

KNOCKING ON HEAVEN'S DOOR is the second leg of an innovative poetry exchange initiated by Noelle Vial of the Killybegs Writers' Group and sponsored by Co-operation North. It has been organised by Word of Mouth. We gratefully acknowledge financial assistance from: The Arts Council of Northern Ireland, An Chomhairle Ealaíon, The Verbal Arts Centre, Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust (NIVT), Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA) and Moyle District Council, as well as support financial and otherwise from Co-operation North.

BALLYCASTLE WOMEN'S WRITING GROUP started two years ago and has published one collection of poetry and prose, *Ballycastle Writers*.

**Catherine McAuley** is from Armoyle and taught in Belfast for many years. Published in *Teaching Old Dogs New Tricks*.

**Ita McMichael**, originally from Belfast, has lived in Ballycastle for many years. Published in *Phoenix*, the Journal of the South Donegal Railway Restoration Society.

**Brigid Winter** is a native of Ballycastle, has been published in Women's Institute magazines and has won many prizes for public readings.

BELFAST WRITERS' GROUP started in 1984 and meets monthly in the Linenhall Library. They are open to anyone with an interest in creative writing. They have published 5 volumes of prose and poetry, *Ogham 1 - 5*, and *Ogham 6* is in preparation.

**Harry Greenwood** lives in West Belfast, joined the group a couple of years ago and is published in *Ogham 5*.

**Geraldine Reid** has published in *Ogham 1-5*, *Write up your Street* and *The Female Line*. Her first published work appeared in the USA.

**Jimmy Sherman** was born in Belfast. He now lives in Bangor and has published in *Ogham*, *Poetry Now*, *Peace by Peace* and the *Belfast Newsletter*. His book of poems was published in December 1992.

CREGAGH WRITING GROUP formed in 1990 from a class in Greenway Women's Centre. 'The history of the local area was the focus for our first book *Echoes from the East*, which gave us the confidence to explore some of the taboos prevalent in our society in our latest publication *Write to the Core*.'

**Janet Fletcher**: 'I joined the class last year and I'm still not sure why I'm there, except that it's good craic and it makes me put thoughts down on paper which wouldn't find expression in that way without the class.'

**Nan Nelson**: 'After many years of random jottings, the class gave me a focus for my writing.'

**Pat Turner**: 'I've been there from the beginning and wouldn't miss it.'

DERRY WOMEN WRITERS - The poets reading here come from 'Penfriends', which originated in creative writing classes at the Derry Women's Centre. They have published in *Our Say*, a compilation of prose and poetry based around the 1992 Derry celebration of Feminist Book Fortnight.

**Anne Doherty** teaches creative writing at the Derry Women's Centre and says 'I write only when under extreme pressure to do so for some special occasion or when the thoughts imprisoned in my mind acquire enough of a sense of urgency to effect a breakout'.

**Eilis Heaney**: 'Having reared a large family, I began attending creative writing classes with a view to writing my childhood memories for future generations. Now I love writing prose and poetry and I enjoy meeting other writers and hearing their work.'

**Eileen Monaghan**: 'I was born in Derry. I still live there. I am married to Willie. I have seven children and five grandchildren. I love writing. I've had some of my work published, some rejected. But I keep on writing because I must.'

KILLYBEGS WRITERS' GROUP started in 1982 and meets monthly in the Sail Inn. A desire to be creative is the only requirement for membership. There are presently eight women and three men, and a floating membership of at least six more. They welcome and will help organise visits from other writing groups. They publish the Donegal literary review *Ratpit*.

**Imelda Carroll** joined the group in 1989 and recently won a prize for poetry at the Allingham Festival. She received a scholarship to The Poets' House in 1992. She works as an Arts Organiser with Donegal Endeavours.

**Maire Hannigan** is a native of Killybegs and founder member of the writers' group. She won a first prize at Listowell Writers' Week and her plays have been broadcast on RTE. She has also won prizes for stories. Married with five children, she is currently a script writer with RTE.

**Carmen McGarrigle** joined the group in 1990. Her first poems were published in the Sligo Arts Festival Broadsheet *Inward eye*. She has two children and lives in Killybegs.

**Pat Murphy** is a native of Killybegs and founder member of the group. She won the Donegal Short Story award at an Allingham Festival and has published in *Ratpit*. She is married with five children and sings locally.

**Barbara Parkinson**, has lived in Killybegs since 1977 and is a founder member of the group. She has won awards for poetry, and had plays produced on stage and by RTE radio. She is married with five children.