

Friday 7 – 14 July 2023  
Bantry, Co. Cork



West Cork Literary Festival





An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,  
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán  
Department of Tourism, Culture,  
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media



# ART:2023

## A Decade of Centenaries Collaboration

Find out more at [artscouncil.ie/ART2023](https://artscouncil.ie/ART2023)

## WELCOME TO THE 2023 WEST CORK LITERARY FESTIVAL

This is our twenty-fifth festival and we have grown over the past quarter of a century into the exciting and jam-packed week of events that you now hold in your hands. We've all been through so much in the past few years but one thing that didn't change was the number of incredible books being written. I read so many amazing books this year and I could have easily programmed a full month.

The board and the staff of West Cork Music produce three world-class festivals – West Cork Chamber Music Festival, Masters of Tradition and West Cork Literary Festival. The festival team does a brilliant job all year to make Bantry the place to be every summer. Welcome to the additional staff and volunteers who come aboard at festival time. It is a pleasure to work with all of you and to be part of this very special festival. Special thanks as always to our principal funders the Arts Council, Cork County Council and Fáilte Ireland.

West Cork is one of the most beautiful places in the world and it is a joy to present a literary festival here. Bantry is a wonderful place to live, work and visit and everyone is ready and waiting to give you an unforgettable West Cork experience. Our hub for the week is the Maritime Hotel but we also bring audiences to unique Bantry venues such as Marino Church, Bantry House, Whiddy Island, Bantry Bookshop, Bantry Library, Ma Murphys, Future Forests and the outdoor auditorium at the National Learning Network.

Enormous thanks to all of our writers. Thank you so much for sharing your work and your ideas with us. It is a huge honour to welcome you to our festival. May you have the most wonderful time here.

Events for children and young people are all free of charge this year and I hope that young people and families will take this opportunity to discover a love of reading. You are the future writers and festivalgoers of West Cork Literary Festival!

Thank you to our audiences for continuing to support the festival and authors by buying tickets, attending events, buying books and embracing the festival atmosphere. We hope that you will join us in huge numbers this summer to meet some of your favourite authors and make new discoveries. Festivals are a wonderful opportunity to meet fellow book lovers, enjoy a coffee or lunch in one of Bantry's many restaurants and cafes, have a dip in the sea, explore our town and its surroundings. Whether you live in West Cork, whether you are visiting for the day or spending a few days here you are sure to have a wonderful time. Come and help us put the festive into festival!

Eimear O'Herlihy, Festival Director



West Cork Literary Festival



West Cork Literary Festival

Cork County Library and Arts Service welcome West Cork Literary Festival back to the heart of Bantry. 2023 is our first full year of normal, busy business since 2019 and the revival started in July 2022 with the Literary Festival.

From the summer onwards new and old customers came back to libraries and reading with gusto. 900,000 people visited libraries in Cork County last year and 1.3million books were borrowed, read, loved, not so loved, discussed, discarded, reread and recommended. We opened beautiful new libraries in Bandon, Kanturk and Kinsale (summer 2023). Libraries are feeling the positive impact of a strong increase in book sales and reading trends. Our readers' demands are always changing and we are finding new ways to support them in exploring new and old books to love. We developed collections to support individuals and communities in learning more about important social topics such as climate awareness, LGBTQ+, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Science and Technology. Books and Libraries play an important role in helping us navigate the world through fiction or non-fiction in a safe and trusted manner. To support our readers and WCLF, we have 10 of the festival's titles on our bookclubs list which are proving very popular amongst our 53 bookclubs spread across the county. We encourage our bookclubs to come to the festival and we are proud supporters of Irish authors and feel privileged to liaise with WCLF so bookclub members can meet emerging and established authors of renown from near and far.

In the heart of Bantry lies Bantry Library, a building which has been pivotal to community life in the town

and surrounding areas for 50 years. Due to its unique and commanding position, its presence is central to the historical and cultural fabric of Bantry. The library's signature, bow-shaped window above the mill wheel has a resonance for locals and for thousands of repeat visitors from Ireland and overseas. I am delighted to announce that Cork County Council successfully applied for a Heritage Council (Historical Towns Initiative) grant of €259,920 for external conservation works including window replacement.

I would like to thank West Cork Music and the festival's director Eimear O'Herlihy. Thank you to the County Arts Office, the sponsors, local organisations, businesses and volunteers for the time and effort put into creating something so special. I extend a special thank you to Denis Murphy and his team at Bantry Library on continuing this great partnership. I would particularly like to mention Michael Plaice, Senior Executive Librarian for West Cork for 16 years, who retired recently. Michael has been a great support to Bantry Library staff throughout the years and a strong advocate for the building's continued maintenance and conservation.

I look forward to seeing you all in Bantry this summer. Enjoy the festival and its many wonderful offerings.

Emer O'Brien

County Librarian, Cork County Library and Arts Service



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council



### THIS YEAR'S COVER ART

*Biophilia* by Deirdre Frost © 2021 [above]

Oil on panel, 45x122 cm [www.deirdrefrost.com](http://www.deirdrefrost.com)

Photography: Jed Niezgoda

### ALL WEEK / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE EXHIBITION: COW TUESDAY

A selection of drawings from artist **John David Ratajkowski's** 'Cow Tuesday' series. John shared a drawing of a cow every Tuesday – 200 cows over three years – and these are now published in a handbound book called *Cow Tuesday*. He will speak about his book on Friday 14 in Bantry House, see p.31

Images, from left: *Biophilia* by Deirdre Frost,

A cow from Cow Tuesday by John David Ratajkowski



### ALL WEEK / FOREST & FLOCK / FREE

#### LETTER CAFÉ

Pop into the **Letter Café** and take the time to write that letter to let someone know that you're thinking of them. Complimentary stationery, pens and postage (to Ireland) available all week.

### ALL WEEK

#### IWC YOUNG WRITER DELEGATES

Four selected Young Writer Delegates, aged 18 to 26, will be welcomed to the festival by the Irish Writers Centre. They will attend a variety of events, reflect on their experiences and soak up the festival atmosphere. Their mentor will lead them in a series of workshops as well as provide guidance in life as a writer. Details of their showcase p.29.





**FRIDAY 7 JULY / 13.00 / ONLINE: ZOOM / €12 LITERARY AGENT: SALLYANNE SWEENEY**

**Sallyanne Sweeney** grew up in Dublin, studied English at Trinity College and an MPhil in American Literature at Queens' College, Cambridge. She joined **Mulcahy Sweeney Associates** in 2013 and is growing her list of authors and illustrators for children (picture books to YA) and adults. Clients have won or been shortlisted for the British Book Awards, Irish Book Awards, Rooney Prize for Irish Literature, Waterstones Children's Book Prize, Sainsbury's Children's Book Awards and YA Book Prize. Passionate about the editorial side of agenting, Sallyanne enjoys both working with debuts and helping established authors take their careers to the next level. Sallyanne is interested in fiction from the literary to the very commercial, memoirs, food writing and thought-provoking non-fiction. She was the Chair of the Children's Agents' Circle from 2014-2018.

**FRIDAY 7 / 15.00 / MARINO CHURCH / €18 RICHARD KEARNEY**

*Salvage* is the new novel by **Richard Kearney**. It's 1939 and Maeve O'Sullivan and her family are among the last inhabitants of a windswept island off the south coast of Ireland. After her father drowns in a boating accident, Maeve finds herself the last inheritor of the old ways of healing. But the future beckons to Maeve with the arrival of Seamus, a handsome young medical student heading for Dublin. **Richard Kearney** is an Irish philosopher and writer who holds the Seelig Chair of Philosophy at Boston College. He has written many books on European philosophy, narrative imagination, and Irish culture, as well as a book of poetry and two previous novels.

**FRIDAY 7 / 17.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE****OPENING RECEPTION OF THE 25th WEST CORK LITERARY FESTIVAL**

Join us as we gather in Bantry once again and 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.

**DURING THE WEEK / BANTRY DAY CARE CENTRE / PRIVATE EVENT****ARTS FOR HEALTH, WEST CORK**

We are partnering with Arts for Health, West Cork, and writer, **E. R. Murray**, for a special event with staff and participants at Bantry Day Care Centre. This project is funded by Arts for Health, West Cork



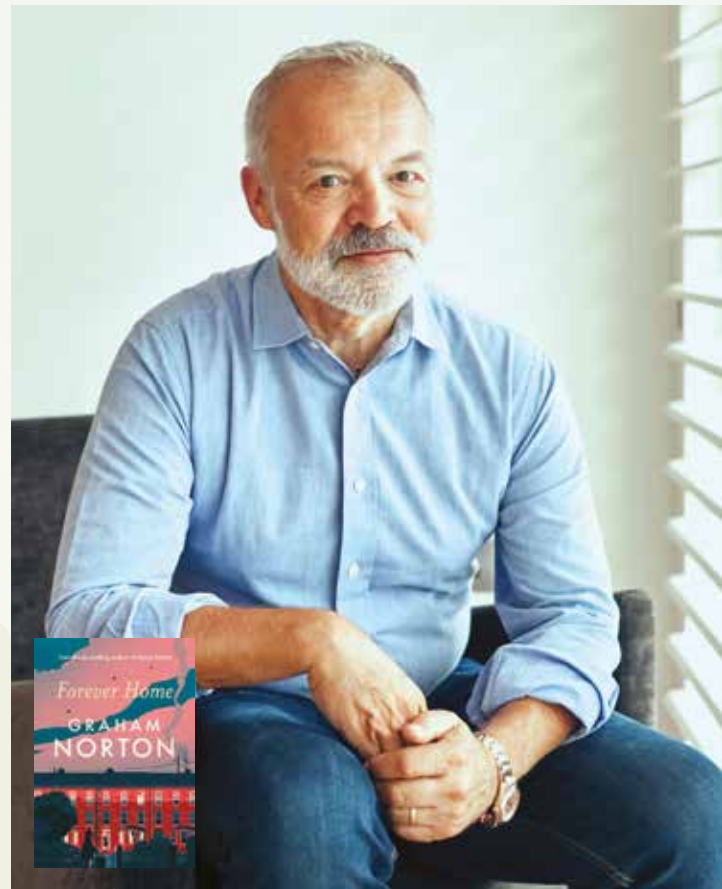
From top: Sallyanne Sweeney, Richard Kearney

**FRIDAY 7 / 20.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €32****GRAHAM NORTON in conversation with Maeve Higgins**

Join us for an evening with **Graham Norton**. Graham's fourth novel *Forever Home* is his best yet and it was published in September 2022. Carol is a divorced teacher living in a small town in Ireland, her only son now grown. A second chance at love brings her unexpected connection and belonging. The new relationship sparks local speculation: what does a woman like her see in a man like that? What happened to his wife who abandoned them all those years ago? But the gossip only serves to bring the couple closer.

**Graham Norton's** four novels *Holding*, *A Keeper*, *Home Stretch* and *Forever Home* became instant bestsellers both in the UK and Ireland and he won the Irish Book Award for Popular Fiction on two occasions. *Holding* was made into a major ITV drama in 2022. He has won 9 BAFTAs for Best Entertainment Performance, and Best Entertainment Programme. He presents *The Graham Norton Show* on BBC1, a show on Virgin Radio every Saturday and Sunday, is a judge on *RuPaul's Drag Race UK* and is known for his legendary Eurovision Song Contest commentary on the BBC. This year he will present the Grand Finale on 13 May when the competition is held in Liverpool. He presents 'The Graham Norton Book Club' Podcast on Audible which is currently in its fourth series.

'Oh my God. *Forever Home* is fabulous... His skill at gimlet-eyed observation and nuanced characterisation is \*chef's kiss\* but this book is so funny... It's a delight.' **Marian Keyes**



Graham Norton

**SATURDAY 8 / 9.00 / BANTRY HOUSE****YOGA ON THE LAWN / €15** (pay on the day) / Age: 15+

Join us for the perfect start to your morning! **Aileen Slein** has been practicing Yoga for over 20 years and has been teaching Iyengar Yoga for 15 years. She enjoys working with practitioners on their own self discovery and the deepening of their Yoga practice. This 75-minute drop-in class will be suitable for all levels. Please wear comfortable clothes and bring your own yoga mat. Weather permitting the class will take place on the front lawn in Bantry House (with a bad weather Plan B) Check social media on the day.

**SATURDAY 8 / 11.00-13.00 / MARINO CHURCH****FREE / MAX 15 / AGE 14-17 / Book in advance****POETRY AS COMMEMORATION WORKSHOP**

Poetry as Commemoration engages poetry as a way to deepen our collective understanding of Ireland's past and to explore a challenging period of history spanning the War of Independence and Civil War. Participants aged 14-17 are invited to take part in a two-day (Sat & Sun 11am) workshop led by poet **David McLoughlin** using archival materials as inspiration for creative writing.

Poetry as Commemoration is an initiative of the Irish Poetry Reading Archive at UCD Library in partnership with Poetry Ireland and Arts Council Northern Ireland. Supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, under the Decade of Centenaries 2012-2023 programme.

**SATURDAY 8 / 11.30 / BANTRY BOOKSHOP / FREE****CLARA KUMAGAI**

*Catfish Rolling* blends magic-realism, Japanese myth and legend in a story about grief, memory, time and an earthquake that shook a nation. Sora hates the catfish whose rolling caused an earthquake so powerful it cracked time itself. It destroyed her home and took her mother. When her father goes missing, she has to venture into uncharted spaces within the time zones to find him, her mother and perhaps even the catfish itself... **Clara Kumagai** is from Canada, Japan and Ireland. Her fiction and non-fiction for children and adults has been published in *The Stinging Fly*, *Room*, the *Kyoto Journal* and *Cicada*.

**SATURDAY 8 / 13.00 / 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 **Alex Barclay** for publication in the From the Well anthology. The winner of the competition and two other shortlisted writers will read their stories in this event hosted by **Alex Barclay**. Alex is the award-winning author of several bestselling thrillers and a YA novel.

From top: Clara Kumagai, Alex Barclay, David McLoughlin

**SATURDAY 8 / 14.15 / WHIDDY ISLAND / €25** (INCLUDES RETURN FERRY TRIP)**EOGHAN DALTON**

Join us for this special trip to Whiddy Island with West Cork author and rewilder **Eoghan Dalton**. Eoghan is the author of *An Irish Atlantic Rainforest*. On the Beara peninsula in West Cork, a temperate rainforest flourishes. It is the life work of Eoghan Dalton, who moved from Dublin in 2009 with a vision to rewild a 73-acre long-abandoned farm. Over the years since, Eoghan has brought life in all its explosive vibrancy back to the land, with new temperate rainforest spontaneously forming where previously there was only barren grass. Rewilding most of the land, and High Nature Value farming the rest, there has been plenty of time to reflect deeply on the ecological crisis unfolding at terrifying speed all around us, and its solutions. **Eoghan Dalton** is a sculpture conservator, a farmer and, above all, a rewilder. Reared in Dublin, he has lived in London, Paris and Prague and spent seven years studying sculpture in Carrara, Tuscany. The ferry leaves Bantry Pier for Whiddy Island at 14.15 sharp. It will leave Whiddy at 16.30 to return to Bantry.

**SATURDAY 8 / 17.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE****YEVA SKALIETSKA**

*You Don't Know What War Is: The diary of a young girl from Ukraine* is the gripping, urgent and moving diary of **Yeva Skalietska**, a 12-year-old Ukrainian girl who grew up living with her granny in Kharkiv, near the Russian border. She was woken in the early hours to the terrifying sounds of shelling as Russia invaded Ukraine. She and her granny were forced to seek shelter in a damp, cramped basement and Yeva decided to write down her story, a story that the world needs to hear. She records what is happening hour-by-hour as she seeks safety and travels from Kharkiv to Dublin, where she now lives, with her grandmother. This is a powerful insight into what conflict is like through the eyes of a child and an essential read for adults and older children alike.



From top: Eoghan Dalton, Yeva Skalietska



SATURDAY 8 / 18.30 / MARINO CHURCH / €16

**WILLIAM KEOHANE: BOXING DAY**

Boxing Day is a sequence of 52 prose poems. One poem for each week of the year. Each poem offers a glimpse into the experience of gender transition and taken together, they present a narrative account of a year of change, apprehension, and grief. **William Keohane** is a writer from Limerick. In 2021, he was shortlisted for the Patrick Kavanagh Poetry Award, received a Literature Bursary Award from the Arts Council of Ireland, and was one of ten poets selected for the Poetry Ireland Introductions series. His essays have been published in British GQ, Banshee, The Stinging Fly, and The Tangerine. He is the current writer-in-residence at Ormston House.

SATURDAY 8 / 20.30 / MARINO CHURCH / €20

**OWEN O'NEILL: THE WHOLE NINE YARNS**

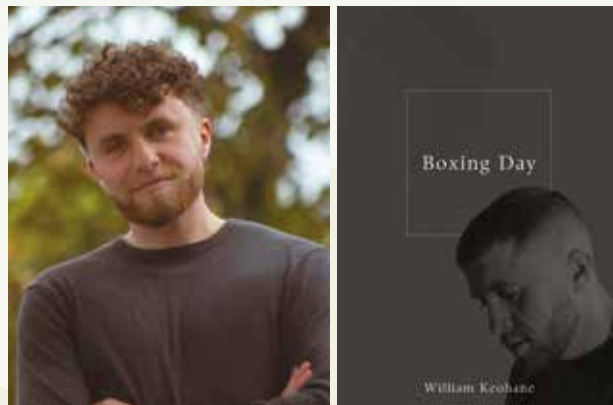
The Whole Nine Yarns is a hybrid of poetry and storytelling by award-winning writer and performer **Owen O'Neill**. He is the winner of two Fringe Firsts at the Edinburgh Festival, best actor at off Broadway Irish Festival and recipient of The New York critics award for best play. He has published three books of poetry, written plays for the stage and screen. He adapted the Shawshank Redemption for the stage in 2015 and it is currently on a number one tour of the UK and North America.

*O'Neills poems and stories are both poignant and hilarious.*

**Culture Northern Ireland.**

*I was simultaneously completely helpless with laughter and moved to tears.*

**The Scotsman**

SATURDAY 8 / 22.00 / MA MURPHYS / FREE **OPEN MIC** All welcome

From top: William Keohane, Owen O'Neill

SUNDAY 9 / 10.00-13.00 / MARITIME HOTEL / €30 / MAX 15

**THE SIMPLE ACT OF WALKING:****A WRITING WORKSHOP: ARNOLD THOMAS FANNING**

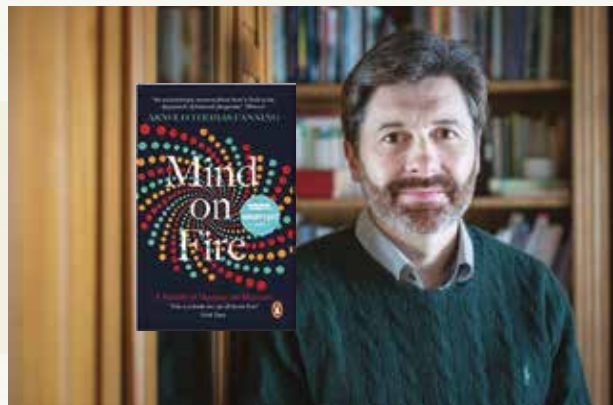
**Arnold Thomas Fanning** has always loved walking and has become increasingly aware of the links between walking and creativity, and how the simple act of walking can boost well-being. This lively, participatory, and practical three-hour workshop includes presentations on key themes, readings, an opportunity to write, share, and critique each other's work. *This is an all-weather workshop that will include a moderate walk through the beautiful gardens of Bantry House so please wear sturdy footwear and dress for the day's conditions.* **Arnold Thomas Fanning** has facilitated creative writing workshops for the Irish Writers Centre, The Yeats Society and the Stinging Fly Summer School. His book *Mind on Fire: A Memoir of Madness and Recovery* was shortlisted for the Wellcome Book Prize.

SUNDAY 9 / 10.00 / BANTRY HOUSE TEAROOM / €12

**COFFEE & CHAT with EASKEY BRITTON**

Series presented in association with Bantry House and Garden

*Ebb & Flow* is an exploration of water's power to heal us, inspire us and offer us spiritual meaning. This is a feminist reimagining of the meaning of power through the lens of water. **Easkey Britton** offers a range of wellness practices to encourage the reader to connect with water as healer, restoring a relationship of care. **Easkey Britton** is a surfer, writer, artist, film-maker, coach and marine social scientist, with a PhD in Environment and Society. A life-long surfer, she was taught to surf at the age of four, and she now channels her passion for the sea and surfing into social change.



From top: Arnold Thomas Fanning, Easkey Britton

SUNDAY 9 / 11.20 / 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 for this communal dip into the sea. This year we are joined on our swim by **Easkey Britton**, author of *Ebb & Flow*. Easkey will be speaking at the festival at 10.00 this morning.

SUNDAY 9 / 12.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €18

### NICOLE FLATTERY & MEGAN NOLAN

**Nicole Flattery's** first book, the story collection *Show Them A Good Time*, won the 2020 London Magazine Prize for Debut Fiction and the Kate O'Brien Award. Her debut novel *Nothing Special* was published in March 2023: New York City, 1966. Seventeen-year-old Mae lives in a run-down apartment with her alcoholic mother and her mother's sometimes-boyfriend. She drops out of school and is presented with a job offer that will remake her world entirely: she is hired as a typist for the artist Andy Warhol.

**Megan Nolan's** debut novel, *Acts of Desperation* won a Betty Trask Award, was shortlisted for the *Sunday Times* Young Writer of the Year Award and longlisted for the Dylan Thomas Prize. Her second novel *Ordinary Human Failings* is published in July 2023: London 1990 and Tom has it all: a burgeoning career as a reporter, fierce ambition and a brisk disregard for ordinary people, his readers. His star looks set to rise when he stumbles across a scoop: a dead child on a London estate, grieving parents loved across the neighbourhood, and the finger of suspicion pointing at a reclusive family of Irish immigrants and 'bad apples'.



Left: Nicole Flattery Right: Megan Nolan

SUNDAY 9 / 14.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €18 **CÓNAL CREEDON**

Join **Cónal Creedon** for a lecture based on his book *Art Imitating Life Imitating Death* which is his exploration of *Guests of the Nation* by Frank O'Connor. In 2012, Cónal Creedon was invited by descendants of the Donoughmore IRA to visit a network of safe houses where Major Compton-Smith had been held before he was executed. Cónal's detailed study of real-life events offer factual insight into Frank O'Connor's renowned anti-war story, *Guests of The Nation*. Cónal invites you on a journey into a world where fact and fiction dovetail together seamlessly. **Cónal Creedon** is a novelist, playwright and documentary film maker. His novel *Begotten Not Made* was nominated for the Dublin International Book Award 2020 and his collection of short stories *Pancho and Lefty Ride Again* was Cork's One City One Book for 2022.

SUNDAY 9 / 15.00-17.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €10 / Sessions last 10 Mins / Book in advance

### POETRY SOS: JANE CLARKE

*Vital Signs*, published by Poetry Ireland, is a new anthology of powerful and courageous responses to the human experience of illness and healing. There are times when we all need a 'reset' and you are invited to join us for a Poetry S.O.S. to do just that. Hosted by poet and poetry pharmacist, Jane Clarke who will select and prescribe a Vital Signs poem for you, designed to make you feel better, which you can bring home and read at your leisure. See page 13 for Jane's biography.

*This event is presented in association with Poetry Ireland.*



SUNDAY 9 / 16.30 / MARINO CHURCH / FREE **HOLY SHOW'S SUNDAY SERMON with NICOLE FLATTERY & MAHITO INDI HENDERSON**

Join *Holy Show* for a Buckfast cocktail reception to launch issue #05 of its summer arts annual. *Holy Show* is a vibrant, full-colour journal of non-fiction that includes new work from writers, photographers, theatre- and film-makers, visual artists and more. The launch will include short readings from the issue: **Nicole Flattery** from her diary detailing the months around the launch of her new book *Nothing Special*, and **Mahito Indi Henderson** with a fireside yarn recorded in Cill Rialaig earlier this year.

From top: Cónal Creedon, Jane Clarke and Mahito Indi Henderson



SUNDAY 9 / 18.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €18 **ALICE ZENITER**

Naïma has always known that her family came from Algeria, but that meant very little to her. Born and raised in France, her knowledge of that foreign country is limited to the food her grandparents cooked and the few things they took when they fled. Why was her grandfather forced to leave? Once a wealthy landowner, how did he become an immigrant scratching a living in France? *The Art of Losing* tells the story of how people carry on in the face of loss: the loss of a country, an identity, a way to speak to your children. It is translated from French by **Frank Wynne** and won the 2022 Dublin Literary Award. **Alice Zeniter** was born in 1986 and is the author of four novels. Her previous novels won the Prix du Livre Inter, the Prix des lecteurs de *l'Express* and the Prix de la Closerie des Lilas.

Supported by the Ambassade de France en Irlande / Embassy of France in Ireland

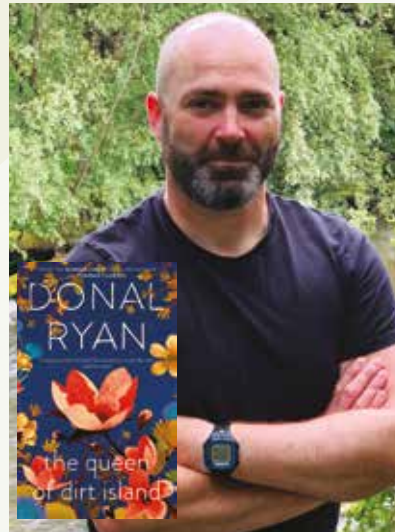
SUNDAY 9 / 20.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €20 **DONAL RYAN**

*The Queen of Dirt Island* is **Donal Ryan**'s soaring, jubilant story about four generations of women, fierce love, and the stories that bind people together. The Aylward women of Nenagh, Tipperary, are mad about each other, but you wouldn't always think it. You'd have to know them to know that their house is a place of peace, filled with love, a refuge from the sadness and cruelty of the world. Their story begins at an end and ends at a beginning. It involves wives and widows, gunrunners and gougiers, sinners and saints. It's a story of betrayals and loyalties, of isolation and togetherness, of transgression, forgiveness, desire, and love. About all the things family can be and all the things it sometimes isn't.

'One of the finest writers working in Ireland today' **The Guardian**

'A life-enhancing talent' **Sebastian Barry**

**Donal Ryan** is an award-winning author whose work has been published in over twenty languages. His debut *The Spinning Heart* won the EU Prize for Literature (Ireland), and Book of the Year at the Irish Book Awards; it was shortlisted for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award and was voted 'Irish Book of the Decade'. His new novel *The Queen of Dirt Island* was published in 2022.

SUNDAY 9 / 22.00 / MARITIME HOTEL / FREE **OPEN MIC** All welcome

From top: Alice Zeniter, Donal Ryan

## MONDAY 10 / 10.00 / BANTRY HOUSE TEAROOM / €12

COFFEE & CHAT with **JANE CLARKE & DYLAN BRENNAN**

Deeply attuned to those things that make and unmake us, **Dylan Brennan**'s poetry collection *Let The Dead* concerns itself with life's alchemical processes. Beautiful and disturbing by turns, these reflections on Ireland and Mexico's shared colonial past invoke topographies both real and imagined, where 'things in the ground have a tendency to grow.' He lives in Mexico City and is a previous recipient of the Ireland Chair of Poetry Bursary Award. *Let The Dead*, was published by Banshee Press in 2023.

**Jane Clarke**'s third collection, *A Change in the Air*, is far-reaching and yet rooted in time and place. Her poems explore how people, landscape and culture shape us. Voices of the past and present reverberate with courage and resilience in the face of poverty, prejudice, war and exile and the everyday losses of living. Her poetry has been short-listed for the Royal Society of Literature's Ondaatje Prize, the Pigott Poetry Prize, the *Irish Times* Poetry Now Award and the Farmgate Café National Poetry Award. *A Change in the Air*, was published by Bloodaxe in 2023.

MONDAY 10 / 11.30 / BANTRY BOOKSHOP / FREE **GRÁINNE MURPHY**

**Gráinne Murphy**'s novel *Winter People* is a story of forgiveness, resilience, and the power of the sea to unlock what we are most afraid to say. It is set on the wild Atlantic coast of Ireland and through the lives of three strangers it seeks to answer one question: who are we without the people who love us? Gráinne grew up in rural west Cork. She lived in Brussels for 5 years before returning to West Cork. She is the author of three novels and her most recent novel *Winter People* was published in 2022.



From top: Dylan Brennan, Jane Clarke, Gráinne Murphy



**MONDAY 10 / 13.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE DAVID TOMS**

In his memoir *Pacemaker*, acclaimed poet **David Toms** confronts what it means to live life while walking in tandem with a rare heart condition. He climbs mountains for leisure and in his personal life; explores heartbreak both metaphorical and literal; and takes us on journeys real and imagined. Written with beauty and economy, *Pacemaker* explores what it means to live in a fragile yet resilient body, to walk multiple challenging paths, and to always find a way to keep moving. David is a writer from Waterford, now living and working in Norway. His poetry collections include *Northly*, *Soma* | *Sema* and several chapbooks.

**MONDAY 10 / 14.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €18 ANYA BERGMAN & SOPHIE WHITE**

Norway, 1662. A dangerous time to be a woman, when even dancing can lead to accusations of witchcraft. When Zigri, desperate and grieving after the loss of her husband and son, embarks on an affair with the local merchant, she is sent to the fortress at Vardø, to be tried and condemned as a witch. Anna, once the King of Denmark's mistress, has also been sent to Vardø in disgrace. What will she do and who will she betray to return to her privileged life at court? **Anya Bergman** became interested in the witch trials of Vardø and the vivid folk tales of the north while living in Norway. *The Witches of Vardø*, is her debut novel. Anya lives in West Cork.

On a remote and bitter island, at its farthest and hardest edge, lies a house with three women – a house the islanders will not approach, whose inhabitants they fear, whose secret runs deeper than the unwelcoming sea. Aoileann is alone and Móraí, her taciturn, utterly practical grandmother, is her only companion. They are bonded in their work, tending daily to *the bed-thing* in the room next door. Aoileann's mother is a wreck, the survivor of a private disaster no one will speak about. *Where I End* is the first literary novel from author, journalist and podcaster **Sophie White**. Her bestselling memoir *Corpsing* was shortlisted for an Irish Book Award and the Michel Déon Prize for non-fiction. She writes a weekly column for the *Sunday Independent LIFE* magazine and she is co-host of the chart-topping podcasts Mother of Pod and The Creep Dive.

From top: David Toms, Anya Bergman, Sophie White

**MONDAY 10 / 17.00 / MARINO CHURCH / €18****THE PRESIDENTS' LETTERS: FLOR MacCARTHY**

With over 400 letters, memos, cards, telegrams, drawings, notes and photographs, *The Presidents' Letters* reveals a personal and unexpected story of Ireland since the inauguration of our first president, Douglas Hyde. They are letters of congratulations, of resignation, of sympathy. A handwritten note to a queen, a message sent to the moon, a fond farewell from a poet. *The Presidents' Letters* is a beautiful homage to the art of the letter. **Flor MacCarthy** is a journalist and broadcaster who hosts political debates on Oireachtas TV. A former news reporter and newscaster with RTÉ, she also presented a variety of cultural programmes and has acted as a consultant for several international human rights organisations. Flor is from West Cork and lives in Dun Laoghaire with her family.

**MONDAY 10 / 18.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €16 CAL FLYN & KATIE HOLTEN**

**Cal Flynn's** *Islands of Abandonment* is about abandoned places: exclusion zones, no man's lands, ghost towns and post-industrial hinterlands – and what nature does when we're not there to see it. What happens after humans pick up and leave? Whether due to war or disaster, disease or economic decay, each place has been left to its own devices for decades. In this time, nature has been left to work unfettered – offering a glimpse of how abandoned land, even the most polluted regions, might offer our best opportunities for environmental recovery. Cal is an author and journalist from the Highlands of Scotland and was awarded 'Young Writer of the Year 2022' by the *Sunday Times*.

In *The Language of Trees*, **Katie Holten** gathers together nature writers, ecologists and activists to reveal the wonders of the forest. With Katie's visual Tree Alphabet it is a gorgeously illustrated love letter to the hidden wonders of the forest. Katie is an Irish artist and activist now living in the USA. In 2003, she represented Ireland at the Venice Biennale. Her drawings investigate the tangled relationships between humans and the natural world. She has created Tree Alphabets, a Stone Alphabet, and a Wildflower Alphabet to share the joy she finds in her love of the more-than-human world. The 'Irish Tree Alphabet' was acquired by the Crawford Gallery Cork as part of its permanent collection in 2021.

From top: Flor MacCarthy, Cal Flynn, Katie Holten

MONDAY 10 / 20.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €20 **SALLY HAYDEN**

In August 2018, **Sally Hayden** received a Facebook message. ‘Hi sister Sally, we need your help,’ it read. ‘We are under bad condition in Libya prison. If you have time, I will tell you all the story.’ More messages followed from more refugees. They told stories of enslavement and trafficking, torture and murder, tuberculosis and sexual abuse. And they revealed something else: that they were all incarcerated as a direct result of European policy. From there began a staggering investigation into the migrant crisis across North Africa. This book follows the shocking experiences of refugees seeking sanctuary, but it also surveys the bigger picture. Who was accountable for the abuse? Where were the people finding solutions? Why wasn’t it being widely reported?

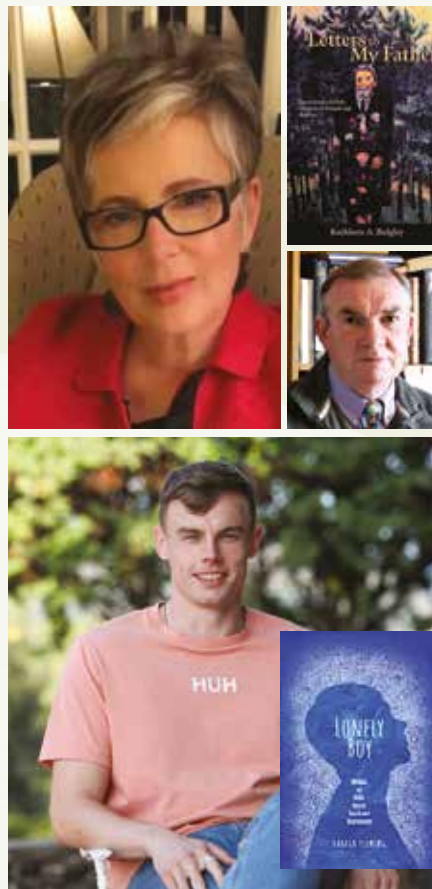
**Sally Hayden** is an award-winning journalist and photographer focused on migration, conflict and humanitarian crises. She is currently the Africa correspondent for the *Irish Times* and has worked with many other publications and broadcasters including the BBC, the *Sunday Times*, the *New York Times*, the *Guardian*, Al Jazeera, *Newsweek*, CNN International, the *Financial Times* and *TIME*. Sally has reported across the Middle East, Africa and Europe. She has twice sat on the committee deciding the winner of Transparency International’s Anti-Corruption Award. In 2019, she was included on the Forbes ‘30 Under 30’ list of media in Europe, partly because of her reporting on refugee issues. Winner of the Orwell Prize for Political Writing 2022. *My Fourth Time, We Drowned* was published by 4<sup>th</sup> Estate in March 2022.

‘This is a vital book for anyone who wants to feel what it means to be human in the 21st century.’ **Fintan O’Toole**

MONDAY 10 / 22.00 / MARITIME HOTEL / FREE **OPEN MIC** All welcome



Sally Hayden



TUESDAY 11 / 10.00 / BANTRY HOUSE TEAROOM / €12  
**COFFEE & CHAT with KATHLEEN BALGLEY**

From very early in her life, American writer **Kathleen Balgley** yearned to know her family’s stories, the family’s ‘places’. Her father’s veiling of his birthplace and his Jewish identity troubled her and drove her to learn about his former world. The winning of a Fulbright award to teach in Poland for a two-year period gave her the opportunity to explore her father’s family history. *Letters to My Father* chronicles that journey to uncover her origins. Kathleen was a lecturer at UCLA Writing Programs, and tenured Associate Professor of English at California State University, San Luis Obispo. Kathleen and her husband, artist John Ratajowski, have been coming to their second home in Bantry since the 1980s.

TUESDAY 11 / 11.00-13.00 / MARITIME HOTEL / FREE / MAX 12 / Book in advance  
**POETRY AS COMMEMORATION WORKSHOP**

Poetry as Commemoration engages poetry as a way to deepen our collective understanding of Ireland’s past and to explore a challenging period of history spanning the War of Independence and Civil War. Participants are invited to take part in a two-day (Tue & Wed 11am) workshop led by poet **Thomas McCarthy** using archival materials as inspiration for creative writing. Poetry as Commemoration is an initiative of the Irish Poetry Reading Archive at UCD Library in partnership with Poetry Ireland and Arts Council Northern Ireland. Supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, under the Decade of Centenaries 2012-2023 programme.



TUESDAY 11 / 11.30 / BANTRY BOOKSHOP / FREE **DARAGH FLEMING**

*Lonely Boy* is **Daragh Fleming**’s nonfiction debut and it is a collection of essays on mental health. He is a passionate mental health advocate and runs the award-winning mental health blog, Thoughts Too Big and works as Head of Content for A Lust For Life. Daragh is from Cork and won the Cork County Council Library & Arts Services ‘From The Well’ Short Story Competition in 2021.

From top: Kathleen Balgley, Thomas McCarthy, Daragh Fleming



**TUESDAY 11 / 13.00/ BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE**  
**SARAH BYRNE & JENTE POSTHUMA**

*Paper People*, an essay collection by **Sarah Byrne**, proposes paper as a living organism and a tribute to the psychological, social and bodily connections Sarah has made with this material through the course of her life. As a child with dyspraxia, she experienced an incessant spatial violence where the body was both agent and receptacle of terror. *Paper People* reconstructs and revisits spatial realities through fiction, family and friendship. **Sarah Byrne's** work has appeared in *The Irish Times*, *The New Statesman* and *Poetry Ireland Review*. She founded The Well Review in 2016. She was Digital-Writer-in-Residence at West Cork Literary Festival 2021. *Paper People* is her first book.

What if one half of a pair of twins no longer wants to live? What if the other can't live without them? This question lies at the heart of **Jente Posthuma's** novel *What I'd Rather Not Think About*. The narrator is a twin whose brother has recently taken his own life. In brief, precise vignettes, full of gentle melancholy and surprising humour, Jente tells the story from the perspective of the sister who both loves and resents her twin and misses him terribly. *What I'd Rather Not Think About* was shortlisted for the European Union Prize for Literature 2021. Translated by Sarah Timmer Harvey. Supported by the Nederlands Letterenfonds / Dutch Foundation for Literature as part of their New Dutch Writing programme.

**TUESDAY 11 / 14.00 - 18.00 / MARITIME HOTEL / €80 / MAX 20**  
**MIC DROP: THE AUTHOR EVENT MASTERCLASS**

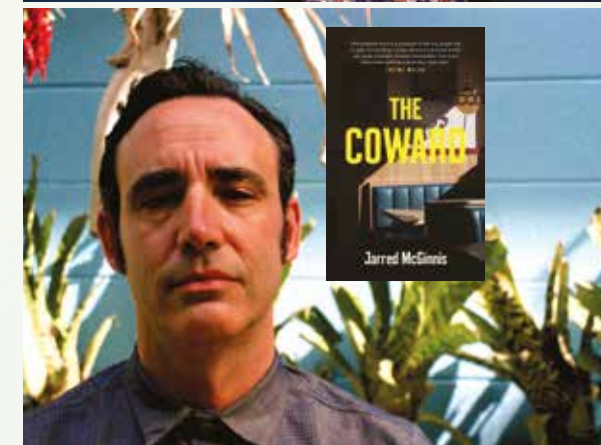
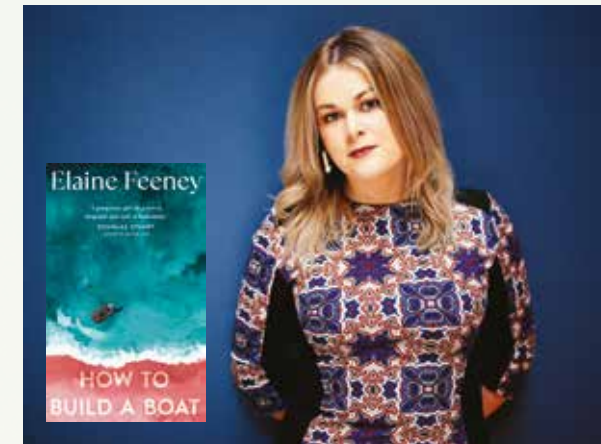
Join bestselling author **Dave Rudden** as he guides you through how to put together a stellar author event. Whether you're a nervous debut, a poet or writer hoping to branch into school events, or simply wish to expand your event portfolio, this four-hour masterclass covers everything you need to know about being a gigging author. **Dave Rudden** is the author of the award-winning *Knights of the Borrowed Dark* trilogy, three *Doctor Who* anthologies and numerous works for stage and screen. He has performed in hundreds of schools, libraries, festivals, prisons and one literary death match.

From top: Sarah Byrne, Jente Posthuma, Dave Rudden


**TUESDAY 11 / 14.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €18**  
**ELAINE FEENEY & JARRED MCGINNIS**

Jamie O'Neill loves the colour red, tall trees, patterns, rain that comes with wind, the curvature of many objects, books with dust jackets, cats, rivers and Edgar Allan Poe. At age 13 there are two things he wants in life: to build a Perpetual Motion Machine, and to connect with his mother who died when he was born. In his mind these things are intimately linked. **Elaine Feeney's** new novel *How to Build a Boat* is about love, family and connection and the power of imagination. **Elaine Feeney** is a writer from the west of Ireland. Her 2020 debut novel, *As You Were*, was shortlisted for the Rathbones Folio Prize and the Irish Novel of the Year Award, and won the Kate O'Brien Award, the McKitterick Prize, and the Dalkey Festival Emerging Writer Award. She has published three collections of poetry and lectures at the National University of Ireland, Galway.

*The Coward* by **Jarred McGinnis** is a bold work of fiction in which Jarred is a man whose life has been hedonistic and downright self-destructive. Until a car accident leaves him unable to walk and, with neither money nor job, he's forced to move in with the father he hasn't spoken to in ten years. It soon becomes obvious that the wheelchair is the least of his problems as he looks back over his past. *The Coward* is a compelling and darkly humorous exploration of what it means to come to terms with a broken body, rebuild a broken relationship and find love when it seems like there is no hope. **Jarred McGinnis** was chosen by the *Guardian* as one of the UK's ten best emerging writers. His debut novel *The Coward* was selected for BBC 2's Between the Covers, BBC Radio 2's Book Club and listed for the Barbellion Prize. He has a PhD in Artificial Intelligence, but mostly he inspires the able-bodied by using public transport and taking his daughters to the playground.



From top: Elaine Feeney, Jarred McGinnis

TUESDAY 11 / 17.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE

**WRITING THE CRISIS:  
CREATIVE RESPONSES TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

Join us for readings in English and Irish and a panel discussion about elements of research and knowledge connected to issues influencing behavioural and perceptual change and the role of heritage and culture in bridging all aspects of the climate emergency. The scientists and the creatives will consider the challenges and problems as well as the possibilities for change and mitigation. Speakers include **Annemarie Ní Chuirreáin, Ailbhe Ní Gearbhuigh, Danny Denton, Morgan Ventura, Hannah Daley, Maria Kirrane, Benjamin Gearey, Maureen O'Connor.**

This event is supported by UCC and Irish Research Council.



TUESDAY 11 / 18.00 / MARITIME HOTEL / FREE

**LAUNCH OF THE 2023 FISH ANTHOLOGY**

The **Fish Anthology** is the culmination of a year's work, trawling through the thousands of submissions to the Fish Short Story, Short Memoir, Flash Fiction and Poetry Prizes. The judges were **Sarah Hall, Sean Lusk, Kit De Waal** and **Billy Collins** respectively. The writers represented are from many countries. The launch is a celebration of these writers and an opportunity to hear some of them reading from their winning work.

Clockwise from top left: Ailbhe Ní Gearbhuigh, Maureen O'Connor, Danny Denton, Benjamin Gearey, Morgan Ventura, Annemarie Ní Chuirreáin



TUESDAY 11 / 20.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €20

**INDIA KNIGHT**

*Darling* is **India Knight's** razor-sharp, laugh-out-loud novel that re-imagines the cast of Nancy Mitford's *The Pursuit of Love*. Marooned in a sprawling farmhouse in Norfolk, teenage Linda Radlett feels herself destined for greater things. She longs for love, but how will she ever find it? She can't even get a signal on her mobile phone. Linda's strict, former rock star father terrifies any potential suitors away, while her bohemian mother, wafting around in silver jewellery, answers Linda's urgent questions about love with upsettingly vivid allusions to animal husbandry.

**India Knight** is the author of four previous novels: *Mutton, Comfort and Joy, Don't You Want Me?* and *My Life on a Plate*. She is a columnist for the *Sunday Times* and lives in Suffolk with her partner and three children. Her fifth novel *Darling* was published by Fig Tree in October 2022.

'A triumph! Brilliantly done, faithful but imaginative, tremendously romantic and very funny.' **Nina Stibbe**

TUESDAY 11 / 22.00 / MA MURPHYS / FREE

**OPEN MIC**

All welcome



India Knight



WEDNESDAY 12 / 10.00 / BANTRY HOUSE TEAROOM / €12

COFFEE & CHAT with **GERDA BLEES**

*We Are Light* is **Gerda Blees**' highly original novel about manipulation, vulnerability, and what leads people to reject science as they try to be better. When the oldest resident of the Sound & Love Commune dies, her sister and their two other housemates are arrested: the group's attempts to stop eating and start living on light and love alone appear to have been fatal. From unworldly idealists on the fringes of society, the three suddenly become suspects in a criminal case. **Gerda Blees** is a Dutch author and poet. Her debut novel *We Are Light* won the EU Literature Prize 2021. In 2023 it was translated into English by **Michele Hutchison**.

Supported by the Nederlands Letterenfonds / Dutch Foundation for Literature as part of their New Dutch Writing programme.

WEDNESDAY 12 / 10.00-12.30 / BANTRY HOUSE GARDENS / €30 / MAX 14

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP with **SARAH BYRNE**

**'Paper People': Plants & Prisoners in Poetry.** Plants and prisoners share many experiences; immobility, loss and the capacity to regenerate. This workshop draws its design inspiration from the 'Walking Lab's four themes: place, sensory inquiry, embodiment and rhythm. **Sarah Byrne** will guide writers through different plant sites and practices in Bantry House Gardens that will help to create work. Through close readings of poems by writers such as Reginald Dwayne Betts and Ellen Bass, we will reflect on privilege, prison and the power of poetry to grow new realities. Sarah writes, teaches and edits for a living. Her work has appeared in *The Irish Times*, *The New Statesman* and *Poetry Ireland Review*. She founded *The Well Review* in 2016.



Gerda Blees

WEDNESDAY 12 / 11.30 / BANTRY BOOKSHOP / FREE

SARA O'DONOVAN

*Within You, Without You* is the debut novel by **Sara O'Donovan**. Kathryn's life is at a standstill. Stuck in a lacklustre marriage, the spark that once burned so brightly within her has since been snuffed out by the monotony of the everyday. Returning to England after many years in Ireland, she is shocked to discover a familiar face on the side of the road one dark and stormy night. But a person can't just reappear like that. Not when they've been dead for twenty years. **Sara O'Donovan** spent her early years in England, brought up in the worlds of horse racing and show jumping. She moved to Ireland in her late 20s and lives in County Cork with her husband and young family. A former equestrian journalist, she now manages West Cork Literary Festival.

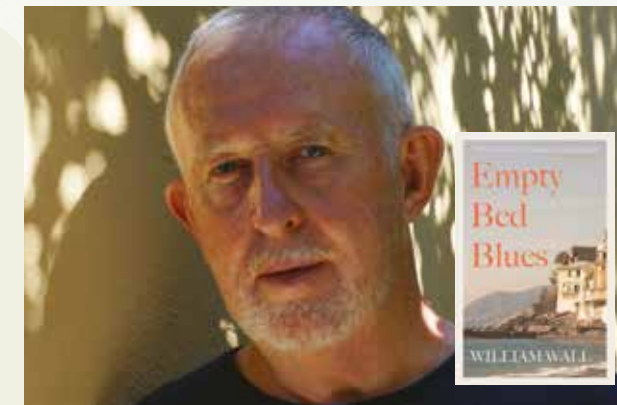


Sara O'Donovan

WEDNESDAY 12 / 13.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE

WILLIAM WALL

*Empty Bed Blues* is the new novel by **William Wall**. Kate lives a privileged life. Her university job and her husband's financial interests have kept them more than comfortable. When he dies suddenly, the woeful state of his speculative investments is revealed, as is a mistress and a secret love-nest. *Empty Bed Blues* explores the intersection of friendship, love, language, politics, debt and capitalism, told with humour and sensitivity. **William Wall** is the author of six novels, five volumes of poetry and three collections of short stories. In 2021-2022 he was the first Poet Laureate for Cork City. His novel *This is the Country* was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize. He lives in Cork city.



William Wall



WEDNESDAY 12 / 14.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €18 / ISL INTERPRETATION

### RAYMOND ANTROBUS & AILBHE NÍ GHEARBHUIGH

**Raymond Antrobus'** second collection, *All The Names Given*, continues his essential investigation into language, miscommunication, place, and memory. It is punctuated with [Caption Poems] partially inspired by Deaf sound artist Christine Sun Kim, which attempt to fill in the silences and transitions between the poems, as well as moments inside and outside of them. Raymond was born in London to an English mother and Jamaican father. In 2019 he became the first ever poet to be awarded the Rathbone Folio Prize. Other accolades include the Ted Hughes award and The *Guardian* Poetry Book Of The Year. His poem *Jamaican British* was added to the GCSE syllabus in 2019.

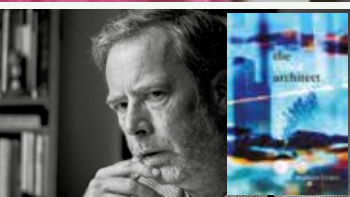


In **Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh's** new collection *Tonn Teaspaigh agus Dánta Eile* she describes motherhood and the life of a mother raising a young child. She gives voice to the experience of women in contemporary life and challenges many of the outdated narratives about the role of women in society. Ailbhe's 'Filleadh ar an gCathair' was chosen as Ireland's EU Presidency poem in 2013 and was shortlisted in 2015 for RTE's 'A Poem for Ireland'. She writes in the Irish language and a bilingual collection, *The Coast Road*, was published with English translations by thirteen poets. Born in Kerry, Ailbhe lives in Cork city.



WEDNESDAY 12 / 17.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE **MAURICE DEVITT & MATTHEW GEDEN**

**Maurice Devitt** and **Matthew Geden** both recently published collections of poetry with Doire Press. In **Maurice Devitt's** *Some of These Stories are True* the poems seek out the mystery in everyday urban life in a conversational tone, often with dark humour, exploring hints of the extraordinary in the quotidian. They explore themes of love, grief, anxiety, the joy of childhood, the vicissitudes of growing up and growing old. His earlier poems have featured in journals, both in Ireland and internationally.



**Matthew Geden's** latest collection, *The Cloud Architect*, was published in 2022. This collection looks at the world through the smoke and mirrors which cloud and hide simple truths found in introspection. These poems reflect upon the natural world, love, grief and the outer and inner journeys we make through life. He lives in Kinsale and since March 2020 he has been Writer in Residence for Cork County Library and Arts Office. He currently teaches on the Creative Writing MA course at UCC.

From top: Raymond Antrobus, Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh, Maurice Devitt and Matthew Geden

WEDNESDAY 12 / 18.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €16

### WINNIE M LI & CATHERINE RYAN HOWARD

**Winnie M Li's** *Complicit* is set in the world of Hollywood as a #MeToo story is breaking and is told from the perspective of a young producer looking back on a movie set ten years earlier. 'You know what it's like. A comment here, a closed door there, turning a blind eye to get ahead. My name is Sarah Lai. You won't have heard of me. A decade ago I was on the cusp of being a big deal. But that was a long time ago.' **Winnie M Li** is an author and activist. Her latest novel *Complicit* draws upon her earlier career in the film industry and was selected by the *New York Times* for their monthly book club. Driven by her own personal experience of rape, she founded Clear Lines, the UK's first festival addressing sexual assault and consent through the arts and discussion. She received an honorary doctorate from the National University of Ireland in recognition of her work. Winnie lives in the English countryside.



In **Catherine Ryan Howard's** *Run Time*, movie-making can be murder. A psychological horror is being filmed at a house miles from anywhere in the wintry wilds of West Cork. Former soap-star Adele Rafferty has stepped in to replace the original actress at the very last minute. She hopes that this opportunity will be her big break – and she knows she was lucky to get it, after what happened the last time she was on a set. But something isn't quite right... **Catherine Ryan Howard** is the bestselling author of six novels, with a seventh *The Trap* coming in August 2023. Her work has been shortlisted for the CWA/John Creasey New Blood Dagger and the Mystery Writers of America Edgar Award for Best Novel. She is from Cork and lives in Dublin.



WEDNESDAY 12 / 18.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / FREE **OPEN MIC MATINEE**

A special early evening open mic. Read (max 3 minutes) of your own text, introduce your published work, or simply listen to others. All genres are welcome. This session is hosted by Marie Guillot and the **Cork Non-Fiction Writers Group**.

From top: Winnie M Li, Catherine Ryan Howard



WEDNESDAY 12 / 20.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €20

**JOHN BANVILLE**

*The Singularities* is **John Banville**'s playful, multilayered novel of nostalgia, life and death, and quantum theory, which opens with the return of one of his most celebrated characters as he is released from prison. A man with a borrowed name steps from a flashy red sports car onto the estate of his youth. But all is not as it seems. There is a new family living in the drafty old house: the Godleys, descendants of the late, world-famous scientist Adam Godley, whose theory of existence threw the universe into chaos. And this mystery man feels as if time has stopped, or was torn, or was opened in new and strange ways.

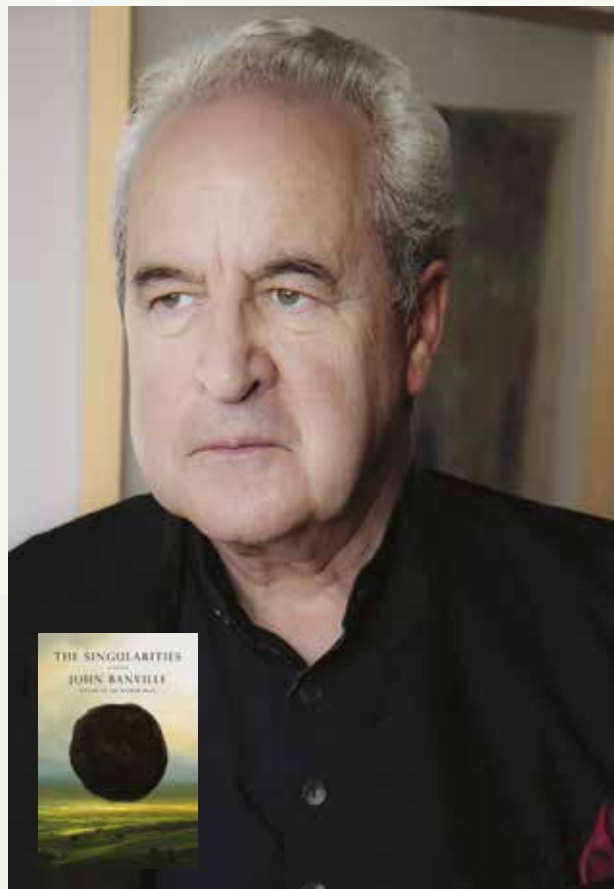
'Banville is, without question, one of the great living masters of English-language prose.' **Los Angeles Times**

**John Banville** is the author of seventeen novels and has been the recipient of the Man Booker Prize, the James Tait Black Memorial Prize, the Guardian Fiction Award, the Franz Kafka Prize, a Lannan Literary Award for Fiction, and the Prince of Asturias Award for Literature.

WEDNESDAY 12 / 22.00 / MA MURPHYS / FREE

**OPEN MIC**

All welcome



John Banville

THURSDAY 13 / 10.00 / BANTRY HOUSE TEAROOM / €12

**COFFEE & CHAT with BRIAN DILLON**

What do we mean when we claim affinity with an object or picture, or say affinities exist between such things? **Brian Dillon**'s *Affinities* is a critical and personal study of a sensation that is not exactly taste, desire, or allyship, but has aspects of all. This book of essays is first of all about images that have stayed with the author over many years. It's an extraordinary book about the intimate and abstract pleasures of reading and looking. **Brian Dillon** was born in Dublin and lives in London. His books have been shortlisted for the Ondaatje Prize and the Wellcome Book Prize. His writing has appeared in the *Guardian*, *New York Times*, *London Review of Books*, the *New Yorker* and *New York Review of Books*. He has curated exhibitions for Tate and Hayward galleries.

THURSDAY 13 / 11.30 / BANTRY BOOKSHOP / FREE

**DISHA BOSE**

*Dirty Laundry*, the debut novel by **Disha Bose**, bristles with lies, desire and the secrets that can make or break a marriage. Ciara, Lauren and Mishti are three mothers, friends, wives. But, underneath their perfectly managed Cork lives, they are not the women you expect – and neither are the secrets they keep. We all have our dirty laundry to air, but when their carefully curated world is threatened, it leads to murder... Disha was born and raised in India, and has lived in Calcutta, London, and Dublin. She worked in the tech industry before doing a Masters in Creative Writing at University College Dublin. She lives in Cork and *Dirty Laundry* is her debut novel.



From top: Brian Dillon, Disha Bose

**THURSDAY 13 / 13.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE JAMES HARPUR & BILLY O'CALLAGHAN**

Fresh from rural Galway, Patrick finds 1900s London a place of mind-expanding encounters with mystics, suffragettes, theosophists and free-thinkers. A failure in romance leaves him disillusioned and he flees to Ireland. As Europe slides towards war and Ireland towards rebellion, he begins an epic pilgrimage to Dublin, arriving days before the 1916 Easter Rising. *The Pathless Country* is **James Harpur's** debut novel. He is an internationally recognised poet and writer. A past winner of the British National Poetry Competition, his work has appeared in *Irish Times*, *Guardian* and *Financial Times* and on RTE Radio 1 and BBC Radio 4. He is the Trinity College Dublin Irish Writer Fellow for 2023 and he lives in West Cork.

Based on real people and true events, **Billy O'Callaghan's** *The Paper Man* is the story of twentieth-century Europe, the Holocaust, the cost of fame, and love against the odds. In 1980s Cork, Jack discovers a box of his mother's love letters and newspaper clippings. She was a young woman when the Second World War broke out and she came to Cork alone as a Jewish refugee from Vienna. She died when he was young and he never knew his father. Who wrote these letters and why did she keep clippings about a famous Austrian footballer player? **Billy O'Callaghan** is the author of the novel *My Coney Island Baby*, which was shortlisted for the Encore Award 2020. His short stories have been shortlisted for the Costa Short Story Award and the Irish Book Awards. He lives in Cork city.

**THURSDAY 13 / 15.00 / BANTRY HOUSE / €25 DARINA ALLEN & RORY O'CONNELL in conversation with Joe McNamee**

**Darina Allen** and **Rory O'Connell** co-founded the famous **Ballymaloe Cookery School**, biodiverse organic farm, gardens and greenhouses in Shanagarry, East Cork in 1983. Students come from all over the world to hone their culinary skills at this sustainable, Farm-to-Table project. Join us as we celebrate their fortieth anniversary. **Darina Allen** is a founder member of the Irish Farmers' Market Movement, East Cork Slow Food Convivia Leader, Chair of Artisan Food Forum and a Farming for Nature Ambassador. She is the author of 20 **cookbooks** and has a weekly food column in the Weekend section of the *Irish Examiner*. **Rory O'Connell** is an award-winning cook book author, in addition to spending ten years as head chef at Ballymaloe House and being awarded the title of Ireland's Chef of the Year on two occasions.

From top: James Harpur, Billy O'Callaghan, Darina Allen and Rory O'Connell

**THURSDAY 13 / 17.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE WRITER IN RESIDENCE**

**Matthew Geden** is writer-in-residence for Cork County Council Library & Arts Services and is working with writers groups in Clonakilty, Mallow, Millstreet, Skibbereen and Youghal libraries over the course of this year. Join Matthew and writers from all five groups as they share their work with us today. **Matthew Geden** lives in Kinsale and his latest collection of poetry, *The Cloud Architect*, was published by Doire Press in autumn 2022.

**THURSDAY 13 / 17.00 / MARITIME HOTEL / FREE YOUNG WRITER DELEGATES SHOWCASE**

Now in its sixth year, the Irish Writers Centre Young Writer Delegate Programme has partnered with WCLF for the third time. At this showcase, our selected Irish Writers Centre/West Cork Young Writer Delegates will share some of the creative work developed during the festival with their mentor.

**THURSDAY 13 / 18.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €16 MAJED MUJED & KAREEM JAMES ABU-ZEID**

In a series of evocative vignettes, celebrated Iraqi poet **Majed Mujed** lyrically traverses the fraught landscapes of beauty, longing and resistance in a country at war. Intricately fusing political and personal histories, *The Book of Trivialities* speaks to the universal, undying quest for freedom that knows no borders. A profound sequence of verse from a poet who lived through the heart of a revolution, and now lives for the revolutionary heart of love. **Majed Mujed** was born in Iraq in 1971 and has lived in Ireland since 2015. One of the founders of the Iraqi House of Poetry, he worked as a journalist and publisher in the Iraqi cultural press for twenty years. He has published five collections of poetry in Arabic and has won awards from the Al Mada Cultural Foundation, Iraqi House of Wisdom and Iraqi Intellectuals Conference. In 2021, he was an inaugural recipient of a Play It Forward Fellowship from the Arts Council of Ireland. His poems are translated into English by **Kareem James Abu-Zeid**, PhD, a multi-award-winning translator who translates from Arabic, French, and German. *This is a hybrid event. Majed will be in Bantry in person and Kareem will join us remotely from the US. Majed will be assisted by interpreter, Mustafa Keshkeia.*

From top: Matthew Geden, Majed Mujed, Kareem James Abu-Zeid





**THURSDAY 13 / 20.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €20**  
**HANNAH SULLIVAN & MOLLY TWOMEY**

**Hannah Sullivan's** first collection, *Three Poems*, won the T. S. Eliot Prize and the inaugural John Pollard International Poetry Prize. *Was It for This*, continues that book's project, offering a trenchant exploration of the ways in which we attempt to map our lives in space and time. But there is also the wider, collective experience to contend with, the upheaval of historic event and present disaster and nothing is too small or unlovely to be transfixed by the poet's attention. Hannah teaches English at New College, Oxford. She lives in London with her husband and two sons. Her father's parents are both from the Bantry area.

In *Raised Among Vultures*, **Molly Twomey's** debut poetry collection, seemingly nonchalant expressions of hard experience meld with vivid imaginings. Her unflinching art chronicles a history of eating disorders and inner conflicts. These are frontline reports from the outposts of youth, 'nights / spent drunk with boys we could barely remember, / would never forget.' Molly grew up in Lismore, County Waterford, and has an MA in Creative Writing from University College Cork. She has been published in *Poetry Review*, *Poetry Ireland Review*, *Banshee*, *The Irish Times*, *Mslexia*, *The Stinging Fly* and elsewhere. In 2021, she was chosen for Poetry Ireland's Introductions series and awarded an Arts Council Literature Bursary.

This event is presented in association with Poetry Ireland.



**THURSDAY 13 / 22.00 / MA MURPHYS / FREE**  
**OPEN MIC** All welcome

From top: Hannah Sullivan, Molly Twomey

**FRIDAY 14 / 10.00 / BANTRY HOUSE TEAROOMS / €12**  
**COFFEE & CHAT with JOHN RATAJKOWSKI**

Growing up in 1950's California, painter **John David Ratajkowski** was adept at painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, lithography but he knew his 'true love' was painting. Several years ago at his home in Bantry he decided to start his mornings by drawing cows. He would stand in an empty field and a head would rise above a hill – then another and another. After the herd was assembled, the cows would slowly walk toward him, stop, and pose. One Tuesday he shared a drawing with his daughter Emily and then by chance another the next Tuesday. She suggested that he share a cow every Tuesday and call it 'Cow Tuesday'. Now over three years and 200 cow drawings later, these have been published in a beautiful handbound art book called *Cow Tuesday*.

**FRIDAY 14 / 11.00 / FUTURE FORESTS / €18**  
**SEAWEED & SEALING WAX 3:**  
**ELLEN HUTCHINS AND DAWSON TURNER**

Over the course of a seven-year correspondence, 1807 – 1814, the friendship between botanists, Ellen Hutchins of Ballylickey, Bantry and Dawson Turner of Great Yarmouth, England, grew deeper through letters, plants and poetry. Experience a moment in time and a slice of their lives, through their letters. Hear **Marianne Lee** read from her novel *A Quiet Tide* and talk about what drew her to Ellen's story. Artist **Oonagh Hurley** will explain her inspiration for the painting *Ellen or Hutchinsiae* and the research she undertook. Hear Ellen and Dawson's story through extracts of their letters read by **Karen Minihan** and **Robin McLoughlin**. Ellen's relative **Madeline Hutchins** will present archives and artefacts from Ellen's life including her copy of Byron's *Childe Harold*.

An Ellen Hutchins Festival production with funding from a Cork County Council arts grant.

From top: John David Ratajkowski, self portrait, Marianne Lee



FRIDAY 14 / 13.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE **SOULA EMMANUEL & ANN-MARIE MacDONALD**

*Wild Geese* by **Soula Emmanuel**. Almost three years into her gender transition, Phoebe is settling into her new life in Copenhagen. She moves through the world carefully, savouring moments of joy. A woman without a past can be anyone she wants – until an unexpected visit from her ex-girlfriend brings her face-to-face with a life she thought she would never see again. **Soula Emmanuel** is a trans writer who was born in Dublin to an Irish mother and a Greek father. She attended university in Ireland and Sweden and has written for IMAGE magazine, Rogue Collective and the Project Arts Centre. *Wild Geese* is her debut novel.

In **Ann-Marie MacDonald's** *Fayne* we meet a trans character coming to terms with frustratingly arbitrary dichotomies in the world. Fayne is a vast, lonely Scottish estate ruled by the mysterious Lord Henry Bell. He keeps to his rooms by day, appearing briefly at night to dote over his beloved and peculiarly gifted child. Even with intelligence, wit and strength of character can Charlotte overcome the boundaries of society and establish her own place in the world? **Ann-Marie MacDonald** is a novelist, playwright and actress. She was born in the former West Germany and lives in Canada. Her first novel *Fall on Your Knees* became an international bestseller and sold 3m copies. *Fayne* will be published by Tramp Press.



Soula Emmanuel



Ann-Marie MacDonald

## FRIDAY 14 / 15.00 / NATIONAL LEARNING NETWORK / €18

**RUNNING FEET, SHARP NOSES – SARA BAUME and JESSICA TRAYNOR**

Join us in the unique outdoor ampitheatre of Bantry's National Learning Network. *Running feet, sharp noses* is an essential collection of essays on the animal world. Each piece is a profound meditation on how animals affect our sense of self, our memories, our actions. This brilliant book of non-fiction investigates – with the insights and perceptions of some of the finest writers at work today – how animals shape and determine our everyday lives. Contributors **Sara Baume** and **Jessica Traynor** will read from their essays. **Sara Baume** is the author of three novels and a work of non-fiction. She

has won many awards including the Davy Byrne's Short Story Award, the Hennessy New Irish Writing Award, the Rooney Prize and the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize.

**Jessica Traynor** is a poet, essayist and librettist. She has published three collections of poetry and her awards include Hennessy New Writer of the Year, the Ireland Chair of Poetry Bursary, and the Listowel Poetry Prize. She is the Arts Council Galway University Writer in Residence for 2023.

There is a rainy weather alternative available at this venue



Sara Baume



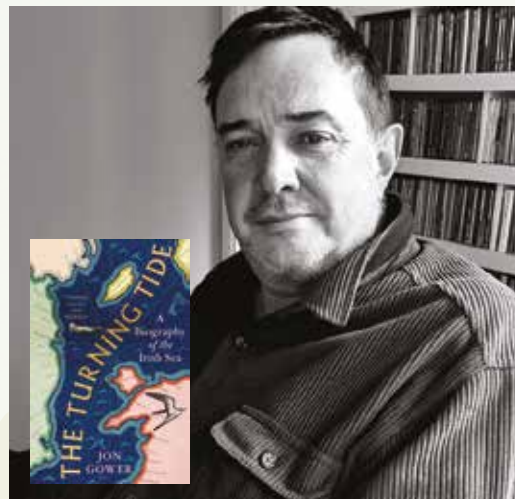
Jessica Traynor



FRIDAY 14 / 17.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE

**JON GOWER**

Combining social and cultural history, nature-writing, travelogue and politics, *The Turning Tide: A Biography of the Irish Sea* charts a sea which has carried both Vikings and saints, invasion forces and furtive gun-runners, writers, musicians and fishermen. **Jon Gower** takes us to the great shipyards of Belfast and through the mass exodus during the Irish Famine. He follows the migrations of men and women looking for work in England and tells the tales of more casual travellers: sometimes seasick, often homesick too. The Irish Sea also has an abundant natural history. The rarest sea bird in Europe visits its coasts in summer and the rarest goose in winter. The book navigates waters teeming with life, filled with seals, salt-tanged stories and seabirds. **Jon Gower** grew up in Llanelli, Wales and studied English at Cambridge University. A former BBC Wales' Arts and Media correspondent, he has been making TV and radio documentaries for over 30 years. He has over thirty books to his name, in both Welsh and English. He is currently a Hay Festival International Fellow.

From top: Jon Gower, *The Grove* by Debbie Dawson

FRIDAY 14 / 17.00-19.00 / MARINO CHURCH / FREE

**EXHIBITION OPENING: NEITHER HERE NOR THERE**

Catherine Hammond presents *Neither Here Nor There*, an exhibition of paintings by **Tom Climent, Debbie Dawson, Carol Hodder** and **Bernie Masterson**. This exhibition features landscapes that exist somewhere between representation and abstraction, between the real and the remembered. Continues until 12 August, Monday to Saturday 11am to 5pm.

FRIDAY 14 / 19.30 / MA MURPHYS / €16

**LOAH: A PUBLIC INTERVIEW**

**Loah** is **Sallay-Matu Garnett**, a singer songwriter of Irish /Sierra Leonian descent. She regularly performs her unique blend of Afro-folksoul across solo projects and with collaborators including Hozier, Lisa Hannigan, Fehdah, and Bantum, and most recently during quarantine, Queens rapper Bas and Ron Gilmore Jr (J Cole, Ari Lennox). She starred as Mary Magdalene in the 2019 Barbican production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and was in the TV adaptation of Sally Rooney's *Conversation With Friends*. During the pandemic, she returned to her old vocation as a pharmacist to work on the frontline, and still continued to contribute culturally, co-presenting the primetime RTE show 'The Heart of Saturday Night' with Úna Healy and in 2021 releasing 'When I Rise Up', an EP of poetry from the 1920s set to music.

FRIDAY 14 / 21.00 / MA MURPHYS / FREE

**POP UP GAELTACHT**

Bíonn cómhra, craic agus spraoi sa teach tabhairne 'Ma Murphys' le haghaidh gach aon leibhéal Gaeilge. Come along for pints and craic and the chance to practise whatever level of Irish that you have. Cómhra, craic agus scúps. Bígí Linn!



Loah



# West Cork Literary Festival

at a glance

Time	Title	Venue
ALL WEEK		
All week	Cow Tuesday: Exhibition	Bantry Library
All week	Letter Café	Forest & Flock
FRIDAY 7 JULY		
13.00	Literary Agent: Sallyanne Sweeney	Zoom
15.00	Richard Kearney	Marino Church
17.00	Opening Reception of WCLF	Bantry Library
20.30	Graham Norton	Maritime Hotel
SATURDAY 8 JULY		
09.00	Yoga on the Lawn	Bantry House Gardens
11.00	David & Adam King: Sir Adam The Brave	St Brendans Hall
11.00	Poetry As Commemoration - Teens 1 of 2	Marino Church
11.30	Clara Kumagai	Bantry Bookshop
13.00	From The Well	Bantry Library
14.15	Eoghan Daltun	Whiddy Island
17.00	Yeva Skalietska	Bantry Library
18.30	William Keohane: Boxing Day	Marino Church
20.30	Owen O'Neill: The Whole Nine Yarns	Marino Church

Time	Title	Venue
22.00	Open Mic	Ma Murphys
SUNDAY 9 JULY		
10.00	Arnold Thomas Fanning: Walking	Maritime Hotel
10.00	Easkey Britton	Bantry House Tearooms
11.00	Poetry As Commemoration - Teens 2 of 2	Marino Church
11.20	Festival Swim	Abbey Strand
12.30	Nicole Flattery & Megan Nolan	Maritime Hotel
14.30	Cónal Creedon	Maritime Hotel
15.00	Leona Forde: Millie McCarthy	St Brendans Hall
15.00	Poetry SOS (10-minute slots)	Maritime Hotel
16.30	Holy Show's Sunday Sermon	Marino Church
18.30	Alice Zeniter	Maritime Hotel
20.30	Donal Ryan	Maritime Hotel
22.00	Open Mic	Maritime Hotel
MONDAY 10 JULY		
10.00	Dylan Brennan & Jane Clarke	Bantry House Tearoom
11.30	Gráinne Murphy	Bantry Bookshop
13.00	David Toms	Bantry Library
14.30	Anya Bergman & Sophie White	Maritime Hotel
17.00	Flor MacCarthy: The Presidents' Letters	Marino Church
18.30	Cal Flyn & Katie Holten	Maritime Hotel
20.30	Sally Hayden	Maritime Hotel
22.00	Open Mic	Maritime Hotel

Time	Title	Venue
TUESDAY 11 JULY		
10.00	Kathleen Balgley	Bantry House Tearoom
11.00	Poetry As Commemoration - Adults 1 of 2	Maritime Hotel
11.30	Daragh Fleming	Bantry Bookshop
13.00	Sarah Byrne & Jente Posthuma	Bantry Library
14.00	Drop The Mic: Dave Rudden Masterclass	Maritime Hotel
14.30	Elaine Feeney & Jarred McGinnis	Maritime Hotel
17.00	Writing The Crisis: Climate Change	Bantry Library
18.00	FISH Launch	Maritime Hotel
20.30	India Knight	Maritime Hotel
22.00	Open Mic	Ma Murphys
WEDNESDAY 12 JULY		
10.00	Gerda Blees	Bantry House Tearooms
10.00	Sarah Byrne Workshop	Bantry House Gardens
11.00	Poetry As Commemoration - Adults 2 of 2	Maritime Hotel
11.00	Leo Timmers: Elephant Island	St Brendans Hall
11.30	Sara O'Donovan	Bantry Bookshop
13.00	William Wall	Bantry Library
14.30	R. Antrobus & Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh	Maritime Hotel
15.00	The Summer I Robbed A Bank	St Brendans Hall
17.00	Maurice Devitt & Matthew Geden	Bantry Library
18.30	Winnie Li & Catherine Ryan Howard	Maritime Hotel
18.30	Open Mic Matinee	Maritime Hotel

Time	Title	Venue
20.30	John Banville	Maritime Hotel
22.00	Open Mic	Ma Murphys
THURSDAY 13 JULY		
10.00	Brian Dillon	Bantry House Tearooms
11.00	Raymond Antrobus: Can Bears Ski?	St Brendans Hall
11.30	Disha Bose	Bantry Bookshop
13.00	James Harpur & Billy O'Callaghan	Bantry Library
14.15	The Rainbow Library	St Brendans Hall
15.00	Darina Allen & Rory O'Connell	Bantry House
17.00	Library Writing Groups Showcase	Bantry Library
17.00	Young Writer Delegates Showcase	Maritime Hotel
18.30	Majed Mujed & Kareem James Abu-Zeid	Maritime Hotel
20.30	Hannah Sullivan & Molly Twomey	Maritime Hotel
22.00	Open Mic	Ma Murphys
FRIDAY 14 JULY		
10.00	John Ratajowski	Bantry House Tearooms
11.00	Seaweed & Sealing Wax: Ellen Hutchins	Future Forests
13.00	Soula Emmanuel & Ann-Marie MacDonald	Bantry Library
15.00	Running Feet: Baume & Traynor	National Learning Network
17.00	Jon Gower	Bantry Library
17.00	Exhibition: Neither Here Nor There	Marino Church
19.30	Loah: Public Interview	Ma Murphys
21.00	Pop Up Gaeltacht	Ma Murphys





## WORKSHOPS

**Booking: +353 (0)27 52788**  
**Book online: [www.westcorkliteraryfestival.ie](http://www.westcorkliteraryfestival.ie)**

**Workshop participants** will be entitled to purchase tickets to other WCLF events for a reduced rate of €12 per event. This discount is only available on the door 15 minutes prior to each event and is subject to availability. Excludes other workshops and professional development sessions.

**The WCLF workshop programme** is aimed at both novice and experienced writers. Our workshops provide opportunities for development and intensive learning not possible in one sitting. Our workshops are run by experienced tutors many of whom are award-winning writers and/or 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.

**For a more detailed outline of each course and full tutor biographies please visit our website.**

Clockwise from top: A workshop in progress, James Harpur, Belinda McKeon

### MAKING POETRY / JAMES HARPUR

€230 / 15 MAX

**Monday 10 to Wednesday 12**, 10.00-12.30 & 14.00-16.00

**St Finbarr's Boys' School**

In this series of six workshops we will concentrate on the craft of creating poems, focusing on different forms, such as 'thing poems' and poetic riddles, and various themes, including myth and memory. There will be warm-up exercises, classic examples of poems, discussion, writing and presentations. The aim will be to give participants the chance to produce six new poems, at least in draft form. The sessions will be friendly but focused and are suitable for experienced poets and those who have started their poetry journey – what's important is an open heart and mind and a willingness to have a go!

**James Harpur** is an experienced workshop facilitator and known for his gentle guidance and insights. Currently Writer Fellow at the Oscar Wilde Centre, Trinity College Dublin, James has published eight books of poetry and won many prizes, including the UK National Poetry Competition and the Michael Hartnett Prize. He has also published a novel, *The Pathless Country*, winner of the JG Farrell Award and shortlisted for the John McGahern Prize. He is a member of Aosdána.

### THE SHAPE OF YOUR STORY: FICTION / BELINDA MCKEON

€230 / 15 MAX

**Monday 10 to Wednesday 12**, 9.30-14.30 (2 breaks)

**St Finbarr's Boys' School**

An intensive fiction workshop for writers who are at least halfway through a novel draft or who have a short story draft they hope to submit to journals in the next six months. We will focus on the structure, form and design of your narrative: on the specific architecture you have created for your story and how to improve it. Our time will be driven by generative writing, patterning exercises and close reading. You will receive written feedback and a suggested bibliography. Novels: please submit up to four chapters and an outline of the novel as you currently see it. Short stories: submit a single story, with a 1-page account of how you got it to the form it is in today. Submissions of max 6,000 words by 1 June.

**Belinda McKeon** is a novelist, short story writer and playwright. She is the author of two novels and her work has been published in *The Paris Review*, *Granta*, *Winter Papers* and *The Stinging Fly* and elsewhere. After almost two decades in the US, where she taught at Rutgers University, she is now an Associate Professor in the English Department at Maynooth University, where she directs the MA in Creative Writing.



**CRIME WRITING / CATHERINE RYAN HOWARD****€230 / 15 MAX****Monday 10 to Wednesday 12**, 9.30-14.30 (2 breaks)**St Finbarr's Boys' School**

Learn how to get away with murder with an internationally bestselling and award-winning crime-writer. This workshop will take writers through the same process Catherine follows herself every time she starts a new book: finding and developing an idea, plotting and planning, writing the first draft, and preparing your work for submission to agents and editors. It's everything she wishes she knew before she began, and all she has learned since she started. Suitable for writers at all stages, it will especially appeal to those with an interest in plotting and the architecture of story, and although it will focus on crime, its principles can be applied to all genres of popular fiction.

**Catherine Ryan Howard** is the award-winning, no. 1 bestselling author of seven thrillers including *The Nothing Man*, *56 Days* and the forthcoming *The Trap*. Her work has been shortlisted for the Crime Writers Association (UK) New Blood and Ian Fleming Daggers, the Mystery Writers of America Edgar Award for Best Novel, and Irish Crime Fiction Book of the Year multiple times.



Clockwise from top: Catherine Ryan Howard, Brian Dillon, Cal Flynn

**PLACE WRITING / CAL FLYN****€245 (incl ferry) / 15 MAX****Monday 10 to Wednesday 12**, 9.30-14.30 (2 breaks)**Whiddy Island**

In this three-day course on place writing, which encompasses travel, landscape, and nature, we will discuss the basic techniques required to capture 'the spirit of a place'. Combining timed writing exercises, close reading, and group discussion, we will work through the following topics: The Act of Noticing: the basic element of writing; Feeling your Way: writing sensory descriptions; Animal to Animal: writing encounters with other species; Time Travel: taking control of pace; People and Place: other voices and other lives and Time to Share. In the final session you are asked to share some new writing you have produced over the course, and to reflect on what you have learned. We discuss goals going forward and recommend writers.

**Cal Flynn** is an author and journalist from the Highlands of Scotland. She has been a reporter for both *The Sunday Times* and *The Daily Telegraph*, and a contributing editor at *The Week*. Her non-fiction book, *Islands of Abandonment: Life In The Post-Human Landscape*, was published in 2021. Cal was awarded 'Young Writer of the Year 2022' by the *Sunday Times*.

**ESSAY WRITING / BRIAN DILLON****€230 / 15 MAX****Monday 10 to Wednesday 12**, 9.30-14.30 (2 breaks)**St Finbarr's Boys' School**

The essay is having a moment – this ancient form of writing, often overlooked, suddenly feels very contemporary. Whether personal or polemical, poetic or journalistic, the essay is a genre in its own right. Why write essays? And how? In this three-day workshop, essayist, critic and memoirist Brian Dillon will explore voice, tone, structure and research, as well as where our essays might live in the world. Short writing exercises and some brief examples of writing by great essayists will help us think about where to begin and where the essay might wander.

**Brian Dillon** is an Irish writer based in London. His books include *Affinities*, *Suppose a Sentence*, *Essayism*, *The Great Explosion* (shortlisted for the Ondaatje Prize), *Objects in This Mirror: Essays*, *I Am Sitting in a Room*, *Sanctuary*, *Tormented Hope: Nine Hypochondriac Lives* (shortlisted for the Wellcome Book Prize) and *In the Dark Room*, which won the Irish Book Award for non-fiction. His writing has appeared in the *Guardian*, *The Dublin Review*, *Granta*, *New York Times*, *London Review of Books*, *The New Yorker* and *New York Review of Books*.



## YOUNG ADULT & CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

**Booking: +353 (0)27 52788**

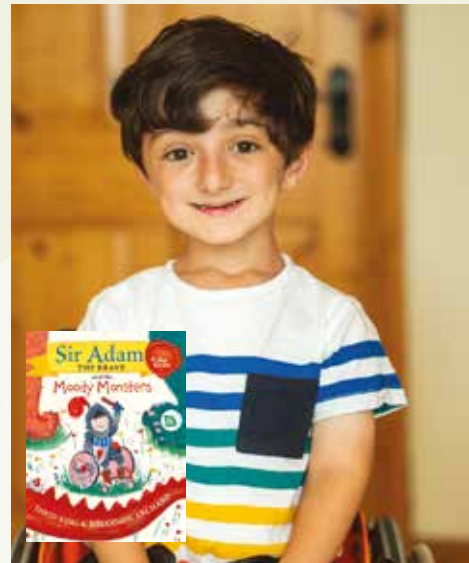
**Book online: [www.westcorkliteraryfestival.ie](http://www.westcorkliteraryfestival.ie)**

Our Children's and Young Adult events are free of charge. Some of these events have a limited capacity and tickets should be booked in advance to avoid disappointment. Events with a ticket symbol next to them can be booked in advance and other events are drop-in on the day. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian for the duration of events.

**SATURDAY 8 / 11.00 / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL / FREE / AGE 3+** 

### **SIR ADAM THE BRAVE & THE MOODY MONSTERS: DAVID & ADAM KING**

Join **Adam King** and **David King** to discover how to manage your Moody Monsters with Sir Adam the Brave! What do you do when a Moody Monster arrives? How do you find out why they're so very moody? Sir Adam the Brave has the answer! Join David and his son Adam on a brand-new adventure where we'll learn the importance of kindness, inclusion and bravery when managing our moody monsters. **David King** is an Irish children's author passionate about telling engaging stories with heartfelt messages. *A Hug for You*, the story of his son Adam's Virtual Hug, was a number one bestseller and winner of the An Post Junior Children's Irish Book Award in 2021. Adam is eight years old. He lives with his dad David, his mum Fiona, his brothers Danny and Robert and his sisters Katie and Sarah in Cork. He loves reading, art, and going on adventures. He plays wheelchair tennis, competes in para athletics, and is a dance student with the Sinéad Sheppard School of Dance. *Sir Adam the Brave and the Moody Monster* is illustrated by **Rhiannon Archard**.



David and Adam King

**SATURDAY 8 / 11.00-13.00 / MARINO CHURCH / FREE / AGE 14-17 / Max 15** 

### **POETRY AS COMMEMORATION WORKSHOP with DAVID MCLOGHLIN**

Poetry as Commemoration engages poetry as a way to deepen our collective understanding of Ireland's past and to explore a challenging period of history spanning the War of Independence and Civil War. Participants aged 14- 17 are invited to take part in a two-day (Sat & Sun 11am) workshop led by poet **David McLoghlin** using archival materials as inspiration for creative writing. Participants must be available to attend on both days.

Poetry as Commemoration is an initiative of the Irish Poetry Reading Archive at UCD Library in partnership with Poetry Ireland and Arts Council Northern Ireland. Supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, under the Decade of Centenaries 2012-2023 programme.

 Poetry as Commemoration  
Cúimhne Fíleata

 An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,  
Éilíne, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meia  
Department of Tourism, Culture,  
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

 Leabharlann UCD  
UCD Library

 Poetry Ireland  
Éilíne

 arts  
Council Northern Ireland

**SATURDAY 8 / 11.30 / BANTRY BOOKSHOP / FREE / AGE 14+**

### **CATFISH ROLLING: CLARA KUMAGAI**

*Catfish Rolling* blends magic-realism, Japanese myth and legend in a story about grief, memory, time and an earthquake that shook a nation. Sora hates the catfish whose rolling caused an earthquake so powerful it cracked time itself. It destroyed her home and took her mother. When her father goes missing, she has to venture into uncharted spaces within the time zones to find him, her mother and perhaps even the catfish itself... **Clara Kumagai** is from Canada, Japan and Ireland. Her fiction and non-fiction for children and adults has been published in *The Stinging Fly*, *Room*, the *Kyoto Journal* and *Cicada*.

From top: David McLoghlin, Clara Kumagai



SATURDAY 8 / 17.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE

## YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT WAR IS: YEVA SKALIETSKA

*You Don't Know What War Is: The diary of a young girl from Ukraine* is the gripping, urgent and moving diary of **Yeva Skalietska**, a 12-year-old Ukrainian girl who grew up living with her granny in Kharkiv, near the Russian border. She was woken in the early hours to the terrifying sounds of shelling as Russia invaded Ukraine. She and her granny were forced to seek shelter in a damp, cramped basement and Yeva decided to write down her story, a story that the world needs to hear. She records what is happening hour-by-hour as she seeks safety and travels from Kharkiv to Dublin, where she now lives, with her grandmother. This is a powerful insight into what conflict is like through the eyes of a child and an essential read for adults and older children alike.



Yeva Skalietska



SUNDAY 9 / 15.00 / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL / FREE

## MILLY MCCARTHY IS A COMPLETE CATASTROPHE: LEONA FORDE

Milly McCarthy is a ten-year-old girl from Cork – fun-loving, excitable and full of ideas that she simply has to try. Sure, what could possibly go wrong?! On a school trip to Fota Wildlife Park everyone's buzzing. But from the moment Milly and her friends arrive, calamity ensues. *Milly McCarthy is a Complete Catastrophe* is the first instalment in an exciting new series by **Leona Forde** from Bandon, County Cork and it is illustrated by Karen Harte.



Leona Forde

WEDNESDAY 12 / 11.00 / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL / FREE / AGE 4-11

## ELEPHANT ISLAND: LEO TIMMERS

Award-winning illustrator Leo Timmers is coming to West Cork and he wants you to help him create a giant picture. Join Leo for storytelling, drawing demonstrations and the chance to chat to him about the magical Elephant Island. A shipwrecked elephant makes his tiny island a home for the many friends who come to the rescue, building increasingly intricate constructions that turn Elephant Island into a fun park city.

**Leo Timmers** was born in 1970 in Belgium. At 12 he started to draw comics and later trained in graphic design. He illustrates for magazines and newspapers and has released many successful picture books. He has a large following as one of Belgium's pre-eminent picture book artists and his books have been translated into more than 25 languages. *Elephant Island* was named as one of the *New York Times*' Best Children's Books 2022. Supported by Flanders Literature as part of their Flip Through Flanders programme.



WEDNESDAY 12 / 15.00 / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL / FREE / AGE 8+

## THE SUMMER I ROBBED A BANK – FAMILY THEATRE

Rex is on his way from the city to stay with his strange Uncle Derm on Achill Island. The island is full of unruly sheep, sideways rain and possibly even sharks! Come and experience a sneak preview taster of a brand-new theatre show, *The Summer I Robbed a Bank*, for children aged 8+ and their families. Written by **Mark Doherty** and adapted from **David O'Doherty**'s award-winning children's book, *The Summer I Robbed a Bank*, the play will premiere in 2024. Presented by *The Ark and the Everyman*.

Leo Timmers





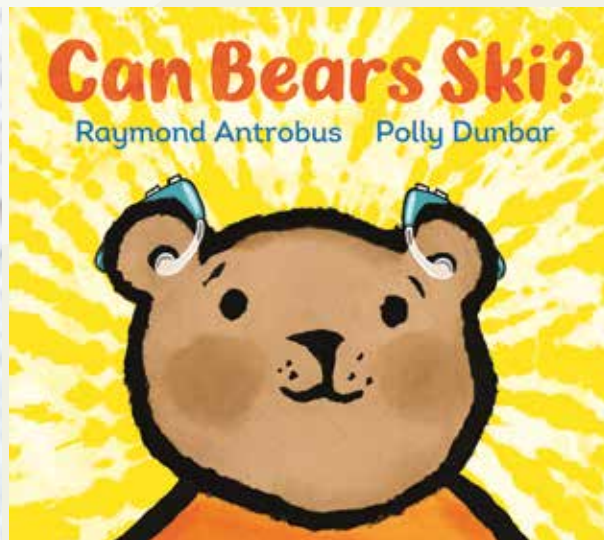
THURSDAY 13 / 11.00 / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL / FREE / AGE 3+ / ISL INTERPRETER

## CAN BEARS SKI?: RAYMOND ANTROBUS

*Can Bears Ski?* is the debut children's book from award-winning poet **Raymond Antrobus** about a father-and-son journey into the discovery and management of deafness. Boy Bear cannot hear Dad Bear coming to wake him up in the morning. He only grasps little bits of what his teacher and friends say to him. And, all the time, Boy Bear keeps hearing the question, 'Can bears ski?' What does it mean? With the support of Dad Bear, Boy Bear visits an audiologist and gets hearing aids. And suddenly, he understands... 'CAN YOU HEAR ME?' Now with an illustrated BSL alphabet included, Raymond and illustrator Polly Dunbar draw from their personal experiences of deafness to show how isolating it can be for a deaf child in a hearing world and all the many different ways to communicate love. Raymond was awarded an MBE in January 2021 for his services to literature and has been shortlisted for the TS Eliot Prize for his poetry.



Raymond Antrobus



THURSDAY 13 / 14.15 / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL /

FREE / YA

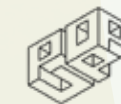
## THE RAINBOW LIBRARY with KIP ALIZADEH

Throughout 2022, Pop Up Projects delivered creative workshops across the UK and Ireland as part of The Rainbow Library – a groundbreaking LGBTQ+ inclusive children's literature creation and publishing project. At a six-day residency in Cork, aspiring young writers and illustrators were guided through the process of bringing their unique stories to life by writer **Kel Menton** and illustrator **Kip Alizadeh**. By joining a community of creative peers with shared lived experiences and passions, the aspiring writers and illustrators developed their craft and found a new network of creatives to belong to – even collaborating on submissions together! An anthology of work by these eight talented young people – **Caoimhín McCarthy, Kate Clery, Kei Fitzpatrick, Marly Crowley, Morgan Lyons, Lee Boyle, Scar McCarthy and Sloane Quirke** – showcases their work and highlights some of the very best illustration and writing in the young LGBTQ+ community. Come along to meet some of these young people as they read their work and share the anthology with us.

A Rainbow Libraries initiative, in partnership with Cork County Council's Library and Arts Services, Pop Up Projects and Creative Ireland.



From top: Kip Alizadeh, The Rainbow Library series.



# Welcome to Cork County Council Library & Arts Service



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council



## 25 Branches & Mobile Library Service

- Baile Bhuirne
- Bandon
- Bantry
- Carrigaline
- Castletownbere
- Charleville
- Clonakilty
- Cobh
- Dunmanway
- Fermoy
- Kanturk
- Kinsale
- Lending HQ
- Macroom
- Mallow
- Midleton
- Millstreet
- Mitchelstown
- Newmarket
- Oilean Chléire
- Passage West
- Schull
- Sherkin Island
- Skibbereen
- Youghal



## Free Membership & No Fines

- Books for all ages
- Audiobooks
- Large Print Books
- Internet Access & WiFi
- Printing & Photocopying
- Musical Instruments
- Newspapers
- Local History
- Services for Schools & Teachers
- Storytime
- Sensory Equipment
- Events
- Reading Schemes
- Book Clubs, Writers' Groups, Craft Groups & more...



## Your Library Online

- e-Books & e-Audiobooks
- e-Newspapers
- e-Magazines
- Language Courses
- Continuing Education Courses
- Local Studies Digital Collection
- Library Podcasts



Download the Library App!



All these services are FREE with your library card!



@corkcolibrary



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[www.corkcoco.ie/en/resident/libraries](http://www.corkcoco.ie/en/resident/libraries)

# National Learning Network

Think Possible

**Bantry & Clonakilty Campus**  
No fees, Small Class Sizes,  
Subsidised Travel



## Our Courses:

Office Administration  
Level 5

Horticulture - Level 4

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Bantry, Co. Cork

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Cover Image by Megan Clancy

## BANTRY MUSIC CENTRE

Our capital project is underway!  
To learn more about the exciting  
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23 - 27 AUGUST 2023

CURATED BY MARTIN HAYES

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# West Cork Literary Festival

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**Sheila Pratschke** [Chairperson]

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**Ailbhe Cunningham, Ann Davoren,**

**Dan Flinter, Jonathan Hall, Deborah Kelleher,**

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CEO of West Cork Music: **Francis Humphrys**

General Manager of West Cork Music: **Grace O'Mahony**

Festival Manager and Marketing: **Sara O'Donovan**

Festival Administrator: **Lia Choice**

Chamber Programme Co-ordinator: **Helen Dawson**

Projects Manager: **Clodagh Whelan**

Venue Development Manager: **Heather McDougall**

Box Office and Website: **Daniel Burke**

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County Librarian, Cork County Council: **Emer O'Brien**

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**Hennessy**

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PR: **Kearney Melia Barker Communications**

Social Media: **Rebecca Roche**

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Photography: **Karlís Dzjamko**

Sound: **Matt Purcell of Purcell Audio**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

West Cork Music gratefully acknowledges the major funding from the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon; Cork County Council Library and Arts Services; and Fáilte Ireland.

West Cork Music gratefully acknowledges the generous sponsorship of O'Keeffe's Supervalu and Poetry Ireland.

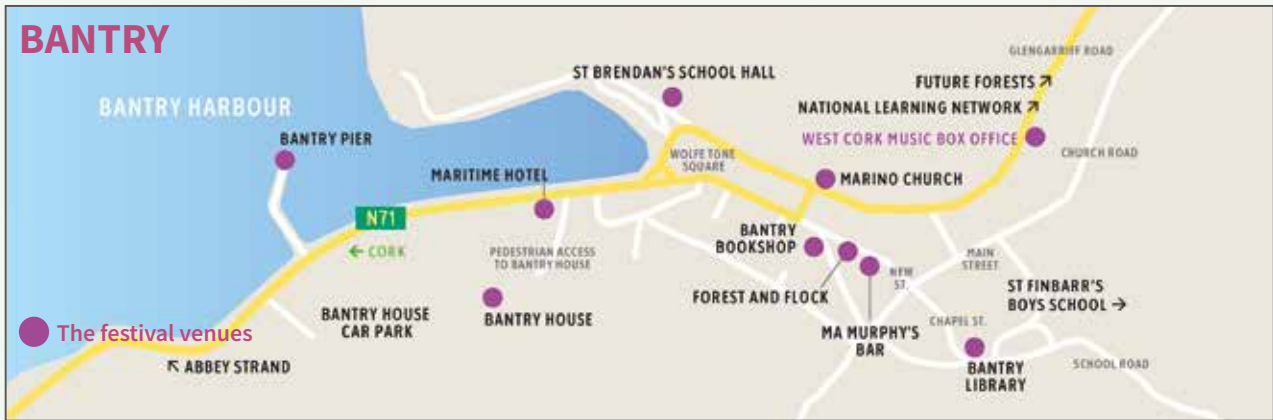
The West Cork Literary Festival would like to thank the following for their support and encouragement: the management and staff, Martime Hotel; Denis Murphy and staff, Bantry Library; Kate Smyth and Marney Smyth Fischer, Bantry Bookshop; Brian Gleeson of St Finbarr's Boys School; Danny Crowley of St Goban's College; Brian Murphy, Principal of St Brendan's School; Julie Shelswell-White, Bantry House; Maria Collard and Matt Keane, Future Forests; Claire Cronin and Jason Wycherley, National Learning Network; Stephen and Gillian O'Donovan, The Brick Oven, Bantry Bay and the Mariner; Canon Paul Willoughby, Rector of Kilmocomogue Union of Parishes; Bernie O'Sullivan of Forest & Flock; Hannah and Rachel Dare, Organico; Tim O'Leary, Whiddy Island Ferry; Jean Kearney and Louise Barker of Kearney, Melia, Barker Communications; Zenith Energy; The Irish Examiner; RTE lyric fm; Siobhan Burke of Living the Sheeps Head Way; Noel O'Mahony; Ma Murphy's Bar; Tina Pisco; Marie Guillot; Tessa Gibson; Jenni Debie; Alice Barry; Aisling Arundel; Joan O'Donovan; George Plant; Bernie Wallace; Ian McDonagh; Rachel Burke; Deirdre O'Donovan for her photographs; and all of the publicists, agents and personal assistants who assisted us in putting together the programme.

Thank you to Deirdre Frost for permission to reproduce her painting 'Biophilia' 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!) A special thanks to the Festival volunteers who give their time and energy to the Festival each year







## Photography Credits

p3 Jed Niezgoda, John David Ratajkowski, Sallyanne Sweeney; p4 Richard Kearney; p5 Sophia Spring; p6 David Byrne, Alex Barclay, Miles Lowry; p7 Eoghan Daltun, Ger Holland; p8 Molly Ahern, Lidia Crisafulli; p9 Ste Murray, James Connolly; p10 WCLF swim, Sophie Davidson, Conor Horgan; p11 John Miniham, Elementum, Bloom Artist Management; p. 12 Pascal Ito © Flammarion, Anne Marie Ryan; p13 Liliana Pérez-Brennan, Elementum, Gráinne Murphy; p14 Derek Foott, Lizzie McGhee, Tristan Hutchinson; p15 Barry Moore, Nancy MacDonald, Dillon Cohen; p16 Sally Hayden; p17 Kathleen Balgley, Thomas McCarthy, Daragh Fleming; p 18 Majella Kelly, Jente Posthuma, Sophie Grenham; p19 Julia Monard, Sarah McGinnis; p20 Clare Keogh, Maureen O'Connor, Danny Denton, Benjamin Gearey, Morgan Ventura, Enda Rowan; p21 Francesco Guidicini; p22 Bartjan de Bruijn; p23 Karlis Dzamko, Liz Kirwan; p24 Suki Dhanda, Clare Keogh, Maurice Devitt, Matthew Geden; p25 Grace Gelder, Bríd O'Donovan; p26 Douglas Banville; p27 Sophie Davidson, Emma Jervis; p28 Dino Ignani, Billy O'Callaghan, Ballymaloe Cookery School; p29 Matthew Geden, Majed Mujed, Kareem James Abu-Zeid; p30 Teresa Walton, Michael O'Halloran; p31 John David Ratajkowski, Marianne Lee; p32 Soula Emmanuel, Lora MacDonald-Palmer; p 33 Kenneth O'Halloran, Bríd O'Donovan; p 34 Jon Gower, Debbie Dawson; p35 Abe Neihum; p38 Ben Russell, Dino Ignani, Alen MacSweeney; p39 Bríd O'Donovan, Sophie Davidson, Nancy MacDonald; p42 David and Adam King, John Allen Lensmen; p43 Miles Lowry, David Byrne; p44 Ger Holland, John Beasley; p45 Leo Timmers; p46 Suki Dhanda p58 Ben Russell, Darragh Kane

## Planning your Visit

All performance spaces in the Maritime are fully wheelchair accessible and a hearing induction loop system is installed in the large function room for the week.

We have a small number of exclusively online events and we will film a number of in-person events which will be available online with subtitles after the festival.

We do our very best to present the festival as it appears in this brochure but live events may be subject to change. Follow us on social media, join our e-newsletter or check our website to keep informed of any last-minute changes to the line-up.



West Cork Literary Festival

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West Cork Literary Festival

## Booking Form

Workshop	Price	Qty	Total
Monday 10 to Wednesday 12 JULY			
Fiction with Belinda McKeon	€230		
Crime with Catherine Ryan Howard	€230		
Poetry with James Harpur	€230		
Essay with Brian Dillon	€230		
Place with Cal Flynn (Whiddy)	€245		
(Carry over to Main Form) SUB TOTAL			

## SPECIAL OFFER

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Book online at [www.westcorkliteraryfestival.ie](http://www.westcorkliteraryfestival.ie)

CONDITIONS OF SALE Every effort will be made to ensure that the programme will proceed as advertised however WCLF 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. Late-comers will not be admitted until a suitable break in the event.

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JULY	EVENT	Price	Qty	Total	JULY	EVENT	Price	Qty	Total
FRI 7	Literary Agent: S. Sweeney (online)	€12			TUE 11	Elaine Feeney & Jarred McGinnis	€18		
FRI 7	Richard Kearney	€18			TUE 11	India Knight	€20		
FRI 7	Graham Norton	€32			WED 12	Gerda Blees	€12		
SAT 8	David & Adam King Sir Adam The Brave	FREE			WED 12	Sarah Byrne Workshop	€30		
SAT 8	Poetry as Commemoration Teens*	FREE			WED 12	Leo Timmers Elephant Island	Free		
SAT 8	Eoghan Daltun	€25			WED 12	R. Antrobus & A. Ní Ghearbhuigh	€18		
SAT 8	Leona Forde Millie McCarthy	FREE			WED 12	The Summer I Robbed A Bank [Theatre]	Free		
SAT 8	William Keohane Boxing Day	€16			WED 12	Winnie Li & Catherine Ryan Howard	€16		
SAT 8	Owen O'Neill The Whole Nine Yarns	€20			WED 12	John Banville	€20		
SUN 9	AT Fanning Walking & Writing	€30			THUR 13	Brian Dillon	€12		
SUN 9	Easkey Britton	€12			THUR 13	Raymond Antrobus Can Bears Ski?	Free		
SUN 9	Nicole Flattery & Megan Nolan	€18			THUR 13	Darina Allen & Rory O'Connell	€25		
SUN 9	Cónal Creedon	€18			THUR 13	Majed Mujed & Kareem J. Abu-Zeid	€16		
SUN 9	Poetry SOS (10-minute slots)	€10			THUR 13	Hannah Sullivan & Molly Twomey	€20		
SUN 9	Alice Zeniter	€18			FRI 14	John Ratajkowski	€12		
SUN 9	Donal Ryan	€20			FRI 14	Seaweed & Sealing Wax Ellen Hutchins	€18		
MON 10	Dylan Brennan & Jane Clarke	€12			FRI 14	Running Feet S. Baume & J. Traynor	€18		
MON 10	Anya Bergman & Sophie White	€18			FRI 14	Loah: Public Interview	€16		
MON 10	Flor MacCarthy The Presidents' Letters	€18			Book 5 + Separate Events & Get A 10% Discount Excludes 3-day workshops and free events				
MON 10	Cal Flynn & Katie Holten	€16							
MON 10	Sally Hayden	€20			Sub Total				
TUE 11	Kathleen Balgley	€12			Booking Fee			€5.00	
TUE 11	Poetry As Commemoration Adults*	Free			GRAND TOTAL				
TUE 11	Drop The Mic Dave Rudden Masterclass	€80			* 2 day workshops				







# West Cork Literary Festival

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