

Something in the Air



Birds, of course (though swallows are not common yet) but also a general sense of restlessness. Long winter nights encourage us to sleep and let things slide. This issue of *Corncrake* is a bit late too, but now we are making up for lost time.

The poets of *Fermanagh Writers* have been busy lately, not only with *Women Aloud* and the upcoming *Meadow Musings* readings at *Common Ground* on the 29th of April, but also in the ongoing series of readings *The Thing Itself* at *The Happiness Trap* in Enniskillen. This on-going series of readings features not only local writers but also invited guests such as John Cummings and an open mic spot for newcomers. Two *Fermanagh Writers* poets, Teresa Kane and Teresa Godfrey, have works featured in this issue.

Sometimes poetry inspires other arts: *Cirque des Oiseaux* is a multi-media exhibition based on the work of locally-born poet Maria McManus. Two of her poems *Peregrinations* and *Corncrakes* (naturally) are also here. Poet and photographer Steve Downes takes a different tack. His most recent project (as yet untitled) matches poems to photographs of places. In *Poems and Places* he demonstrates how inspiration can be found even in landscapes as desolate as our cover picture.

There are other upcoming events too, notably *ComicFest 2017*, and much more recorded in the pages of *The Spark*. And there are other Arts to enjoy: John Llewellyn James writes about his varied musical adventures, while Caiman O'Shea celebrates the debut of a promising new local rock band.

If that's all too hectic, then Anthony Brady has a gentle memoir of his time in that '*Citadel of the Looney Left; the Trotskyite alternative seat of government*' – the GLC under Ken Livingstone, and nearer to home, *Fermanagh Time* invites you to consider just why everything seems to run slower here, and whether that might be a good thing.

If only it didn't all start happening just when the grass needs cutting...