

# South Dublin Senior Citizens Club Holiday



Paddy and Ria Stuart in the Hudson Bay Hotel, Athlone recently



Breda Myles and Betty Casey having a ball at the SDSC Holiday in Athlone



Clare Eccles, Margaret Smith and Peggy Byrne in The Hudson Bay Hotel



Snow White and friends having a ball



Dancing the night away

## The Poets Corner

### BIO –MICHAEL J. WHELAN

Michael J. Whelan is a local writer, poet and historian based in Old Bawn Tallaght. He holds a Master of Arts degree in Modern History from NUI Maynooth and has written on local, national and military history topics for the An Cosantoir Magazine, the Defence Forces Review as well as many other publications.

He has been appointed by the Defence Forces Chief of Staff to the editorial committee of the 1916 commemoration in 2006, United Nations 50th Anniversary in 2008 and the 50th Anniversary of the Congo Airlift of Irish troops from Baldonnel Aerodrome in 2010, where he works as curator of the Air Corps Museum.

He writes regularly on Irish military and aviation history and heritage and was a winner of the 'Paul Tissandier Diploma' awarded by the Federation Aeronautique Internationale in 2010 as a result of this work. His first book 'The Battle of Jadotville: Irish Soldiers in Combat in the Congo 1961' was published by South Dublin Libraries (2006) as was his latest book 'Allegiances Compromised: Ex British Soldiers in the Irish Army 1913-1924' (2011). Michael's poetry has been published in *The Echo*, *The Moth* literary

magazines and *Cyphers Magazine* (Nov'2011). Most recently Michael was named 'Joint Second' place in the prestigious Patrick Kavanagh International Poetry Award 2011 for his collection titled 'Against The Black Sky, We Listen: An Irish Peacekeepers Poems'.

He has been a member of the Virginia House Creative Writers Group, which is facilitated by Maria Wallace for the last three years and more recently Platform 1 Writers Group under Eileen Casey, both of whom are Hennessy Award winners.

He will be reading from his work at County Library, Tallaght, on Monday November 5th at 7pm as part of the Literary Conversation sessions - a programme which sees local writers read their work every second Monday from 7pm to 8pm in the County Library. All welcome, no booking required.

### PEACEKEEPING

*Soldiers, when they start peacekeeping are careful to spend time remembering*

*to fill magazines with bullets, secure body armour to their chests,*

*check orders and rules of engagement, load silent weapons behind casements,*

*gauge the temperament of warring peoples, scan the terrain in front of their vehicles,*

*and steel themselves for another day before venturing again into the fray.*

Michael J. Whelan



Post Michael J. Whelan

### echo on tour



FAME AT LAST: Pat Farrell from Tymon North reading his favourite paper while he was on holiday on Broadway, New York, USA in September. Don't forget to send your 'Echo on Tour' photos to news@echo.ie