

# Appeal To Carrigaline Community

A longstanding friendship between Elaine, Martha and Nyiel began over twenty years ago when they became neighbours at the University of Juba Southern Sudan; where each of their husbands were university lecturers. All three young wives were strangers to the Equatoria Region of Sudan and bonded in an effort to help each other adjust to the environment of Juba. Elaine taught her friends to grow western vegetables while they

taught her to grow peanut and okra. She also taught them how to make things like cakes and beef burgers. When Martha procured a sewing machine, Martha embarked on making their clothes. Not all their efforts were successful and Elaine recounts the fiasco of her pressure cooker exploding over the roofs of their houses. She was attempting to make lime marmalade outside on an open fire! She devised an alarm system to warn her when goats

tried to invade her vegetable garden but her alarm proved ineffective when machete-wielding locals cut her vegetable garden to the ground in search of a snake. She thanks St Patrick that this isn't going to happen to her garden at Ballea Castle.

Though the three ladies kept in close contact over the decades it was in sadness, after the sudden death of Martha's husband, that they met this time at Ballea Castle. Martha is founding a memorial hospital for Southern Sudan, in the name of Doctor Stephan. The initial phase is for six eight-bedded wards: male, female, geriatric, paediatric, maternity, and intensive care. As this is to be a teaching hospital there are plans for lecture rooms and of course an outpatient department, operating theatre, imaging room and dispensary.

There is an urgent need for this medical facility as any previous facilities were destroyed in the war and hundreds die every day for lack of medical assistance. Southern Sudan is now at peace and in desperate need of help. Martha is hoping that the community of Carrigaline will provide the backing for a couple of the wards. Were a family to back a ward then the ward would carry the name of that family and the family would be able to visit and monitor its success. Anyone who would like to help in this project should contact Elaine Rhys-Davies at Ballea Castle. The hospital is not just looking for money, anything such as



Nyiel Kuol, of Ballea Writers Carrigaline, at her graduation at the University of Limerick where, on the 29th August, she received a Masters in Business Studies. Elaine Rhys-Davies, of Ballea Castle, attended the graduation with Anghel Nhal, Awor Aguer, Awor Biong and daughter Elizabeth. All of the African ladies are from Southern Sudan.



Martha Chol Terbai, widow of the late Doctor Stephan Chol Terbai, accompanied by Nyiel Kuol on a visit to Ballea Castle Carrigaline.

crutches, medical beds, sheets, bandages, syringes, drugs etc would be most gratefully received. When thinking about the construction of the hospital Martha wanted to know what mortar mix had been used in the building of Ballea Castle that had proved indestructible in comparison to other castles of similar ages that had undergone similar attacks? Archaeological records provided a surprising answer; the 'secret ingredient' in the mix was fresh oxen-blood. As Martha is Dinka and Dinka are cattle herders we can watch this space! It may seem incongruous that, as an aspiring writer,

Nyiel took her masters degree in Business rather than Literature but as Ballea Writers tell everyone who attends our workshops, successful writers recognise that writing is as much a business as any other business. Prior to her masters Nyiel graduated with a Bachelors in Management with Accounting from the University of Wales, Bangor. These qualifications will enable Nyiel to further support and assist Martha in the hospital project and other possible projects in the rebuilding of Southern Sudan. Nyiel is an administrator in the University of Limerick where she is a coordinator for formative

teaching evaluation. Part of her role is to analyse the questionnaire feedback that students give on their lecturers and write the reports. This data enables the teaching performance of the university lecturers to be monitored and enhanced and is a process that could be adapted for use in the new teaching hospital in Sudan. The community wish the ladies success in their endeavours.

## Coastal Theme at Crosshaven Exhibition

An exhibition of paintings which is currently on display in Crosshaven has used a large variety of subject matter as inspiration, but the theme is very much based on the sea. Seagulls, oystercatchers, views of the harbour, and children at play on the beach – all are the subjects of this collection of new watercolours and gouache paintings by Myrtleville-based artist, Mandy Dale. Visitors will recognize many familiar views such as the beach at Myrtleville or the lighthouse at Roches' Point, but other paintings depict hidden corners of our local surroundings. A viewing is highly recommended, and is sure to keep those summer memories alive for another while.

The exhibition runs until 23rd September at Thecla's Gallery & Craft Shop, Crosshaven. (Opening hours: Tues to Sat 1.00-5.30 & Sun 2.00-5.30)



One of the paintings by Mandy Dale being exhibited in Crosshaven



Olive Sheehan, pictured at the Lions Club Week in Trabolgan. Olive got into the final of the Cecil Vard Talent Competition, representing the Carrigaline Senior Citizens, having gone through two heats on her way to the final.

www.balleawriters.com