

Connections

Anthology of Work by Cork Pupils

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Edited by
Cynthia Deane

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making connections

“Life can often be about making little connections. Connections between people and between people and places.”

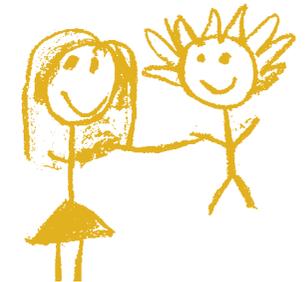
This is how Matthew O’Callaghan of Deerpark CBS introduces his story about Greenfield Lane, a place that is special to him and his family. All the young artists and authors whose work is published in this book are making connections – with their city and its many cultures, with their families and friends, and with the happy experiences that they enjoy in their vibrant and confident city communities.

The Bridging the Gap project in UCC has published *Connections*, an anthology of children’s work to celebrate Cork’s year as European Capital of Culture in 2005. Bridging the Gap works with over forty primary and post-primary schools in Cork city, and *Connections* features stories, poems and pictures that were selected from the best work produced by pupils in these schools during the year. The high quality of the creative work is a great tribute to the talent of our children, encouraged by their families. It is also a result of the excellent teaching in our schools, where principals and classroom teachers have high expectations and promote high achievement for all pupils.

We hope that readers of all ages will enjoy *Connections*, which includes over one hundred pieces by children and young people aged from four to seventeen years. The written work is presented in four parts. “City of Cultures” shows how Cork city is making connections between different cultures. In “Happy Days”, children connect with their life experiences and describe some of their fun times. The stories and pictures in “My Special Place” connect people with their own place. In the last part of the book, “Reflections”, the young writers explore the connections that link them with other people and with their environment. Throughout the book, the pictures help to “make connections”.

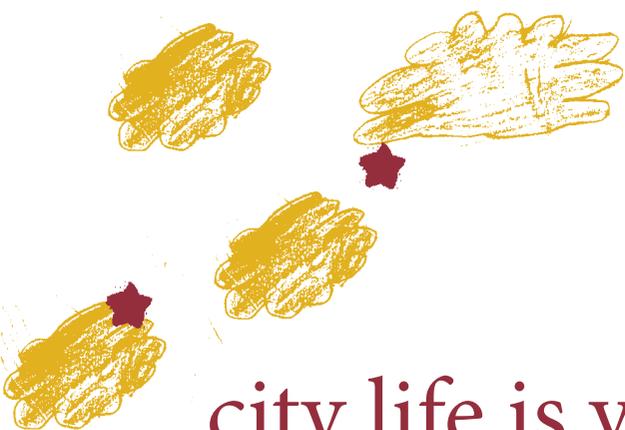
We thank everyone who has contributed to *Connections*, especially the writers, the artists and their teachers. We also thank the sponsors of the Bridging the Gap project: UCC, the Atlantic Philanthropies, the Department of Education and Science and an anonymous Cork businessman, who have jointly funded the project since 2001.

Cynthia Deane, Editor
Áine Hyland, Project Director, Bridging the Gap
Tracey Connolly, Project Manager, Bridging the Gap

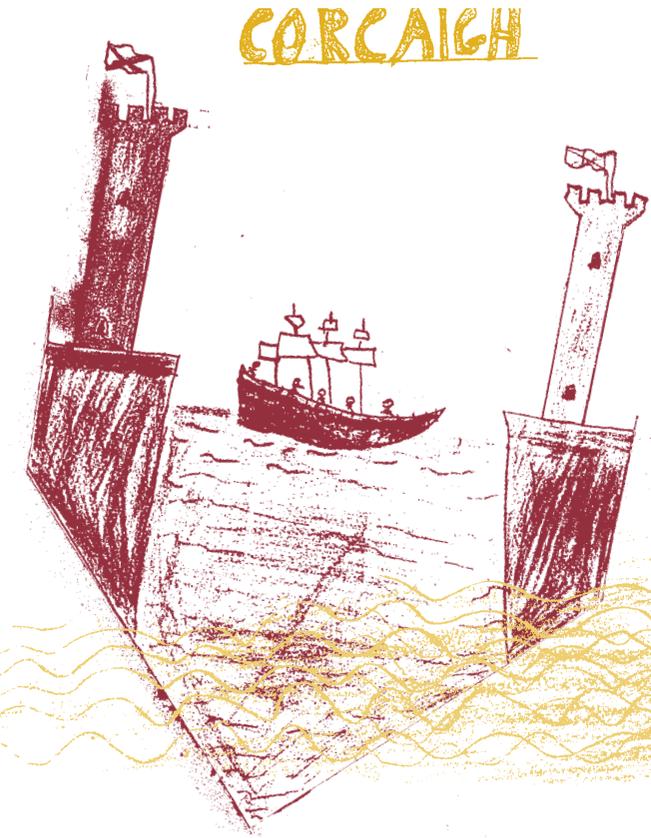


city of cultures





city life is vibrant



CORCAIGH

Throughout the Capital of Culture, city life is vibrant. Everywhere you go, whether it's to Bishop Lucey Park or Rory Gallagher Place, the rhythm of music or drums invariably follows. Jazz, rock, blues, native African, traditional Irish music, all of these musical visitors have become acquainted with Cork this year. People who have flocked to the city, bringing their culture, their sounds, their ideas, their freshness, their openness, their fun and colour, have created a zesty atmosphere here in Cork. It is this foreign diversity and welcoming attitude that truly makes this city the Capital of Culture.

For example, how often do you stay in town until midnight to see a play with no words? Or even follow this play around the city? How often do you go to a courthouse to see stand-up comedy acts? How often do you become part of a theatre company's street improvisation when doing your shopping? How often do you take part in the world's largest céili alongside Michael Flatley and enter the Guinness Book of Records? Or see a dragon on the river Lee?

The Capital of Culture has provided concerts, exhibitions, festivals, famous names, foreign names, and most of all zest and fun. Zest for life, and seeking out different things. And fun, fun in the streets, side alleys, homes and fun in all the people.

Sinéad O'Connor
5th year
Presentation Secondary School, Ballyphehane



*“fun in the streets, side alleys, homes and
fun in all the people”*



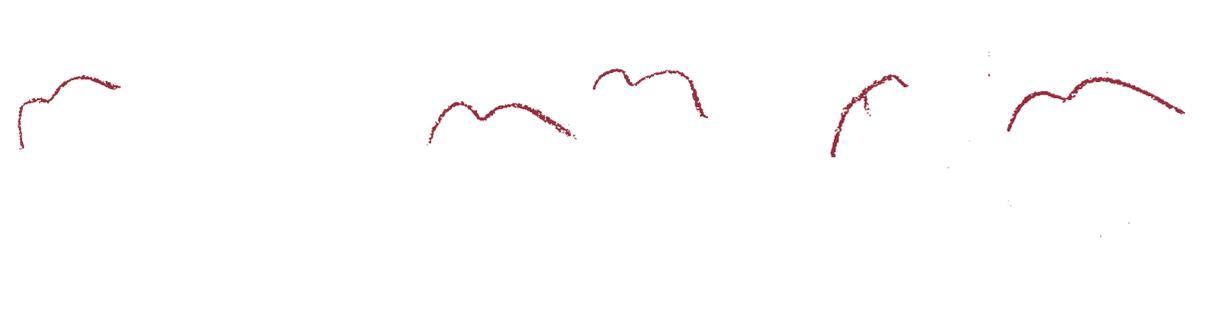
I love reading. My favourite Latvian book is “Puktina Un Artons”. It’s a tiny book and it’s about nice friends. I also love playing tennis and skipping which I learned in Ireland this year.

My favourite TV programmes are “Malcolm in the Middle” and “The Simpsons”. I like Reiss the best because he is funny and always in trouble. I love cats and I would love to have one in my home. I think I would call him “Miks”, a Latvian name for cats.

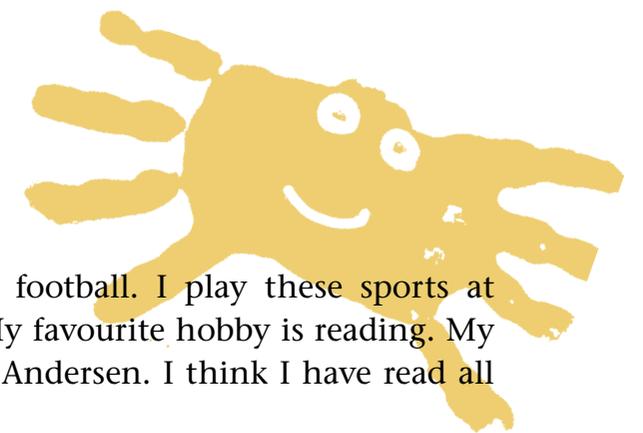
My favourite foods are strawberry yogurt, beef, fruit tarts, cheese and tomato pizza and Latvian soup called zupa. My grandmother always makes lovely soup with potatoes, peas, carrots and chicken. She looks at me when I come in the door and says “I know you are hungry!” and she goes and makes the soup for me. In Latvia we have tea with no milk and when I came to Ireland I didn’t like tea with milk. Mum started to put milk into my tea and now I love a lot of milk in my tea. I don’t think I like Latvian tea anymore!

I also love sunny and misty weather but I hate rain! I really love the colour red and I want to buy more red clothes!

Santa Miller (8 years) Sunday’s Well GNS



my favourite things



I love playing cricket, tennis and football. I play these sports at home with my brother, Kundan. My favourite hobby is reading. My favourite author is Hans Christian Andersen. I think I have read all of his books!

My favourite TV programmes are “Yugiho” and “Pokemon”. I started to watch them when I was three years old in Nepal and I love them.

I love eating bananas especially my mother’s banana cake, “Bandana’s Banana Cake”. My mum’s name is Bandana and she loves wearing bandanas also. I also love potatoes, green vegetables and ghee (an Indian food that tastes like milk).

My favourite animals are kittens, tigers and spiders. I love kittens because they are soft, tigers because they are scary and spiders because girls are scared of them! I have a pet spider in my lucky jar and they are lucky for me.

I love sunny weather especially the lovely sunny weather in Ireland. It is too warm in Nepal, it is like sitting in a frying pan! My favourite colours are all the colours of the rainbow.

Krishna Bhattarai (8 years) Sunday’s Well GNS

I love playing football and hurling. I also love swimming and I am a great diver!

I love watching "The Simpsons" and scary movies. My favourite movie is "The Hulk" because he is huge, strong and green!

I love cheese, ham and pineapple pizza, spaghetti, chicken and 7-up. My pet's name is Bart and he is a black and white puppy. I got him for my birthday and I love him!

Bartek Janowicz (7 years) Sunday's Well BNS

I like writing stories. The last story that I wrote was called "The Doll's House". I love dancing especially Irish dancing.

I really love animals. When I go back to Lithuania for my summer holidays I will help take care of my grandparent's animals. I love the rabbits and kittens most of all.

My favourite TV programme is "Hi 5". It's on Tuesdays. My favourite foods are cheese and tomato pizza, tuna sandwiches, curly spaghetti and Lithuanian strawberry cake. Yum!!!

Sonata Kuconyte (6 years) Sunday's Well GNS



Triona Walsh
St. Patrick's College

meine erfahrung von cork die stadt von kultur

Wir sind alle echt stolz, dass Cork die Stadt von Kultur ist. Wir sind die einzige Stadt in Irland mit diesem Titel, und die kleinste Stadt Europas je damit.

Wir haben letzten Febroar die offizielle Öffnungzeremonie in Cork besucht. Tausende sind von überall gekommen, um das alles zu erleben. Dort gab es spektakuläres Feuerwerk, das eineinhalb Stunden gedauert hat. Unter anderem gab es einen künstlichen Dracke im Fluss Lee. Das war total super!

Während des Sommers gab es ein grosses Zeit ganz in der Nähe von der Stadt. Da haben berühmte Akte monatelang gespielt. Ich habe -"The Gypsy Kings" gesehen. Sie waren fantastisch!

In September habe ich in einem grossen irischen Tanz, das "Ceílí Mór" heisst auf Irisch, getanzt. Das machte mir viel Spass! Ich kann es kaum glauben, dass über acht Tausend Leute teilgenommen haben. Dafür haben wir den Weltrekord gebrochen.

Schade, dass wir mit diesem Titel fast fertig sind, aber ich freue mich auf den nächsten Mal in fünfundzwanzig Jahren!

6th year German class
Presentation Secondary School
Ballypnehane

capitale de la culture européene



Cette année Cork est la 'Capitale de la Culture Européene'. Mon meilleur souvenir était 'Le Grand Céili' le 10 septembre. Les gens de la ville de Cork ont essayé de battre un record. Grâce aux 8,371 'Corkonians' qui ont assisté a ce spectacle, ils ont reussi et à Cork il y avait le plus grand 'céili' du monde. Michael Flatley a assisté à l'ouverture.

J'adore la danse traditionnelle depuis mon enfance et j'ai dansé dans les rues. L'ambiance était extra et je me suis bien amusée. J'ai vraiment aimé le fait qu'il y avait des jeunes et des vieux et que tous les gens ont dansé ensemble. Ce jour là j'étais vraiment fière d'habiter ici à Cork et de notre tradition de la danse traditionnelle.

Aoife O'Callaghan
Kate O'Connor
5th Year
Presentation Secondary School
Ballypnehane

things i like



**I like to catch fish
I like to put them in a dish
I like to ride
I like to play on the slide
I like to ride
I like to play on the slide
I like to draw and give my horses some straw
I like to shout
but I don't like to pout**

Shannon Loveridge
5th class
St. Brendan's GNS
The Glen

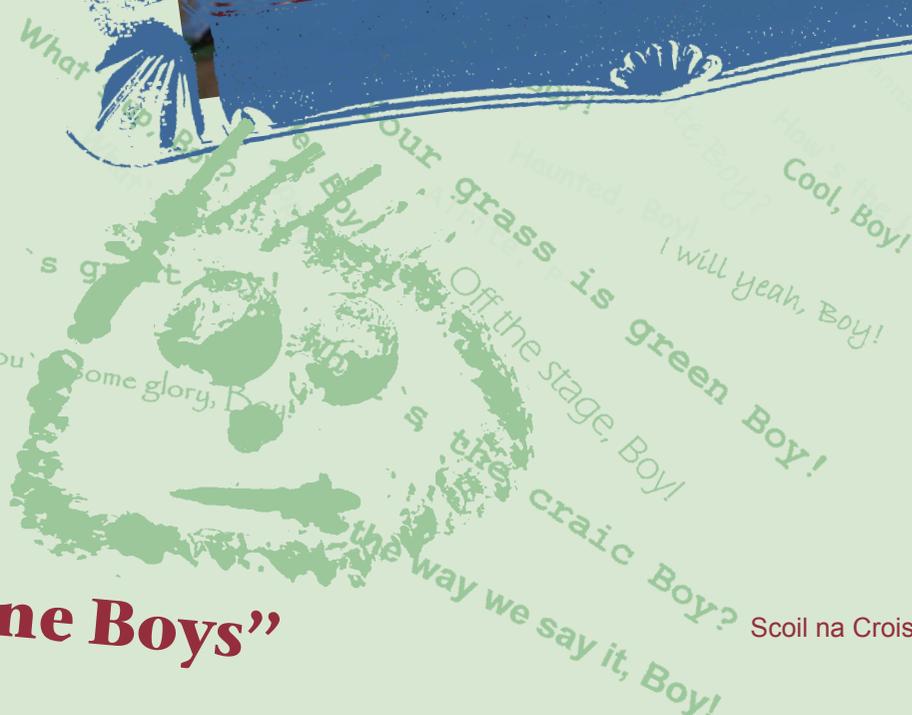


"I like to play on the slide"

Picture - Niamh Tynan
St Vincents Convent NS

“Boy, Oh Boy!”

Easy, Boy! What's happenin' Boy?
CALM DOWN, BOY! Shake your tic-tac-toe boy!
I dunno, Boy! How's it goin' Boy!
what d'ya do last night, Boy? Decent, Boy!
How bad, Boy! Wanna a suppa, Boy?
No sweat Boy! How's the head Boy?
What's the story Boy? Alrite, Boy?
Pass the ball, Boy! Haunted, Boy!
See ya, Boy! Alrite, Boy! Cool, Boy!
flippin' Hell, Boy! I will yeah, Boy!
What's up, Boy? Your grass is green Boy!
This 's great Boy! Off the stage, Boy!
You're some glory, Boy! What's the craic Boy?
It's the way we say it, Boy!



“The Ballyphehane Boys”



Some fourth class children of Greenmount National School give a flavour of their experience of Cork City's year as Capital of Culture 2005



The year 2005 began with a firework display. My family and I watched Sean Óg hit the burning sliotar with his hurley. He destroyed the fierce dragon and the celebrations began!

Irish Dancing is really important in our school. Last year we were taught lots of new dances. This was one way of celebrating Cork's culture. Lots of us went to watch the huge Siege of Ennis on the South Mall and Grand Parade. The people of Cork broke the world record for the most people to take part in this dance at one time. Maybe this year we will learn how to do it!

Our Class contributed to the "Big Book of Culture". This meant we had to write a page about how we hoped to see Cork in the future. Our page was included in the "Big Book of Culture". Some of us went to its launch at the Tory Top Road Library. We had a party there afterwards!

The Rebels did the treble this year. We have won the men's All Ireland Hurling Final, the Ladies' All-Ireland Football Final and the All-Ireland Camogie Final. Our local hero, Ronan Curran, came to our school with the Cup. This was a great day for all of us and we even got our homework off!

Picture - Cliona O' Brien, 5th Class, St. Vincent's Convent NS

Text - Patrick, Mariah, Michael, Alisha, Kate, Luke, Ryan, Colin, Buster, Diarmuid, Megan, John, Michael, Aoife, Amie, Ian, Megan, Mark, Kieran, Sinéad, Colin, Mark, Dylan, Brian, Stephen, Peter, Youssef, Aaron

kidz opera theme

This is the anthem we wrote for our 'Kidz Opera' to celebrate Cork 2005

CHORUS

Cork cap-i-tal_ of cul- ture_ in
two thou- sand and five_ we share this place to- ge- ther
glad to be a- live_ we come from south east and west_ to
ga- ther in this place_ ob- vi- ous- ly differ- ent_ but
all one hu- man race_ (verse 1) in the

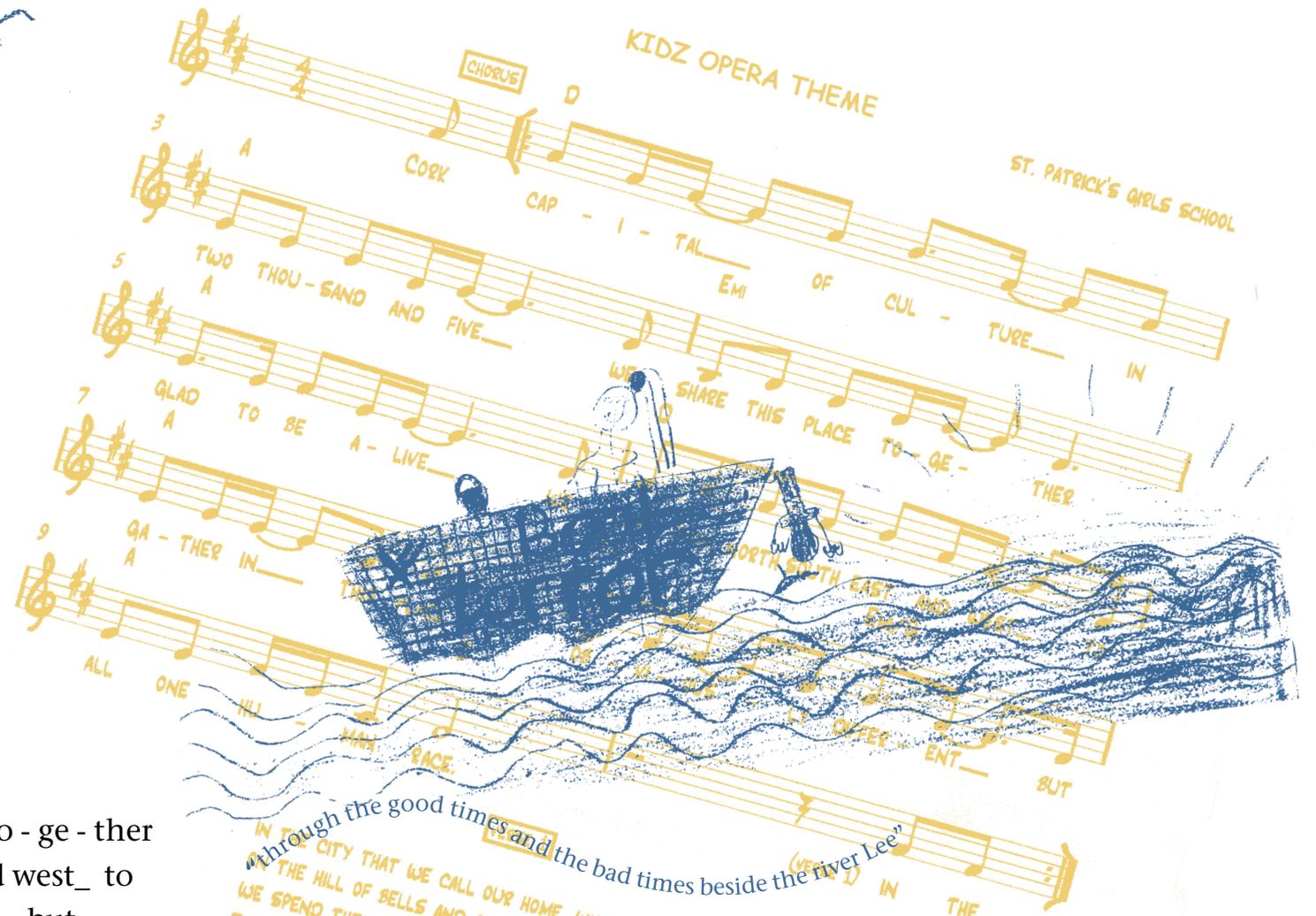
VERSE 1

In the city that we call our home, where saint finbarr reigned
on the hill of bells and cockle shells, where none of us complain
we spend these together, you and me
through the good times and the bad times beside the river Lee
but back there in the past times, people didn't have to share
but they loved each other very much, and for each other cared
they did not have our luxuries or our technology
they could not see the future of their home by the see

VERSE 2

When famine came to Ireland, the people were in pain
although we cried for mercy, our pleading was in vain
still we had to suffer as others do today
many people on our planet still suffer in this way
colour is only skin deep, and it's not at all a shame
and language doesn't matter, we are all still the same
people can be different, people can be strange
but if we come together we can make a permanent change

CHORUS



St. Patrick's GNS
Gardiner's Hill

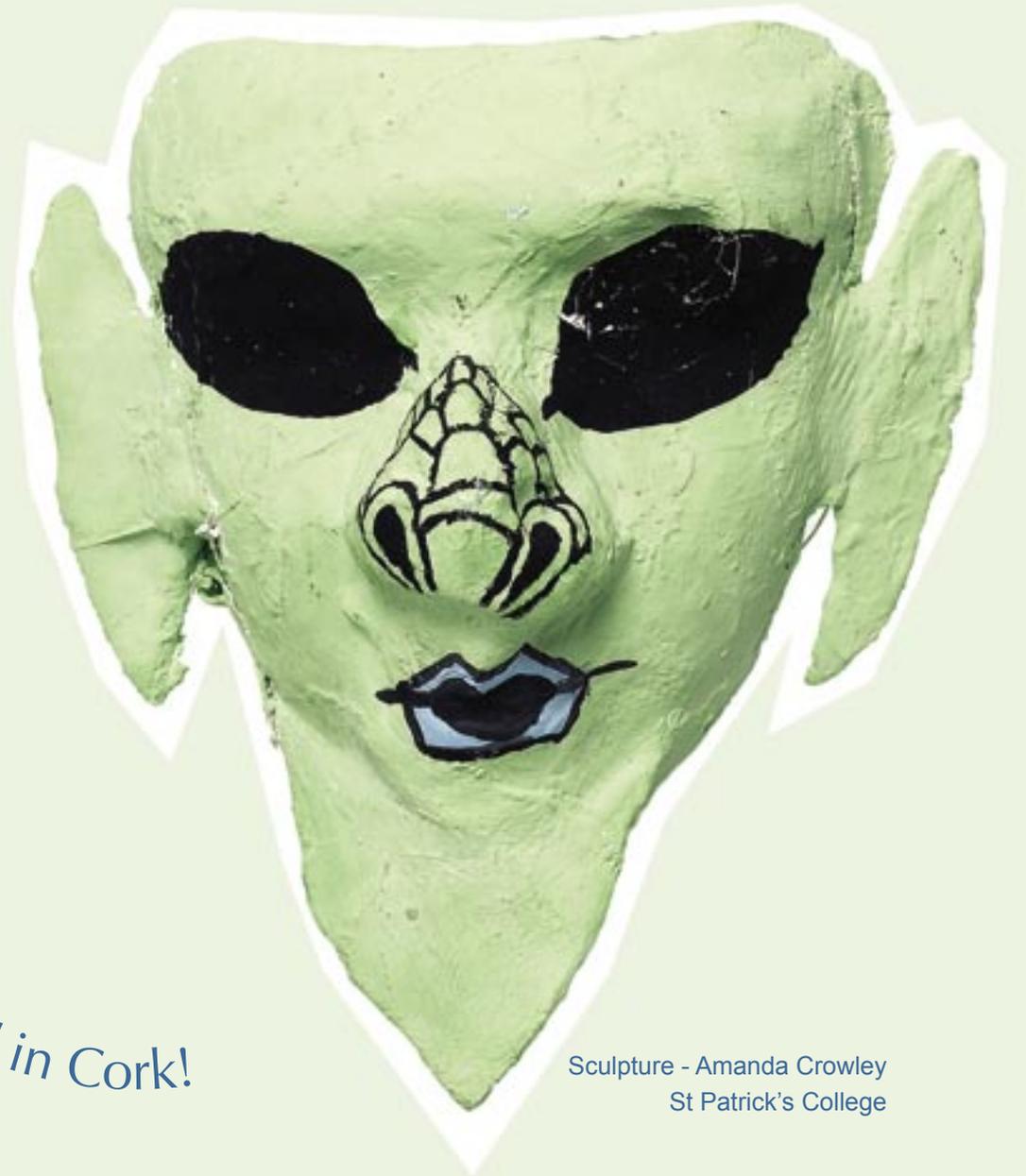


what it is like to be a kid in cork in 2005

It's fun to be a kid in Cork these days. Kids are spoiled in Cork! At Christmas there will be shows on in the Opera House. My family went to one last year. On Hallowe'en everybody goes "trick-or-treating". At Easter everyone gets Easter Eggs. I go to a club and they do arts and crafts with us. They take us up the park. They also do a Summer Scheme. They took us to the beach, the park, Fota Wildlife Park, Millstreet Park and the new swimming baths. At the end of the Summer Scheme we had a fancy dress party and we all got a present. It was great fun.

Nicole Downey
4th class
St. Vincent's Convent NS

Kids are spoiled in Cork!



Sculpture - Amanda Crowley
St Patrick's College



fireworks

Cork was chosen as the Capital of Culture for 2005. To start the year off the organisers decided to put on a show on the river. We were looking forward to seeing the show. We found out we had to have a ticket. My dad tried to get us tickets but they were all gone. I was very sad.

On the day of the show we found out that it was going on TV. We went out to play and my mum called us in when it started. We saw the snake coming out of the river and Sean Óg standing on the bridge with his hurley about to hit a ball of fire at the snake. When he hit the snake with the ball we heard a loud bang.

We ran out to see what had made the noise. We looked up at the sky. It was filled with all the colours of the rainbow. I had to cover my ears because it was so loud. It was the fireworks. They were being set off in the Camp field. This field is only across the road from my house so even though we had no tickets I saw the show on TV and I had the fireworks in the garden. It was so cool!

Michelle Coughlan
4th class
St. Vincent's Convent NS

"fireworks in the garden"

Picture - Alisha Murphy
3rd Class
North Presentation
Primary School



"my goal and dream for my future"

leisure time

In my spare time I attend Tae Kwon-do classes in the North Monastery. Tae Kwon-do is a Martial Art which comes from Korea. It is a form of self-defence. I really enjoy the classes. They keep me fit and healthy and also teach me how to protect myself. Since I joined Tae Kwon-do I have made lots of new friends. We have lots of fun and we also work hard.

I recently passed a grading to achieve my yellow belt. One day I hope to become a black belt like my instructor. That is my goal and dream for my future. I know I need to work hard and be determined.

So far 2005 has been a great year and hopefully there's a lot more enjoyment to come.

Erin Phelan
4th class
St. Vincent's Convent NS

st.finbarr's festival

On the 25th of September the feast of Saint Finbarr was celebrated at Saint Finbarr's hospital. The hospital marked the occasion by holding a big festival. There was face painting, chalk drawing, clothes shops and cake stalls. There was a band and a big stage where shows took place. There was a wishing tree. I loved the wishing tree because I got a chance to make a good wish and put it into an envelope and tie it to the wishing tree.

This festival really marked the Capital of Culture for me.

Eimear Tobin
4th class
St. Vincent's Convent NS

"I loved the wishing tree"

the night the cork team passed up our hill

Two days after the All-Ireland Final the Cork Team passed up our road. Everyone wore red and white and hats and held flags. Then a lady said “they aren’t coming”. Everyone felt disappointed.

Then we heard a very loud cheer. They were coming! The crowd was so happy. The team came in a bus. It was decorated lovely in red and white. We cheered when Sean Óg held up the Cup. Everyone was singing Cork songs like “The Banks of My Own Lovely Lee”.

Kate Scott
4th class
St. Vincent’s Convent NS



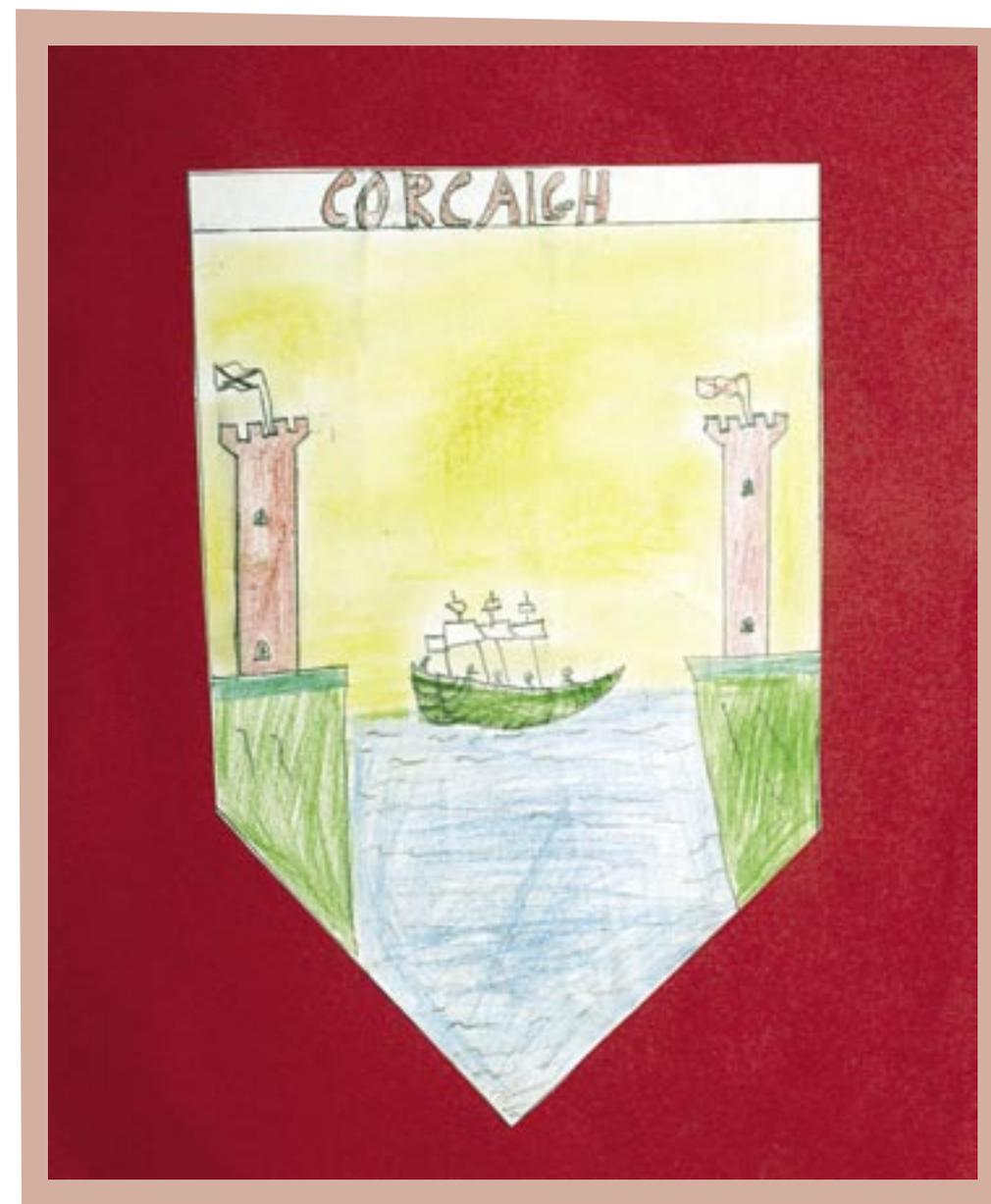
Picture - Aoife O'Connell
North Presentation Primary School

highlights from Cork's year as European capital of culture 2005

January 7th 2005 was the day of the official opening ceremony for Cork's year as European Capital of Culture. Tickets were like gold dust! As soon as the tickets were in the shops they were all snapped up! This was because Leesiders' hearts were full of pride and they wanted to witness the event! But fortunately my aunt got me a couple of them.

My family and I arrived in town at around half four and we saw lots of magicians and clowns doing cool tricks. The show started with a song from one of our own John Spillane with a very strong Cork accent! As we listened to John Spillane sing I noticed four plastic hills in the middle of the Lee and I wondered what they were. My question was answered two minutes later when a lady pressed a button and I realised it was actually a sea monster!

Sean Óg stepped forward and pucked a flaming sliotar at the monster's mouth and killed it. What a shot! I hoped that Sean Óg would hit the back of the net as well in September. And in my mind he did. After that the fireworks started and they were absolutely brilliant. They lit up like stars in the sky. As I looked up in awe at them I knew this was going to



be a night to remember. Everybody who was walking home hoped that the rest of the year would just as good and by golly it was!

When my dad queued up for chips in my favourite restaurant, Jackie Lennox's I thought to myself this was going to be a very, very special year for Corkonians!

"It was a day for Cork people to celebrate"



Picture - Rachel Iwerumor
Junior Infants
North Presentation Primary School

things got better & better

Christmas over then more excitement! Only seven days into the year, a massive firework display. So many different shapes and colours. Bangers galore. It was magical. Us children were fascinated and will never forget it. What an experience for us. Lucky us, living in the European capital of culture!

Moving on to a sunny day in August, the capital of culture broke world records by staging "Céilí Mor". Our challenge was to get over 10,000 people céilí dancing at the same time. Could we do it? I decided I had to see this.

Finally the day came and we didn't disappoint. The air all around Cork was filled with Irish music. The atmosphere was so Irish. It was a day for Cork people to celebrate in an Irish way. Old and young were there. Grannys to toddlers. Even if we didn't reach over 10,000 we would still be happy. Things got better and better. In the end we did it. One more victory for the Leesiders. And I bet there are more to come!!!

Aidan Johnson
Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh (B)



the streets of Cork are alive with entertainers

I saw an acrobat who was like Spiderwoman. She swung from a glass dome with a sparkling rope. Then there was the unicyclist. This was my favourite event so far. He started by doing some awesome tricks. For the great finale he got a man to hold a ladder while he tried to jump from his unicycle onto the ladder. It was nerve wracking as it wobbled like mad from side to side. Believe it or not he succeeded! What a relief! I would not be able to cope if there was blood all over the place!

I remember the Patrick's Day parade, the drummers from other countries, (I can still hear them in my ears!), the clowns that kept me laughing like mad and people on giant ladybirds.

On a hot summer's day I took a trip to Fota. The main attraction for me was a magnificent sculpture "18 turns" by Daniel Liebeskind. This was a metal sculpture I could walk into and it has all different angles and turns.

Recently the Lee swim was re-launched as part of the celebrations. Last time it was held was in 1942. I saw all the brave swimmers dive into the water at the North Mall. The youngest was 14 and the oldest was 73. I didn't take part I was not that brave! We still have some fun months to go. I don't want to miss a minute of it!

Aaron McCarthy
Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh (B)

"I don't want to miss a minute of it!"



Picture - Emma Buckley,
Age 6
Maria Assumpta
Infant & Junior School,
Ballyphehane.

sporting culture was great in 2005

We hardly have had a chance to take off those red jerseys. Cork can't stop winning trophies. What a year! We really deserved the title Capital of Sporting Culture. Our brilliant hurling team had a great start by beating Tipperary on a lovely summer's afternoon in Pairc uí Chaoimh to win the Munster final easily. Then we went on to win the All-Ireland final by beating the "Tribesmen" from Galway, winning the Liam McCarthy cup for the 30th time. The Cork team's home coming was brilliant. Sean Óg gave his famous speech as usual and everybody was there to hear it. Cork flags and banners were hanging proudly in the sea of red and white, and as they sang the "Banks" everybody felt joy in their hearts that they lived in the best place ever!

Also we can't forget our Cork Camogie team. They also won the All-Ireland final by beating Tipperary to lift up the All-Ireland cup for the 27th time. It wouldn't be a Rebel Treble if we didn't win three All-Ireland titles so we had to win one more and guess who won it. Believe it or not it was the Women's football team and they beat our old friends Galway AGAIN! For the first time ever the Women's football team won an All-Ireland final and what a year to do it!

*"everybody felt joy in their hearts that
they lived in the best place ever!"*



Picture - Kelly Ann Kearney
North Presentation Primary School

This year was jam-packed with sporting culture. Banners were hanging, flags were being waved and even our teddies were all dressed up in the Cork colours of red and white...The blood and bandage. Us rebels are cultured winners!

Eoin Sheil
Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh (B)