



**FULLFILLING AN AMBITION:**  
Doreen Duffy

## The Poet's Corner

**D**oreen Duffy is a part-time writer and full-time mother of three children, the youngest of whom started school during 2008, affording her an opportunity to fulfil a life-long ambition to write creatively. In that same year, Doreen joined a Creative Writing Course in Old Bawn Community School facilitated by Eileen Casey, a course that she would highly recommend to anyone who feels the desire to write.

Doreen's poem, 'Adjust your Mindset' was a winning entry in the South Dublin County Councils Creative Writing Competition for the European Week against Racism in 2009, and this recognition encouraged her to continue. 2010 brought further welcome success in being placed in the City of Dublin Creative Writing Awards, and in the Jonathan Swift Creative Writing Awards. Her poetry has been published in the Senior Times magazine and her short story 'The Round Tower' appeared in the anthology 'South of the County: New Myths and Tales' published in November of that same year.

In January, this year Doreen successfully completed an online Poetry course with Oxford University. This course introduced her to a wide range of poems and poetic techniques and enabled her to gain a deeper appreciation of how poetry works. She was also delighted to hear that her entry 'Bluebird' was shortlisted in the Fish Flash Fiction Competition. Doreen will be reading from her work at the Tallaght Library readings at 7pm on Monday November 2.

Doreen lives in Clondalkin with her husband Declan, and their children, Alanna, Lauren and Kenny.

### Repair Winter Hands

*Watch as they turn the hands of the clock forward,  
to welcome in the Spring*

*See their tired paleness, nails split and uneven  
older now than the last time when  
they gently creaked the hands of time  
backwards  
when we entered this bleak Winter  
not knowing what was in store*

*A few more lines and veins,  
a little more pronounced,  
a little more like my mother's.*

*That's okay, if my Winter hands can be as  
strong as hers and carry as many burdens  
but still know how to reach out  
and touch and pass the cup of tea  
that warms out the coldness of fear*

*and placed upon an arm lend  
the lightest pressure that lets me know  
she's always there*

*If my hands have learned this skill then I am  
happy  
Winter or Summer.*

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## Echo on Tour



The ECHO newspaper turns up in the most unusual places and this time it was to be found in the Lithuanian Embassy, courtesy of one of our local readers Jackie Fahy from Millbrook Lawns. Jackie was on a tour in Lithuania with Blayne Blades International. The Blayne Blades, from Castleblayne, Co Monaghan is a women's group committed to supporting the development of women and their families, so that they may play an active role in their communities.

The Irish Ambassador to Lithuania, Philomena Murnaghan, invited the women to meet with her at the embassy in Vilnius and it was there that Jackie took the opportunity to have a quick catch up on what is happening at home with a glance at The Echo. The women were very fortunate that they spent five days in Eglé + Spa in Druskininkai which is 126km south of Vilnius situated in a beautiful forest. Jackie really enjoyed her trip to Lithuania and hopes to return sometime soon to see more of the beautiful country.



## 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



1800 833 634



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)

