	Taurus (20/4-20/5)
An tUisceadóir (on tish-ca-door)	The water-bearer	Aquarius (21/1-19/2)

The word ‘togha’, meaning ‘pick’ or ‘choice’ (as in toghachán) is used in a few different ways

Sin togha	shin tow-a	That’s perfect
Togha fir/mná	tow-a fir/ma-naw	Good man/woman
Tá togha na sláinte aige/aici	thaw tow-a na slawn-ta a-ge/a-ki	He/she is very healthy

Slán tamall (slawn tom-ul), goodbye for now

The Rugby Game

R T P H L X Y T N C K F F D D
 E Y R A V T U E O B C L O R R
 K Q O Y L R W N E A U A R A O
 O G W A N O V B O G R H W C P
 O E N O Y E F X Y I L Y A W K
 H E V R R T U O E N I L R O I
 P E R S I N B I N J I F D L C
 R A I D U M M Y P A S S P L K
 G O E L K C A T H G I H A E R
 N E F K N O C K O N B X S Y E
 P J L F M D R E G N I W S K D
 Z P L K S U M A U L T I N B C
 A O B U C I R E K N A L F B A
 Z I U S I A D C S Q P Q Z K R
 U X Z E G F T E S H V V B G D

Conversion	Garyowen	Maul	Sin bin
Drop kick	Goal	Off side	Tackle
Dummy pass	High tackle	Penalty	Try
Flanker	Hooker	Red card	Turnover
Fly Half	Knock on	Ruck	Winger
Forward pass	Line out	Scrum	Yellow card



SuDoku

7					5	3		
		2				7	8	
		3		6			4	
3			5		9		7	
		4				5		
	8		4		1			3
	3			5		1		
	9	7				2		
		1	7					4

Each SuDoku grid has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

Can you spot 12 differences between these two pictures?



Solution to Spot the Difference

1. Cloud is missing; 2. Part of umbrella is missing; 3. Triangle pattern on bucket is missing; 4. Centre of starfish is missing; 5. Sail on boat is coloured in; 6. Stripe on towel is missing; 7. Palm tree on cliff has moved; 8. Dolphin in water has moved; 9. Shell has moved; 10. Flag on boat is reversed; 11. Surfer is facing opposite direction; 12. Tail on iguana is different



RECENT EVENTS IN IRELAND

Irish Presidential Election 2011



The Presidential Election Campaign is in full swing with 7 candidates in the running to succeed Mary McAleese as President of Ireland.

Recent polls show Labour Candidate Michael D Higgins leading the race, with independent Seán Gallagher in second place.

The election will be held on Thursday October 27th.

Presidential Candidates Left to Right: Gay Mitchell, David Norris, Mary Davis, Seán Gallagher, Martin McGuinness, Dana Rosemary Scallon and Michael D. Higgins.

The DUBS win Football All Ireland



In September Dublin won their first All-Ireland Senior Football Championship title since 1995.

Ireland Knocked Out of the Rugby World Cup

Ireland played Wales in the quarter finals of the Rugby World Cup. The final score was Wales 22-10 Ireland.

