

# Tuosist writer's second book launched

**The second book and the first novel written by Penelope Thoms of Tuosist, Seanchaí, was launched at the Carnegie Arts Centre in Kenmare on Friday evening.**

*Thin the Veil, Living and Dying within Celtic Spirituality* is a work of non-fiction which was published in 2006 and reflected Penny's own experiences. She also wrote a play, "a very dark piece" called *New Year's Tale* and *Seanchaí* is an extension of this.

In it, the central character, Brigid, begins to explore her own identity while making a number of significant discoveries about herself.

Penny and her husband Stephen Johnson came to Kerry twelve years ago. She became engaged with hospices when coping with her own mother's illness and death, and subsequently embraced the approach wholeheartedly. She earned herself a master's degree in

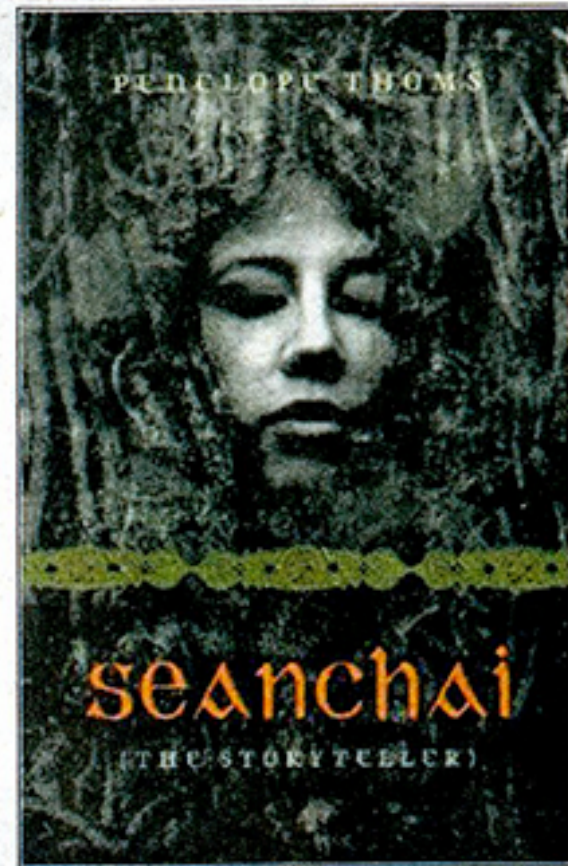
Celtic Spirituality and also qualified in divinity and now works as a hospice chaplain.

She and Stephen, who worked with various newspapers and in public relations in the US, settled in an old stone cottage at Derrylough, Tuosist, and this beautiful location has lent the tranquility and inspiration for her to pursue her writing.

"I listened to the tales told by the 'ole wans' of black dogs, banshees and mysterious white women – all agents of death foretold.

"These stories were believed and related as true as the Irish rain and the double rainbows," Penny said.

With Stephen organising the posters and the invitations, there were over 60



people at the launch of the book on Friday, Senator Mark Daly and Cllr. Patrick Connor Scarteen among them.

Penny invokes an old saying. "When you stand by the tomb of others, you evoke madness or poetry." *Seanchaí* is available in the shops around Kenmare and is also on offer in all forms on Amazon.