

# Penelope's first novel delves into her dreams

KENMARE poet, writer and playwright Penelope Thoms has delved into her dreams to help pen her first novel, *Seanchai*.

The Illinois born author who moved to Kenmare in 2000 has published a story steeped in Irish lore as it explores women's identities through main character Brigid, an orphan who has life-shifting discoveries.

Penelope says the ideas came to her in a series of dreams. "I would wake in the middle of the night called by the voices that needed to speak - the midwife, the husband and the wife," she explains.

She wrote a monologic play, 'A Midnight's Tale' from the experience which was produced in the US but wanted to develop the characters further. That's when *Seanchai* emerged and it uses the character of Brigid to bind the story together.

The origins of the story



**Penelope Thoms**

should come as no surprise to those who know Penelope whose first book in 2006, 'Thin the Veil: Living and Dying within Celtic Spirituality', was about fairies, banshees, druids, magic circles, tombs and more.

Penelope launches *Seanchai* at The Carnegie Arts Centre this Friday, January 23, at 6pm. Copies will be available for signing and purchase.