



WEST CORK LITERARY FESTIVAL

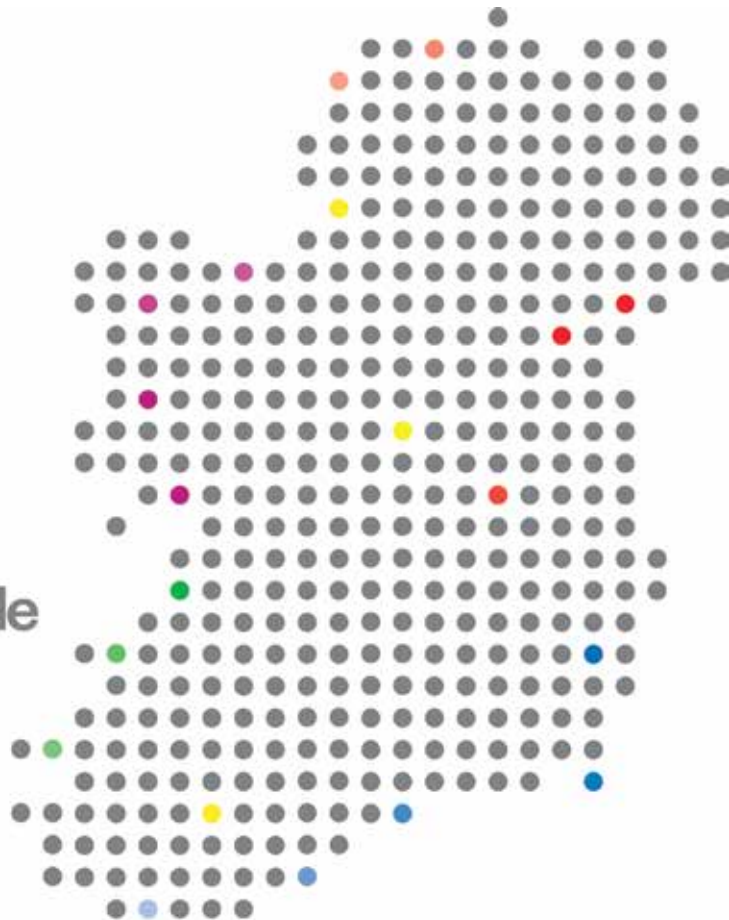
Bantry / Friday 12 – Friday 19 July 2019

readings / workshops / seminars / children's events



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WELCOME TO THE 2019 WEST CORK LITERARY FESTIVAL

Once again I am so excited to share with you some of the incredible writers whose work we have relished over the past year. We have put together an eclectic mix of new discoveries and old favourites, Irish and international writers, novelists, poets, food writers, essayists, historians, short story writers, memoirists, writers for children and young people.

We are always delighted to introduce new writers and those who have just published their first novel or collection and it seems like the past year has been an incredible time for debut writers with so many exciting writers joining the literary stage. We also encourage emerging writers through our five-day writing workshops, professional learning seminars and the opportunity to participate in our open mic sessions so whether you are a reader or a writer there should be plenty in the festival to engage and inspire you.

Huge thanks to the board of West Cork Music and the festival team who work so hard year-round to bring three world-class festivals to Bantry – West Cork Chamber Music Festival, Masters of Tradition and West Cork Literary Festival. We couldn't do it without the additional staff and volunteers who come aboard at festival time and who make it all seem so effortless. It is a pleasure to work with all of you and to be part of this very special festival.

West Cork is one of the most beautiful places in the world and it is a joy to present a literary festival in such magnificent and inspiring surroundings. Thank you to the town of Bantry for their support of the festival and in particular the venues (both on and off the mainland!), accommodation

providers, restaurants and bars who do so much to make our writers and our audiences feel welcome and to make sure that everyone has an unforgettable West Cork experience. Special thanks as always to our principal funders the Arts Council, Cork County Council, EU Creative Europe programme and Fáilte Ireland as well as O'Keeffe's SuperValu and UCC.

Earlier this year Margaret O'Neill of Bantry Bookshop retired after sixteen years and the bookshop has two new owners Marney Smyth Fischer and Kate Fischer. We are so delighted that our town still has such a fabulous bookshop and we wish Marney and Kate every success. We owe such gratitude to Margaret and we hope she has a long and happy retirement – with plenty of time for reading!

The festival wouldn't exist without our audiences and the support that you give to the festival and the writers by continuing to buy tickets and books. Do come along to see your favourite writers and to discover new favourites. It'll be a hectic week of readings, workshops, seminars and family events so we also hope to get out into the West Cork summer for a spot of yoga on the lawn, a walk or a dip in the sea.

Biggest thanks of all go to our writers. Whether it is your first visit or your sixth we hope that you have a wonderful time in West Cork. Thank you so much for sharing your work and your ideas with us.

Eimear O'Herlihy, *Festival Director*



A Message from Cork County Library & Arts Service

West Cork is an area that nurtures a wide variety of creativity from sculpture to jewellery-making from painting to pottery, from photography to leather craft. This area is the home to poets, novelists, bloggers, writers, a diversity of people who make their keyboards do magic. It is, therefore very appropriate that West Cork has for 21 years hosted this annual celebration of these word magicians who come to share their skills, their ideas, their experiences and their information with readers, writers and aspiring writers alike.

Our Library service, our staff and our parent authority, Cork County Council are always very proud to support the Festival in every way possible. We are particularly proud that our library in Bantry is one of the central venues for the events and activities of the Festival. A good library looks for opportunities to give literature an added value and enhance the reader's experience. This enhancement is exactly what the West Cork Literary Festival is all about. The Festival has provided thousands of readers and writers with extraordinary insights into literature and poetry, experiences of skilful and inspired writing and has given many aspiring writers the craft and the confidence to face the empty page and write.

The programme speaks for itself, and rather than mentioning particular authors, I would like to welcome

them all and recommend that people experience as wide a variety of events and workshops as possible.

The Festival has been a success for many reasons but the most important one is the people who are so committed to making it work. Thank you to the very skilled and hardworking Eimear O'Herlihy and the staff of West Cork Music, to the County Arts Office for the support, the advice and the promotion work, thank you to the staff of Bantry Library who are tireless in their commitment to the Festival, and to the Library HQ team.

Volunteers and Sponsors are the vital wheels that make a huge festival like this a success, we congratulate you on your vision in seeing the value of the West Cork Literary Festival and your hard work in making it a success.

A special word of welcome to all of you who will attend over the week: we hope you will enjoy your week in beautiful Bantry, that you will leave relaxed and inspired and like many other patrons, return again next year.

Bernie Wallace, *Acting County Librarian*
Cork County Library and Arts Service



Photo: Danielle Delaney

THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVAL

ALL WEEK / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE

EXHIBITION: **FREE MARKET**

Free Market aims to highlight the generosity, humanity and possibility in the common spaces of market towns. Exhibition of student projects from Cork Centre for Architectural Education, that investigate and provide proposals for the public spaces of the town of Bantry.

Join us for a Free Market discussion on Friday 19 at 5pm, see page 34 for details.

ALL WEEK / ORGANICO CAFÉ / FREE / 24 JUNE – 3 AUGUST

EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS:

ANGELA FEWER: ETERNAL SEA

Our brochure cover this year is *Eternal Sea* by **Angela Fewer**. Angela qualified as an architect and then went to Crawford College of Art & Design as a mature student. She spends a great deal of time on Heir Island and her work is influenced by the relationship between land and sea.

ALL WEEK / ORGANICO CAFÉ / FREE

THE WEST CORK LETTER CAFÉ

The ping of an email will never sound as sweet as the sight of a handwritten envelope. Come along to the Letter Café and take the time to write that letter to let someone know that you're thinking of them. We provide complimentary stationery and pens all week. All you have to do is provide the words.

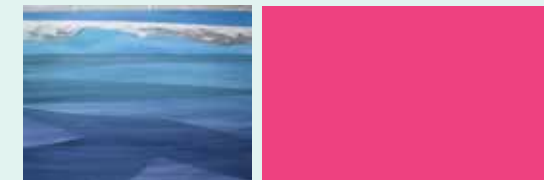
Join us for an Ellen Hutchins event on Monday, see page 16 for details



Above: Angela Fewer, *Rock Pool*, acrylic on canvas, 74 x 114 cms

THIS YEAR'S COVER ART

Angela Fewer, *Eternal Sea*, Acrylic on Canvas, 26 x 45 cms. © 2019. Courtesy of the artist.





Left to right; Sorcha Pollak Photo: Patrick Redmond, Flavia Camejo, Bulelani Mfaco & Malak Bouod

FRIDAY 12 JULY / 13.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE

NEW TO THE PARISH**SORCHA POLLAK, FLAVIA CAMEJO, BULELANI MFAO & MALAK BOUOD**

New to the Parish is an ongoing series of stories published in the *Irish Times* by journalist **Sorcha Pollak** and fourteen of these stories were published in the book *New to the Parish*. These are the stories of people who have come to Ireland for work, education, retirement, love and in some cases, out of necessity, forced from their homes by death and destruction. They are an important reminder that every migrant is a human being, and that every one of us has a story to tell. Join Sorcha for a conversation with three of the people whose stories she has shared with readers – **Flavia Camejo** from Venezuela, **Bulelani Mfaco** from South Africa and **Malak Bouod** from Libya.

FRIDAY 12 JULY / 18.30 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE

OPENING RECEPTION OF THE 21st WEST CORK LITERARY FESTIVAL

Join us as we welcome audience members, workshop participants, festival sponsors and supporters and of course the writers who will be with us over the course of the week. The **J.G. Farrell Fiction Award**, for the best opening chapter of a novel-in-progress by a writer resident in Munster, will be presented during the launch.

Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union

FRIDAY 12 / 20.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €25

AN EVENING WITH **MARY ROBINSON**

Mary Robinson's book *Climate Justice: Hope, Resilience, and the Fight for a Sustainable Future* is a powerful and hopeful manifesto for justice on the most pressing humanitarian issue of our time, told through the stories of incredible women fighting for change

Holding her first grandchild in her arms in 2003, she was struck by the uncertainty of the world he had been born into. Before his fiftieth birthday, he would share the planet with more than nine billion people – people battling for food, water and shelter in an increasingly volatile climate. The faceless, shadowy menace of climate change had become, in an instant, deeply personal.

Mary's mission would lead her all over the world, from Malawi to Mongolia, and to a heartening revelation: that the agents of change in the battle for climate justice at grassroots level were women, many of them mothers and grandmothers like herself. From Sharon Hanshaw, the Mississippi matriarch whose campaign began in her East Biloxi hair salon and culminated in her speaking at the United Nations, to Constance Okollet, a small farmer who transformed the fortunes of

her ailing community in rural Uganda, Robinson met with ordinary people whose resilience and ingenuity had already unlocked extraordinary change.

'This is a book about people: farmers and activists in Africa, Asia, and the Americas, people whose livelihood is ruined by climate change and climate injustice. Yet it is also a celebration of their fight back. I was moved by Mary Robinson's account of amazing women leading the fight for their communities.' Mo Ibrahim

Mary Robinson is President of the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice. She served in two capacities as the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Climate Change. She is the former President of Ireland and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and is now a member of The Elders and the Club of Madrid. In 2009, she was awarded the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom. *Climate Justice: Hope, Resilience, and the Fight for a Sustainable Future* was published by Bloomsbury in October 2018.



Mary Robinson Photo: Mary Robinson Foundation

SATURDAY 13 / 9.30 / BANTRY HOUSE / €10 / Age: 15+

YOGA ON THE LAWN

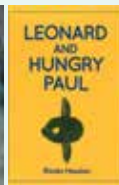
Join us for the perfect morning wake up! **Aileen Kingerlee** has been practicing Yoga since her twenties, completing her teacher training in 2006. She is an Iyengar yoga teacher and spent several years in India deepening her asana practice and philosophy of Yoga. This 75-minute drop-in class will be suitable for all levels. Please wear comfortable clothes and bring your own yoga mat with you. Weather permitting the class will take place on the front lawn in Bantry House (with a bad weather Plan B) but do check our social media the day before for weather updates.

SATURDAY 13 / 11.30 / BANTRY BOOKSHOP / FREE

RÓNÁN HESSION:

Leonard And Hungry Paul is the hilarious and moving story of two friends who ordinarily would remain uncelebrated – it prompts the idea that maybe we could learn from the people that we overlook in life.

'Spectacular – already feels like a cult classic.' Donal Ryan



Rónán Hession is an award-winning musician and writer. He wrote and recorded music as Mumblin' Deaf Ro and was nominated for a Choice Music Award. He lives in Dublin. *Leonard And Hungry Paul* is his first book and it was published by Bluemoose Books.

Rónán Hession Photo: Barry Delaney

SATURDAY 13 / 13.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE

THOMAS MCCARTHY & MARY NOONAN

Prophecy, the new collection by **Thomas McCarthy** (Carcaret Press, 2019) dwells on childhood memory, romantic love and the varieties of human attachment. There are poems on illness and recovery, ageing and creativity.

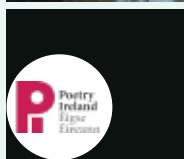
'The most important Irish poet of his generation.' Dennis O'Driscoll

Thomas McCarthy was born in Cappelquin, Co. Waterford in 1954. A poet, essayist and novelist, his collections of verse include *The First Convention*, *The Sorrow Garden* and *Pandemonium*. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Patrick Kavanagh Award and the Alice Hunt Bartlett Prize.

The poems in **Mary Noonan's** second collection *Stone Girl* (Dedalus Press, 2019) are beguiled by the fascination of stone, especially stone statues of women, and they are set in the poet's native Cork and Paris.

'Every Noonan poem ... begs to be read aloud for its sonic delights as well as its strange and original visual tapestry.' Martina Evans

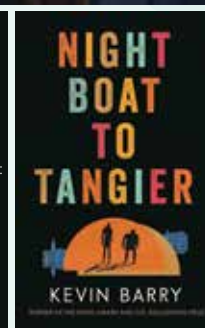
Mary Noonan was born in London, and was brought up in Cork, where she now works as a lecturer in French literature at University College Cork. Her first collection, *The Fado House* was shortlisted for both the Seamus Heaney Prize and the Strong/Shine Award.



Clockwise from top left: Thomas McCarthy

Kevin Barry Photo: Fergal Phillips

Mary Noonan Photo: Linda Ibbotson



SATURDAY 13 / 13.30 / WHIDDY ISLAND / €25 (Includes Return Ferry Trip)

KEVIN BARRY

It's late one night at the Spanish port of Algeciras and two fading Irish gangsters are waiting on the boat from Tangier. A lover has been lost, a daughter has gone missing, their world has come asunder – can it be put together again?

Kevin Barry's brand new novel *Night Boat to Tangier* is drenched in sex and death and narcotics, in sudden violence and old magic, but it is obsessed, above all, with the mysteries of love. A tragicomic masterwork from a multi-award-winning writer, *Night Boat to Tangier* is both mordant and hilarious, lyrical yet laden with menace. And it even features trips to Cork city and Berehaven.

'A bloody mighty novel. It's audacious, but also it's Kevin Barry at his most tender.'

Lisa McNerney

Kevin Barry is the author of the novels *Beatlebone* and *City of Bohane* and two short story collections. He was awarded the Rooney Prize in 2007 and won the *Sunday Times* EFG Short Story Prize in 2012. His second novel *Beatlebone* won the Goldsmiths Prize and was shortlisted for the Irish Book Awards. *Night Boat to Tangier* is published in June 2019.

WHIDDY ISLAND TALK AND FESTIVAL WALK

Tim O'Leary, Whiddy native and local postman, publican and farmer, will give a talk about Whiddy Island (15.15) and will lead us on a guided walk up to the Battery (15.40 to 16.20). The talk is included in the Kevin Barry ticket but a fee of €5 will apply for the guided walk.

The ferry leaves Bantry Pier for Whiddy Island at 13.30 sharp. It will leave Whiddy at 16.00 to return to Bantry (after the reading & Whiddy talk). A smaller ferry will depart Whiddy at 16.30 (after the Festival Walk).

SATURDAY 13 / 17.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE

CLAIRE ADAM & JING-JING LEE: BRILLIANT DEBUTS

Claire Adam's *Golden Child* follows the lives of a family in Trinidad as they navigate impossible choices about scarcity, loyalty and love. A boy has not returned home and a family anxiously awaits.

'This book manages to combine ... a sensitive depiction of family life and the ... urgency of a thriller.' **The Guardian**

Claire Adam was born and raised in Trinidad. She read Physics at Brown University and Creative Writing at Goldsmiths, University of London. She has strong Irish connections. She lives in London.

Jing-Jing Lee's *How We Disappeared* opens in Singapore, 1942. Japanese troops ransack a village, leaving only two survivors and one tiny child. In a neighbouring village, seventeen-year-old Wang Di is forced into sexual slavery in a Japanese military brothel. In the year 2000, Kevin hears a surprising confession from his grandmother.

Jing-Jing Lee was born and raised in Singapore. She obtained a master's degree in Creative Writing from Oxford in 2011, and has since seen her poetry and short stories published in various journals and anthologies. She currently lives in Amsterdam.

SATURDAY 13 / 18.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €16

STEPHEN JAMES SMITH

Stephen James Smith is a Dublin poet and playwright central to the rise of the vibrant spoken word scene in Ireland today. His poetry videos have amassed over 2.5 million views. In 2017 he was commissioned by St. Patrick's Festival to write a new poem as a 'Celebratory Narrative' of Ireland. The resultant piece *My Ireland* is accompanied by a short film which has been viewed over 300,000 times and was screened at the London Film Festival. Stephen has performed on the Late Late Show and at Electric Picnic, Other Voices, National Concert Hall in Dublin, The Barbican in London, Vicar Street, the London Palladium and Glastonbury Festival. His debut collection *Fear Not* was published by Arlen House in 2018.

'Passionate, witty, just plain great; this man's voice hops right off the page.' **Roddy Doyle**

'New Irish Poetry Urgently Needed... Stephen James Smith answers the call!' **Christy Moore**

Claire Adam Photo: Tricia Keracher-Summerfield



Jing Jing Lee Photo: Aline Bouma



SATURDAY 13 / 20.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €20

AN EVENING with AISLING: EMER MC LYSAGHT & SARAH BREEN

The Importance of Being Aisling (Gill, 2018) is **Emer McLysaght** and **Sarah Breen's** fabulous follow up to *Oh My God, What A Complete Aisling*. The Aisling character was conceived by Emer and Sarah in their Stoneybatter flat share in 2008 when they pulled together the many traits, characteristics and quirks of a very particular type of Irish girl; one they identified around them and one they identified with. Like them, Aisling is from the country and trying to make her way as an adult in the big bad world, with her regular trips 'Down Home' to see Mammy, her love of going 'Out Out' for a big night in Coppers and her attempts to keep within her Weight Watchers points allowance each day.

'Hilariously funny, but often very moving too.' **John Boyne**

'Incredibly funny, warm, fabulous, how do they do it?' **Marian Keyes**

Authors and best friends, writing duo Emer McLysaght and Sarah Breen have come a long way since they co-wrote *OMGWACA* in Sarah's children's playroom and they are now working with Element Pictures to bring this first novel to the silver screen.

With more than ten years' experience in broadcasting and journalism, Co. Kildare native **Emer McLysaght** wasn't sure if she'd ever get around to writing that book. Emer lives in Dublin and has somehow ended up with three cats.

Born and raised in the village of Borris, Co. Carlow, **Sarah Breen** started her career in journalism at *KTSS* magazine. Since then her writing has appeared in many Irish print publications, as well as online. Sarah lives in Dublin 7 with her husband and three children, and dreams of the day Oasis will reunite.

Sarah Breen & Emer McLysaght Photo: Al Higgins Stephen James Smith Photo: Babs Daly Grace Photography

SUNDAY 14 / 12.30 / FUTURE FORESTS / €18

MARK BOYLE

The Way Home is **Mark Boyle's** tale of his life with no running water, no car, no electricity or any of the things it powers. Just a wooden cabin, on a smallholding in Co. Galway, by the edge of a stand of spruce. Mark explores the hard won joys of building a home with his bare hands, learning to make fire, collecting water from the spring, foraging and fishing. What he finds is an elemental life, one governed by the rhythms of the sun and seasons, where life and death dance in a primal landscape of blood, wood, muck, water, and fire – much the same life we have lived for most of our time on earth.

Mark Boyle is the author of three previous books, which have been translated into over twenty languages. A former business graduate, he has lived entirely without money for three years. **Future Forests** garden centre in Kealkill works to ensure the future of our diverse landscape and environment.



SUNDAY 14 / 15.00 / MARITIME HOTEL / €20

TRACEY THORN

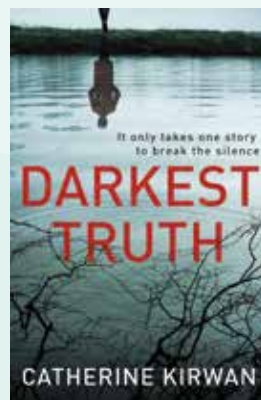
Another Planet is the new memoir about suburban childhood by **Tracey Thorn**, singer-songwriter and *Sunday Times* best-selling author. In a 1970s commuter town, Tracey's teenage life was forged from what failed to happen. Her diaries were packed with entries about not buying things, not going to the disco. Before she was a bestselling musician and writer, she was a typical teenager: bored and cynical, despairing. Returning to the scene of her childhood and with her trademark wit and insight, she reconsiders the greenbelt post-war dream so many artists have mocked, and so many artists have come from.

'Thorn beautifully captures the aspirations, ennui and angst of suburban teenage life.' David Nicholls

Tracey Thorn is a singer-songwriter and writer. After forming her first band, Marine Girls, while still at school, she delivered her breakthrough debut album, *A Distant Shore*, in 1982. She then spent seventeen years in bestselling duo Everything But The Girl. Since 2007 she has released three solo albums, one movie soundtrack and two books, including *Bedsit Disco Queen*. *Another Planet: A Teenager in Suburbia* was published by Canongate in 2019.



Tracey Thorn Photo: Edward Bishop



SUNDAY 14 / 17.00 / BANTRY COURTHOUSE / €18

CATHERINE KIRWAN & CATHERINE RYAN HOWARD

When solicitor Finn Fitzpatrick is approached by a man in Cork city to investigate the death of his daughter, her first instinct is to refuse. The father is grieving, and unable to accept that his daughter committed suicide. And yet something about the man's story chimes with Finn. **Catherine Kirwan's** debut novel *Darkest Truth* is a #MeToo thriller about a suspicious suicide, a predatory film director, and the woman who'll risk anything to bring him to justice. **Catherine Kirwan** grew up on a farm in the parish of Fews, County Waterford. She studied law at UCC and lives in Cork where she works as a solicitor.

Catherine Ryan Howard will give us a sneak preview of her new novel due in September 2019. *Rewind* is the explosive story of a twisted voyeur and a murder caught on camera. This compelling new thriller taps into our worst fears about surveillance, sexual harassment and abuse. **Catherine Ryan Howard** is the best-selling author of two crime novels *Distress Signals* and *The Liar's Girl* which is shortlisted for the Mystery Writers of America's 2019 Edgar Awards. She is from Cork but currently based in Dublin.

From Left; Catherine Kirwan Photo: Kieran O'Connor and Catherine Ryan Howard Photo: Steve Langan

SUNDAY 14 / 18.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €16

JOHN BOYNE & PATRICK GALE

A Ladder to the Sky is John Boyne's new novel about literary ambition and how easy it is to achieve the world if you are prepared to sacrifice your soul. If you look hard enough, you can find stories pretty much anywhere. They don't even have to be your own. Or so would-be writer Maurice Swift decides very early on in his career. A chance encounter in a Berlin hotel with celebrated novelist Erich Ackermann gives him an opportunity to ingratiate himself with someone more powerful than him. For Erich is lonely, and has a story to tell. Whether he should do so or not is another matter entirely.

'An ingeniously conceived novel that confirms Boyne as one of the most assured writers of his generation.'

The Guardian

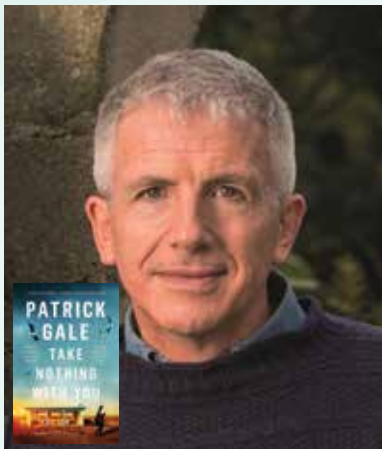
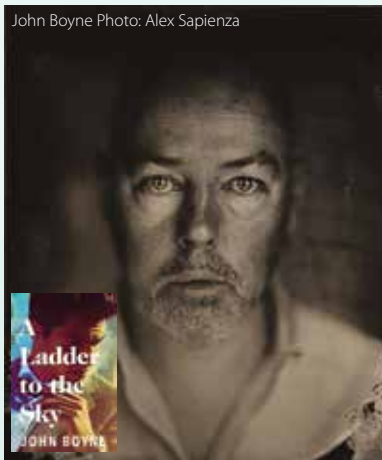
John Boyne was born in Dublin and studied English Literature at Trinity College, Dublin, and creative writing at the University of East Anglia where he was awarded the Curtis Brown prize. He now offers a scholarship to Irish students undertaking the MA programme at UEA. He has published 11 novels for adults and six for younger readers, including *The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas* which sold more than 9 million copies worldwide. His novels are published in over 50 languages.

Patrick Gale's latest novel *Take Nothing With You* is a compassionate, compelling tale of boyhood, coming of age, and the confusions of desire and reality. 1970s Weston-Super-Mare and ten-year-old oddball Eustace has life transformed by his mother's quixotic decision to sign him up for cello lessons. Music-making brings release for the boy and he laps up lessons from his young teacher, not noticing how her brand of glamour is casting a damaging spell over his frustrated and controlling mother. Drawing in part on his own boyhood, Patrick's new novel explores a collision between childish hero worship and extremely messy adult love lives.

'Absolutely one of his complete best. So many funny and tender and terrific scenes.' Stephen Fry

Patrick Gale was born on the Isle of Wight. He spent his infancy at Wandsworth Prison, which his father governed, then grew up in Winchester before going to Oxford University. He now lives on a farm near Land's End. Recent works include *A Perfectly Good Man*, *Notes From An Exhibition*, and the Costa-shortlisted *A Place Called Winter*. His original BBC television drama, *Man In An Orange Shirt*, was shown to great acclaim in 2017 as part of the BBC's Queer Britannia series.

John Boyne Photo: Alex Sapienza



Patrick Gale Photo: Markus Bidaux



Anne Carson Photo: Peter Smith

SUNDAY 14 / 20.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €20

AN EVENING WITH ANNE CARSON

This reading is in partnership with **The Well Review** literary journal. *The Well Review* is based in Cork and is edited by Sarah Byrne. Issue Two's featured author was Anne Carson with her work, 'Ghost Q&A'. The journal publishes writing and visual art from Ireland and abroad. *The Well Review* also works in collaboration with festivals and arts organisations. Issue Three was published in March 2019, and a pamphlet is forthcoming in Autumn 2019. www.thewellreview.com

'Anne Carson is, for me, the most exciting poet writing in English today.'

Michael Ondaatje

Anne Carson is a poet, essayist, professor of Classics, and translator. She was born in Toronto and is widely regarded as one of the most original writers working today. She has received many awards for her writing including the T.S.Eliot Prize, a MacArthur Fellowship, a Lannan Literary Award for Poetry and a PEN Award for Poetry in Translation. Her most recent original collection is *Float* (2016). Her translation of *Bakkhai* (by Euripides) was published in March 2019. Anne Carson will read from a range of her work, including 'Ghost Q&A', and she will be introduced by Sarah Byrne from *The Well Review*.

Anne Carson's participation in the festival is supported by The Well Review and by Cork County Council's Arts Grants Scheme Award.

SUNDAY 14 / 22.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / FREE

OPEN MIC

Every night (Sunday to Thursday) we offer you the opportunity to perform your own work – or simply to listen to others and to mingle with writers. If you would like to read something, just sign up with your host on the evening, Paul O'Donoghue.





MONDAY 15 / 10.00 / BANTRY HOUSE TEAROOM / €10

COFFEE & CHAT with **HELEN JUKES**

Series presented in association with **Bantry House and Garden**

A Honeybee Heart Has Five Openings is a wonderful memoir about bees, bodies and a novice beekeeper's year of keeping honeybees. It's a fascinating exploration of the honeybee and the hive, the practices of honey-gathering and the history of our observation of bees; and a beautifully wrought meditation on responsibility and care, on vulnerability and trust, on forging bonds and breaking new ground. **Helen Jukes'** writing has appeared in *Caught by the River*, BBC Wildlife, *Resurgence*, the *Junket* and *LITRO*. She tutors on the creative writing programme at Oxford University, and also works with the Bee Friendly Trust.

Left to right: Helen Jukes Photo: Lore Photo, Diarmaid Ferriter Photo: Bobbie Hanvey, Jennifer Russell

MONDAY 15 / 11.30 / BANTRY BOOKSHOP / FREE

JENNIFER RUSSELL

Jennifer Russell was born in Bantry and spent many years in the US and the UK working in health care and education before returning to the Beara Peninsula to set up and co-run Hungry Hill Writing, a writers' group which hosts two international poetry competitions a year. She has been published in a number of poetry journals and anthologies and her debut collection of poems *Backlit* was published by Hen Run, an imprint of Grey Hen Press in the UK, in January 2019.

MONDAY 15 / 13.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE

DIARMAID FERRITER

On The Edge: Ireland's Off-shore Islands: A Modern History. The islands off the coast of Ireland have long been a source of fascination, attracting scholars, artists and filmmakers looking for a way of life uncontaminated by modernity. The reality for islanders has been, and continues to be, far more complex.

'Ferriter skilfully poses big questions with the small stories of small places.' Irish Times

Diarmaid Ferriter is one of Ireland's best-known historians and is Professor of Modern Irish History at UCD. He is a regular broadcaster on television and radio and a weekly columnist with the *Irish Times*.



MONDAY 15 / 14.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €18

KIT DE WAAL & ANJALI JOSEPH

The Trick to Time is an unforgettable love story from **Kit de Waal** set in Birmingham in 1972. Mona is a young Irish girl in a big city, with the thrill of a new job and a room of her own in a busy boarding house. On her first night out in town, she meets William, a charming Irish boy with an easy smile and an open face. They embark upon a dizzying love affair, a whirlwind marriage, an unexpected pregnancy – before a sudden tragedy tears them apart.

'De Waal excels at bringing out the humanity of characters leading small lives on the fringe of huge social and political forces, struggling bravely not to be crushed by them.' The Guardian

Kit de Waal, born to an Irish mother and Caribbean father, was brought up among the Irish community of Birmingham in the 60s and 70s. Her debut novel *My Name Is Leon* was an international bestseller, shortlisted for the Costa First Novel Award, long-listed for the Desmond Elliott Prize and won the Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year Award for 2017. *The Trick to Time* is her second novel.

From top: Kit de Waal Photo: Sarah Lee and Anjali Joseph Photo: C.J. Humphries

In *The Living* **Anjali Joseph** shines a light on everyday life, illuminating its humour, beauty, and truth. This is the story of two lives. Claire is a young single mother working in one of England's last surviving shoe factories, her adult life formed by a teenage relationship. Arun, an older man in a western Indian town, makes hand-sewn chappals at home. Their lives are woven through with the ongoing discipline of work and the responsibility and tedium of family life.

'Joseph's is a deep and unusual talent; she attends to questions for which not every novelist is equipped. The Living is an exceptional, unexpected work.'

The Guardian

Anjali Joseph is the author of three novels. Her debut *Saraswati Park* won the Desmond Elliott Prize and the Betty Trask Prize. *Another Country* was longlisted for the Man Asian Literary Award and *The Living* was shortlisted for the DSC Prize. She was born in Bombay, read English at Trinity College, Cambridge, and did an MA and PhD at the University of East Anglia. She lives in Henley-on-Thames and has just finished a fourth novel, *Keeping in Touch*.

MONDAY 15 / 14.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / FREE

SPOTLIGHT ON UCC'S MA IN CREATIVE WRITING

Have you ever thought about doing an MA or PhD in Creative Writing? Did you know that you may do one in Cork? Join **Eibhear Walshe**, UCC's Director of Creative Writing, to learn more about their MA and PhD in Creative Writing. **Marie Haugh**, **Molly Twomey**, **Niamh Twomey** and **Beau Williams**, four of the current students will read from their work and will be available to share their experiences and to answer any questions you may have.

MONDAY 15 / 16.30 / LETTER CAFÉ AT ORGANICO / FREE

ELLEN'S LETTERS: PLANTS, LANDSCAPE AND LITERATURE

Step back to the early 1800s; find out about letter writing practices and materials, and handle quill pens and letters written and posted in Bantry by Ellen Hutchins, Ireland's first female botanist. Join historical re-enactor Carrie O'Flynn and Madeline Hutchins, Ellen's great-great-grand niece as they speak about her passion for plants, love of the landscape and how her 'spirit flies to the mountains'.

MONDAY 15 / 18.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / FREE

OPEN MIC MATINEE

A special early evening edition of our open mic series. You are welcome to read your own work or simply listen to others. This session is hosted by Marie Guillot and the **Cork Non-Fiction Writers Group**.

MONDAY 15 / 18.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €16

CHARLOTTE COLLINS: LITERARY TRANSLATION

Charlotte Collins is the co-chair of the UK Translators Association. She studied English Literature at Cambridge University and was an actor and radio journalist before becoming a literary translator. Charlotte was awarded the 2017 Helen & Kurt Wolff Translator's Prize for her translation of *A Whole Life* by the Austrian author Robert Seethaler. Her other translations include *The Tobacconist*, also by Seethaler; *The End of Loneliness* by Benedict Wells; *Homeland* by Walter Kempowski; and Nino Haratischvili's *The Eighth Life* (November 2019).

This event is dedicated to author and critic **Eileen Battersby** who died in December 2018. Eileen championed literature in translation and her final review (published in the *Financial Times* after her death) was a review of Charlotte Collins' translation of *Homeland* by Walter Kempowski.



Charlotte Collins



AN EVENING WITH **SEBASTIAN BARRY & SARAH CROSSAN** MONDAY 15 / 20.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €5

We are delighted to welcome **Laureate for Irish Fiction Sebastian Barry** and **Laureate na nÓg – Ireland's Children's Literature Laureate Sarah Crossan** to West Cork. They will be in conversation with Alex Clark.

Sebastian Barry is the second Laureate for Irish Fiction and was awarded the honour by the Arts Council in 2018. In his role as laureate he will concentrate, among other things, on 'The Golden Age of Writers and Readers'. Sebastian was born in Dublin in 1955. In 1988 his play *Boss Grady's Boys* won the first BBC/Stewart Parker Award. His novels include *A Long Long Way*, *The Secret Scripture*, *On Canaan's Side* and *Days Without End*.

The Laureate for Irish Fiction promotes Irish literature nationally and internationally and encourages the public to engage with high quality Irish fiction. It has been developed by the Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon and is supported by University College Dublin and New York University.

From left: Sebastian Barry Photo: Barry Cronin and Sarah Crossan



Sarah Crossan is a poet and novelist. In May 2018, she was announced as Ireland's fifth Laureate na nÓg. The theme for her laureateship is #WeAreThePoets – a two-year project inspiring young people to express themselves through poetry and verse. Sarah's novels include *The Weight of Water*, *Apple and Rain* and her verse novels *One* and *Moonrise* which won the Children's Choice Award at the CBI Book of the Year Awards 2018. Her novel *Toffee* is published by Bloomsbury in May 2019.

Laureate na nÓg is an initiative of the Arts Council. It is supported by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and Poetry Ireland and is managed by Children's Books Ireland. The honour was established by the Arts Council to engage young people with high quality literature and to underline the importance of children's literature in our cultural and imaginative lives.



MONDAY 15 / 22.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / FREE

OPEN MIC

TUESDAY 16 / 10.00 / BANTRY HOUSE TEAROOM / €10

COFFEE & CHAT with **THOM EAGLE**

First, Catch is **Thom Eagle's** beautiful hymn to a single early spring meal. It's a cookbook without recipes, an exclusive invitation to journey through the mind of a chef – to stand next to Thom in the kitchen as he muses on the very best way to coax flavour out of an onion (slowly, and with more care than you might expect), or considers the crucial role of salt in the creation of the perfect assembly for whisperings of green shoots and leaves. **Thom Eagle** is a chef, writer, and Young British Foodies-nominated pickler. He is currently based at Little Duck in East London and blogs at In Search of Lost Thyme. He is also a regular contributor to the *Locavore* magazine.



Thom Eagle Photo: Sophie Davidson

TUESDAY 16 / 11.30 / BANTRY BOOKSHOP / FREE

EIBHEAR WALSHE

It is 1742 and the celebrated composer Georg Handel is in Dublin for the first performance of his new work Messiah. Once fêted by aristocracy and royalty alike, Handel is now nearly penniless, recovering from a debilitating illness and his exile in Dublin a sign of his fall from grace.

'Fascinating, deep and utterly absorbing.'

Éilís Ní Dhuibhne, Irish Times

Eibhear Walshe lectures in the School of English at University College Cork and is Director of Creative Writing. He has published in the area of memoir, literary criticism and biography. His novels include *The Diary of Mary Travers* and *The Trumpet Shall Sound: A Novel* (2019).



Eibhear Walshe

TUESDAY 16 / 13.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE

CRAIG DAVIDSON, CHERIE DIMALINE & HEATHER O'NEILL

Craig Davidson has published four books, including *Rust and Bone*. His memoir, *Precious Cargo*, about his year spent driving a school bus for children with special needs, was a finalist for Canada Reads. His most recent novel is *The Saturday Night Ghost Club*.

Cherie Dimaline is an award-winning Métis author whose fiction has been published internationally. In 2014, she became the first Aboriginal Writer in Residence for the Toronto Public Library. Her fourth book, *The Marrow Thieves* won the Burt Award for First Nations, Inuit and Métis Young Adult Literature.

Heather O'Neill is a novelist, short-story writer and essayist. Her work includes *Lullabies for Little Criminals*, *The Girl Who Was Saturday Night*, *Daydreams of Angels* and *Wisdom in Nonsense*. Born and raised in Montreal, Heather lives there with her daughter.

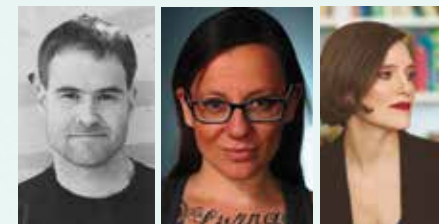
TUESDAY 16 / 15.00 / BANTRY HOUSE / €18

TANA FRENCH

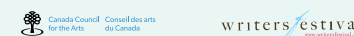
Toby led a charmed life – until a brutal attack leaves him damaged and traumatised. He seeks refuge at his family's ancestral home, filled with memories of wild-strawberry summers and teenage parties. But not long after Toby's arrival, a discovery is made – a skull, tucked neatly inside the old wych elm in the garden – and he is forced to examine everything he thought he knew about his family, his past, and himself. *The Wych Elm* is a spellbinding stand-alone from a literary writer who turns the crime genre inside out.

'Terrific – terrifying, amazing, and the prose is incandescent' Stephen King, New York Times

Tana French is the award-winning and *New York Times* bestselling author of *In the Woods*, *The Likeness*, *Faithful Place*, *Broken Harbour*, *The Secret Place* and *The Trespasser*. She has won many awards for her fiction, including the Edgar, Anthony, Barry, Macavity and IVCA Clarion awards, the *LA Times* Book Prize for Best Mystery/Thriller and the Irish Book Award for Best Crime Fiction. She grew up in Ireland, Italy, the US and Malawi. She lives in Dublin with her family.



Craig, Cherie and Heather are part of a delegation of Canadian writers selected by Ottawa International Writers Festival. We acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts. Nous remercions le Conseil des arts du Canada de son soutien.



From left: Craig Davidson Photo: Kevin Kelly, Cherie Dimaline Photo: Valentina Saavedra and Heather O'Neill Photo: Julia C. Vona



Tana French

TUESDAY 16 / 14.30 / FOREST & FLOCK / €25

BOOKBINDING 101: ÉILÍS MURPHY

In this two-hour workshop, we will create a variety of folded books – no stitching required! Starting with the concertina book, we will build up on this binding to create mutant books including a ‘hot dog’ book. You are encouraged to bring along any ideas or materials you would like to work with. Bring a stanley knife/scalpel, cutting mat, metal ruler and a pencil.

Éilís Murphy studied printmaking at the National College of Art and Design. In 2003 she completed an internship in bookbinding at the prestigious Center for Book Arts in New York. She has trained with the Society of Bookbinders (UK), Frauke Schroeder (Berlin) and the Paper Conservation Department in the National Gallery of Ireland and is a member of the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland.



Clockwise from top left:
Éilís Murphy, Fish Anthology 2018,
JG Farrell, Lavinia Greacen.

TUESDAY 16 / 17.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE

LAVINIA GREACEN: J.G. FARRELL

August 2019 marks the fortieth anniversary of **J G Farrell's** untimely passing. Farrell died when swept from rocks while fishing near his home in Kilcrohane, West Cork. His book *Troubles* won the Faber Prize in 1971, and in 2010 it won the Lost Man Booker Prize. *The Siege of Krishnapur* won the Booker Prize in 1973. In 2008, *The Siege of Krishnapur* was shortlisted for the Best of Booker public vote. Farrell's biographer **Lavinia Greacen** will speak about his life and work. She is the author of *J.G. Farrell, the Making of a Writer* and has also edited *J.G. Farrell In His Own Words, the Selected Letters and Diaries* (both published by Cork Univerisity Press).



TUESDAY 16 / 18.00 / MARITIME HOTEL / FREE

LAUNCH OF THE 2019 FISH ANTHOLOGY

The **Fish Anthology** is the culmination of a year's work, reading through the thousands of submissions to the Fish Short Story, Short Memoir, Flash Fiction and Poetry Prizes. The judges were **Mia Gallagher, Chrissie Gittins, Pamela Painter** and **Billy Collins**. The writers represented are from many countries. The launch is a celebration of these writers and an opportunity to hear some of them reading their winning work. **Fish Publishing** established in 1994 by Clem Cairns and Julia Walton to promote and encourage emerging writers.

TUESDAY 16 / 20.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €20 **SINÉAD GLEESON & EMILIE PINE**

How do you tell the story of a life in a body, as it goes through sickness, health, motherhood? How do you tell that story when you are not just a woman but a woman in Ireland? In the powerful and daring essays in *Constellations* **Sinéad Gleeson** does that very thing.

'Utterly magnificent. Raw, thought-provoking and galvanising.' Eimear McBride

Sinéad Gleeson is a writer of essays, criticism and fiction. Her work has appeared in *Granta*, *Winter Papers*, *Being Various: New Irish Short Stories*. Sinéad has worked as an arts critic and broadcaster and has presented The Book Show on RTÉ Radio 1. Her collection of essays *Constellations: Reflections From Life* is published by Picador.

In *Notes to Self* this vivid and powerful collection of essays. **Emilie Pine** boldly confronts the past to better understand herself, her relationships and her role in society. Tackling subjects like addiction, fertility, feminism and sexual violence these beautifully written essays are at once fascinating, funny, intimate and searingly honest.

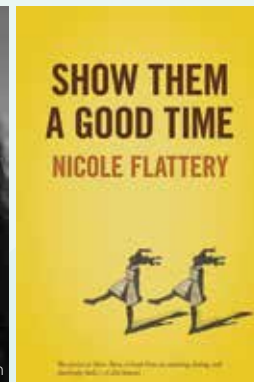
'Do not read this book in public: it will make you cry.' Anne Enright

Emilie Pine is Associate Professor in Modern Drama at University College Dublin. She has published widely on Irish culture. She is editor of the *Irish University Review*. *Notes to Self* is her first collection of essays. It won Book of the Year at the An Post Irish Book Awards.

TUESDAY 16 / 22.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / FREE **OPEN MIC**

From top: Sinéad Gleeson Photo: Brid O'Donovan and Emilie Pine Photo: Ruth Connolly





WEDNESDAY 17 / 10.00 / BANTRY HOUSE TEAROOM / €10
COFFEE & CHAT with **RAYNOR WINN**

The remarkable and life-affirming true story of one couple's 630 mile journey around the UK's South West Coast Path. *The Salt Path* is a beautiful, powerfully honest and deeply moving memoir about overcoming adversity, the redemptive qualities of walking and nature, the meaning of 'home' and above all, about love.

'A lyrical story of homeless-ness, human strength and endurance'
The Guardian

Since completing the South West Coast Path, **Raynor Winn** has become a regular long-distance walker and writes about nature, homelessness and wild camping. She lives in Cornwall. *The Salt Path* is her first book and it was published by Michael Joseph.

WEDNESDAY 17 / 11.30 / BANTRY BOOKSHOP / FREE
NICOLE FLATTERY

Nicole Flattery is an exciting new voice in Irish fiction. The characters in her magnificently accomplished stories are haunted as much by the future as they are by their pasts. Loaded with dark humour and chock-full of style, *Show Them A Good Time* marks the arrival of an exuberant and strikingly original new writer.

'Bold, irreverant and agonisingly funny' Sally Rooney

Nicole Flattery's stories have been published in *The Irish Times*, *The Dublin Review*, *The White Review*, *Winter Papers* and *The Stinging Fly*. She is a recipient of a Next Generation Artists' Award from the Arts Council and The White Review Short Story Prize. Originally from County Westmeath, Nicole now lives in Galway.

WEDNESDAY 17 / 13.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE

TADHG COAKLEY & MARY WHITE

Tadhg Coakley's novel *The First Sunday in September* is set on All-Ireland Hurling Final Day and tells the stories of players and supporters from both teams as Cork and Clare prepare to meet in Croke Park. Tadhg's stories have appeared in *Quarryman*, *The Honest Ulsterman* and *Silver Apples*, as well as in the *From the Well* anthology.

Mary White is an award-winning sports writer who covered ladies football for 17 years. *Relentless* is her behind-the-scenes look at the rise of Cork ladies football 2005-2015, from having never won a senior title in the sport, to winning ten All-Ireland titles in eleven years. She also ghost-wrote *Game Changer*, the first ever autobiography by a female GAA player for Mayo legend and AFLW Greater Western Sydney Giants star Cora Staunton.

WEDNESDAY 17 / 14.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €18

ARNOLD THOMAS FANNING

Arnold Thomas Fanning had his first experience of depression during adolescence, following the death of his mother. Some ten years later, as an up-and-coming playwright, he was overcome by mania and delusions. Thus began a period in which he was often suicidal, increasingly disconnected from family and friends, sometimes in trouble with the law, and homeless in London. Drawing on his own memories, the recollections of people who knew him when he was at his worst, and medical and police records, Arnold has produced a beautifully written, devastatingly intense account of madness and recovery, to the point where he has not had any serious illness for over a decade and has become an acclaimed playwright. In a remarkably vivid present-tense narrative, he manages to convey the consciousness of a person living with mania, psychosis and severe depression.

'Extraordinary. An account of mental illness, grief, delusions, homelessness, a fractured family relationship... and all while trying to recover and create. Superb writing on a frequently difficult subject.' Sinéad Gleeson

Arnold Thomas Fanning's short stories, articles, and essays have been published widely. *Mind on Fire: A Memoir of Madness and Recovery*, was shortlisted for the Butler Literary Award, The Irish Book Awards Newcomer of the Year and the Wellcome Book Prize 2019. Arnold was born in London, raised in Dublin and now lives in Cork.

Tadhg Coakley Photo: Claire O'Rourke



Arnold Thomas Fanning Photo: Ste Murray

WEDNESDAY 17 / 14.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €20

INDEPENDENT PRESS: NO ALIBIS PRESS

Independent presses have been creating a real stir in publishing in recent years and **No Alibis Press** is an exciting new addition to the publishing landscape. Their first titles are *December Stories I* by Ian Samson and *Disorder* by Gerard Brennan. It is the publishing arm of the legendary No Alibis Bookstore in Belfast where David Torrains has been selling books and hosting events for over 20 years. Launched in 2018, No Alibis Press publishes excellent, uncompromising fiction of all genres by known and emerging authors. Emma Warnock is the commissioning editor and will be talking about the work they are doing.

WEDNESDAY 17 / 17.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE

WENDY ERSKINE & ELSKE RAHILL

In Wendy Erskine's stories *Sweet Home*, a lonely woman is fascinated by her new niqab-wearing neighbours; a reclusive cult-rock icon ends his days in the street where he was born; a husband and wife become enmeshed in the lives of the young couple they pay to do their cleaning. Set in contemporary East Belfast, these acutely observed short stories come charged with regret and sorrow, desire and longing.

Wendy Erskine lives in Belfast. Her work has been published in *The Stinging Fly*, *Stinging Fly Stories* and *Female Lines: New Writing by Women from Northern Ireland* and is forthcoming in *Being Various: New Irish Short Stories*, *Winter Papers* and on BBC Radio 4.

An Unravelling is the new novel from **Elske Rahill**, one of the most exciting voices in Irish literature. Molly is now in her eighties and helps her grand-daughters bring up their young children with unstinting care. Hers has been a life of unselfpitying service, from her working class Dublin girlhood to her current status as the wealthy widow of a famous artist. This is a novel of great tenderness in its depiction of the small pleasures of family life and ruthless in its portrayal of the dangerous power of money.

Elske Rahill grew up in Dublin and lives in Burgundy, France, with her partner and three children. She is the author of *Between Dog and Wolf* and the collection of short stories *In White Ink*. *An Unravelling* is published by Head of Zeus in June 2019.



WEDNESDAY 17 / 18.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €18

ESI EDUGYAN & STEVEN PRICE

Washington Black by **Esi Edugyan** was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2018 and named one of Obama's favourite books of the year. When two English brothers take the helm of a Barbados sugar plantation, Washington Black – an eleven-year-old field slave – finds himself selected as personal servant to one of them. The eccentric Christopher 'Titch' Wilde is a naturalist, explorer, scientist, inventor and abolitionist, whose single-minded pursuit of the perfect aerial machine mystifies all around him.

'Destined to become a future classic ... that rare book that should appeal to every kind of reader.'
The Guardian

Esi Edugyan's previous novel, *Half Blood Blues* also won the Scotiabank Giller Prize. In 2014, she published her first book of nonfiction, *Dreaming of Elsewhere: Observations on Home*. She lives in Victoria, British Columbia, with her husband novelist and poet Steven Price and their two children.

Steven Price is the author of two novels, *By Gaslight*, and *Into That Darkness*. Also an acclaimed poet, he has written two award-winning poetry books, *Anatomy of Keys* and *Omens in the Year of the Ox*. His third novel *Lampedusa* will be published in August 2019. Set in a sun-drenched Sicily, among the decadent Italian aristocracy of the late 1950s, *Lampedusa* explores the final years of Giuseppe Tomasi, last prince of Lampedusa, as he struggles to complete his only novel, *The Leopard*.

Esi and Steven are part of a delegation of Canadian writers selected by Ottawa International Writers Festival. We acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts. Nous remercions le Conseil des arts du Canada de son soutien.



From top: Esi Edugyan Photo: Tamara Poppitt, Steven Price Photo: Centric Photography

WEDNESDAY 17 / 20.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €20

LIZ BERRY, DOIREANN NÍ GHRÍOFA & JESSICA TRAYNOR

In *The Republic of Motherhood* **Liz Berry** turns to the 'transformative wild experience' of motherhood. Her poems sing the body electric, from the joy and anguish of becoming a new mother; through its darkest hours to its brightest days.

'An electrifying collection of poems that makes your heart sing.' Daily Telegraph

Liz Berry was born in 1980 in the Black Country. Her debut collection *Black Country* won the Forward Prize for Best First Collection and the Somerset Maugham Award. Her work has appeared in Poetry Review and Poetry London and has been broadcast on BBC Radio. She lives in Birmingham, with her partner and two sons.

Doireann Ní Ghríofa's new collection *Lies* asks when does a poem tell the truth? When is it a lie? Intimate moments carefully re-appraised are the raw material of these vivid and wholly engaging poems, written in Irish, and translated here by the author – a process that itself raises questions about poetry and truth.

'A brilliant addition to the distinguished succession of bilingual poets writing in Irish and English.' Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin

Doireann Ní Ghríofa is a bilingual poet whose books explore birth, death, desire, and domesticity. *Lies*, draws on a decade of her Irish language poems in translation, and was chosen as a Book of the Year in both the *Irish Times* and the *Irish Independent*. She lives in Cork.

The Quick, the second collection of poems by **Jessica Traynor** begins with a brush with death and goes on to explore a startling variety of connections with life, and indeed the living, from the loss of loved ones to the arrival of a firstborn.

'These poems will give you goose-bumps.' Helen Mort

Jessica Traynor's debut collection, *Liffey Swim* was shortlisted for the Strong/Shine Award. She was the recipient of the 2014 Ireland Chair of Poetry Bursary. She teaches creative writing courses at the Irish Writers Centre and Big Smoke Writing Factory, and has worked as Literary Manager of the Abbey Theatre.

WEDNESDAY 17 / 22.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / FREE / **OPEN MIC**

From top: Liz Berry Photo: Lee Allen, Doireann Ní Ghríofa Photo: Bríd O'Donovan and Jessica Traynor Photo: John Lalor



THURSDAY 18 / 9.00 / ABBEY STRAND / FREE

THE FESTIVAL SWIM

To really immerse yourself into beautiful West Cork join us for our annual festival sea swim in Bantry Bay. Bring your swimsuit, your towel and your sense of fun!

THURSDAY 18 / 11.30 / BANTRY BOOKSHOP / FREE

SARAH DAVIS-GOFF

Last Ones Left Alive is the unputdownable debut novel from Sarah Davis-Goff, sure to grip readers of dystopian literary fiction. Raised by her mother and Maeve on Slanbeg, an island off the west coast of Ireland, Orpen has a childhood of love, rockpools and stories by the fireside. But the stories grow darker, and the training begins. Ireland has been devoured by a ravaging menace known as the skrake, and though Slanbeg is safe for now, the women must always be ready to run, or to fight.

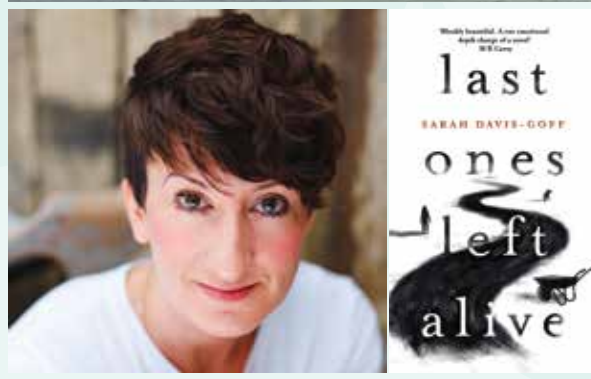
'From the get-go, it gripped me, and since the last page I've been haunted.' Joseph O'Connor

Sarah Davis-Goff lives in Dublin and is one of the co-founders of Irish independent publisher Tramp Press, and is a 2018 Bookseller Rising Star.

THURSDAY 18 / 13.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE

DENYSE WOODS:**CORK COUNTY COUNCIL WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE**

Denyse Woods is writer-in-residence for Cork County Council Library & Arts Services and is working with writers groups in **Kanturk, Passage West, Dunmanway, Mill Street** and **Ballyvourney** libraries over the course of this year. Join Denyse and writers from all five groups as they share their work with us today. **Denyse Woods**, who also writes as Denyse Devlin, is the author of five novels including *Of Sea and Sand*.



From top: Festival swim, Sarah Davis-Goff Photo: Bríd O'Donovan and Denyse Woods Photo: Eoin Heaney

THURSDAY 18 / 14.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €18

ROSITA BOLAND & ADAM WEYMOUTH

From her first life-changing solo trip to Australia as a young graduate, **Rosita Boland** was enthralled by travel. In the last thirty years she has visited some of the most remote parts of the globe carrying little more than a battered rucksack and a diary. Documenting nine journeys from nine different moments in her life, *Elsewhere* reveals how exploring the world – and those we meet along the way – can dramatically shape the course of a person's life.

Rosita Boland is a senior features writer at the *Irish Times*, specialising in human interest stories. She was a 2009 Nieman Fellow at the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University. She won 'Journalist of the Year' at the 2018 Newsbrands Ireland journalism awards. Her collection of essays *Elsewhere: One Woman, One Rucksack, One Lifetime of Travel* is published in May 2019.

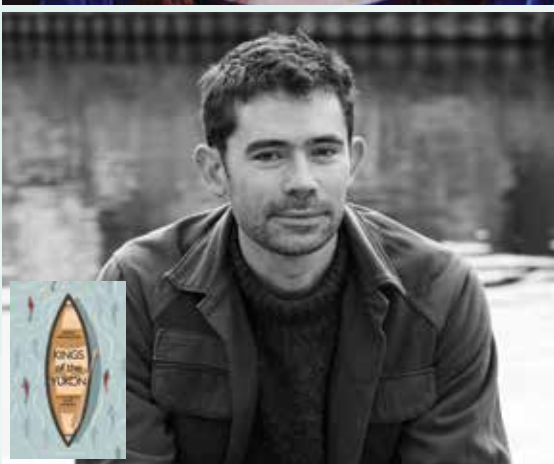
Adam Weymouth spent four months living in a canoe and paddling the Yukon river, resulting in a powerful work of reportage that weaves his journey with the story of the King salmon that migrate along the Yukon every year, what their dwindling numbers will mean for the communities that depend on them, and what this says about our relationship with the natural world.

A rich and fascinating book... So vivid it reads like a thriller... I was hooked.'

The Spectator

Adam Weymouth's work has been published by a wide variety of outlets including the *Guardian*, the *Atlantic* and the *New Internationalist*. In 2010 he walked from England to Istanbul as an exploration of pilgrimage. He was awarded the *Sunday Times* Young Writer of the Year and the Edward Stanford *Lonely Planet* Adventure Travel Book of the Year for his first book, *Kings of the Yukon*. He lives on a 100-year-old Dutch barge in London.

Rosita Boland Photo: Brenda Fitzsimon



Adam Weymouth Photo: Suki Dhanda



Gráinne Fox Photo: Elena Seibert

THURSDAY 18 / 14.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €20

LITERARY AGENT: GRÁINNE FOX

Gráinne Fox will speak about her role as a literary agent, the agent-author relationship and the publishing process. Gráinne is originally from Dublin. She joined Fletcher & Company in 2008, having worked as an agent at Ed Victor Ltd in London for nine years. Her list consists of literary fiction, elevated genre, and award-winning journalists. Her clients include Nuala O'Connor, Tim Maughan, Lisa Carey, David Shafer and Tom Parker Bowles. Gráinne also works with select British agencies for the US market and reps Sarah Pinborough, Sophie Mackintosh and Douglas Kennedy.

Fletcher & Company works closely with writers to help them connect with readers and audiences across all media. Their nonfiction roster includes thought leaders and innovators like Gretchen Rubin and Eric Ries, award-winning journalists and narrative writers like Ian Urbina, John Carreyrou, Tony Mendez, as well as bestselling and award-winning literary and commercial fiction writers including David Gillham, Maggie Shipstead, Kathleen Grissom, Daniel Mason, Katie Barber.

THURSDAY 18 / 17.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE

FROM THE WELL

From the Well is the annual short story competition organised by **Cork County Library and Arts Service**. Twenty stories are shortlisted by judges **Billy O'Callaghan, Claire Kilroy** and **Eimear Ryan** for publication in the *From the Well* anthology. The winner of the competition and two other shortlisted writers will read their stories.



Tessa Hadley Photo: Mark Vessey



Hugo Hamilton

THURSDAY 18 / 18.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €16 **TESSA HADLEY & HUGO HAMILTON**

The lives of two close-knit couples are irrevocably changed by an untimely death in *Late in the Day*, the latest novel from **Tessa Hadley**, the acclaimed novelist and short story master who 'recruits admirers with every book' (Hilary Mantel). Alexandr and Christine and Zachary and Lydia have been close friends since they first met in their twenties. Thirty years later Alex and Christine receive a call from a distraught Lydia. Zach is dead.

'Hadley's wonderful tale of ageing and adultery.' The Guardian

Tessa Hadley is the author of seven highly praised novels, the most recent of which, *Late in the Day* was published in February 2019, and two collections of short stories. She lives in London and is Professor of Creative Writing at Bath Spa University. Her stories appear regularly in the *New Yorker*.

Hugo Hamilton's new novel *Dublin Palms* is a moving examination of fatherhood and families across the world, a story of emigrants and strangers and people returning. Sean returns to Dublin from Berlin and feels a constant dislocation, never quite arriving in his place of birth. Everything comes to him in a confusion of three languages. Irish: the one his father spoke. German: his mother's tongue. And English: the language he now lives in.

Hugo Hamilton is the author of nine novels, two memoirs and a collection of short stories. His work has won international awards, including the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature, the French Prix Femina Etranger, the Italian premio Giuseppe Berto and a DAAD scholarship in Berlin. Hugo was born and lives in Dublin. *Dublin Palms* is published by Fourth Estate in May 2019.

THURSDAY 18 / 20.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €30

AN EVENING WITH **GRAHAM NORTON**

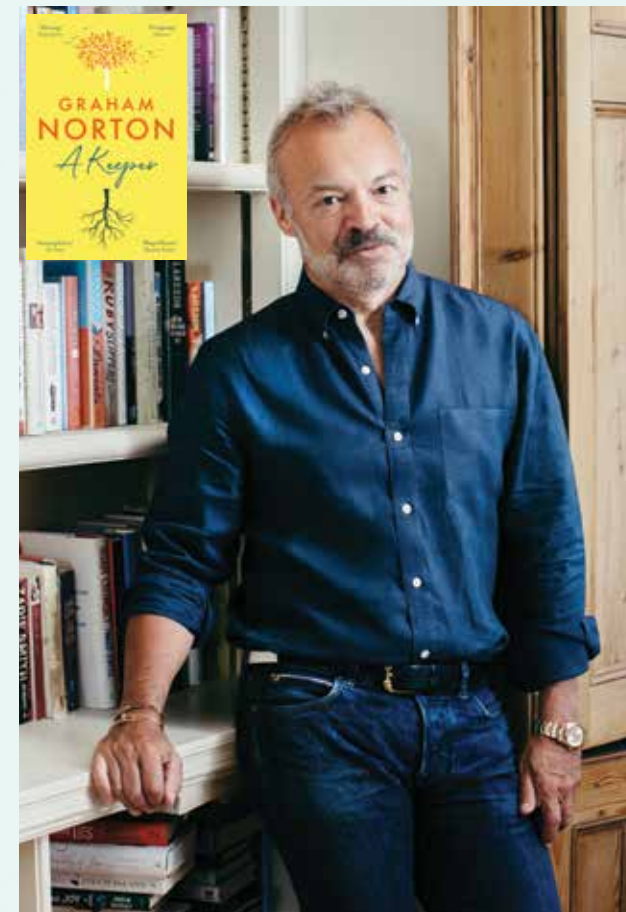
Graham Norton's latest novel, *A Keeper*, is an expertly woven story of a mother's love and the legacy of the past.

Elizabeth Keane returns to Ireland after her mother's death, intent only on wrapping up that dismal part of her life. There is nothing here for her, she wonders if there ever was. The house of her childhood is stuffed full of useless things, her mother's presence already fading. When she chances upon a small stash of letters the past begins to break open at last, casting a shadow across Elizabeth's present – and her future.

This compelling new novel confirms Graham Norton's status as a fresh, literary voice. With skill and sensitivity Graham once again demonstrates his assuredness at drawing memorable characters in possession of all those frailties, longings and flaws that make us human.

'With Norton's wry sense of humour throughout, A Keeper is a gripping, thoughtful tale about the search for identity, belonging and self-possession.' The Guardian

Graham Norton is one of the UK and Ireland's best-loved broadcasters. He presents *The Graham Norton Show* on BBC1, has a weekly show on BBC Radio 2, and writes a column for the *Telegraph*. He is the winner of eight BAFTA awards. Born in Dublin and raised in West Cork, Graham now lives in London. His debut novel *Holding* was a commercial and critical success and won the *Irish Independent* Popular Fiction award at the Bord Gáis Irish Book Awards in 2016. His second novel *A Keeper* was published by Hodder & Stoughton in October 2018.

THURSDAY 18 / 22.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / FREE / **OPEN MIC**

Graham Norton Photo: Sophia Spring



FRIDAY 19 / 10.00 / BANTRY HOUSE TEAROOM / €10

COFFEE & CHAT with **EVA BOURKE**

Eva Bourke was born in Germany in 1946 and lives in Galway; she is a poet and translator. *Seeing Yellow* is her seventh collection and contains her trademark empathy, historical awareness and meticulous attention to detail. The power of her poetry to build connections between here and there, now and then, is so evident in this book of heartfelt and graceful expression where 'the garden gates of memory' may at any moment swing open, to reveal not so much a distant world as an invitation to see our own in a new light.



FRIDAY 19 / 11.30 / BANTRY BOOKSHOP / FREE

IAN MALENEY

Ian Maleney's precise and poignant debut is part memoir and part exploration; a journey around his grandfather, John Joe, and the rippling effects of Alzheimer's disease on a family. Set around a small family farm a few miles from the river Shannon, *Minor Monuments* is a collection of essays unfolding from the landscape of the Irish midlands.

Ian Maleney was born and raised in Co. Offaly. He works in Dublin as a freelance arts journalist, primarily for the *Irish Times*, and as the online editor at the *Stinging Fly*. His essays have been published by *Winter Papers*, *gorse*, and the *Dublin Review*.

FRIDAY 19 / 13.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE

JAMES HARPUR: W.B. YEATS

The Galloping Centaur: The Strange World of **W.B. Yeats**. In this accessible, lively and lucid talk, marking the 80th anniversary of Yeats' death, poet **James Harpur** will investigate the strange world of Yeats, showing how Yeats' poetry can be read at three different levels, the personal, political and spiritual or mythic, as if the poet were playing three-dimensional chess with himself. Along the way, James will shed insights into the character, personal traits and love life of Ireland's greatest and most enchanting poet.

James Harpur has published six books of poetry, including his latest, *The White Silhouette* (Carcanet, 2018), which is an *Irish Times* Book of the Year. He studied Yeats at university and has given talks on him for the Temenos Institute. James lives in West Cork.

FRIDAY 19 / 14.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €18

SARAH MOSS

Seventeen-year-old Silvie is spending the summer in an experimental archaeology camp in Northumberland with her parents, 'The Prof', a university lecturer in Archaeology and three of his students. They mimic the harshness of Iron Age life, wearing cotton tunics, foraging for food, and washing in the river. But the site of the camp holds a secret history – behind and ahead of Silvie's narrative is that of a bog girl cruelly sacrificed by her people. *Ghost Wall* is about the intoxication of power, cults and groupthink, nationalist myths, feminism and domestic violence, clever teenagers, and Northern Britain in the 90s.

'A burnished gem of a book, brief and brilliant, and with it Moss's star is firmly in the ascendant.' *The Guardian*

Sarah Moss is a Professor at the University of Warwick. *Ghost Wall* is her sixth novel and she also wrote a memoir about living in Iceland. She has been shortlisted for the Wellcome Book Prize three times & the RSL Ondaatje prize once. She has written for the *Guardian*, *New Statesman*, *Independent* and BBC Radio & has been a reviewer on Radio 4's Saturday Review. She lives in Coventry with her husband and two sons.

FRIDAY 19 / 14.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €20

PUBLICITY MASTERCLASS: ELAINE EGAN

Join Publicity Director **Elaine Egan** for a masterclass in how to promote and market your book. Whether you're an aspiring writer, or an author who is just about to be published learn everything you need to know to promote your book and attract readers. With insights into the publishing industry and how publicists work, you will learn the basics of writing a good pitch, how to capture the attention of the media, the do's and don'ts in media interviews, how to build your network of contacts, and be your own publicist.

Elaine Egan is the Publicity Director of **Hachette Ireland**. Her recent campaigns include bestselling debut *When All Is Said* by Anne Griffin, *Listening To The Animals: Becoming The Supervet* by Prof Noel Fitzpatrick, *Emotional Resilience* by Dr Harry Barry and *The Anniversary* by Roisin Meaney.



Clockwise from left: Eva Bourke, Ian Maleney Photo: Gareth Smith and James Harpur Photo: Dino Ignani



FRIDAY 19 / 17.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE
FREE MARKET

Small town market places, once the economic and social hubs of rural Ireland have undergone fundamental change and many have seen their function as places of exchange and congregation diminished. **Free Market** proposes to reclaim these places of interaction and community. It was originally conceived as the Irish Pavilion for the Venice Architecture Biennale 2018 and will visit four Irish towns in a national tour in 2019. In this event architect **Tara Kennedy** from the **Free Market** team will lead a discussion about their project, with a focus on Bantry.

Images, left to right: Bantry, Fair Day Photo: National Library of Ireland, Danny Diamond and Tom French

FRIDAY 19 / 18.30 / MA MURPHYS / €10
DANNY DIAMOND & TOM FRENCH

What To Bring When We Leave is a collaborative commission culminating in a unique continuous live performance by **Tom French** (word) and **Danny Diamond** (fiddle). Tom's poetry draws on the traditional arts, folklore and rural Irish life; he writes vividly about traditional music, the people who play(ed) it, and the context in which it lives. As a traditional fiddle player, music archivist and researcher, Danny's compositions bring a corresponding unconventional sensitivity to a similar sphere that informs Tom's work.

Tom French has published five collections of poetry with The Gallery Press the most recent being *The Last Straw* in 2018. His work has won the Forward Prize for First Collection and the O'Shaughnessy Award for Poetry.

Danny Diamond is a fiddle player, composer, and recording engineer. In his music, he creates a unique sound-world, rooted in Irish traditional music, while incorporating influences from Nordic and American folk to baroque music to electronic music. His most recent solo recording *Elbow Room* was released in 2017.

This is a Solstice Arts Centre commission creatively produced by Belinda Quirke

FRIDAY 19 / 20.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €20

JOSEPH O'CONNOR & PARAIC O'DONNELL

Shadowplay is the magnificent new novel from the bestselling author **Joseph O'Connor** about Bram Stoker's intense relationships with the actors Henry Irving and Ellen Terry, while working together at the Lyceum Theatre in 1878. It explores the complexities of love that stands dangerously outside social convention, the restlessness of creativity, and the experiences that led to *Dracula*, the most iconic supernatural tale of all time.

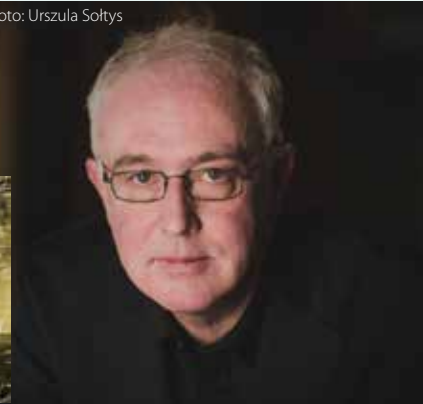
Joseph O'Connor was born in Dublin. He has published eight previous novels including *Star of the Sea* and *The Thrill of it All*. His fiction has been translated into forty languages. He received the 2012 Irish PEN Award for outstanding achievement in literature and in 2014 he was appointed Frank McCourt Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Limerick. *Shadowplay* is published by Harvill Secker in June 2019.

The House on Vesper Sands is the fabulous second novel by **Paraic O'Donnell**. It is the winter of 1893, and in London the snow is falling as Gideon Bliss seeks shelter in a Soho church. He finds Angie Tatton, his one-time love, lying before the altar at death's door, murmuring about brightness, black air and those she calls the Spiriters. In the morning she is gone and Gideon is drawn into the mystery and what lies hidden at the house on Vesper Sands.

'The most vivid and compelling portrait of late Victorian London since The Crimson Petal and the White.' Sarah Perry

Paraic O'Donnell is a writer of fiction, poetry and criticism. His essays and reviews have appeared in the *Guardian*, *Spectator*, *Irish Times*. *The Maker of Swans*, his debut novel, was named the Amazon Rising Stars Debut of the Month and was shortlisted for the Irish Book Awards. He lives in Wicklow with his wife and children.

Joseph O'Connor Photo: Urszula Soltys



Paraic O'Donnell Photo: Roger Kenny



The 21st

WEST CORK LITERARY FESTIVAL

Bantry, Co. Cork

Friday 12 – Friday 19 July 2019

at a glance

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK		VENUE
All week	Free Market: Exhibition	Bantry Library
All week	Angela Fewer: Exhibition	Organico Café
All week	WCLF Letter Café	Organico Café

TIME	EVENT	VENUE
FRIDAY 12 JULY		
13.00	New To The Parish	Bantry Library
18.30	Opening Reception of West Cork Literary Festival	Bantry Library
20.30	Mary Robinson	Maritime Hotel
SATURDAY 13 JULY		
09.30	Yoga on the Lawn	Bantry House Gardens
11.30	Rónán Hession	Bantry Bookshop
13.00	Thomas McCarthy & Mary Noonan	Bantry Library
13.30	Kevin Barry	Whiddy Island
15.00	Teenage Workshop: Stephen James Smith	Bantry Library
15.15	Whiddy Talk & Festival Walk	Whiddy Island
17.00	Claire Adam & Jing-Jing Lee	Bantry Library
18.30	Stephen James Smith	Maritime Hotel
20.30	Sarah Breen & Emer McLysaght	Maritime Hotel
SUNDAY 14 JULY		
12.30	Mark Boyle	Future Forests
15.00	Teenage Reading: John Boyne	St Brendan's School Hall
15.00	Tracey Thorn	Maritime Hotel
17.00	Catherine Kirwan & Catherine Ryan Howard	Bantry Courthouse
18.30	John Boyne & Patrick Gale	Maritime Hotel
20.30	Anne Carson	Maritime Hotel
22.30	Open Mic Night	Maritime Hotel
MONDAY 15 JULY		
10.00	Coffee & Chat with Helen Jukes	Bantry House Tearooms
11.30	Jennifer Russell	Bantry Bookshop
13.00	Diarmaid Ferriter	Bantry Library

TIME	EVENT	VENUE
14.30	Spotlight on UCC's MA in Creative Writing	Maritime Hotel
14.30	Kit de Waal & Anjali Joseph	Maritime Hotel
16.30	Ellen Hutchins' Letters	Organico Café
18.30	Charlotte Collins	Maritime Hotel
18.30	Open Mic Matinee	Maritime Hotel
20.30	Sebastian Barry & Sarah Crossan	Maritime Hotel
22.30	Open Mic Night	Maritime Hotel
TUESDAY 16 JULY		
10.00	Coffee & Chat with Thom Eagle	Bantry House Tearooms
11.30	Eibhear Walshe	Bantry Bookshop
13.00	Craig Davidson, Cherie Dimaline & Heather O'Neill	Bantry Library
14.30	Bookbinding 101	Forest & Flock
15.00	Teenage Reading: E.R. Murray	St Brendan's School Hall
15.00	Tana French	Bantry House
17.00	Lavinia Greacen: JG Farrell	Bantry Library
18.00	Launch of the 2019 Fish Anthology	Maritime Hotel
20.30	Sinéad Gleeson & Emilie Pine	Maritime Hotel
22.30	Open Mic Night	Maritime Hotel
WEDNESDAY 17 JULY		
10.00	Coffee & Chat with Raynor Winn	Bantry House Tearooms
10.00	Children's Workshop: Create your own accordion book	Bantry Library
11.30	Nicole Flattery	Bantry Bookshop
13.00	Tadhg Coakley & Mary White	Bantry Library
14.30	Independent Press: No Alibis Press	Maritime Hotel
14.30	Arnold Thomas Fanning	Maritime Hotel
15.00	Teenage Reading: Cethan Leahy	St Brendan's School Hall

TIME	EVENT	VENUE
17.00	Wendy Erskine & Elske Rahill	Bantry Library
18.30	Esi Edugyan & Steven Price	Maritime Hotel
20.30	Liz Berry, Doireann Ní Ghríofa & Jessica Traynor	Maritime Hotel
22.30	Open Mic Night	Maritime Hotel
THURSDAY 18 JULY		
09.00	Festival Swim	Abbey Strand
10.00	Children's Workshop: Mark Wickham	St Brendan's School Hall
11.30	Sarah Davis-Goff	Bantry Bookshop
13.00	Cork County Council Writer in Residence	Bantry Library
14.30	Literary Agent: Gráinne Fox	Maritime Hotel
14.30	Rosita Boland & Adam Weymouth	Maritime Hotel
15.00	Teenage Workshop: Fighting Words	St Brendan's School Hall
17.00	From the Well	Bantry Library
18.30	Tessa Hadley & Hugo Hamilton	Maritime Hotel
20.30	Graham Norton	Maritime Hotel
22.30	Open Mic Night	Maritime Hotel
FRIDAY 19 JULY		
10.00	Coffee & Chat with Eva Bourke	Bantry House Tearooms
10.00	Children's Workshop: Fighting Words Juniors	Bantry Library
11.30	Ian Maleney	Bantry Bookshop
13.00	James Harpur: WB Yeats	Bantry Library
14.30	Publicity Masterclass: Elaine Egan	Maritime Hotel
14.30	Sarah Moss	Maritime Hotel
17.00	Free Market	Bantry Library
18.30	Danny Diamond & Tom French	Ma Murphys
20.30	Joseph O'Connor & Paraic O'Donnell	Maritime Hotel



THE J.G. FARRELL FICTION AWARD

The **J. G. Farrell Fiction Award** is for the best opening chapter of a novel-in-progress by a writer resident in Munster. The prize includes a place on the West Cork Literary Festival's **Novel Writing with Anjali Joseph** workshop (15-19 July) and accommodation in Bantry.

Applicants must submit the first chapter of their novel (max 3,000 words) via email and two printed copies (double-spaced and printed on one side of the page only) by **Friday 17 May**. Place your name and address on a separate sheet. Send these to **JG Farrell Award, West Cork Literary Festival, 13 Glengarriff Road, Bantry, Co. Cork** and email a copy to sara@westcorkmusic.ie with JG Farrell Award in the subject line. **Entries will only be considered if submitted in both hard copy and by email.** Late entries will not be accepted and entries will not be returned.

The award will be adjudicated by **Anjali Joseph**. She is the author of three novels; *Saraswati Park*, *Another Country* and *The Living*. At present she teaches creative writing on Oxford University's Master's course, at Queen Mary University of London and for online workshops. She lives in Henley-on-Thames and has just finished a fourth novel, *Keeping in Touch*.

August 2019 marks the fortieth anniversary of **J G Farrell's** untimely passing. He was born in Liverpool and died at the age of 44, when he was swept into the sea while fishing from rocks near his home in Kilcrohane, West Cork. His book *Troubles* won the Faber Prize in 1971, and in 2010 it won the Lost Man Booker Prize. *The Siege of Krishnapur*, about the Indian Mutiny of 1957, won the 1973 Booker Prize and in 2008 it was shortlisted for the Best of Booker public vote. West Cork Literary Festival would like to thank **Richard Farrell** for his continued sponsorship of this award, now in its tenth year.

WORKSHOPS

Booking: +353 (0)27 52788/9

Book online: €200 for five-day workshops

Except: €215 for the travel workshop (includes daily ferry).

€120 for five-day Words Allowed: Workshop for Teenage Writers

Workshops run concurrently, from

9.30am – 12.30pm, Monday 15 to Friday 19 July 2019

Workshop Venue: Colaiste Pobail Bheanntair, Seskin, Bantry

Except: *Travel Writing* with Adam Weymouth takes place in Bank House Bar and Restaurant on Whiddy Island. Daily ferry transfer to/ from Whiddy Island is included in the course.

The **WEST CORK LITERARY FESTIVAL** workshop programme is aimed at both novice and experienced writers. Our 5-day workshops, unique among Irish literary festivals, provide opportunities for development and intensive learning not possible in one sitting. All our workshops are run by award-winning writers many of whom teach creative writing at third level and offer immense value to participating writers. Please note that as with any workshop scenario, each tutor will have their own unique teaching style. Several of the writers who have taken these workshops have gone on to publish and have returned to the festival to read from their work.

CONDITIONS OF SALE: Every effort will be made to ensure that the programme will proceed as advertised however West Cork Literary Festival accepts no responsibility for any changes made due to circumstances beyond its control. Once purchased tickets cannot be exchanged or refunded. Refund will only be given in case of a cancelled event.



Liz Berry



Sinéad Gleeson Photo: Bríd O'Donovan

ADVANCED POETRY / LIZ BERRY / €200 / 15 max

How can we give our poems wings? What lifts a poem from ordinary to extraordinary? How can we put play back at the heart of our poem-making? Join us for a week-long journey into the transformative world of poetry. In this advanced class we'll read, write, play and rediscover the electricity in our own writing. We'll try new voices, dig up the treasures of lost words, cast spells, explore endings and learn how to be kind to ourselves whilst being tough on our poems. Come ready to write and be enchanted!

Liz Berry's first book of poems, *Black Country*, described as a 'sooty, soaring hymn to her native West Midlands' (*Guardian*) was a Poetry Book Society Recommendation, received a Somerset Maugham Award and won the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Award and Forward Prize for Best First Collection 2014. Her pamphlet *The Republic of Motherhood* was a Poetry Book Society Pamphlet choice and the title poem won the Forward Prize for Best Single Poem 2018.

ESSAYS, LIFE-WRITING & MEMOIR / SINÉAD GLEESON / €200 / 15 max

There are many ways to tell a story, and the essay is one of the most elastic forms in contemporary writing. Many of literature's most daring writers of the self have used auto-fiction, memoir and personal essays to write about their lives and the world, from James Baldwin and Joan Didion, to John Jeremiah Sullivan and Maggie Nelson. We will explore the art of the essay, past and present, focusing on the skills required for life-writing and first-person non-fiction. We will discuss how to put ideas into practice, beginnings and structure, making the personal universal and learning how to extract the key elements of your own story.

Sinéad Gleeson's essays have appeared in *Granta*, *Winter Papers*, *Gorse*, *Banshee* and *Elsewhere Journal*. In 2019 her debut essay collection, *Constellations* was published by Picador; she has a short story in *Being Various: New Irish Writing* and is the 2019 Writer in Residence in UCD. She is the editor of three short story anthologies, including *The Long Gaze Back: an Anthology of Irish Women Writers* (2015) and *The Glass Shore: Short Stories by Women Writers from the North of Ireland*, both of which won Best Irish Published Book at the Irish Book Awards. She has contributed poems and short stories to various anthologies and is currently working on a novel.

NOVEL WRITING / ANJALI JOSEPH / €200 / 15 max

This workshop is for those who are working on a novel. How do you stay motivated? What should you do to keep a reader interested in your characters? How can you create great dialogue, convincing settings, and a strong plot? How do you move through writer's block? And how do you revise your novel until it is ready to be sent out to agents and publishers? Over the course of five morning masterclasses we will look at these topics and work through exercises. You will also have a chance to discuss your work-in-progress and come away with a plan for what to do next.

Anjali Joseph is the author of three novels. *Saraswati Park* won the Desmond Elliott Prize and the Betty Trask Prize. *Another Country* was longlisted for the Man Asian Literary Award. *The Living* was shortlisted for the DSC Prize. She was born in Bombay, read English at Trinity College, Cambridge, and did an MA and PhD at the University of East Anglia, where she also taught creative writing for four years. She teaches creative writing on Oxford University's Master's course, at Queen Mary University of London and for online workshops. She lives in Henley-on-Thames and has just finished a fourth novel, *Keeping in Touch*.



Anjali Joseph Photo: C.J. Humphries

SHORT STORY / WENDY ERSKINE / €200 / 15 max

If you have never written a short story or if in fact you are working towards a collection, you should find our time together useful and enjoyable. We will focus on the aspects of writing which present us with a range of possibilities and opportunities. We'll explore various narrative points of view and the use of different temporal structures, characterisation and locale, metaphor, dialogue and the presentation of thought. Rather than considering formulas and theories, we'll look at how stories might work on their own terms. The sessions will be relaxed but focused, rigorous yet supportive. And good fun! *Participants may be requested to read certain short stories in advance of the workshop and/or to produce short pieces of writing outside of class hours during the week.*

Wendy Erskine lives in Belfast. Her debut collection of short stories, *Sweet Home*, was published by The Stinging Fly Press in 2018 and will be published by Picador in 2019. Her writing has appeared in *The Stinging Fly*, *Stinging Fly Stories*, *Winter Papers 4* and *Female Lines* and on BBC Radio 4. In 2019 her work appears in *Being Various: New Irish Short Stories* and *We'll Never Have Paris*.



Wendy Erskine Photo: Khara Pringle



Catherine Ryan Howard Photo: Steve Langan



Dave Lordan



E.R. Murray

CRIME WRITING / CATHERINE RYAN HOWARD / €200 / 15 max

Learn how to get away with murder as we explore developing ideas, plotting, creating suspense, research, and preparing work for submission to agents and publishers. Suitable for writers at all levels, it will especially appeal to those with an interest in the mechanics of plotting. Each session will have a mix of seminar-style teaching, practical writing exercises and group discussion. The idea is not to advance existing work but to spend the time stretching writing muscles, considering new approaches, and learning the nuts and bolts of writing crime fiction, before returning to your work-in-progress with fresh eyes, renewed enthusiasm and more creative tools at your disposal.

Cork author **Catherine Ryan Howard's** best-selling debut novel, *Distress Signals* was shortlisted for the Irish Crime Novel of the Year and the CWA John Creasey/New Blood Dagger. Her second novel, *The Liar's Girl*, was nominated for the Edgar Award for Best Novel. *Distress Signals* is being developed as a TV mini-series. She has taught workshops for the Irish Writers Centre and Faber Academy and in 2018 facilitated the Cork City Libraries Creative Writing Summer School.

WORDS ALLOWED: WORKSHOP FOR TEENAGE WRITERS

DAVE LORDAN & E.R. MURRAY / €120 / 18 max / 14-18 years

Words Allowed introduces you to poetry, story and song as well as Youtubeing and online video production. In a supportive atmosphere you will be encouraged to generate new work. We will help you explore and enjoy your creative imaginations over an intense, fun, inclusive and inspirational week. Open to young people of all backgrounds, identities and abilities. **Dave Lordan** and **E.R. Murray** are both very experienced in working with young people with special needs. The only requirement is an interest in writing or storytelling of any kind.

Dave Lordan is a multi-genre writer, performer, editor. He has led creative writing workshops for RTÉ, Irish Film Institute, Dublin City Libraries, Ledbury Poetry Festival, Youthreach, Youthspeaks, Children's Books Ireland, Irish Writers Centre and Big Smoke Writing Factory.

Elizabeth Rose Murray writes novels for children/young adults and short fiction. Her award-winning books include the Nine Lives Trilogy (*The Book of Learning*, *The Book of Shadows*, *The Book of Revenge*) and *Caramel Hearts*.

Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union



SONGWRITING / YE VAGABONDS / €200 / 15 max

We will work writing original material as well as arranging traditional songs through a variety of exercises and methods. The week will be tailored to people with an understanding of basic musical principles – those who enjoy singing songs and reading or writing poetry. People who understand rhythm and play an instrument will be in a better position to learn but even very basic skills should suffice. We will look at song construction and deconstruction as methods of learning. Participants will be asked to take part in individual as well as group work, to engage in some playful activities, to work on their songs in their own time if they wish, and to share as much as they are willing. We will provide ample source material for traditional songs including books and recordings, but feel free to bring your own. We will also bring an array of musical instruments and noise makers. Bring along notepads, pens, headphones, smartphones or laptops (where available). Musical instruments and recording devices are helpful but not essential.

Ye Vagabonds are brothers **Brían and Diarmuid Mac Gloinn** and they grew up playing music together in their hometown of Carlow. After moving to Dublin in 2012, they quickly became a staple of the live music scene in Ireland, playing original songs as well as folk songs from Ireland, Scotland, England and America. Their debut EP *Rose & Briar* was released in 2015. In 2018 they toured the islands of Ireland as well as throughout the UK and Europe. Their track *Lowlands of Holland* was nominated for a BBC folk award and they were nominated in several categories in the first ever RTÉ folk awards. Their album *The Hare's Lament* was released in 2019.



Ye Vagabonds Photo: Bríd O'Donovan



Adam Weymouth Photo: Suki Dhanda



Kishani Widyaratna

TRAVEL WRITING / ADAM WEYMOUTH

€215 / 15 max / WHIDDY ISLAND (incl Daily Return Ferry)

We will explore Whiddy Island, its people, its nature and its history and our personal reactions to it. By the end of the week we will each have a piece of writing that should enable us to play with the myriad ways of approaching travel writing and also a better understanding of our responses to this unique and particular place. You will be asked to bring a short piece of writing with you at the beginning of the week, and to read some varied examples of the genre that will be sent out beforehand. Through group exercises we will listen to and discuss each other's work, and you will be encouraged to spend some time outside of the workshops to work on your piece (although not too much!) We'll be guided by the weather, but at least some of the workshop time will be spent outside. We'll also talk about what we mean by travel writing and the practicalities of travel writing: how to pitch; how to get funding; finding a story; research methods, research ethics etc.

Adam Weymouth's work has been published by a wide variety of outlets including the *Guardian*, the *Atlantic* and the *New Internationalist*. In 2010 he walked from England to Istanbul as an exploration of pilgrimage. His interest in the relationship between humans and the world around them has led him to write on issues of climate change and environmentalism, including the reintroduction of wolves to the UK. He was awarded the *Sunday Times* Young Writer of the Year and the Edward Stanford/Lonely Planet Adventure Travel Book of the Year for his first book, *Kings of the Yukon*, a four-month canoe trip down the Yukon river and the stories of the communities that live along its banks. He lives on a 100-year-old Dutch barge in London.

EDITOR-IN-RESIDENCE /

KISHANI WIDYARATNA / MARITIME HOTEL

Monday 15 to Thursday 18 July: 14.00, 15.00, 16.00, 17.00;
Friday 19 July 9.00, 10.00, 11.00, 12.00 / €60 per 45-minute
appointment / One-to-one session

Take advantage of this rare opportunity to speak with an experienced literary editor by booking a one-to-one session with our editor-in-residence **Kishani Widyaratna** who will discuss and appraise your work. Submit a sample of your work - no more than four pages of A4 double-spaced - and a cover letter describing briefly the context for the writing sample, your writing background and specifics you might like addressed in the session. Please send **email your writing sample and letter** to sara@westcorkmusic.ie with Editor-in-Residence in the subject line by Friday 21 June along with payment to the West Cork Literary Festival.

Kishani Widyaratna publishes literary fiction, poetry and all stripes of quality non-fiction at Picador. She is passionate about nurturing bold new writing talent and is a longstanding Contributing Editor for the literary magazine *The White Review*. Her authors include Jamie Quatro, Julia Armfield, Olivia Laing, Sinéad Gleeson, Andrea Lawlor, Jericho Brown, Mieko Kawakami, Safiya Sinclair, Behrouz Boochani, Carol Ann Duffy and Sarah Manguso. Kishani was also one of the editors for Robin Robertson's *The Long Take* which was shortlisted for the Man Booker prize last year and Olivia Laing's *Crudo* which was shortlisted for the Goldsmith's prize.



READ ON

inspiring young people across Europe to read

READ ON is a 48-month, European project that aims to reignite a passion for reading amongst young people. It is specifically focused on those between the ages of 12 -19. Reading will be one of the key skills that all young people will have to master if they are to succeed in their future working life as well as in their social life and in society in general.

The project is being delivered through 7 partner organisations across 6 EU countries: Ireland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom. Activities include Reading Programmes, Creative Writing, Interviewing, Literature and Cultural Identity, Graphic Novels, Illustration, Training for Professionals, Audience Development and Multimedia. The project commenced in 2017 and will continue until May 2021.

The Irish component of the project will be delivered by West Cork Music in collaboration with Cork County Library & Arts Service. **READ ON** is funded by the EU Creative Europe programme and undertaken with the support of the Arts Council.

READ ON stands for Reading for Enjoyment, Achievement and Development of **young** people. You can find more information at <https://readon.eu> and at <http://www.westcorkmusic.ie/education/read-on>

The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



Images are of students from Coláiste Pobail Bheanntaí who have been taking part in READ ON activities in Ireland"



CHILDREN'S & YOUNG ADULTS' FESTIVAL



As part of our involvement in **READ ON** this week's events for young people include Creative Writing workshops; Passports events encouraging young readers to reflect on the meaning of citizenship and cultural identity in contemporary Europe and to discover work by European writers whose family heritage is from other continents, writers who have been programmed throughout the festival; and Blurandevu events where **John Boyne**, **E.R. Murray** and **Cethan Leahy** will be interviewed by transition year students from Coláiste Pobail Bheanntaí who have completed workshops in how to interview a writer in public.

FRIDAY 12 / 13.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / Panel Discussion / FREE

Age: Teen & Adult / (see p4)

NEW TO THE PARISH – SORCHA POLLAK, FLAVIA CAMEJO, BULELANI MFACO & MALAK BOUD

Journalist **Sorcha Pollak** will discuss *New to the Parish*, a series of articles running in the *Irish Times* for the past few years and now published as a book. Sorcha will lead a discussion with three of the contributors about how and why they made Ireland their home and about the meaning of cultural identity, nationality, heritage and citizenship.

SATURDAY 13 / 15.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY Teenage Workshop / FREE

Age: 14-18 / 15 people max / Booking is required

POETRY WORKSHOP with STEPHEN JAMES SMITH

Stephen James Smith is a Dublin poet and playwright central to the rise of the vibrant spoken word scene in Ireland today. His poetry videos have amassed over 2.5 million views. He has performed at Electric Picnic, Other Voices and Glastonbury. Stephen facilitates poetry workshops in schools around Ireland. His poetry is included on the syllabus at Western Connecticut State University and his work has been translated into multiple languages.



Clockwise from top left:
Sorcha Pollak Photo:
Patrick Redmond, Flavia
Camejo, Bulelani Mfaco &
Malak Boud

Left: Stephen James Smith
Photo: Babs Daly Grace
Photography

SUNDAY 14 / 15.00 / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL / Teenage Reading / €6 / Age: 12+

MY BROTHER'S NAME IS JESSICA: JOHN BOYNE

Sam has always idolised his big brother, Jason. Jason is kind, popular, amazing at football and girls are falling over themselves to date him. But then one evening Jason calls his family together to tell them that he's been struggling with a secret for a long time. His parents don't want to know and Sam simply doesn't understand. Because what do you do when your brother says he's not your brother at all? That he thinks he's actually... your sister? Full of John's trademark wit, warmth and emotion, *My Brother's Name is Jessica* is an urgent call to arms for better empathy and understanding about the complexity of gender identity.

John Boyne is the award-winning best-selling author of *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* as well as eleven novels for adults, four others for young readers and a collection of short stories. He lives in Dublin.

MONDAY 15 / 20.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / Public Interview / €5 / Age: Teen & Adult / (see p17)

LAUREATE NA NÓG SARAH CROSSAN

Ireland's Laureate na NÓg **Sarah Crossan** will join the Laureate for Irish Fiction **Sebastian Barry** to speak about their work.

TUESDAY 16 / 15.00 / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL / Teenage Reading / €6 / Age: 12+

CARAMEL HEARTS: E.R. MURRAY

Liv's life is more complicated than that of your average fourteen-year-old: her father left when she was young and her mother is in a recovery centre for alcoholics. One day Liv discovers a book of recipes in her mum's handwriting, which sets her off on a journey towards self-discovery and reconciliation. *Caramel Hearts* is a coming-of-age novel about love, disappointment and hope, and discovering the true value of friends and family, no matter how dysfunctional they are.

Elizabeth Rose Murray is the author of *The Nine Lives Trilogy* and *Caramel Hearts* is her first title for young adults. She lives in West Cork where she fishes, grows her own vegetables and enjoys plenty of adventures with her dog, Franklyn.



Above:
John Boyne
Photo:
Chris Close

Left:
E.R. Murray

TUESDAY 16 / 17.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / Reading / FREE

Age: Teen & Adult / (see page 20)

THE MARROW THIEVES: CHERIE DIMALINE

Métis writer **Cherie Dimaline** will read from her YA novel as part of a delegation of writers from Ottawa International Writers Festival. *The Marrow Thieves* won the Kirkus Prize, the Amy Mathers Teen Book Award and the Burt Award for First Nations, Inuit and Métis YA Literature.

In a dystopian future humanity has nearly destroyed its world through global warming, but now an even greater evil lurks. The Indigenous people of North America are being hunted and harvested for their bone marrow, which carries the key to recovering something the rest of the population has lost: the ability to dream.

WEDNESDAY 17 / 10.00-11.30 / BANTRY LIBRARY / Children's Workshop

FREE / Age: 8-12 / 8 people max / Booking is required

CREATE YOUR OWN ACCORDION BOOK

You will create your own multiple-fold accordion book. This style of book folds out in unusual manner, creating a highly-sculptural object that captures everybody's imagination and the theme of the book would be created using simple story development games.

Éilís Murphy made her first book when she was six years old. Ever since, creating things has been a central part of her life. She has trained with the Society of Bookbinders (UK), Frauke Schroeder (Berlin), West Dean College (UK) and volunteered with the Paper Conservation Department in the National Gallery of Ireland.



Left: Cherie Dimaline
Photo: Valentina Saavedra
Below: Book Binding
Photos: Éilís Murphy



WEDNESDAY 17 / 15.00 / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL

Teenage Reading / €6 / Age: 14+

TUESDAYS ARE JUST AS BAD: CETHAN LEAHY

When troubled teenager Adam wakes in hospital after a suicide attempt, he finds that he has company. A ghost. Or perhaps something else. Adam attempts to return to normal life, he makes new friends via his counselling sessions and starts to feel happy again. The 'ghost', however, becomes jealous and decides that the only way he can be free of this feeling is to isolate Adam so he can have him all to himself, with catastrophic results.

Cethan Leahy is a writer, filmmaker, and editor of Irish literary magazine *The Penny Dreadful*. His short film *The Amazing* appeared in Cork film anthology *Cork, Like* in 2013. His radio programmes, including children's drama *Tales from the Fairy Fort*, have appeared on LifeFM and RTÉ Jr digital radio. He also contributed illustration work to Cork comics press Turncoat Press.



Right: Cethan Leahy

Below: Mark Wickham



THURSDAY 18 / 10.00-11.30 / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL

Children's Workshop / Free / Age: 5-12 / €3 / Booking is required

ILLUSTRATING WORKSHOP with MARK WICKHAM

Join illustrator **Mark Wickham** in an interactive workshop testing and creating a collaborative, modular drawing game. Designed to expand as far as your imagination and walls allow, *Up and Up* is a tool to create visual stories. Mark is a designer and illustrator from Bantry. He works as a commercial and editorial illustrator and has published three children's books. He is currently working on a new all ages drawing activity book.

Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian for the duration of this event.

THURSDAY 18 / 15.00-17.00 / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL

Teenage Workshop / Free / Age: 13-16 / 30 people max / Booking is required

FIGHTING WORDS

Teenagers are invited to join this creative writing workshop which will see them turn a prickly situation into an incredible tale. Graphic Novel or Screenplay or Fictional Narrative – young writers are encouraged to develop their ideas with the support of Graffiti Theatre Company's Fighting Words volunteer tutors and illustrators before pitching their narrative ideas in a story-telling experience that builds confidence and techniques. The **Fighting Words** programme, developed by Roddy Doyle and Sean Love, was brought to Cork by **Graffiti Theatre Company** in 2017, to support creative writing among children and young adults.

FRIDAY 19 / 10.00-11.30 / BANTRY LIBRARY / Children's Workshop / Free

Age: 4-6 / 15 people max / Booking is required

FIGHTING WORDS JUNIORS

These workshops, specifically developed by Graffiti Theatre Company, are scaffolded from the exceptional work of Peter H. Reynolds' *The Dot* which encourages children to 'make their mark', and visual text *The Journey* by Aaron Becker in which a young girl creates doorways into imagined worlds. A hands-on interactive piece, the workshop involves a mix of circle time and small group interactive work that sees the children create their own 'Dot' character and the world through which this character will travel, which they then share in a storytelling circle.





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Image: The Rye Field (detail); William Crozier (1910-2011) collection of the Crawford Art Gallery Cork, courtesy of the artist's estate. Artist image: Mairéad Hickey

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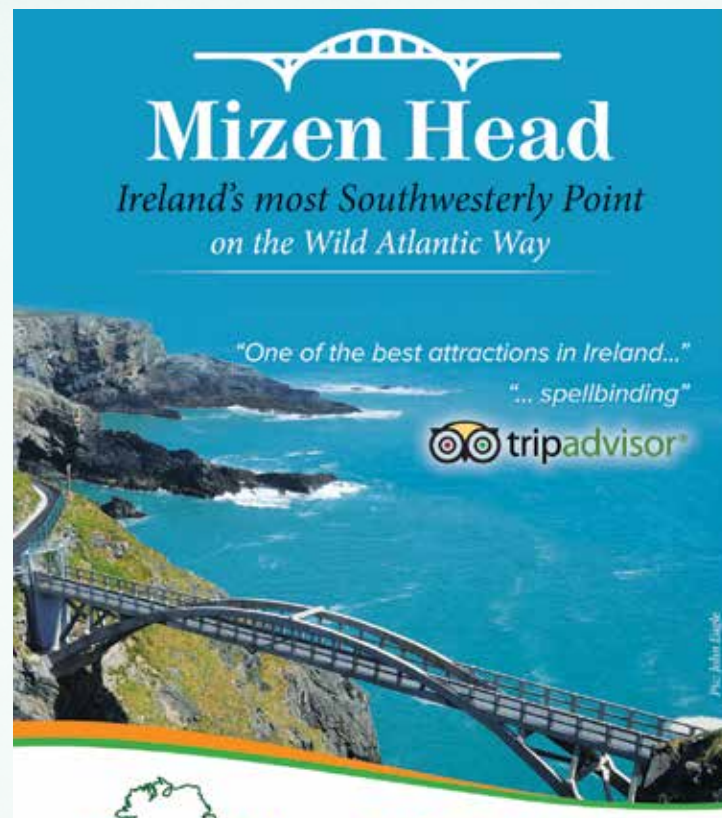
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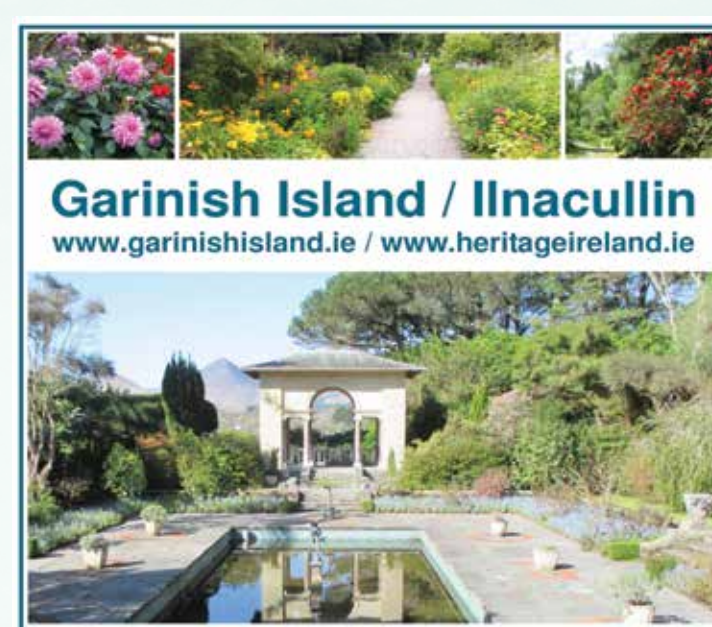
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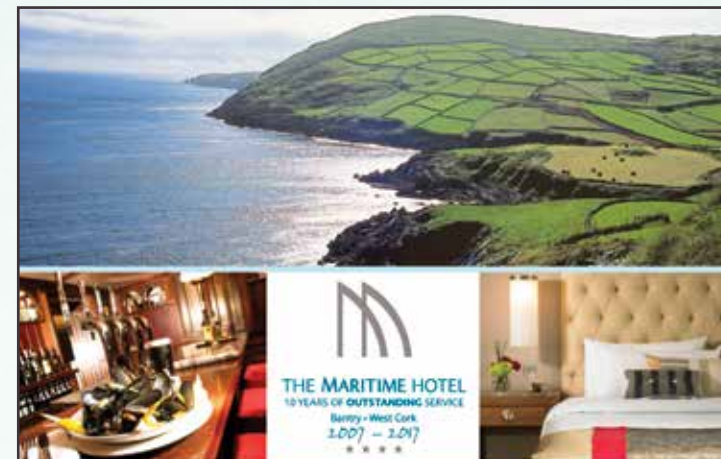
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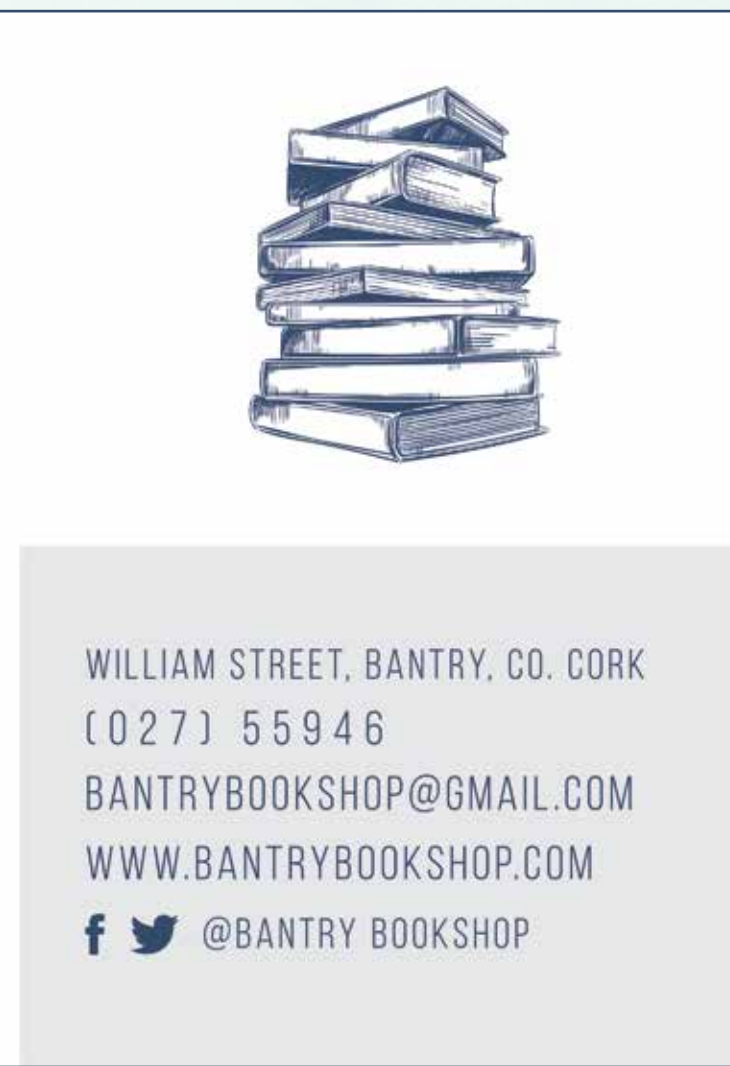
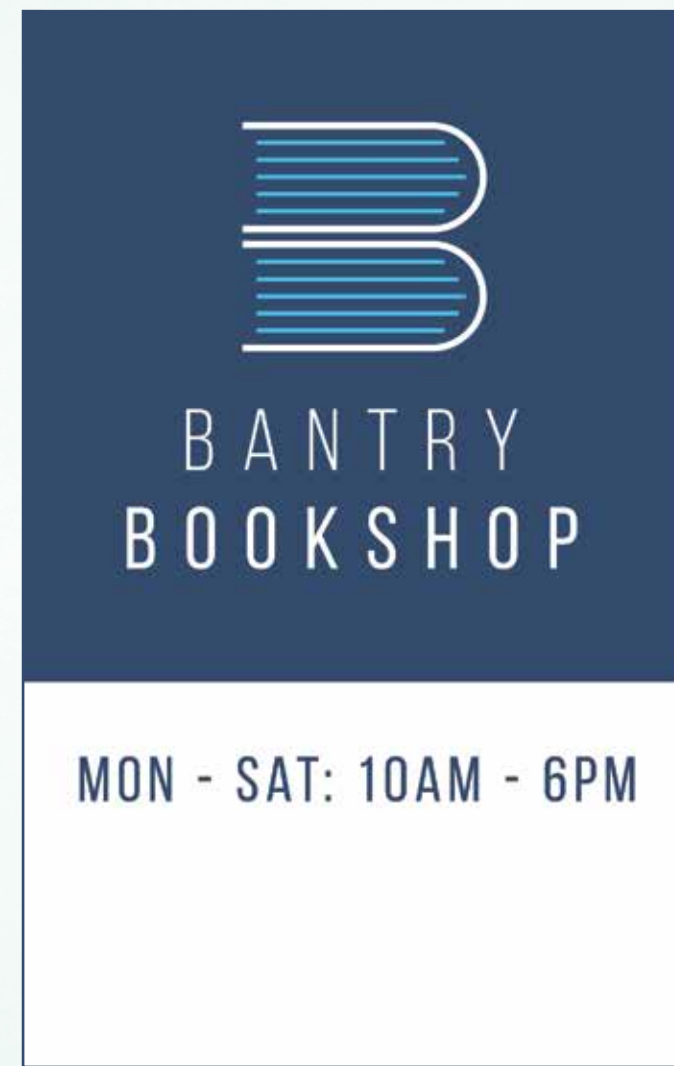
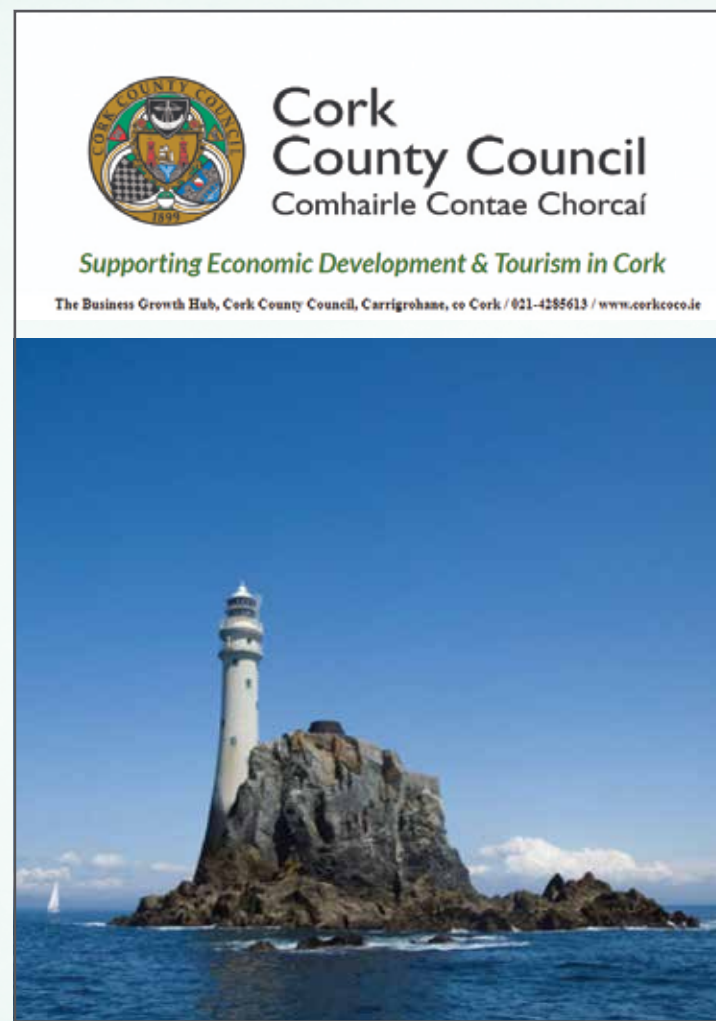
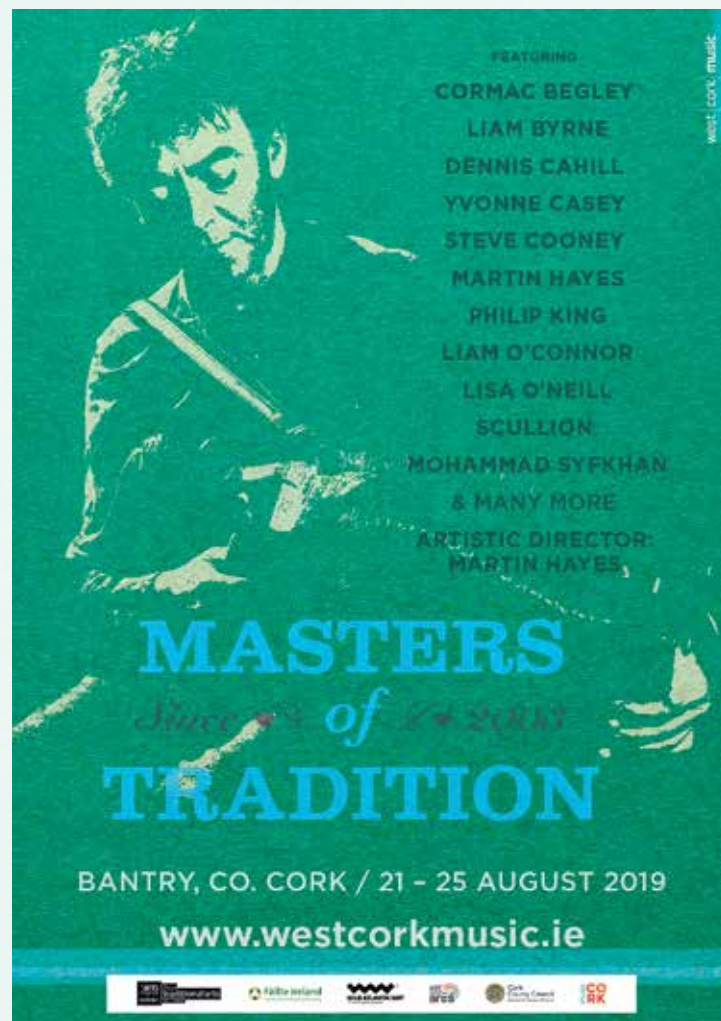
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West Cork Music is most grateful for generous contributions from Daniel Coleman, Eimear McCartan and Margaret Lucey.

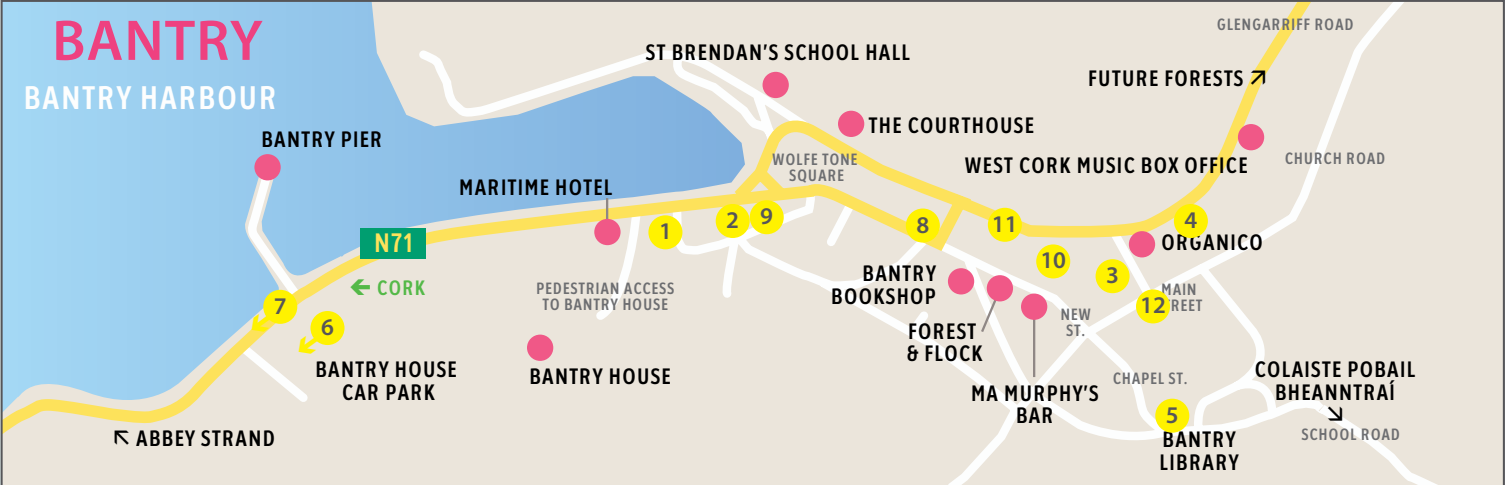
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Thank you to Angela Fewer for permission to reproduce her painting 'Eternal Sea' on the cover of this brochure.

We would like to thank all of the writers, tutors and introducers who will join us this year and all of the writers who weren't able to make it (we'll ask you again!)

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BOX OFFICE OPENING HOURS: MONDAY TO FRIDAY 10.00 – 17.00
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Book online at **www.westcorkliteraryfestival.ie**

WEST CORK LITERARY FESTIVAL 2019 / BOOKING FORM

JULY	EVENT	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
CHILDREN'S & YOUNG ADULT'S EVENTS / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL				
SUN 14	MY BROTHER'S NAME IS JESSICA: JOHN BOYNE	€6		
TUE 16	CARAMEL HEARTS: E.R. MURRAY	€6		
WED 17	TUESDAYS ARE JUST AS BAD: CETHAN LEAHY	€6		
THUR 18	UP & UP: MARK WICKHAM	€3		
COFFEE & CHAT / 10.00 / BANTRY HOUSE TEAROOM				
MON 15	HELEN JUKES	€10		
TUE 16	THOM EAGLE	€10		
WED 17	RAYNOR WINN	€10		
FRI 19	EVA BOURKE	€10		
SERIES	COFFEE & CHAT SERIES (SAVE 20%)	€32		
AFTERNOON EVENTS / CHECK BROCHURE FOR VENUES & TIMES				
SAT 13	KEVIN BARRY WHIDDY ISLAND INC FERRY	€25		
SAT 13	WHIDDY ISLAND TALK/WALK <i>NOT</i> INC FERRY	€5		
SUN 14	MARK BOYLE	€18		
SUN 14	TRACEY THORN	€20		
SUN 14	CATHERINE KIRWAN & CATHERINE RYAN HOWARD	€18		
MON 15	KIT DE WAAL & ANJALI JOSEPH	€18		
TUE 16	TANA FRENCH	€18		
TUE 16	BOOKBINDING 101: ÉILÍS MURPHY	€25		
WED 17	ARNOLD THOMAS FANNING	€18		
WED 17	NO ALIBIS PRESS	€20		
THUR 18	ROSITA BOLAND & ADAM WEYMOUTH	€18		
THUR 18	GRÁINNE FOX: LITERARY AGENT	€20		
FRI 19	SARAH MOSS	€18		

JULY	EVENT	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
FRI 19	ELAINE EGAN : PUBLICITY MASTERCLASS	€20		
EARLY EVENING EVENTS / CHECK BROCHURE FOR VENUES & TIMES				
SAT 13	STEPHEN JAMES SMITH	€16		
SUN 14	JOHN BOYNE & PATRICK GALE	€16		
MON 15	CHARLOTTE COLLINS: LITERARY TRANSLATION	€16		
WED 17	ESI EDUGYAN & STEVEN PRICE	€16		
THUR 18	TESSA HADLEY & HUGO HAMILTON	€16		
FRI 19	DANNY DIAMOND & TOM FRENCH	€10		
EVENING EVENTS / 20.30 / MARITIME HOTEL				
FRI 12	MARY ROBINSON	€25		
SAT 13	SARAH BREEN & EMER MCCLYSAGHT	€20		
SUN 14	ANNE CARSON	€20		
MON 15	SEBASTIAN BARRY & SARAH CROSSAN	€5		
TUE 16	SINÉAD GLEESON & EMILIE PINE	€20		
WED 17	LIZ BERRY, DOIREANN NÍ GHRÍOFA & JESSICA TRAYNOR	€20		
THUR 18	GRAHAM NORTON	€30		
FRI 19	JOSEPH O'CONNOR & PARAIC O'DONNELL	€20		
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Located on the Wild Atlantic Way, Bantry is one of Ireland's leading Destination Towns hosting the West Cork Chamber Music Festival, West Cork Literary Festival and Masters of Tradition. Set within a magnificent landscape which has inspired its own language, literature, arts and song, this special part of West Cork is where visitors can discover Ireland's wild, west coast.

Echoes of Ireland's rich history can be traced along this Atlantic seaboard and visitors can discover megalithic stone circles, bardic schools and the ruins of monastic settlements throughout the countryside. A few miles away from Bantry is the Sheep's Head Way. This peninsula is so spectacular it has been recognised as a European Destination of Excellence: a modern Eden. On the other side of Bantry Bay lies the remote Beara Peninsula which offers views of the distant Skellig Islands as well as the highest waterfall and the only cable car in Ireland. At the heart of this peninsular is the vibrant fishing town of Castletownbere which sits between the Caha and Slieve Miskish mountains.



For information on local activities around Bantry and along the Sheep's Head peninsula, go to

livingthesheepsheadway.com

The whole area is part of the Wild Atlantic Way, the new 2,500 km long scenic driving route along the west coast of Ireland from Donegal to Cork.

www.ireland.com/wildatlanticway



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