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Author's debut goes to the dogs

SALES of an Irish author's first novel have gone to the dogs — literally!

Co. Kildare native Yvonne Fitzpatrick-Grimes, a mother of four who has been living in Weybridge, Surrey for the past 30 years, spent four years writing her first tome entitled Dirty Dublin.

It finally hit the shelves last month and the Irish woman, who is in her 50s, has decided to donate half of all sale proceeds to canine charity Dogs for the Disabled.

Yvonne explained: "The freedom, companionship, dignity and independence that Dogs for the Disabled brings, unconditionally, to others is beyond words."

Dirty Dublin is a fictional work which Yvonne worked long and hard on to complete after attending creative writing classes in her adopted home in Weybridge.

Although originally from Leixlip in Kildare, Yvonne chose 1950s Dublin as the backdrop for the book — which tells the tale of a pair of young two women with opposite morals, the saucy experiences of the Bishop of Dublin and encounters with a pair of the capital's more colourful prostitutes!

The author explained: "Dirty Dublin seemed to just grow organically, gathering a pace of its own. There were days when I wrote for 14 and 15 hours and some scenes felt like they were written in blood but the whole process took about four years."

And while the story is one of fiction rather than fact Yvonne admits the inspiration for some of its parts came from an experience of her own as a child, when — while visiting a Dublin church — she witnessed a very real pair of prostitutes traipsing through the pews during the blessing.

"They hadn't a spare ounce of fear or shame between them and at the time I didn't know what they were," Yvonne admits. "But I knew that they were beholden to neither God nor man."

■ Dirty Dublin costs £7.99 and is available on www.amazon.co.uk ISBN 9781849237956 Fifty per cent of all royalties will be donated to www.dogsforthe-disabled.org