

**SPREADING HER TALENT:** Marie teaches classes for County Dublin VEC



# The Poet's Corner

## The Margarine Eaters

*They try to school us in their ways,  
little they know we're in a class of our own;  
we tell peas from beans by pictures on tins.  
Book learning is hard but the old ways are gone,  
kids need reading and writing if they want to survive.  
They could do with a hand. That's why we're here  
hungry to learn for the sake of our young.*

*We unsettle the buffers with our wiful ways;  
they build us tigeens but we still sleep in our vans.  
They can't understand the call of the road  
with the wind in our hair. To up stakes and go  
at the song of a thrush, taste the sweet berries  
where we happen to stop. We long to be free  
to tickle a trout, hear the snap of a twig  
as we sleep under the stars.*

*For our mid-morning break they offer us toast,  
no taste at all from their damned low-fat spreads.  
Oh, for the taste of mouth-watering bread  
hot from the paniki smothered in gold  
then wash it down with strong tea,  
the sun in our face at the side of the road.*

- by Marie Gahan

A poet, journalist and fiction writer, Marie Gahan's work has won national and international awards, appeared in New Irish Writing and was shortlisted for the William Trevor Prize. Her poetry was recently featured in Senior Times. Her debut collection *The Margarine Eaters* was published by Lapwing Press, Belfast in 2009, the title poem of which, won first prize at Writers' Week, Listowel in the same year. A native Dubliner, she lives in Greenhills and facilitates Creative Writing classes for County Dublin VEC. Marie will be reading some of her work in Tallaght Library on Monday, November 21 between 7pm and 8pm. The reading is part of a six week series featuring local writers, with Mae Newman, Áine Lyons and Doreen Duffy also reading on the night. The event is free and no booking is required.

### Glossary of Traveller cant:

- buffer: a member of the settled community.
- tiegen: an individual family housing unit within a halting site.
- paniki: a lidded metal oven with three legs, used for cooking outdoors on an open fire.

## Spain for Over 50s

<b>Costa del Sol</b> 7 nts FULL BOARD 4* fr €455	<b>Majorca</b> 7 nts FULL BOARD 4* fr €480	<b>Catalan Coast</b> 7 nts FULL BOARD 4* fr €445

All prices quoted are per person based on 2 sharing for travel on selected dates in Autumn 2011 - Spring 2012. All offers subject to availability, terms & conditions.



# www.echo.ie is now LIVE

## Echo on Tour



**YOU LITTLE DEVILS** - Manchester United fans Seán and Shay Leonard, along with Mick Adams from Tallaght, brought their favourite local paper to Old Trafford on Saturday for the Premier League game against Sunderland. The game marked Alex Ferguson's 25th season in charge of the Red Devils.

### We're giving away €20 every week!

Are you heading out on a 'Stag' or 'Hen' weekend, or going to the UK for a football match? Maybe you're going on a leisurely weekend away or a big holiday to far-off places. If so, make sure you bring *The Echo on tour*. Send in a photo to news@echo.ie and if we publish it we'll send you €20, just like that!



## WIN an iPad 2

The overall winner will receive an iPad 2 and their artwork will be printed on the Echo Christmas Card, sales proceeds of which will go to Teenline Ireland



### THE Echo Christmas Card Competition



Create, draw or paint a Christmas festive scene. Your artwork could be the chosen image for THE Echo Charity Christmas Card

In association with



The competition is open to all youths aged 13 to 18 from schools, youth projects and all our local areas. Entries must be sent to The Echo, Village Green, Tallaght, Dublin 24. Closing date for all entries is Friday November 18th

AN EXHIBITION OF THE WINNING PIECE, AND ALL OF THE ARTWORK, WILL BE ON DISPLAY IN THE SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY LIBRARY FROM DECEMBER 12TH - 17TH (MONDAY TO SATURDAY 10AM - 4.30PM)

