

# Simon Voices



## Simon Speaking

### Housing in Dublin around the time of the 1916 Rising

If one wonders if homelessness existed during the Easter Rising, then the answer is yes. There were extraordinary problems just before the rebellion kicked off.

Looking back at the 1911 census, it shows more than 26,000 Dublin families lived together in large Georgian terraced homes which were subdivided into tenements. It was estimated at the time that 20,000 families lived in tenement accommodation occupying one room.

It was also common to share one room with other tenants. It was not unusual to have eight or ten children in a family. Many families also kept lodgers, mostly in a single room.

Most of the families rented their homes at that time and were often driven out when they could not afford the rent. It was a common sight on Dublin streets in the years running up to 1916. The starving families sent their children to queue at religious orders who handed out bread daily.

According to the records, in Henrietta Street in Dublin, 835 people lived in just 15 houses that is approximately 56 people per house, when most of these houses were built for just one family.

One house had 104 people sharing and their occupations were listed as charwomen, domestic servants, labourers, porters, messengers, painters, carpenters, pensioners, a postman, a tailor and a whole class of schoolchildren. People who had a job and those who didn't lived in the same conditions.

Generally, a house on Henrietta Street had one outdoor toilet and one outdoor tap for fresh water to cater for those average 56 tenants. The death rate was high during that time due to the crowded and unhygienic conditions, and diseases like TB. Most families lost one or two children. One family in Buckingham Street lost 7 out of 13 children.

By 1916, most of Dublin's richest people had moved from the city to the suburbs and paid their rates to the new local councils. This left no money for Dublin Corporation to solve the 1916 housing crisis. The conditions of the buildings in which people lived were bad and there was no maintenance. A couple of buildings in Church Street collapsed in 1913, one killing up to seven people and another left a family of eight homeless.



House on Henrietta Street today

*(This article is adapted from A New Spirit of 1916 in Housing. Author: Mark Keenan.*

*Irish Independent, Feb 26th 2016)*

**One hundred years later the housing crisis is still not solved.** There are a lot of people living in a similar position today. In early 2016, 2,692 people were living in homeless emergency accommodation in Dublin. More and more families are being housed in hostels, with children sleeping on mattresses. For some homeless people, their living conditions are as desperate as those experienced in 1916.

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## 1916–2016

### Mise Éire

Mise Éire:  
Sine mé ná an Chailleach\* Bhéarra  
Mór mo ghlóir:  
Mé a rug Cú Chulainn cróga.  
Mór mo náir:  
Mo chlann féin a dhíol a máthair.  
Mór mo phian:  
Bithnaimhde do mo shíorchiapadh.  
Mór mo bhrón:  
D'éag an dream inar chuireas dóchas.  
Mise Éire:  
Uaigní mé ná an Chailleach\* Bhéarra.

*I am Ireland:  
I am older than the old woman\* of Beare.  
Great my glory:  
I who bore Cuchulainn, the brave.  
Great my shame:  
My own children who sold their mother.  
Great my pain:  
My irreconcilable enemy who harasses me continually...  
Great my sorrow  
That crowd, in whom I placed my trust, died.  
I am Ireland:  
I am lonelier than the old woman\* of Beare.*



Pádraic Mac Piarais (1879–1916)

This poem was written by Padraic Pearse, one of the 7 signatories of the Proclamation

## Simon Involvement and Action Group



Members of SIAG celebrating the 11 years since the first meeting

Welcome to our new edition of Simon Voices, the newsletter put together by this Group. Simon Involvement and Action group has been meeting for eleven years. We meet once a month in Dublin and our members come from Simon Communities from around the country.

The Group is about clients meeting to share information about how they have a say in their local Simon communities and what is happening from around the country. One of our members attends

meetings in the EU and reports back on what is happening in homelessness around Europe. We highlight issues about homelessness and come up with new ideas every time we meet.

The Group meeting is relaxed and friendly. We have tea, coffee and scones, lunch and plenty of breaks. We work well together as a group.

Our work is important and brings clients from different Simon Communities together. This year we are planning:

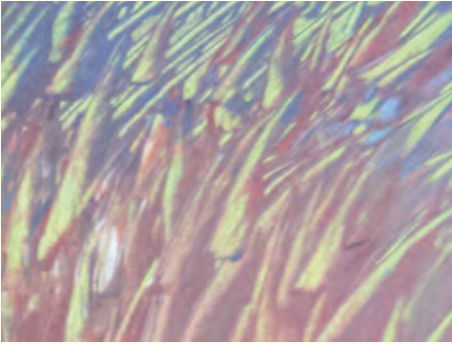
- To put together two editions of the Simon Voices newsletter
- To do a training course on peer education. This will show us how to run groups for other clients
- An event for clients from different homeless organisations in November
- An outing in the Summer

Members of our group say that coming to the meetings gives them satisfaction and confidence; they have a good laugh; they come together as friends and there is support and encouragement; it is a day out from your normal routine.

***If you are interested in coming to our Group, talk to a staff member or a member of the Group. You would be very welcome. Why not come along and try out a meeting?***

See the back page for contact details.



**Artists  
Corner***Pictures by JN*



# My Green Canvas Home

## Writers Corner



Darkness comes early in December, I walk back from town to my home in the park.  
The river flows through the park, the mist gathers all around the river bank.

I walk to the tree at the back of the park, and I pick up my green canvas cloth.  
I lay my green canvas cloth in front of me, and I lay down on the green canvas cloth and pull it around me.  
I still could hear the traffic in the town, to see the stars in the sky is so beautiful,  
the nights are so long, the days are even longer.

That was then, now I have my own place to live in,  
I now volunteer in the Simon Community Shop and I attend further education.

There is life after homelessness!

**Chris Walshe**

# Unfamiliar Faces

Cold and lonely on this dark night  
Like December wind but with less of a fight  
The fight to stay calm and warm and fearless  
Except this time, everything you stand for is pointless  
You realise your faith through life and its talk  
But you shouldn't do that talk unless you've walked  
that walk  
Experience is credit and holds your heart close to  
home  
Letting your experiences be shared will make you feel  
less alone  
Caught in a world full winding spaces  
Is not as bad when you fill that world with  
unfamiliar faces  
"Fear me not" is what to feel when faced with past  
tense gloom  
For these are things not to be feared, only faced with  
room

Room to feel and talk some more to people full of  
minds sight  
Talking them through their horrors will ease them of  
their fright  
For everything, that reason shall always hold a candle  
In every aspect of future generations, no matter how  
hard to handle  
Burning flames in the hearts and minds of all the  
right people  
Whom all have a reason of  
existence as a temple  
towards a steeple  
Make sense of life and  
democracy as you  
would a garden elf  
Speak of hidden agendas  
beyond  
your inner self

**Sarah-Jane Rafferty, 2016**



# 1916-2016

## WORD SEARCH

### The Easter Rising in Ireland 1916

AMMUNITION  
BUILDINGS  
CITIZEN  
EQUIPMENT  
FREEDOM  
INDEPENDENCE  
PROCLAMATION  
REBEL  
REBELLION  
REPUBLIC  
REPUBLIC  
SURRENDER  
VOLUNTEER

a word search with no words going diagonally, upwards or backwards

Try to find all 13 words on this board.

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N D S G N I D L I U B J C T A
T J I L H F B N M O L V N I K
E W N Q J B M R G T E O C C J
Q C M O D U T K H M I L Q Q P
U O N Y I Q H V J T N U N T E
I T X E L T J P I O E N O S Z
P C Y V D S A N T E Z T I B D
M J F L U N U M F L I E L K N
E Y P B H M E R A W T E L X N
N V F I M F E P R L I R E D M
T I O A Z E M X E E C U B Z H
V I T K D X N L V D N O E I J
Z K A O L K L M B A N D R S R
C F M U S K E W C O S I E P U
P Y Y W B A C I L B U P E R L
  
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### Ireland – Word Search Puzzle

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Z B Z C S S E N N I U G B B L Q O G Y A E E Y R G U N I Z G
I R I S H R E P U B L I C A N A R M Y C E Q V A L H O C I I
T N E M E E R G A Y A D I R F D O O G T N N E N G L I A C J
L L A B T O O F C I L E A G N Q E O J O H L B S N W N N E O
H B E N I M A F O T A T O P I N E A N F S N A O I T U O R N
C L I F F S O F M O E R R Q E L M N P S I I P S S T H S I A
X W I L L I A M B U T L E R Y E A T S E N A E C I A A I S T
B L A R N E Y S T O N E A O S H L W F T S N A A R I E R T H
S L L E K F O K O O B L B J S R C N P T I U T R N P R Y A
N U A H C E R P E L D T O R E E N A U L S I D W E R O O M N
L I M E R I C K N I R Y E L I T R B E O R O I T E R N O S
H U R L I N G E S E C V D T S R E U W M P I G L S B U N O W
S D I U R D Z L B E I D I P I S D A L E D S S D A I E A R I
I S L A N D E O V R E C C C D A Y N E N S H J E E H V E F
K E R E V E R H P R R U K H I L L O P T A R A S W S J A N T
  
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Act of Settlement  
Blarney Stone  
Book of Kells  
Celtic  
Christy Moore  
Cliffs of Moher  
Druids  
Dublin  
Easter Rising  
Emerald Isle  
Enya  
European Union  
Gaelic football

Gaels  
Giant's Causeway  
Good Friday Agreement  
Guinness  
Hibernia  
Hill of Tara  
hurling  
Irish  
Irish Republican Army  
island  
James Joyce  
Jonathan Swift

leprechaun  
Limerick  
Oscar Wilde  
pastures  
peat bogs  
potato famine  
red deer  
River Shannon  
Robert Boyle  
Saint Patrick  
Sinn Féin  
Van Morrison  
William Butler Yeats

Irish  
emerald isle  
Gaels  
Celtic  
Hibernia  
Hill of Tara  
druids  
Saint Patrick  
Book of Kells  
potato famine  
Act of Settlement  
Sinn Féin  
Irish Republican Army  
Easter Rising  
Good Friday Agreement  
European Union  
Dublin  
island

River Shannon  
Limerick  
Giant's Causeway  
Cliffs of Moher  
Blarney stone  
red deer  
peat bogs  
pastures  
Oscar Wilde  
Jonathan Swift  
James Joyce  
Christy Moore  
William Butler Yeats  
leprechaun  
Enya  
Van Morrison  
Robert Boyle  
hurling  
Gaelic football  
Guinness





# IF WE CAN DO IT – YOU CAN DO IT RECIPES

## Easy Egg Fried Rice



- 1 mug long grain rice or Basmati rice uncooked
- 1 and  $\frac{2}{3}$  mug water (to boil the rice in)
- $\frac{1}{2}$  mug peas (defrosted if frozen)
- 2 tsp sesame oil
- 2-3 tsp soy sauce
- 4 spring onions finely chopped
- 3 eggs
- Salt and ground white pepper to taste

*Tip*

When adding peas include some extras like chopped bacon rashers, red pepper, green chillies, sweet corn, sliced garlic cloves or 1 tsp Chinese five-spice powder.

### Method

1. First, rinse the rice in a sieve until the water runs clear then drain.
2. Add rice and a teaspoon of salt to a pot of boiling water and turn the heat down to medium. Stir once and leave uncovered, cook for around 10-15 minutes until the water evaporates and the rice is cooked, then let it cool. (If the rice isn't given time to cool, it will get soggy when added to the egg)
3. In a bowl beat the eggs and sesame oil and leave aside.
4. Heat the vegetable oil in a wok or large frying pan.
5. Add the peas and the white part of the chopped spring onions. Fry for 1 minute or until golden. Season well with soy sauce and pepper.
6. Add the rice and the remaining green part of the chopped spring onions and stir-fry for about 3-4 minutes until completely heated through, then push it to one side of the pan.
7. Pour the beaten egg mixture into the other side and leave for about 10 seconds so it begins to set. Keep stirring around the egg to break it up and then toss in with the rice. Stir-fry until the egg is thoroughly cooked, taste, add salt if necessary and serve straight away whilst hot.

Preparation 10 minutes, cooking time 10 minutes and allow approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour for the rice to cool

## Quick Summer Ice Cream



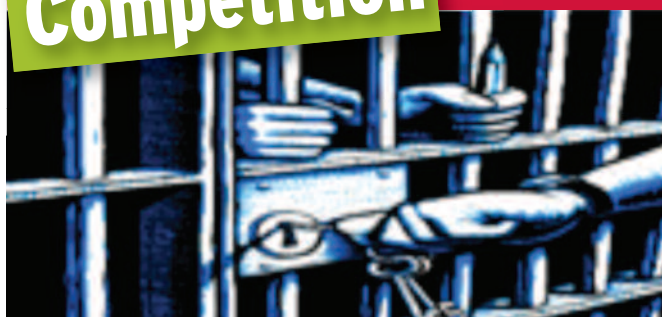
- $\frac{1}{2}$  a 397g can sweetened condensed milk
- 600g pot double cream
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

### Method

1. Put the condensed milk, cream and vanilla into a large bowl.
2. Beat with a whisk until thick and quite stiff, (an electric whisk if you have) a bit like clotted cream.
3. Scrape into a freezer container or a large loaf tin, cover with cling film and freeze until solid

Delicious with served with chopped nuts and chocolate sauce or any of your favourite toppings

## Competition



**Be in with a chance to win a €50 voucher!**

Where were some of the leaders of the 1916 Rising executed?

- A. Mountjoy Prison
- B. Portlaoise Prison
- C. Killmainham Prison

If you think you know the answer contact Simon Involvement and Action Group c/o Catri O'Kane Simon Communities of Ireland 28 – 30 Exchequer Street, Dublin 2.

Or text your answer to 0877993860

Or email [catri.okane@simoncommunity.com](mailto:catri.okane@simoncommunity.com)

Closing Date 30th September 2016

## Simon Voices Needs You!

We want to hear from you. Please send your personal stories, opinions, poems, pictures or news to Catri O'Kane, Simon Communities of Ireland, St Andrew's House, 28–30 Exchequer Street, Dublin 2 or email to [catri.okane@simoncommunity.com](mailto:catri.okane@simoncommunity.com)

If we publish your entry we will send you €10 phone credit (any network) or voucher, as a small thank you.

We may not be able to publish everything we receive. Thank you to everybody who has sent in a contribution.