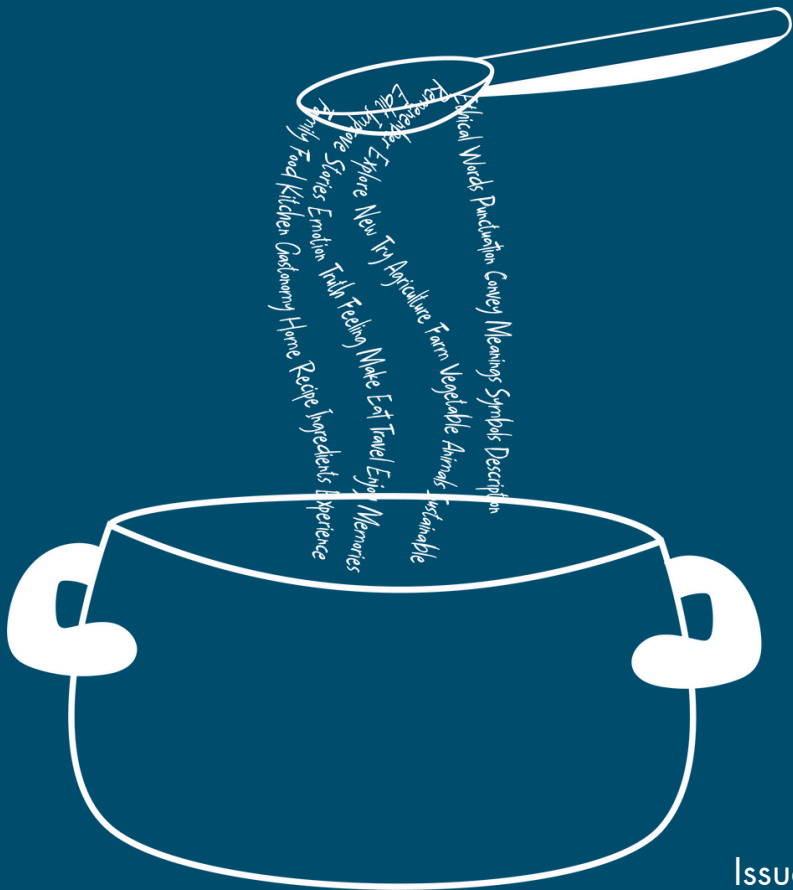


Stirring Words

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Issue 1
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***Stirring Words* – Editorial**

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Welcome to the first edition of *Stirring Words*, the new literary journal dedicated to creative writing about food, based at the Technological University Dublin. Collected in this first issue are sixteen stories and a poem that have food at their heart. Some are funny, some are bittersweet, but all have in common that they see food as a prism to look at places, times and people – including the authors themselves.

Food contains and reflects many emotions and social facts in real life. Foods, dishes and beverages are rooted in cultural traditions, localities and personal histories. Food reflects landscape, history, politics and culture. We celebrate with food, console through food, remember through food, travel with and through food, and may even fight through food. We love through food. As such, it is no surprise that we can access even long-forgotten emotions through remembering and imagining food, dishes, meals, kitchens, dining rooms, cooks and eaters.

The central position of food (and drink) in these stories is not incidental, but very much intentional. The journal branches out of the [MA Gastronomy and Food Studies](#) at the Technological University Dublin, and all but two stories have grown from seeds that were first planted in the module Food Writing and Media in that postgraduate course. In this module, we study published writing – fictional, nonfictional and poetic – as well as practising our own creative writing about and through food.

For many of the authors in this edition, this would have been the first time to foray into creative writing. But all contributors share a

sophisticated understanding of the way that food connects people to each other, to places and to the wider community. As such, food proved to be a powerful tool to explore their own creative imagination through storytelling.

Writing is knowing. Writing is a way to keep alive and share emotions and memories. There may be fifteen or so students in the class each year, but we are quickly joined by a supporting cast of parents, grandparents, friends, lovers, siblings and the occasional chicken that we get to know as we work through exercises and later workshop the first draft of the stories together.

The MA Gastronomy and Food Studies takes a broad view of its object of scholarly activity – including not only material food and drink items but importantly also the spaces, people and activities around food and drink, from field to table, from policy to literature, from history to tourism, from branding to pedagogy. This inclusive perspective is reflected in the stories told in this issue.

Some transport us to a different place – **Carol Keating** takes us to the Greek island of Hydra, where there are no cars, donkeys are the main mode of mobility and rosé tastes of perfect afternoons. We travel around South America with **Sarah Ormond**, whose story reminds us that often we travel to encounter ourselves, as well as some pretty good ice cream. **Lynda Pasmore** brings us along on a bus ride in 1990s South Africa, showing how people connected through consumer items as the country was finding itself as a post-Apartheid society. **Jenny Lyons** finds both grief and solace through a gift of gazpacho on a camping trip in Spain.

Stories allow us to travel back in time, to a childhood in Ireland with **Karen Burns** and her grandparents, or in Venezuela with **Darianna**

Molina and some of her earliest food memories. **Sandra Ní Leathlobhair** portrays her stylish grandmother through food, while **Aisling Moyles** remembers her mother through fairy cakes eaten, but never baked. **Nan Xiang** explores the meaning of friendship through cooking in a Dutch student apartment.

From other stories we learn how to prepare, or not to prepare, food. **Andy Shilling** provides us with a recipe for pasta, and love (though not all recipes are successful). **Beth Boodhoo** explains how to safeguard our (artichoke) hearts after a breakup, while **Áine Budds** poetically reminds us that bottled feelings may have a use-by date, too. **Jane Sevastopulo** shows us the pitfalls of killing a lobster in one's kitchen. **Emma Sweeney** convinces us that the best eggs come from a flamboyant cast of chickens.

Or we may step into the shoes of food professionals, as we spend a morning in the kitchen with chef **Shannean Gormley**, or trace the origins of an iconic Dublin restaurant to a potato field in Leitrim (via Venezuela) with **Pádraic Óg Gallagher**.

Finally, you may also re-create some of the flavours from the stories through the recipes included, for gazpacho (recipe offered by **Jenny Lyons**), koeksisters – a South African speciality (**Charmonix de Vries**), bollitos (**Darianna Molina**) or Sichuan chili oil (**Nan Xiang**).

The editor of this first issue of *Stirring Words* is Darianna Molina, and a special thanks must go to her not only for putting this issue together but also for the decisive impulse to give life to the journal. The creative writings from the Food Writing and Media module were initially published on a blog, but a more representative format has been long overdue, and it has been Darianna's initiative that set this in motion. Starting with this inaugural issue, *Stirring Words* will publish the creative

writing from the MA Gastronomy and Food Studies annually, while collecting the works from previous years in periodical retrospective issues. Congratulations to Darianna and all contributors on making this first issue a reality.

Now, pull up a chair and let us tell you a story...

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anke Klitzing', with a stylized, cursive script.

Anke Klitzing – Editor-in-chief



All adventures start somewhere
By Aitor Romero



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Stirring Words is a literary magazine dedicated to imaginative food writing, rooted in the Gastronomy and Food Studies at TU Dublin.

Stirring Words is published online in line with open access policies. We do not seek payment for accessing the material, nor do we provide or seek payment for publishing. We do not currently take open submissions, though this may become part of our publishing strategy in the future.

<https://arrow.tudublin.ie/stirringwords/>

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