

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...