

# Focal id' Chluais.

mfg meitheal mhúscraí

A Word in your ear. January '09.

## *The Rescue.*

This true story is adopted from Michael Smith's Biography of Tom Crean, the Antarctic explorer. On the 4th of January 1912, a three man party – Crean, Lashly and Evans set out on a punishing 750 mile journey across the South Pole. However only 35 miles from base camp, disaster struck, Evans fell ill. Crean was forced to make the rest of the dangerous journey on his own. The survival of all three men depended on Crean's success.

Crean now took the bravest decision of his life and volunteered to make the solo walk to Hut Point. Lashly had offered to go but Crean had told him to remain and look after the very frail Evans. Then Lashly stuffed Crean's pockets with the only food they could find. Before he left, Crean ducked his head inside the tent to say goodbye to his two companions. They watched the courageous Irishman stagger forward in knee deep snow, to begin his lonely march for survival. Crean was bitterly cold, thirsty, starving and physically drained as he began his journey. The travelling was hazardous. He frequently sank up to his thighs in the soft snow and there was the ever-present fear of crashing through a crevasse. The wind was blowing up the drifting snow and blinding Crean. A blizzard could be seen approaching in the distance. In his tiredness, Crean frequently slipped on the glassy ice. He scrambled down the hill as the wind picked up and made his way slowly towards the hut. Then to his utter relief, Crean saw dogs and sledges in the distance out on the sea-ice. He somehow found enough strength to reach the camp. When Crean finally stumbled into the hut, he fell to his knees, almost delirious with hunger and exhaustion. Inside, he found the Russian dog driver Dimitri and Atkinson, the one doctor within 400 miles of Hut Point. He blurted out the alarming news about his two companions and collapsed on the floor. A rescue party set of immediately to find Lashly and Evans. Lashly had wisely torn up an old piece of clothing and attached it to a long piece of bamboo so that a recovery party would not miss the tiny green tent on the vast Barrier landscape. After hours on the Barrier, the two men had almost given up hope of being rescued. Suddenly the howling and yelping of Atkinson's dogs which galloped right up to the tent door shattered the stillness and silence. One animal stuck his head through the little tent flap and licked the face and hands of the stricken Evans. To hide his emotions, Evans grabbed his ears and sank his face into the hairy mane of the grey Siberian dog. Then both men laughed uncontrollably. They never should have doubted the courage and determination of the Irishman. It was as if a heavy weight had been lifted from their shoulders. They couldn't believe that they had been saved.

## *Cois Cille and Cuan Barra Re-opening.*

Are you looking for a New Year's Resolution? Why not make it a weekly trip to your local day centre whether it be Cois Cille in Cill na Martra or Cuan Barra in Béal Átha'n Ghaorthaidh for a meal and a chat. Transport can be arranged which will pick you up at your door and drop you home again safely. For more information ring 026-45661.

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*I fools money doesn't remain long in his pocket.*

### *Cois Cille, Cill na Martra 026-40999.*

**Lunch** Mon, Tues, Wed, & Friday 12.30pm.

**Reflexology** for feet and hands 086 8769500.  
Call 026-40999.

### *Cuan Barra, Béal Átha'n Ghaorthaidh.*

**Meals**, Mondays & Fridays 12.30pm.

**To book** call Siobhán/Lucy 087 1378099.

Dr Ken Harte each Wednesday 12.00 – 1.00pm.

**45' Card Drive** each Thursday at 9.00pm.

All are welcome.

### *Answers to last month's Puzzles.*

**Brain Boggler:** If you only had one match in the room with the lamp, the kerosene heater and the wood burning stove you would light the match first.

If you took away my 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and all my letters I would remain the same because I am a postman.

The three consecutive days you can name without using the words Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday are yesterday, today and tomorrow or Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and St. Stephens Day.

### *Scoraíocht an Déardaoin.*

Ionad Áise, Réidh na nDoirí.

Special Guest: **Mick Lehane Seanachai.**

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2.30-5.00 pm.

Transport available, ring early 026-45661

### *Spot the Irish Town.*

In this puzzle use the clues given to find the Irish Town. Good Luck!!!!

1. Irish bag/ out of sight.
2. Extended car.
3. A part of a leg.
4. In shape.
5. Short Thursday with short Lesley.
6. V and way in.
7. It's around a castle.
8. Biblical vessel/ opposite to high.

### *Brain Boggler.*

If there are fifteen crows on a fence and the farmer shoots a third of them, how many are left on the fence?

### *The Milkmaid and her Pail.*

Patty the Milkmaid was going to the market carrying her milk in a pail on her head. As she went along she began calculating what she would do with the money she would get for the milk.

"I'll buy some fowl from Farmer Browne," said she, "and they will lay eggs each morning, which I will sell to the baker's wife. With the money that I get from the sale of these eggs, I'll buy myself a new dimity frock and a chip hat; and when I go to the market, won't all the young men come up and speak to me!" "Molly Murphy will be that jealous; but I don't care. I shall just look at her and toss my head like this."

As she spoke she tossed her head back, the pail fell off, and all the milk was spilt. So she had to go home and tell her mother what had occurred.

"Ah my child," said the mother.....

**You should never count your chickens before they are hatched.**

### *Kittens.*

Two kittens are looking for a good home. Ring 42756 for further information.

### *Nourishing Meals.*

As a pilot scheme for the remainder of the Winter meals will be delivered from Cuan Barra and Cois Cille. If you would be interested in having a hot meal delivered to your home please contact the Ionad Áise at 45661.

### *Top 5 New Years Resolutions.*

1. Lose Weight and get in better physical shape.
2. Stick to a budget.
3. Reduce debt.
4. Enjoy more quality time with family & friends.
5. Find a soul mate.

*Sense doesn't come before age*