

CLOSE THE WICKET GATE

By Johanna O'Mahony Walters

Set around the Kilmichael Bar, in rural Bandon, Co. Cork, this is an extraordinary book about people living ordinary lives - the rascal, the teacher, the farmer, the sporting hero - people who make up the backbone of society. Life might have appeared sleepy on the outside, but a day never passed without some excitement.

The Kilmichael or the Bar K as it is called in the book was unique in that the characters who gathered there to argue, laugh and sing together came from backgrounds as diverse as the British Army, Old IRA, RIC, Irish Army and those 'who fought Spain'.

Some of the stories beggar belief; Thomas who at the age of twelve left home to join the Royal Navy and spent 40 years at sea in everything from mine sweepers to the QE2, but could never come home in uniform. Pat who was deloused along with hundreds of other young Irish boys at 'The Globe Hotel' before sailing for England and a lifetime of work with the Ford Motor Co.

A fantastic book and compelling reading. Well written and thought provoking. A great insight into the lives of the ordinary people of an Ireland left behind.

About the Author:

Johanna O'Mahony was born in the Kilmichael Bar in Bandon in 1946, the third of six children. She entered the Convent of Mercy Kinsale in October 1965 - the year of her Leaving Cert. In 1974 she left the convent and spent some time working in the Kilmichael Bar before going to Wales and a teaching job in Milford Haven.