



# West Cork Literary Festival

Friday 12 – 19 July 2024  
Bantry, Co. Cork

the arts  
council  
an chomhairle  
ealaíon

Leading the development  
of the arts in Ireland.

## WELCOME TO THE 2024 WEST CORK LITERARY FESTIVAL

**This is our twenty-sixth festival** and from humble beginnings as a fringe to the Chamber Festival we have grown into an exciting and jam-packed week. The past year has seen the publication of so many wonderful books and it was an extremely successful year for Irish authors on the awards circuit. The best part of my job is getting to read so many gems and the worst part is only being able to invite a handful of them to the festival.

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. 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.

We are lucky to have West Cork as the backdrop to our festival. Bantry is a wonderful place to live, work and visit and we're all ready to give you an unforgettable West Cork experience. Our hub for the week is the Maritime Hotel but we'll also bring you to unique venues such as Marino Church, Bantry House, Whiddy Island, Bantry Bookshop, Bantry Library, Ma Murphys, Future Forests, the outdoor auditorium at the National Learning Network and for the

first time we have events at the West Lodge Hotel and Bantry's newest venue Work Shop.

Events for children and young people are free of charge and I invite young people and families to discover a love of reading. You are the future writers and audiences of our festival!

Enormous thanks to all of our writers 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.

Thank you for continuing to support the festival and authors by buying tickets and books, attending events and embracing the festival atmosphere. Please join us this summer to meet some of your favourite authors and make new discoveries. You can meet fellow book lovers, enjoy a coffee or lunch in Bantry, 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. Let's make this our best festival yet!

Eimear O'Herlihy, Festival Director

 West Cork Literary Festival

**Cork County Library and Arts Service** welcome West Cork Literary Festival to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Bantry Library.

Bantry Library, built in the 1970s was constructed using the cutting-edge technologies of its era. The roof and walls are constructed of board marked, cast-in situ concrete, giving a sculptural aesthetic. The windows, single paned and recessed into the walls and the large, curved feature leaded window create a strong connection between the interior and exterior of the building.

However, 50 years on, the windows were failing but thanks to the Historical Towns Initiative Grant and Cork County Council the windows have been replaced or conserved, along with other works to make the building warmer and more efficient. We hope to continue a programme of improvements so that this building can continue as Bantry library and a WCLF partner for many more decades to come.

Promoting a love of reading is a core part of the library service and we are delighted to share stronger links than ever with West Cork Literary Festival. This year, our writer in residence is WCLF author, award winning poet Victoria Kennefick. She is supporting various writing groups throughout the county and is also delivering one to one mentorship to people who cannot attend these workshops.

Cork County Library now supports an incredible 70 book clubs across the county, including Ukrainian and Irish language book clubs. Every year we provide the latest festival titles as soon as they are published and encourage our book

clubs to visit the festival and read the festival titles. We hope that our readers find a new favourite author during their time here in Bantry and that their back catalogue of books is waiting for you, all accessible through the library.

Cork County Library and Arts Office's Rainbow Library are returning to WCLF this year. Established in 2022, The Rainbow Library is a writing and illustration group for young LGBTQIA+ people aged 14 – 23 in County Cork. Meeting monthly, it is a safe space for young people to develop their practices in all genres, with the support of writers and illustrators.

A steadfast event of WCLF in Bantry Library, the launch of the 20th edition of the annual short story anthology, 'From the Well' will be one to look forward to as we received one of the largest numbers of submissions ever.

I would like to congratulate West Cork Music and the festival's Artistic Director Eimear O'Herlihy on this wonderful programme and the commitment to diverse writers, styles and themes. Thank you also to the County Arts Office, to the sponsors, local organisations, businesses, volunteers, Bantry Library Manager, Denis Murphy and his team.

I look forward to seeing you all in Bantry this summer and invite you to visit Bantry Library to help us celebrate this special anniversary.

Emer O'Brien

County Librarian, Cork County Library and Arts Service



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council



## ALL WEEK / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE EXHIBITION: 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF BANTRY LIBRARY

Bantry Library first opened to the public in 1974 and it has served the people of Bantry and West Cork since then. This exhibition charts the history of the design and building of the library which is now a Protected Structure and is recorded on the National Inventory of Buildings of Ireland. Join us for a panel discussion with the original Project Architect and Contractors on Friday at 5pm. See p34

## ALL WEEK (except Tues) / 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 stamps (within Ireland) will be available.

## 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.



## THIS YEAR'S COVER ART

Rest by **Eilis O'Connell** © 2022

Watercolour [www.eilisoconnell.com](http://www.eilisoconnell.com)

From top: Letter Café at Forest & Flock, Rest by Eilis O'Connell

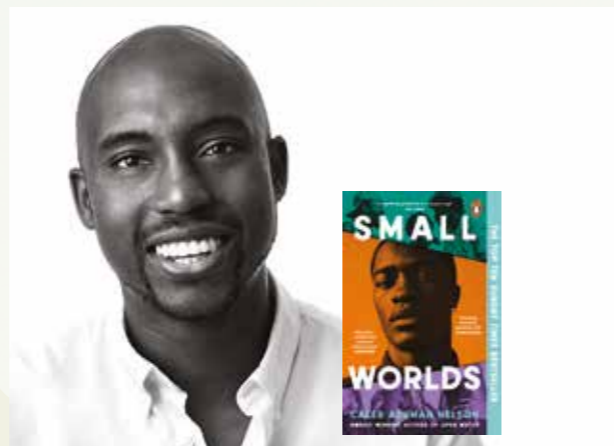
FRIDAY 12 / 17.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE  
**OPENING RECEPTION OF  
 THE 26<sup>th</sup> WEST CORK LITERARY FESTIVAL**

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.

FRIDAY 12 / 18.30 / MARINO CHURCH / €16  
**CALEB AZUMAH NELSON & RÓNÁN HESSION**

Families, friendships, communities and the search for somewhere to belong are at the heart of these beautiful novels by **Caleb Azumah Nelson** and **Rónán Hession**. *Small Worlds* by Caleb Azumah Nelson is set over the course of three summers in Stephen's life, from London to Ghana and back again, this is an exhilarating and expansive novel about the worlds we build for ourselves, the worlds we live, dance and love within. **Caleb Azumah Nelson** is a British-Ghanaian writer and photographer living in South East London. His first novel, *Open Water*, won the Costa First Novel Award and Debut of the Year at the British Book Awards, and was a no.1 *Times* bestseller.

**Rónán Hession's** *Ghost Mountain*, is a fable-like novel about a mountain that appears suddenly, and the way in which its manifestation ripples through the lives of characters in the surrounding community. It looks at the uncertain fragile sense of self we hold inside ourselves, and our human compulsion to project it into the uncertain world around us, whether we're ready or not. **Rónán Hession's** debut novel *Leonard and Hungry Paul*, published in 2019, was an RTÉ Book of the week, has sold over 180,000 copies worldwide, was shortlisted for six literary prizes and chosen for One Dublin One Book award in 2021.



From top: Caleb Azumah Nelson and Rónán Hession



Nuala O'Connor

FRIDAY 12 / 20.30 / MARINO CHURCH / €20  
**NUALA O'CONNOR**

**Nuala O'Connor** returns with her new novel *Seaborne*, the intimate portrayal of the life of 18th-century Irishwoman, Anne Bonny. This captivating tale takes us from from Kinsale to South Carolina to Jamaica. It is the thrilling and sensuous imagining of the loss, frustration and desires that steer this lonely plantation daughter towards elopement, two marriages, two pregnancies, violence, trial for piracy and legendary status. This master storyteller will make your heart soar. **Nuala O'Connor** is a novelist, short story writer and poet who lives in Galway. She is the author of five previous novels, including *Nora* which was the One Dublin One Book choice for 2022.

FRIDAY 12 / 21.30 / MA MURPHYS / FREE  
**POP UP GAELTACHT**

Pop-Up Gaeltacht, Ma Murphys Beanntrí, an 12ú lá de mhí Mheithimh. Cómhrá, craic agus scúps. Bígí Linn! Pints and craic and Irish chats.



**SATURDAY 13 / ALL WEEK / MARITIME HOTEL (MIZEN ROOM) / FREE EXHIBITION: RITUAL by SIOBHÁN REA**

Cork-born visual artist **Siobhán Rea** has been making a 10cm square drawing daily at 08:30am since 1997. A selection of these pieces and some larger art works in a variety of media will be displayed in the Mizen Room from Saturday onwards. On Monday Siobhán and writer **Danielle McLaughlin** will discuss their collaboration. See p.16



**SATURDAY 13 / 10.00 / ABBEY STRAND / FREE THE FESTIVAL SWIM**

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



**SATURDAY 13 / 11.30 / BANTRY BOOKSHOP / FREE MOLLY AITKEN**

**Molly Aitken's** novel *Bright, I Burn* is inspired by the first recorded person in Ireland to have been condemned as a witch and it gives voice to a woman lost to history, who dared to carve her own space in a man's world, and paid the price for it. It is a blazing story of power, patriarchy and sexuality in thirteenth-century Ireland. **Molly Aitken** was born in Scotland in 1991 and brought up in Ireland – she lived in Ballydehob, West Cork. She studied Literature and Classics at Galway University and has an MA in Creative Writing from Bath Spa. She works as an editor and ghostwriter and lives in Sheffield.



From top: Siobhán Rea and detail of 'R & H Hall', Festival Swim, Molly Aitken

**SATURDAY 13 / 13.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE EIMEAR RYAN**

In *The Grass Ceiling: On Being A Woman in Sport*, acclaimed novelist **Eimear Ryan** digs deep into the confluence between gender and sport, and all the questions it throws up about identity, status, competition and self-expression. At a time when women's sport is on the rise but still a long way from equality, it is a sharp, nuanced and heartfelt exploration of questions that affect every girl – and boy – who sets out to participate in sport. Winner of the Eason Sports Book of the Year at the 2023 An Post Irish Book Awards. **Eimear Ryan's** writing has appeared in *Granta*, *Winter Papers* and *The Stinging Fly*. She is a co-founder of the literary journal *Banshee* and its publishing imprint, Banshee Press. A native of Co. Tipperary, Eimear now lives in Cork city.



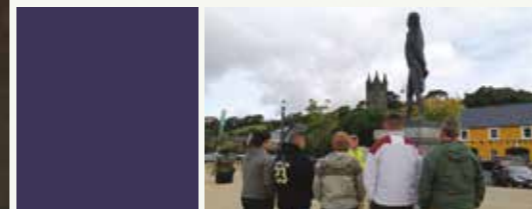
**SATURDAY 13 / 14.15 / WHIDDY ISLAND / €25 (INCLUDES RETURN FERRY TRIP) EOIN WARNER**

Naturalist **Eoin Warner** is a wildlife documentary presenter in both the Irish and English languages and has presented some of Ireland's foremost nature documentaries in recent years. He recently completed an internationally broadcast three-hour series titled 'Ireland's Wild Islands'. He is an avid free-diver and loves nothing more than to be in, on or under the sea. Eoin has travelled extensively to explore our wildest places from Botswana to Antarctica and has a keen sense of our ecological responsibilities. He grew up by the Atlantic Ocean outside Bantry in West Cork and now lives in Galway. The ferry leaves Bantry Pier for Whiddy Island at 14.15 sharp. We will walk up to the Schoolhouse for the event. The ferry will leave Whiddy at 16.30 to return to Bantry. Eoin Warner's attendance at West Cork Literary Festival is supported by Creative Places West Cork Islands and Cork County Council.



**SATURDAY 13 / 14.30 / BANTRY / FREE BUT TICKETED (max 12) HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR**

Learn about Bantry's fascinating history by joining experienced tour guide, **Noel O'Mahony**, who will accompany you through the streets and explain the many aspects of this historic town's interesting past. Please dress for the weather. 75 minutes duration. Advance booking required.



From top: Eimear Ryan, Eoin Warner, Historical Walking Tour of Bantry

**SATURDAY 13 / 17.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE THEO DORGAN**

Join us for an afternoon of poetry with **Theo Dorgan**. In this vivid, unsparing, new collection, Theo reaches deep into his Cork childhood to examine, among other things, the wellsprings of what would become a life in poetry. At times with the forensic detachment of adult distance, at other times given over to reliving a child's conscious attention to his own life, these poems explore a past where everything is new in the living moment and yet, somehow, 'everything will go on forever'. His new poetry collection *Once Was A Boy* is Cork City Libraries' *One City One Book* for 2024.

**SATURDAY 13 / 17.00-19.00 / FREE (registration required)****IRISH CHILDREN'S AUTHORS AND CREATIVES GUILD:  
MEET UP FOR CHILDREN'S AUTHORS, ILLUSTRATORS AND WRITERS**

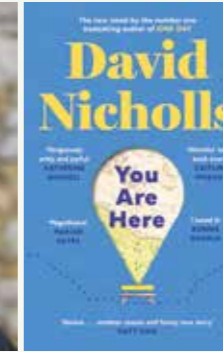
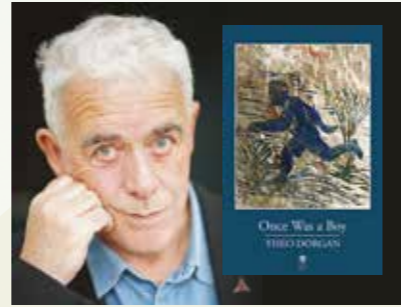
Sarah Webb and a team of professional authors and illustrators are setting up a guild for Irish or Irish based children's authors, illustrators and creatives. All professional authors, illustrators and writers are welcome to attend this social Meet Up to find out more about guild, and/or talk about your own work for young audiences, or simply have a social drink with some fellow creatives.

Please register in advance by email to [info@westcorkmusic.ie](mailto:info@westcorkmusic.ie)

**SATURDAY 13 / 18.30 / WEST LODGE HOTEL / €12 ADANIA SHIBLI**

*Minor Detail* is the third novel by Palestinian author **Adania Shibli**. It was written in Arabic and published as *Tafṣīl Thānawī* in 2017. It was translated into English by Elisabeth Jaquette and published by Fitzcarraldo in 2020. The novel revolves around a brutal crime committed during the War of 1948. Israeli soldiers rape a young Palestinian woman they find in the Negev desert, killing her and burying her in the sand. Many years later, in the near-present day, a young woman in Ramallah embarks on a journey of discovery into the events surrounding that rape and murder, becoming fascinated by it to the point of obsession when she reads about it by chance. *Minor Detail* is a beautiful meditation on war, violence, memory and injustice.

From top: Theo Dorgan, Previous meet up for Irish Children's Authors & Creatives Guild, Adania Shibli

**SATURDAY 13 / 20.30 / WEST LODGE HOTEL / €20 ANNE ENRIGHT & DAVID NICHOLLS**

This event brings together one of the best received novels of 2023, *The Wren, The Wren* by **Anne Enright** and one of the most highly anticipated novels of 2024, *You Are Here* by **David Nicholls**.

**Anne Enright's** *The Wren, The Wren* is a meditation on love: spiritual, romantic, darkly sexual or genetic. A generational saga, it is a testament to the glorious resilience of women in the face of promises false and true. It is an exploration of the love between mother and daughter – sometimes fierce, often painful, but always transcendent. **Anne Enright** is the author of eight novels, including *The Gathering*, which won the 2007 Man Booker Prize. In 2015 she was appointed as the first Laureate for Irish Fiction, and in 2018 she received the Irish PEN Award for Outstanding Contribution to Irish Literature.

**David Nicholls' *You Are Here*** is a love story which unfolds on a walk across the north of England; ten days through the Lakes, the Dales and the North Yorkshire Moors. It's the story of two lonely people, Michael and Marnie, both a little lost. Over many miles, as they start to talk and share stories, the possibility of a new beginning opens up before them. It is a story of first encounters, second chances and finding the way home. **David Nicholls** is a screenwriter and the author of six novels, including *One Day* which was adapted for a Netflix series earlier this year.

**SATURDAY 13 / 22.00 / Maritime Hotel / FREE OPEN MIC All welcome**

From left: Anne Enright, David Nicholls

**SUNDAY 14 / 9.00 / BANTRY HOUSE / €15 (PAY ON THE DAY) / AGE: 15+  
YOGA ON THE LAWN**

Join us for the perfect start to your morning! **Paul O'Donoghue** has been practicing Yoga for more than 40 years and completed his teacher training in 2022. Paul's classes focus on alignment and bringing a balance between the mind & body, strength and flexibility. This 75-minute drop-in class will be suitable for all levels. Please wear comfortable clothes and bring your own yoga mat with you. Weather permitting the class will take place on the front lawn in Bantry House (with a bad weather Plan B) but do check our social media the day before for weather updates.

**SUNDAY 14 / 10.00 / BANTRY HOUSE LOGGIA / €12  
COFFEE & CHAT with DANI ROBERTSON**

Embark on an illuminating journey with *All Through the Night*, as Dark Sky Officer **Dani Robertson** unveils the wonders of our night skies and reveals the havoc wreaked by light pollution. She explains why darkness is so important – to plants, to animals, and to ourselves – and why we must protect it all costs. Interspersed with inspiring stories from cultures the world over, this book is both a celebration of the star-speckled blanket above us and a call to reclaim the night, one light switch at a time. **Dani Robertson** is a Dark Sky Officer for Snowdonia National Park and in 2022 she received the Dark Sky Defender Award from the International Dark Sky Association.

**SUNDAY 14 / 12.00 / MARINO CHURCH / €12 FRUITCAKE: ALICE BARRY**

Playwright and actress **Alice Barry** captivates her audience in her delightful, moving one-woman show. *Fruitcake* was originally performed as part of Bealtaine Festival in 2010. Under the guise of a cookery demonstration, her character Della Dolan shows us how to make 'the perfect Fruitcake' whilst she divests provoking memories to give a fascinating account of her life on an Irish farm. Running time: 55 minutes



From top: Dani Robertson, Alice Barry



Clockwise from top left: Shari Lapena, Andrea Mara, Paula Meehan, Victoria Kennefick

**SUNDAY 14 / 13.00 / MARITIME HOTEL / €18 SHARI LAPENA & ANDREA MARA**

This summer sees the publication of two new unputdownable thrillers from acclaimed crime writers Canada's **Shari Lapena** and Ireland's **Andrea Mara**. Shari's new novel *What Have You Done?* will be published in July and Andrea's *Someone in the Attic* in June. We won't give you any spoilers but these novels will have you on the edge of your seat.

**Shari Lapena** is the internationally bestselling author of ten thrillers many of which have been *Sunday Times* and *New York Times* bestsellers. She lives in Toronto.

**Andrea Mara** is a *Sunday Times* and *Irish Times* number one bestselling author and has been shortlisted for the Irish Crime Novel of the Year. She spent part of her childhood in Cork and now lives in Dublin. *No One Saw a Thing*, her previous novel, sold more than 100,000 copies in thirteen weeks and was No.1 Kindle and Irish bestseller.

**SUNDAY 14 / 15.00 / MARITIME HOTEL / FREE but ticketed WRITING FOR CHILDREN: INFORMATION FOR NEW AND EMERGING CHILDREN'S WRITERS**

During this informal session, **Sarah Webb** will talk to new and emerging children's writers and illustrators about writing and getting published and answer any questions. Sarah is an award-winning Irish children's author and creative writing teacher.

**SUNDAY 14 / 15.00 / MARINO CHURCH / €18 VICTORIA KENNEFICK & PAULA MEEHAN**

Poets **Victoria Kennefick** and **Paula Meehan** both released new collections of poetry in the past year. Victoria Kennefick's second collection, *Egg/Shell*, deals with the experiences of a partner transitioning, early motherhood, miscarriage, and the fracturing of a marriage.

In Paula Meehan's new collection of poems, *The Solace of Artemis*, her attention is given over to the examination of interconnected lives – her own, the lives of her family, the human ecology of her native Dublin – and the unfolding of pattern-cycles in the non- human world.

From left: Maggie Armstrong, Mike McCormack



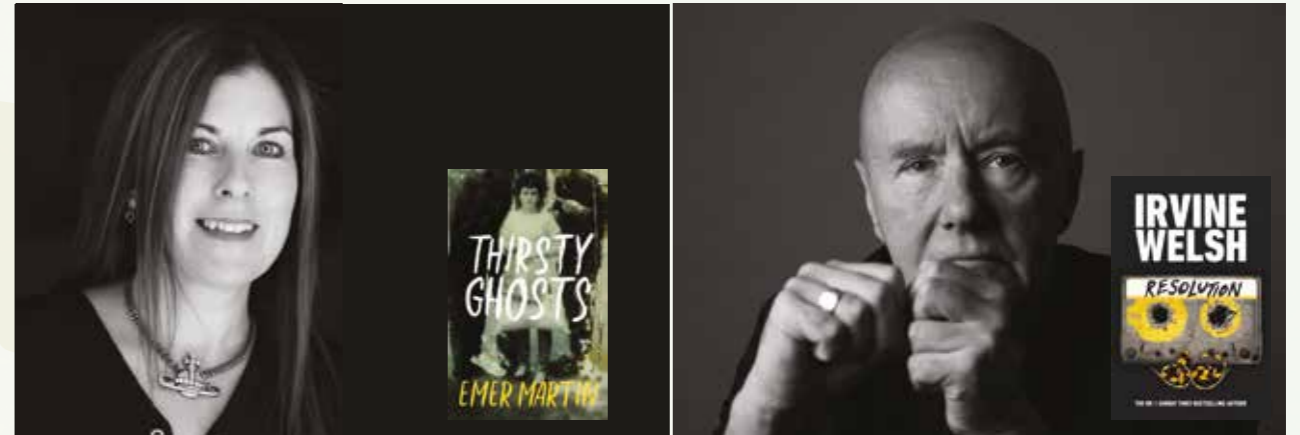
SUNDAY 14 / 17.00 / MARINO CHURCH / €16 **MAGGIE ARMSTRONG & MIKE MCCORMACK**

Independent Irish publisher **Tramp Press** celebrates their tenth anniversary this year. Their authors have appeared regularly at the festival and we are happy to continue that tradition with an event featuring two of their latest authors – debut author **Maggie Armstrong** and award-winning author **Mike McCormack**. Maggie’s collection of short stories *Old Romantics* was published in April 2024 and Mike’s novel *This Plague of Souls* was published in October 2023.

**Maggie Armstrong**’s work has appeared in the *Dublin Review*, *The Stinging Fly*, *Banshee* and elsewhere. She was longlisted for Short Story of the Year in the 2023 Irish Book Awards. She lives in Dublin.

**Mike McCormack** is an award-winning novelist and short-story writer. In 1996 he was awarded the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature. His last novel, *Solar Bones* (Tramp Press, 2016), won the Goldsmiths Prize, the Bord Gáis Energy Irish Book Awards for Best Novel and for Best Book, and the Dublin International Literary Award (previously known as the IMPAC).

From left: Emer Martin, Irvine Welsh



SUNDAY 14 / 18.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €16 **EMER MARTIN & IRVINE WELSH**

In this event we bring you two very different books by two authors, **Emer Martin** and **Irvine Welsh**, who have been friends for many years. Emer is an Irish author and Irvine is a Scottish author, and whilst they both spend much of their lives abroad their work is very influenced by the countries they grew up in.

**Emer Martin** is an original, radical and vital voice in Irish writing who challenges the history of silence, institutional lies, evasion and the mistreatment of women across mid twentieth-century Ireland. She is a Dubliner who has lived in Paris, London, the Middle East and New York, and is now living

in California where she teaches writing, painting and resisting. This is her fifth novel.

**Irvine Welsh** is known to many as the author of *Trainspotting* and he’ll join us with *Resolution*, this brand new novel in the CRIME series featuring former detective Ray Lennox. His first novel, *Trainspotting*, sold over one million copies in the UK and was adapted into an era-defining film. He has written thirteen further novels, four books of shorter fiction and numerous plays and screenplays. He lives between London, Edinburgh and Miami.



**SUNDAY 14 / 20.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €25**  
**DOLLY ALDERTON & ELIZABETH DAY**

Join us for a special evening with friends and fellow authors **Dolly Alderton** and **Elizabeth Day** as they chat about life, love, friendship, platonic love and everything in between.

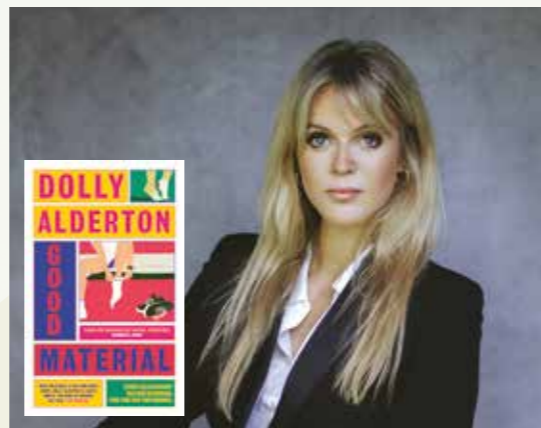
*Good Material* is the new novel by **Dolly Alderton** and it is a sharply funny, beautifully observed and exquisitely relatable story of heartbreak and friendship, and how to survive both. Every relationship has one beginning. This one has two endings. Andy loves Jen. Jen loved Andy. And he can't work out why she stopped.

As a society, there is a tendency to elevate romantic love. But what about friendships? Aren't they just as – if not more – important? So why is it hard to find the right words to express what these uniquely complex bonds mean to us? In *Friendaholic: Confessions of a Friendship Addict*, **Elizabeth Day** embarks on a journey to answer these questions.

**Dolly Alderton** is an award-winning author, screenwriter and journalist. She is a columnist for *Sunday Times Style* and has also written for *GQ*, *Red*, *Marie Claire* and *Grazia*. Her first book *Everything I Know About Love* became a top five *Sunday Times* bestseller in its first week of publication, won a National Book Award (UK) for Autobiography of the Year and was made into a BBC One TV Series.

**Elizabeth Day** is an award-winning author and broadcaster. Her chart-topping podcast, *How To Fail With Elizabeth Day*, is a celebration of all of the things that haven't gone right. Elizabeth has written five novels and three works of non-fiction which collectively have gained her a Betty Trask Award, *Observer* Book of the Year, and a Richard and Judy Summer Book Club pick. *Friendaholic: Confessions of a Friendship Addict*, entered the *Sunday Times* bestseller charts at number one.

**SUNDAY 14 / 22.00 / MARITIME HOTEL / FREE OPEN MIC** All welcome



From top: Dolly Alderton, Elizabeth Day

**MONDAY 15 / 10.00 / BANTRY HOUSE LOGGIA / €12**  
**COFFEE & CHAT with KERRI ANDREWS**

*Way Makers* is the first anthology of women's writing about walking. Edited by **Kerri Andrews**, the author of the bestselling *Wanderers*, this beautiful collection takes in poetry, letters, diaries and novels from authors including Mary Wollstonecraft, Dorothy Wordsworth, Jane Austen, Mary Shelley and Virginia Woolf, to Raynor Winn, Cheryl Strayed, Sarah Moss and Polly Atkin. It showcases the rich literary heritage created by generations of women walker-writers over the centuries and demonstrates that walking is an activity full of physical and emotional significance for women.

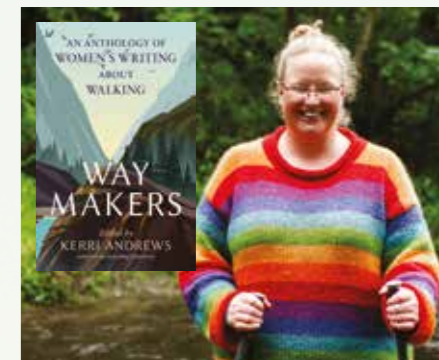
**MONDAY 15 / 11.30 / BANTRY BOOKSHOP / FREE**  
**GRAHAM ALLEN**

**Graham Allen**'s new collection of poetry, *Without Covenant*, published by Salmon Poetry in 2024, presents a picture of a poet struggling with disability (specifically Parkinson's Disease) without what it takes to be the false comforts of religion, especially the idea of the covenant or promise of protection, guidance, and providential design. **Graham Allen** is a Professor in English in UCC. Graham's epem *Holes*, begun in 2006, is now in its eighteenth year with one ten syllabled line per day being updated each week by New Binary Press.

**MONDAY 15 / 13.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE**  
**WRITER IN RESIDENCE: LIBRARY WRITING GROUPS**

**Victoria Kennefick** is writer-in-residence for Cork County Council Library & Arts Services and is working with writers groups in Bandon, Cobh, Kanturk, Carrigaline, and Mitchelstown libraries over the course of this year. Join Victoria and writers from all five groups as they share their work with us today. **Victoria Kennefick** grew up in Cork and lives in Kerry. Her first collection, *Eat Or We Both Starve* (2021), won the Seamus Heaney First Collection Prize 2022. Her second collection *Egg/Shell* was published by Carcanet in February 2024.

From top: Kerri Andrews, Graham Allen, Victoria Kennefick



MONDAY 15 / 14.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €18

**NITA PROSE**

Molly the Maid is back... with a new mess and a new mystery. We are delighted to welcome **Nita Prose**, all the way from Canada. Her debut novel *The Maid* sold over two million copies worldwide and was a *New York Times* No1 bestseller. Whilst her new novel *The Mystery Guest* is a standalone novel it does reunite us with the same brilliant lead character Molly in the Regency Grand Hotel and also welcomes back favourite characters such as Mr Preston, Juan Manuel and Molly's beloved Gran. When a renowned guest – a famous mystery writer – drops dead in the hotel, Molly has an unusual clean-up on her hands and she knows that she alone holds the key to the mystery.

**Nita Prose's** debut novel *The Maid* hit the *Sunday Times*, *Irish Times* and *New York Times* bestseller lists, has been published in more than forty countries and film rights have been optioned by Universal Pictures. Nita lives in Toronto, Canada. Her new novel *The Mystery Guest* was published by Harper Collins in January 2024.

MONDAY 15 / 14.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / FREE

**SIOBHÁN REA & DANIELLE MCLAUGHLIN**

Cork-born visual artist **Siobhán Rea** has been making a 10cm square drawing daily at 08:30am since 1997 and they are uploaded daily to her Instagram page 0830ritual. Recently, Siobhán undertook a collaboration with Cork writer **Danielle McLaughlin** where Danielle wrote a novella in response to the 08:30 ritual drawings for January-March 2023. Siobhán in turn responded to the novella by way of a number of larger art works in a variety of media. Against the backdrop of the exhibited art, join Siobhán and Danielle as they discuss their collaboration and the work it produced.

The exhibition, Ritual, takes place in the Mizen room of the Maritime Hotel from Saturday 13 to Friday 19 July.

From top: Nita Prose, Siobhán Rea, Danielle McLaughlin



MONDAY 15 / 17.00 / MARINO CHURCH / €12

**BURNING BOOKS: MICHAEL MAGEE**

**Burning Books** asks each guest which books they would save if their house was on fire—a little like Desert Island discs, for books. Interviewed by *Books Ireland* editor **Ruth McKee**, guests choose the books which have formed the backdrop to their lives, from childhood memories to important life events to books which influenced their writing, and much more. In this live edition of the Burning Books podcast, Ruth will be in conversation with special guest **Michael Magee**. Their conversation will be recorded and released as an episode of the podcast at a later date. **Michael Magee's** debut novel *Close To Home* won the Rooney Prize for Literature, the Nero Book Award for Debut Fiction and the Waterstones Irish Book of the Year in 2023.

This event is in association Books Ireland



MONDAY 15 / 18.30 / MARINO CHURCH / FREE

**LAUNCH OF THE 2024 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**, **Michelle Elvy** 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.

MONDAY 15 / 20.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €35

**MIRIAM MARGOLYES**

Join us on for an unforgettable evening of stories, laughter and outspoken opinions with **Miriam Margolyes**. From being escorted off the Today programme (for saying what we were all thinking) to declaring her love to Vanessa Redgrave; from Tales of the Unexpected to Graham Norton’s sofa, Miriam is one of our most loved and most outspoken favourites. *Oh Miriam!* takes you inside both her head and her heart. Buckle up for an irrepressible, hilarious and moving evening.

*‘My new book is called OH MIRIAM! – something that has been said to me a lot over the years, often in tones of strong disapproval. It contains lots more revelations and stories and discoveries and I can’t wait to share it with you all!’* Miriam Margolyes

Born in Oxford, England in 1941 & educated at Newham College, Cambridge, **Miriam Margolyes** is an award-winning veteran of the stage and screen, and an internationally acclaimed voice-artist. Winner of the BAFTA Best Supporting Actress award for *The Age of Innocence*, she received an OBE in 2002 for Services to Drama. Her latest book *Oh Miriam!: Stories from an Extraordinary Life* was published by John Murray Press in September 2023.

MONDAY 15 / 22.00 / MARITIME HOTEL / FREE

**OPEN MIC** All welcome




Miriam Margolyes

TUESDAY 16 / 10.00 / BANTRY HOUSE LOGGIA / €12

COFFEE & CHAT with **FLEUR PIERETS**

In 2017 Fleur Pierets and her wife Julian P. Boom were embarking on a special project they had conceived called “Project 22”, where they wanted to get married in all the countries where same sex marriage was legal (22 countries at the time). What started as a beautiful act of LGBTQ+ protest art quickly turned to tragedy when Julian was diagnosed with brain cancer. They had only managed to cross off New York, Amsterdam, Antwerp, and Paris, before Julian received her devastating diagnosis and shortly after, she died.

This event is supported by Flanders Literature as part of their Flip Through Flanders programme 

TUESDAY 16 / 11.30 / BANTRY BOOKSHOP / FREE

**MICHELLE MCDONAGH**

*Somebody Knows* is a page-turning story of dangerous secrets and the lengths people will go to keep them. It is the gripping second novel by Cork-based crime writer **Michelle McDonagh**. As her adoptive mother lays dying, journalist Cara Joyce overhears a shocking piece of information about her origins and her connection her to an unsolved death nearly thirty years ago. **Michelle McDonagh** is an Irish journalist with over twenty-five years’ experience and she is the author of two novels.

From top: Fleur Pierets, Michelle McDonagh





**TUESDAY 16 / 13.00/ BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE**  
**JEAN-CLAUDE VAN RIJCKEGHEM**

*Ironhead, or, Once A Young Lady* is the riotous and powerful story of a fierce renegade, and the silly men who try to bring her down. Belgian author **Jean-Claude van Rijckeghem** will join us in person whilst the book's translator **Kristen Gehrman** will join us via pre-recorded video to talk about the translation process. Eighteen-year-old Constance ("Stance") is *not* interested in marriage or in being a 'young lady.' But for a young woman coming of age in the early 1800s, that's just about all that's expected of (or available to) her. When her parents arrange her marriage with a man more than twice her age, she's powerless to resist. Stance couldn't possibly find her newfound husband less appealing, but what can she do? This event is supported by Flanders Literature as part of their Flip Through Flanders programme



**TUESDAY 16 / 14.30 / MARINO CHURCH / €18**  
**TOBI LAKMAKER**

*The History of My Sexuality* is an irreverent and charmingly chaotic debut about queer sexuality that caused a sensation in Europe on first publication. It is a frank, funny, exuberant journey through the highs and lows of your 20s, and making peace with getting it wrong again and again... How do we learn to untangle the impossible knot of sex, love, loneliness, family relationships and grief that constitutes a life? Does it even matter? **Tobi Lakmaker** was named as the new literary talent of 2021 in *Vogue* magazine in the Netherlands. This event is supported by the Dutch Foundation for Literature/Nederlands Letterenfonds as part of their New Dutch Writing programme.



From top: Jean-Claude van Rijckeghem, Tobi Lakmaker

**TUESDAY 16 / 17.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE**  
**GUSTAV PARKER HIBBETT & MÍCHEÁL MCCANN**

Poets **Gustav Parker Hibbett** and **Mícheál McCann** will both publish their first collections this summer. Gustav Parker Hibbett is a poet from New Mexico who is currently pursuing a PhD at Trinity College Dublin and their first collection *High Jump as Icarus Story* is published by Banshee Press in July 2024. Mícheál McCann is from Derry City and is the 2024 Publishing Fellow at the Seamus Heaney Centre at Queen's. *Devotion* is his first collection and it is published by Gallery Press in May 2024.



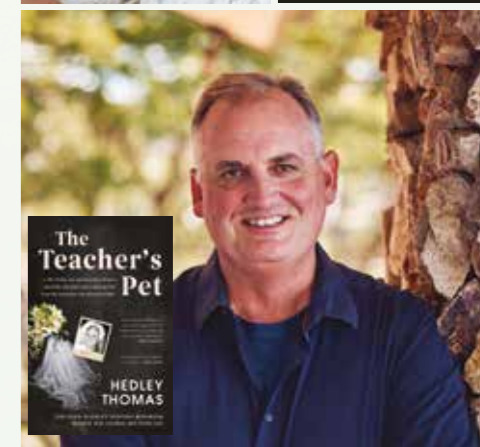
**TUESDAY 16 / 18.00 / MARITIME HOTEL / FREE OPEN MIC MATINEE**

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**.

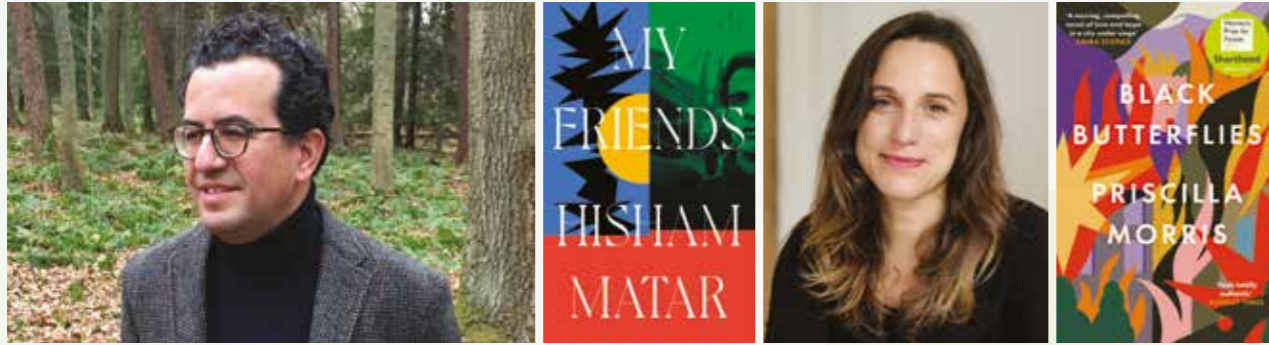
**TUESDAY 16 / 18.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €16**  
**THE TEACHER'S PET: HEDLEY THOMAS**

*The Teacher's Pet* is a true-crime podcast by **Hedley Thomas**, *The Australian* newspaper's award-winning national chief correspondent. The podcast has had more than 52 million downloads worldwide and Hedley's book of the same name now brings us behind the scenes of this incredible true story. Hedley has won eight *Walkley Awards* for Excellence in Journalism including two Gold Walkleys, one of which was for his podcast, *The Teacher's Pet*.

Lynette Simms disappeared from Sydney's idyllic northern beaches in 1982 and was never seen again. Lyn was a caring nurse, loving mother and devoted wife. Her husband Chris Dawson was a rugby league star, a popular teacher and exceptionally close to his identical twin brother, Paul. But this facade of domestic bliss shattered as Chris became infatuated with the family's babysitter – his 16-year-old student – a girl he moved into Lyn's home and bed just two days after her disappearance.



From top left: Gustav Parker Hibbett, Mícheál McCann, Hedley Thomas



TUESDAY 16 / 20.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €20 **HISHAM MATAR & PRISCILLA MORRIS**

The novels of **Hisham Matar** and **Priscilla Morris** speak to us now more than ever. *My Friends*, the new novel by Booker-shortlisted, Pulitzer prize-winning author **Hisham Matar**, is a masterful, intensely moving novel about three friends living in political exile and the emotional homeland that deep friendships can provide. **Priscilla Morris'** Women's Prize-shortlisted novel *Black Butterflies* is set in Sarajevo in the spring of 1992, where each night, nationalist gangs erect barricades, splitting the diverse city into ethnic enclaves and each morning, the residents — whether Muslim, Croat or Serb - push the makeshift barriers aside.

**Hisham Matar** was born in New York to Libyan parents, spent his childhood in Tripoli and Cairo and has lived most of his life in London. His memoir *The Return* was the recipient of the

2017 Pulitzer Prize, the PEN/Jean Stein Award, the Rathbones Folio Prize, Frances Prix du Livre Etranger Inter & Le Journal du Dimanche and Germany's Geschwister Scholl Prize. His work has been translated into over thirty languages.

**Priscilla Morris** is a British author of Bosnian-Cornish parentage. She grew up in London, spending summers in Sarajevo, and studied at Cambridge University and the University of East Anglia, where she gained her PhD in Creative Writing. She teaches creative writing, most recently at UCD, and divides her time between Ireland and Spain.

TUESDAY 16 / 22.00 / MA MURPHYS / FREE **OPEN MIC** All welcome

From left: Hisham Matar, Priscilla Morris

WEDNESDAY 17 / 10.00 / BANTRY HOUSE LOGGIA / €12 **COFFEE & CHAT with TRACEY WILLIAMS**

On 13th February 1997, a huge storm near the coast of Cornwall pushed sixty-two containers off the cargo ship Tokio Express. One was filled with nearly 5 million pieces of Lego, many of which were themed around the sea. Beachcombers in the southwest of England soon began finding plastic octopuses, spear guns, scuba tanks, cutlasses, flippers and even dragons on their shores – pieces that are still washing up today. Join writer and beachcomber **Tracey Williams** who has been intrigued by this story and the changing nature of beachcombing since 1997, when she began to find thousands of pieces of sea-themed Lego washed up on beaches in South Devon

WEDNESDAY 17 / 11.30 / BANTRY BOOKSHOP / FREE **LEEANNE O'DONNELL**

Join us for a morning with debut novelist **Leeanne O'Donnell** who now lives in West Cork. In 18th century London, a little knowledge is a dangerous thing. A lot of knowledge is deadly. *Sparks of Bright Matter* is a spell-binding and unputdownable tale about spirit and matter, love and lust, and reality and magic. **Leeanne O'Donnell** started her storytelling career working in radio with RTE and BBC, and has made a number of award-winning radio documentaries.



From top: Tracey Williams, Leeanne O'Donnell

WEDNESDAY 17 / 13.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE

**JO BURNS & EMILY COOPER**

*The Conversation* is a collaborative poetry collection by **Jo Burns** and **Emily Cooper** which imagines a conversation held between Marie-Thérèse Walter, Dora Maar and Françoise Gilot, three of Picasso's lovers and subjects. More often than not these figures were not named, but titled by their actions: weeping, reading, reclining. What Picasso wilfully obscured was the women behind these paintings: their lives and works, their relationships with him, their children and careers that were indelibly marked by their connection to a man considered to be one of the greatest artists of all time. **Jo Burns** was born in County Derry and lives in Germany. She is the author of three previous collections. **Emily Cooper** is a poet and writer based in Donegal. Her poetry debut, *Glass*, was published in 2021. She is co-founder and an editor for *The Pig's Back* literary journal.



WEDNESDAY 17 / 13.00 / ONLINE - ZOOM / €12

**EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PUBLISHING**

Are you thinking of submitting your book to publishers or agents? What do you need to do to give your work the best possible chance of getting published? **Vanessa Fox O'Loughlin** explains the blueprint from keyboard to bookshelf, the role of agents, the importance of getting your contract checked and why you might decide to go it alone. This webinar will give you concrete ways to improve your pitch, ideas on where to submit and give you a thorough understanding of how the business works in a relaxed and informal atmosphere where you can ask all those tricky questions. Vanessa is the founder of Europe's biggest writing resources website, the award-winning writing.ie, the Writers Ink online writing group and Murder One, Ireland's International Crime Writing Festival. She is the current Chair of the Society of Authors Board, a board member of the Crime Writers Association and a fellow of the RSA. She writes bestselling crime novels as Sam Blake.

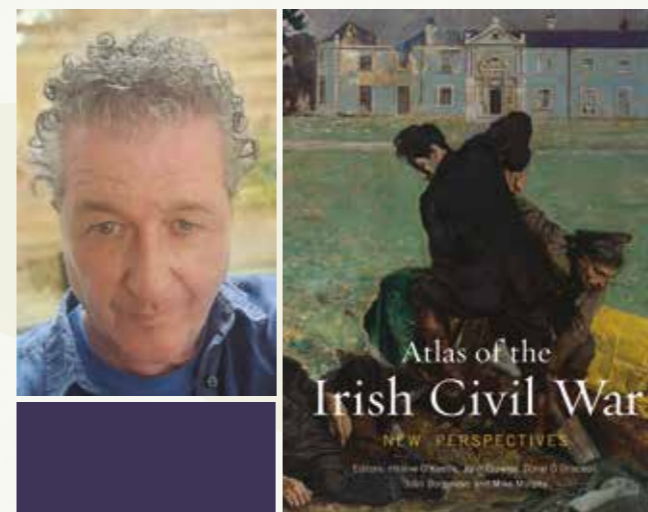


From top left: Jo Burns, Emily Cooper, Vanessa Fox O'Loughlin

WEDNESDAY 17 / 14.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €18

**ATLAS OF THE IRISH CIVIL WAR: NEW PERSPECTIVES**

*Atlas of the Irish Civil War: New Perspectives* is the newest volume in the Cork University Press atlas series and will be published in September 2024. In a special presentation for the festival, editor **Dr Donal Ó Drisceoil** will give an illustrated talk on the book and associated projects, with a focus on the groundbreaking research by Andy Bielenberg and John Dorney on the fatalities of the Civil War and the subject of his own chapter, entitled 'Irregulars Versus Slave Staters: propaganda, censorship and the Irish Civil War'. The book's editors are Doctors Hélène O'Keeffe, John Crowley, Donal Ó Drisceoil, John Borgonovo and Mike Murphy from UCC.



WEDNESDAY 17 / 14.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / FREE

**IRISH WRITERS CENTRE INFORMATION SESSION**

Want to know more about the writing community in Ireland? Perhaps you're new to writing, or maybe you've been writing for a while and are interested in learning more about how the Irish Writers Centre can help? Do you know what types of programmes, resources and courses we have on offer? Or how we support writers at every stage of their career? Get answers to these questions and advice on all things Irish Writers Centre related at this information session with **Teerth Chugh**, Interim Director (as well as the Deputy Director) of the Irish Writers Centre. This event is in association with the Irish Writers Centre



From top: Dr Donal Ó Drisceoil, Teerth Chugh



**WEDNESDAY 17 / 17.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE**  
**IRISH WRITERS CENTRE CLIMATE WRITING SESSIONS**

The Irish Writers Centre, in association with Dublin UNESCO City of Literature, presents a special edition of the IWC Climate Writing Sessions. In this one-off session author **Kerri ní Dochartaigh** will speak about her process, read from her prose and share her views on exploring climate action through creative writing. Kerri will also share a reading list. The IWC Climate Writing Sessions were launched in 2021 by the former president of Ireland Mary Robinson. They arose out of a proposal from author Lynn Buckle to start an online group that focused on positive solution-based ideas whilst centring climate action through all writing forms. **Kerri ní Dochartaigh** is a mother, writer and grower. *Cacophony of Bone* was longlisted for the Wainwright Prize for Nature Writing 2023. She mentors and teaches worldwide and lives in the west of Ireland.

This event is presented by the Irish Writers Centre, in association with Dublin UNESCO City of Literature



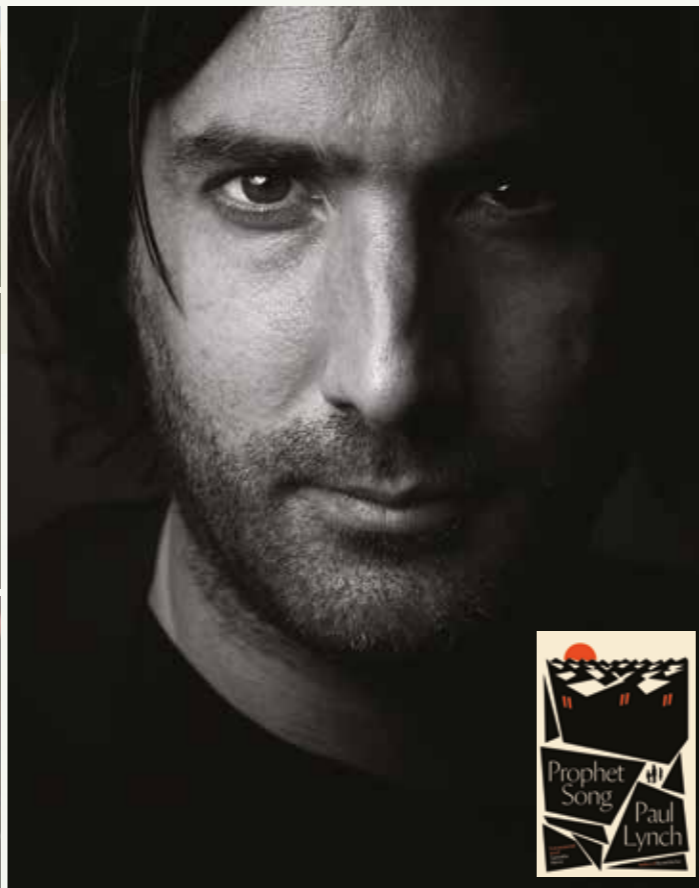
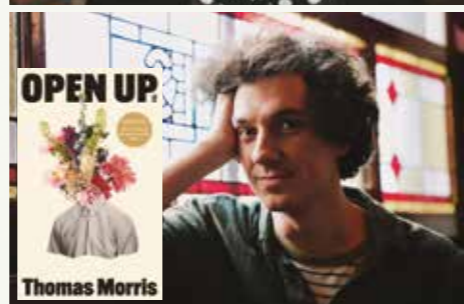
**WEDNESDAY 17 / 18.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €16**  
**JAN CARSON & THOMAS MORRIS**

**Jan Carson** and **Thomas Morris** are masters of the short story form and both have released dazzling new collections of stories in recent months. Jan's collection *Quickly, While They Still Have Horses* contains bold, tender, surprising stories of youth and innocence, age and experience - and all the spaces in between. *Open Up* is Thomas' new collection and it brings five achingly tender, innovative and dazzling stories of (dis)connection.

**Jan Carson** is a writer and community arts facilitator based in Belfast. She is the author of novels, short story collection and flash fiction anthologies. Jan is a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

**Thomas Morris'** debut story collection *We Don't Know What We're Doing* won The Wales Book of the Year Award, The Rhys Davies Trust Fiction Award, and a Somerset Maugham Prize. Born and raised in South Wales, he now lives in Dublin, where he is Editor-at-Large at *The Stinging Fly*.

From top: Kerri ní Dochartaigh, Jan Carson, Thomas Morris



Paul Lynch

**WEDNESDAY 17 / 20.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €20**  
**PAUL LYNCH**

Join Booker Prize Winner **Paul Lynch** for a discussion about his novel *Prophet Song*, a deeply moving exploration of the consequences for ordinary people caught up in terrible events. Rather than placing his story in a foreign land, Paul sets it in his own backyard – Ireland. But this is an imagined Ireland, a nation teetering on the edge of collapse, controlled by a government that is rapidly descending into tyranny. This dystopian novel is even more topical today than it was when it was published in summer 2023.

The novel begins on a dark and rainy evening in Dublin, where we meet Eilish Stack, a scientist and mother of four, answering her front door to the newly formed secret police, there to interrogate Larry, her husband and a trade union leader. When Larry mysteriously disappears, Eilish finds herself caught in the nightmarish logic of a collapsing society. History, her sister warns her, is a silent record of people who did not know when to leave. Now, Eilish must confront some terrible choices – what, or who, is she willing to sacrifice to save herself and her family?

**Paul Lynch** is the prize-winning author of the novels *Prophet Song*, *Beyond the Sea*, *Grace*, *The Black Snow* and *Red Sky in Morning*. *Prophet Song* was published by Oneworld Publications in August 2023 and won the 2023 Booker Prize. He was born in Limerick in 1977, grew up in Donegal and lives in Dublin with his wife and two children.

**WEDNESDAY 17 / 22.00 / MA MURPHYS / FREE**  
**OPEN MIC** All welcome

THURSDAY 18 / 10.00 / BANTRY HOUSE LOGGIA / €12

COFFEE & CHAT with **AOIFE BARRY**

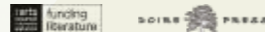
**Aoife Barry's** *Social Capital* is the coming of age story of Ireland 3.0: set against the backdrop of the tech revolution, it chronicles how we collapse the boundary between physical and virtual reality, and where we might go from here. Unsettling, insightful, and wryly funny, she paints a portrait of a country addicted to the internet, refreshing the news, refreshing Twitter, scrolling and scrolling towards a feverish future. Aoife is a freelance journalist and broadcaster based in Dublin.

THURSDAY 18 / 10.00-12.00 / MARITIME HOTEL / FREE / MAX 12 / Book in advance

**COLLABORATION: WRITING POETRY TOGETHER**

Join poets **Jo Burns** and **Emily Cooper** for this session on how to collaborate when writing poetry. Through examples and exercises, you will learn how collaboration can offer poets the chance to expand into new spaces. This session will be a chance to meet new people, spark off ideas and create poetry that couldn't be made alone.

This session is supported by Doire Press and the Arts Council of Ireland



THURSDAY 18 / 11.30 / FUTURE FORESTS / €18

**JOHN CONNELL**

*Twelve Sheep* is a hymn to the rituals of farming life from **John Connell**, the bestselling Irish author of *The Cow Book*. For John, the lambing season on his County Longford farm begins in the autumn. In the sheep shed, he surveys the dozen females in his care and contemplates the work ahead as the season slowly turns to winter, then spring. This book is both simple and profound, a meditation on the rituals of farming life and a primer on the lessons that nature can teach us. As spring returns and the sheep and their lambs are released into the field, John recalls the words of Henry David Thoreau, reminding us to 'live in each season as it passes.'



From top: Aoife Barry, John Connell

THURSDAY 18 / 13.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE **CORK STORIES**

*Cork Stories* is a collection of short fiction set throughout the neighbourhoods of Cork city and county by writers who live or have lived in Cork. Some present vivid portraits using specific landmarks and detail; others capture the spirit of neighbourhoods and people. Together the stories celebrate Cork and the people who live there. There are eighteen short stories published in *Cork Stories* and we are joined by two of the contributors **Jamie O'Connell** and **Eileen O'Donoghue**, in conversation with the editors of the anthology, **Madeleine D'Arcy** and **Laura McKenna**.

THURSDAY 18 / 14.30 / NATIONAL LEARNING NETWORK / €18

**COLIN BARRETT & KEVIN BARRY**

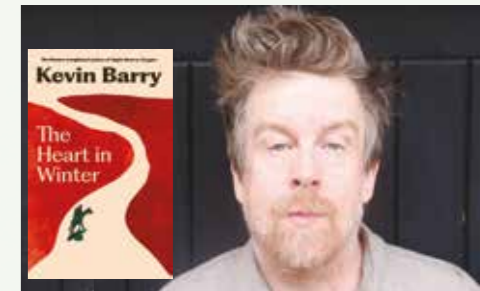
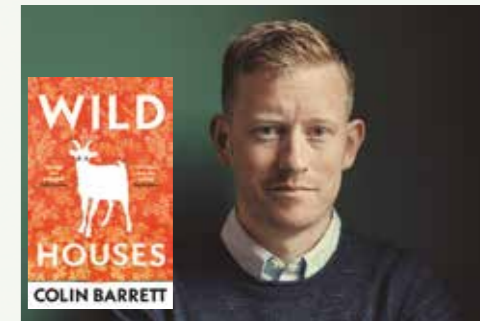
*Wild Houses* is the much-anticipated debut novel from multiple award-winning and critically-acclaimed short story writer, **Colin Barrett** and it is a beautifully crafted, thrillingly-told story of two outsiders striving to find themselves as their worlds collapse in chaos and violence. **Kevin Barry** is back this summer with a new novel and *The Heart in Winter* is a savagely funny, achingly beautiful tale set in the Wild West. Join us for an engaging and entertaining afternoon with these two excellent novelists in the unique setting of this outdoor amphitheatre.

**Colin Barrett** grew up in County Mayo. His first book, the short story collection *Young Skins*, won the *Guardian* First Book Award, the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award and the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature. His second collection, *Homesickness*, made the *New York Times* 100 Notable Books of the Year and was a Book of the Year in *Oprah Daily* and the *Irish Times*.

**Kevin Barry** is the author of three novels and three short story collections. His awards include the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, the Goldsmiths Prize, the *Sunday Times* EFG Short Story Award and the Lannan Foundation Literary Award.

As it's an outdoor event please dress for the weather. There is a rainy weather alternative available at this venue

From top: Eileen O'Donoghue, Jamie O'Connell, Colin Barrett, Kevin Barry



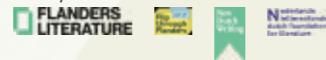


**THURSDAY 18 / 17.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE**  
**SULAIMAN ADDONIA & SIMONE ATANGANA BEKONO**

**Sulaiman Addonia** is an award-winning, highly acclaimed Eritrean-Ethiopian-British author living in Brussels. His personal story as a child refugee underlies all of his writing, offering a vital and eye-opening perspective on the experiences of refugees and asylum-seekers. His new novel *The Seers* includes an exploration of the sexual life of refugees, bringing great depth and humanity to its narrator's story, offering an entirely new, and deeply empowering, perspective.

*Confrontations* by **Simone Atangana Bekono** is a bold, unsettling, and heart-breaking novel about race, belonging and the legacies of violence. Raw and unsentimental, it is a powerful depiction of racism and resilience from one of the Netherlands' most exciting new literary voices. Simone is best known as a poet and this is her debut novel.

Sulaiman's attendance is supported by supported by Flanders Literature as part of their Flip Through Flanders programme and Simone's by the Dutch Foundation for Literature/Nederlands Letterenfonds as part of their New Dutch Writing programme.

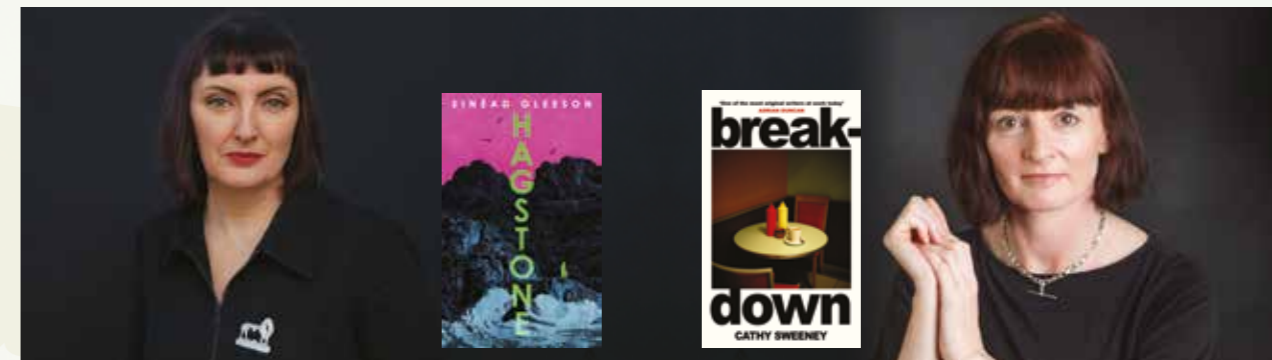


**THURSDAY 18 / 18.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €16** **ROXANNE DE BASTION**

*The Piano Player of Budapest: A True Story of Holocaust Survival, Music and Hope* was named 'one of 2024's most anticipated books' by BBC Culture. When her father died, singer songwriter **Roxanne de Bastion** inherited a piano she knew had been in her family for over a hundred years. But it is only when she finds a cassette recording of her grandfather, Stephen, playing one of his compositions, the true and almost unbelievable history of the piano, this man and her family begins to unravel. Stephen was a man who enjoyed great fame, a man who suffered the horrors of concentration camps in WWII, a man who ultimately survives – along with his piano. **Roxanne de Bastion** is a singer-songwriter and artist advocate. She has released two critically acclaimed albums that have been championed by the likes of Iggy Pop and Steve Lamacq. She is the founder of the independent artist conference FM2U (From Me to You).



From top left: Sulaiman Addonia, Simone Atangana Bekono, Roxanne de Bastion



**THURSDAY 18 / 20.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €20** **SINÉAD GLEESON & CATHY SWEENEY**

2024 saw the publication of two highly anticipated debut novels by acclaimed Irish writers. *Hagstone* is the debut novel from award-winning essayist and editor of short story anthologies, **Sinéad Gleeson**, and *Breakdown* is written by short story writer **Cathy Sweeney**.

*Hagstone* is set on an island cut off and isolated to some, where artist Nell has made her home. It is the source of inspiration for her art, rooted in landscape, folklore and the feminine. The mysterious Inions, a commune of women who have travelled there from all over the world, consider it a place of refuge, of solace in nature. When the reclusive Inions commission Nell to produce an art piece to celebrate their long history, she discovers things about the community and about herself that challenge everything she thought she knew.

*Breakdown* opens one winter morning in contemporary Dublin, when a middle-class woman wakes up next to her husband in her suburban home, and without conscious purpose, walks out the front door to begin a journey that ultimately leads to profound transfiguration. She travels first by car and then train to Rosslare, from where she takes a ferry to Fishguard in Wales. Alone and isolated in a cottage in Wales, in a strange and eerie landscape, the woman reaches her nadir.

**THURSDAY 18 / 22.00 / MA MURPHYS / FREE**  
**OPEN MIC** All welcome

From left: Sinéad Gleeson, Cathy Sweeney

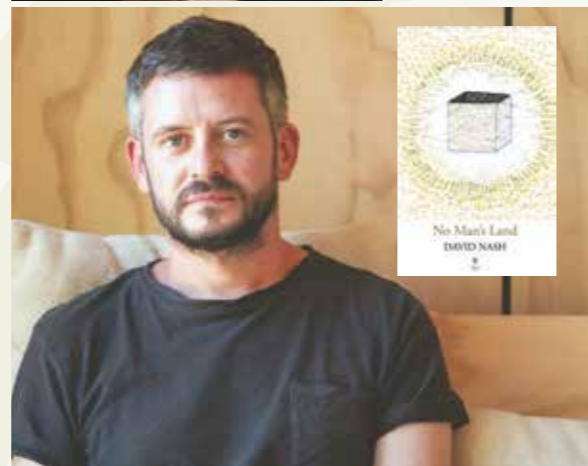
FRIDAY 19 / 10.00 / BANTRY HOUSE LOGGIA / €12  
COFFEE & CHAT with **MARY MORRISSY**

On their arrival in Trieste in 1904, James Joyce left Norah Barnacle outside a railway station while he went to scare up money. He got embroiled in a fight with a couple of sailors and was locked up for his troubles. A penniless Norah was left alone for almost an entire day and night sitting on their suitcases at the station in a city where she knew no one and where she didn't speak the language. In real life, Norah waited for him. In *Penelope Unbound*, **Mary Morrissy** asks – what if she hadn't? **Mary Morrissy** is the author of four novels and two collections of stories. Her short fiction has been anthologised widely and two of her novels have been nominated for the Dublin Literary Award.



FRIDAY 19 / 11.30 / BANTRY BOOKSHOP / FREE  
**DAVID NASH**

*No Man's Land* is the debut collection of poems by Chile-based, Cork poet **David Nash**, an exploration and a reclamation of a place at once familiar and strange – the West Cork rural landscape of the poet's formative years. Returning to West Cork for the first time in more than a decade, David re-immerses himself in a world of memory and language, folklore and custom, revealing a strikingly intimate connection. Yet his presence feels questioned, undeserved, his calling as participant and observer under assault from the passage of time and the overwhelming threat of the present ecological moment. Longlisted for the 2024 Royal Society of Literature Ondaatje Prize.



From top: Mary Morrissy, David Nash

FRIDAY 19 / 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 **Sasha de Buyl** 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 **Sasha de Buyl**. Sasha is a writer and programmer from Cork. They are currently Literature and Ideas Programmer at International Literature Festival Dublin and were the Director of Cúirt International Festival of Literature in Galway from 2019-2022.



FRIDAY 19 / 14.30 / BANTRY HOUSE / €18  
**MARK O'CONNELL**

What does it mean to write about a killer? *A Thread of Violence: A Story of Truth, Invention, and Murder* by **Mark O'Connell** is a tale of a notorious double-murder that gripped the nation, a political scandal that almost brought down a government, and a writer who found himself entangled in this strange, true story. In this thorny examination of the nature of true crime, Mark confronts his own fascination, his haunting of Malcolm Macarthur, and in turn our own attraction to true crime stories. **Mark O'Connell** is an award-winning Irish writer. His first book, *To Be a Machine*, won the 2018 Wellcome Book Prize and was shortlisted for the Baillie Gifford Prize. In 2019, he became the first ever non-fiction writer to win the prestigious Rooney Prize for Irish Literature.



From top: Sasha de Buyl, Mark O'Connell

FRIDAY 19/ 17.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE  
**BANTRY'S BRUTALIST BIBLIOTHEQUE**

Bantry Library opened to the public in 1974 and has been serving the local community for the past fifty years. Architect and Bantry native **Dermot Harrington** published *Bantry Library: Bantry's Brutalist Bibliotheque*, an architectural archive celebrating Bantry Library's fiftieth anniversary.

Dermot will be joined by Harry Wallace, original Project Architect, and original contractors from Murnane & O'Shea Building Contractors, Jerry 'Jer' O'Sullivan and John O'Neill along with Donal Hunt who was the M&OS workshop foreman for a conversation about the origins of this iconic building.

FRIDAY 19/ 18.30 / MARITIME HOTEL /€16  
**JASON ALLEN-PAISANT**

**Jason Allen-Paisant** is a Jamaican writer and academic. The interlocking poems of his second collection, *Self-Portrait as Othello*, imagine Othello in the urban landscapes of modern London, Paris and Venice and invent the kinds of narrative he might tell about his intersecting identities.

*Self-Portrait as Othello* won the Forward Prize for Best Collection 2023 and the T.S. Eliot Prize 2023. It was shortlisted for the Writers' Prize 2024 and longlisted for the 2024 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature. It was awarded the Spring 2023 Poetry Book Society Choice Award.

This event is presented in association with Poetry Ireland.



From top: Bantry Library, Jason Allen-Paisant

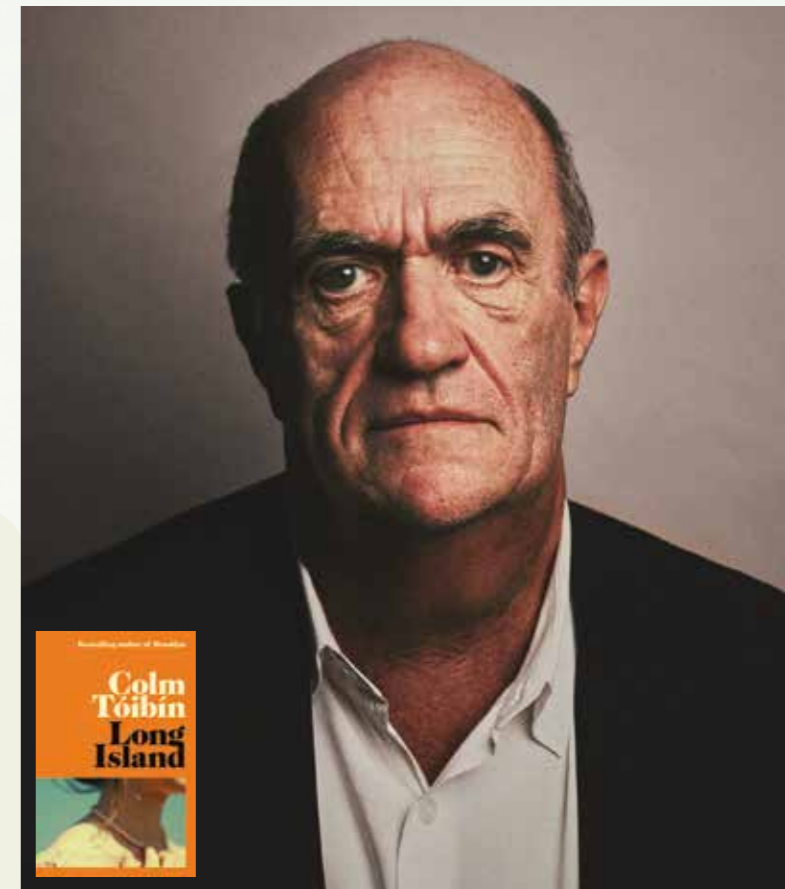
FRIDAY 19/ 20.30 / MARITIME HOTEL /€25  
**COLM TÓIBÍN**

*Long Island* is the sequel to **Colm Tóibín's** prize-winning, bestselling novel *Brooklyn*. This exquisite, exhilarating novel asks whether it is possible to truly return to the past and renew the great love that seemed gone forever.

A man with an Irish accent knocks on Ellis Fiorello's door on Long Island and in that moment everything changes. Eilis and Tony are twenty years married and have built a secure, happy life here since leaving Brooklyn. And yet this stranger will reveal something that will make Eilis question the life she has created. For the first time in years she suddenly feels very far from home and the revelation will see her turn towards Ireland once again.

*'His best yet... I haven't wanted to hug this many characters in a while.'* Naoise Dolan

**Colm Tóibín** is the author of eleven novels, including, *The Master*, *Brooklyn* and *The Magician*, and two collections of stories. He has been shortlisted three times for the Booker Prize. Colm was appointed the Laureate for Irish Fiction 2022-2024.



Colm Tóibín



# West Cork Literary Festival

*at a glance*

Time	Title	Venue
<b>FRIDAY 12 JULY</b>		
All week	50th Anniversary of Bantry Library	Bantry Library
All week	Letter Café	Forest & Flock
15.00	Shane Hegarty	St Brendans School Hall
17.00	Opening Reception of WCLF	Bantry Library
18.30	Caleb Azumah Nelson & Rónán Hession	Marino Church
20.30	Nuala O'Connor	Marino Church
21.30	Pop Up Gaeltacht	Ma Murphys
<b>SATURDAY 13 JULY</b>		
All week	Exhibition: Ritual by Siobhán Rea	Maritime Hotel
10.00	Festival Swim	Abbey Strand
11.30	Molly Aitken	Bantry Bookshop
12.00	Discover Irish Children's Books	St Brendans School Hall
13.00	Eimear Ryan	Bantry Library
14.00	A. Grandowicz & E.R. Murray	St Brendans School Hall
14.15	Eoin Warner	Whiddy Island
14.30	Historical Walking Tour	Bantry Town
17.00	Theo Dorgan	Bantry Library
17.00	Irish Children Writers & Creatives Guild	Contact Us
18.30	Adania Shibli	West Lodge Hotel
20.30	Anne Enright & David Nicholls	West Lodge Hotel
22.00	Open Mic	Maritime Hotel

Time	Title	Venue
<b>SUNDAY 14 JULY</b>		
09.00	Yoga on the Lawn	Bantry House
10.00	Dani Robertson	Bantry House Loggia
12.00	Fruitcake: Alice Barry	Marino Church
13.00	Inis Mara: T Rosenstock & M Wickham	Work Shop
13.00	Shari Lapena & Andrea Mara	Maritime Hotel
15.00	Writing For Children with Sarah Webb	Maritime Hotel
15.00	Victoria Kennefick & Paula Meehan	Marino Church
17.00	Maggie Armstrong & Mike McCormack	Marino Church
18.30	Emer Martin & Irvine Welsh	Maritime Hotel
20.30	Dolly Alderton & Elizabeth Day	Maritime Hotel
22.00	Open Mic	Maritime Hotel
<b>MONDAY 15 JULY</b>		
10.00	Kerri Andrews	Bantry House Loggia
11.30	Graham Allen	Bantry Bookshop
13.00	Library Writing Groups Showcase	Bantry Library
14.30	Nita Prose	Maritime Hotel
14.30	Siobhán Rea & Danielle McLaughlin	Maritime Hotel
17.00	Burning Books: Michael Magee	Marino Church
18.30	Launch of the Fish Anthology	Marino Church
20.30	Miriam Margolyes	Maritime Hotel
22.00	Open Mic	Maritime Hotel

Time	Title	Venue
<b>TUESDAY 16 JULY</b>		
10.00	Fleur Pierets	Bantry House Loggia
11.30	Michelle McDonagh	Bantry Bookshop
12.00	Movies Showing Nowhere	St Brendans School Hall
13.00	Jean-Claude van Rijckeghem	Bantry Library
14.30	Tobi Lakmaker	Marino Church
17.00	Gustav Parker Hibbett & Mícheál McCann	Bantry Library
18.00	Open Mic Matinee	Maritime Hotel
18.30	The Teacher's Pet podcast: H. Thomas	Maritime Hotel
20.30	Hisham Matar & Priscilla Morris	Maritime Hotel
22.00	Open Mic	Ma Murphys
<b>WEDNESDAY 17 JULY</b>		
10.00	Tracey Williams	Bantry House Loggia
11.30	Leeanne O'Donnell	Bantry Bookshop
12.00	The Lonely Book: Meg Grehan	St Brendans School Hall
13.00	Jo Burns & Emily Cooper	Bantry Library
13.00	Publishing: Vanessa Fox O'Loughlin	Online - Zoom
14.30	Atlas of the Irish Civil War	Maritime Hotel
14.30	Irish Writers Centre Info Session	Maritime Hotel
16.00	Rainbow Library	St Brendans School Hall
17.00	IWC Climate Writing Session	Bantry Library
18.30	Jan Carson and Thomas Morris	Maritime Hotel
20.30	Paul Lynch	Maritime Hotel
22.00	Open Mic	Ma Murphys

Time	Title	Venue
<b>THURSDAY 18 JULY</b>		
10.00	Aoife Barry	Bantry House Loggia
10.00	Collaboration: Writing Poetry Together	Maritime Hotel
11.30	John Connell	Future Forests
12.00	The Slug & The Snail	St Brendans School Hall
13.00	Cork Stories	Bantry Library
14.30	Colin Barrett & Kevin Barry	National Learning Network
17.00	S. Addonia & S. Atangana Bekono	Bantry Library
18.30	Roxanne de Bastion	Maritime Hotel
20.30	Sinéad Gleeson & Cathy Sweeney	Maritime Hotel
22.00	Open Mic	Ma Murphys
<b>FRIDAY 19 JULY</b>		
10.00	Mary Morrissy	Bantry House Loggia
11.30	David Nash	Bantry Bookshop
12.00	Dinosaur Pie: Jen Wallace	St Brendans School Hall
13.00	From The Well	Bantry Library
14.30	Mark O'Connell	Bantry House
17.00	Bantry's Brutalist Bibliotheque	Bantry Library
18.30	Jason Allen-Paisant	Maritime Hotel
20.30	Colm Tóibín	Maritime Hotel



West Cork Literary Festival



## WORKSHOPS

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Book online: [www.westcorkmusic.ie/LFworkshops](http://www.westcorkmusic.ie/LFworkshops)



**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.

**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 more detailed course outlines and full tutor biographies please visit our website.

From left: Aoife Barry [Photo: Bríd O'Donovan], Jan Carson

### FINDING WRITING INSPIRATION IN THE EVERYDAY / AOIFE BARRY

€230 / 15 MAX

Monday 15 to Wednesday 17 / 9.30-14.30 (2 breaks)

St Finbarr's Boys' School

This workshop is for beginner and emerging writers who want to write nonfiction pieces, whether for submission (radio essays and personal essays) or self-publishing online (blogs and newsletters). To write, we need ideas and inspiration. We will look at how to find writing inspiration in your everyday life and experiences; discover how 'noticing' is the key to sparking inspiration; will read examples from writers who mine from their everyday life; use writing prompts to write together in class; and learn the building blocks for writing a well-structured non-fiction piece.

**Aoife Barry** is a Dublin-based freelance journalist and broadcaster. She is the author of the bestselling non-fiction book *Social Capital*. Her essays and fiction have been published by *Banshee* journal and *Visual Verse*, and broadcast on *Sunday Miscellany*. Bylines include *Sunday Times*, *Irish Times*, *Irish Independent*, *Business Post*, *The Journal* and *Irish Examiner*. She features regularly on RTÉ and Today FM. She led a course on 'Writing For an Online Audience', ran workshops for Publishing Ireland and Mountains to Sea, and completed a 10-week teaching internship on University of Galway's Creative Writing degree.

### SHORT STORY WRITER'S STARTER KIT JAN CARSON

€230 / 15 MAX

Monday 15 to Wednesday 17 / 9.30-14.30 (2 breaks)

St Finbarr's Boys' School

This lively, interactive and practical workshop will equip you with everything you need to begin or continue your journey with the short story. Combining discussion, writing exercises and teaching drawn from Jan's own experience you will explore all the components of the short story including character, plot, structure, voice and editing. You'll have a chance to develop and write your own short story, learn how to give and receive editorial feedback on a work in progress and consider the importance of reading in terms of developing writing practice. Suitable for both beginners and those keen to reinvigorate their writing practice.

**Jan Carson** is a writer and community arts facilitator based in Belfast. She has published three novels, three short story collections and two micro-fiction collections. Her novel *The Fire Starters* won the EU Prize for Literature for Ireland 2019. *The Raptures* was published by Doubleday in 2022 and was subsequently shortlisted for the An Post Irish Novel of the Year and Kerry Group Novel of the Year. Her short story collection *Quickly, While They Still Have Horses* was published by Doubleday in 2024.

**NATURE & PLACE WRITING / JOHN CONNELL**

€245 (incl ferry) / 15 MAX

Monday 15 to Wednesday 17 / 9.30-14.30 (2 breaks)

**Whiddy Island**

Starting at the work of Henry David Thoreau and his seminal book *Walden* we will investigate how nature and place writing has been with us in its modern form for over a century. We will explore nature and place from the nature writings of Masanobu Fukuoka and Peter Matthiessen to the Irish tradition with books from the Basket writers and on up to the modern day with books such as John's own *The Cow Book* to explore how nature and place can lead us in new directions into uncovering the hidden world that lies before us. This wide-ranging course will ground the participants in the best of nature and place writing and give them a good footing into what they might want to write themselves.

**John Connell** is a multi-award-winning author, film producer, investigative journalist and farmer. His documentary programmes have won over a dozen international awards. His number-one bestselling memoir *The Cow Book* was awarded Popular Non Fiction Book of the Year at the Irish Book Awards. John's new book *Twelve Sheep* was published in April 2024. He lives in County Longford.

John Connell's attendance at West Cork Literary Festival is supported by Creative Places West Cork Islands and Cork County Council



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council



Creative Places  
Curmús Ceantar



Clockwise from top left:  
John Connell, Priscilla Morris  
[Photo Conor Horgan],  
Mícheál McCann [Photo  
Jonathan Ryder/The Gallery  
Press

**POETRY / MÍCHEÁL McCANN**

€230 / 15 MAX

Monday 15 to Wednesday 17 / 9.30-14.30 (2 breaks)

**St Finbarr's Boys' School**

This generative, discussion-led workshop explores a wealth of poems, to expand and deepen the writing of our own poems. Through well-known and lesser-known examples, and a variety of thematic and geographical focuses, you will leave with both new work, and extensive feedback on existing work from the tutor as well as peers. Participants are recommended to be seriously approaching publishing to take this workshop, but all are welcome. Participants will be asked to submit max two poems by 5 July.

**Mícheál McCann** has published poems in *The Poetry Review*, *Poetry Ireland Review*, *The Stinging Fly*, *Queering the Green*, and *The Manchester Review*. His first pamphlet of poems *Safe Home* was published in 2020. He received the inaugural Ireland Chair of Poetry Student Prize. He is currently completing a PhD in Creative Writing at the Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry and his first full collection of poems, *Devotion*, will be published in May 2024. Mícheál is the guest editor of the summer 2024 edition of *Poetry Ireland Review*.

**NOVEL WRITING / PRISCILLA MORRIS**

€230 / 15 MAX

Monday 15 to Wednesday 17 / 9.30-14.30 (2 breaks)

**St Finbarr's Boys' School**

This will be an enjoyable, dynamic and informative deep dive into the novel. Whether you've written the first 5,000 words of your work-in-progress or have completed a draft, this workshop will have something for you. We'll discuss the novel as a form and explore the various components of the craft, such as narration, character, story, and scenes. You'll be shown a useful layered approach to revision. We'll look at selected literary texts to develop the skill of reading as a writer and will discuss getting published and the writing life. This will be an interactive workshop with in-class writing tasks. There will be plenty of opportunities to discuss your work-in-progress and ask questions. Participants will be asked to submit a piece of writing (3,000 words from WIP) by 5 July.

**Priscilla Morris** is a British author of Bosnian-Cornish parentage. She grew up in London, spending summers in Sarajevo, and studied at Cambridge University and the University of East Anglia, where she gained her PhD in Creative Writing. She teaches creative writing, most recently at UCD, and divides her time between Ireland and Spain. Her Sarajevo-set debut novel *Black Butterflies* was short-listed for the Women's Prize 2023 and several other notable awards.

YOUNG ADULT & CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL



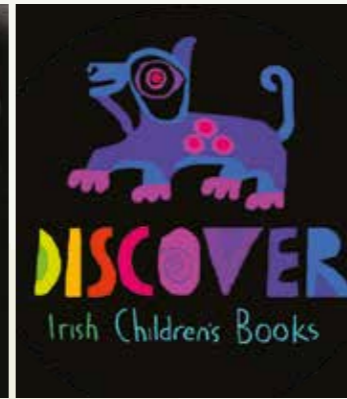
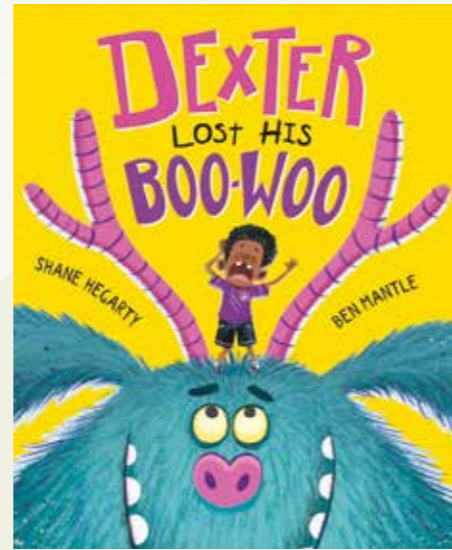
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Our Children's and Young Adult events are free of charge. Some of these events have a limited capacity and tickets should be booked in advance to avoid disappointment. Events with a ticket symbol next to them can be booked in advance and other events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

FRIDAY 12 / 15.00 / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL / FREE / AGE: 3-8   
**DEXTER LOST HIS BOO-WOO: SHANE HEGARTY**

Dexter Lost His Boo-Woo is a brand new picture book by bestselling children's author **Shane Hegarty**. It's an action-packed adventure about losing – and finding! – your favourite toy. HELP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Dexter's lost his Boo-Woo. It's a scary sounding beast! It has fiery eyes and floppy ears, and twenty pointy teeth! Soon the whole town is on the hunt for the Boo-Woo... Are YOU brave enough to join the search? Join police officers, firefighters and more in this gloriously illustrated, action-packed adventure with an unexpected twist about losing – and finding! – your favourite toy.


Right: Shane Hegarty



SATURDAY 13 / 12.00 / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL   
 FREE / AGE: 9+  
**DISCOVER IRISH CHILDREN'S BOOKS:  
 A FAMILY BOOK EVENT**

Discover Lots of Brilliant Books by Irish Children's Authors and Illustrators and Share Your Own Favourites! Join **Shane Hegarty, E.R. Murray** and **Sarah Webb** for this fun, interactive event family all about Irish children's books. And please bring along your favourite Irish children's books and tell us all about them! Shane, E.R. and Sarah will read from their latest children's books, explain where they get their ideas, and answer questions about writing. An event for the whole family!

From right: Sarah Webb, E.R. Murray, Discover Irish Children's Books, Aga Grandowicz

SATURDAY 13 / 14.00 / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL   
 FREE / AGE: 6+  
**EXPLORING WILD WONDERS:  
 AGA GRANDOWICZ & E.R. MURRAY**

Join artist and publisher, **Aga Grandowicz**, and award-winning children's writer, **E.R. Murray**, for this fun and engaging workshop that brings the natural world to life through words and pictures. E.R will read from *Wild Wonders* and provide you with some top tips for your own writing projects, and Aga will reveal the secrets behind what makes an effective drawing or illustration. You will get the chance to create your own story-inspired drawing, and to have all your questions answered about what it's like to be an artist and a writer.

SUNDAY 14 / 13.00 / WORK SHOP / FREE / AGE: 9-12 

**INIS MARA: TRISTAN ROSENSTOCK AND ILLUSTRATOR MARK WICKHAM**

Writer **Tristan Rosenstock** and illustrator **Mark Wickham** present a special workshop for young readers based on their book *Inis Mara*, which was selected for World Book day 2024. The book focuses on climate change, on election interference and on the importance of communities pulling together. Children will be invited to take part in art workshops while discussing the above themes with the author. Ceardlann speisialta le húdar agus le maisitheoir an leabhair *Inis Mara*, a roghnaíodh le haghaidh Lá Domhanda na Leabhar 2024. Díreofra ar théamaí an leabhair - athrú aeráide, an tábhacht a bhaineann le toghcháin agus spiorad na meithle. Beidh deis ag léitheoirí óga póstaer a dhearadh le linn na ceardlainne.

**Bilingual event in Irish and English**

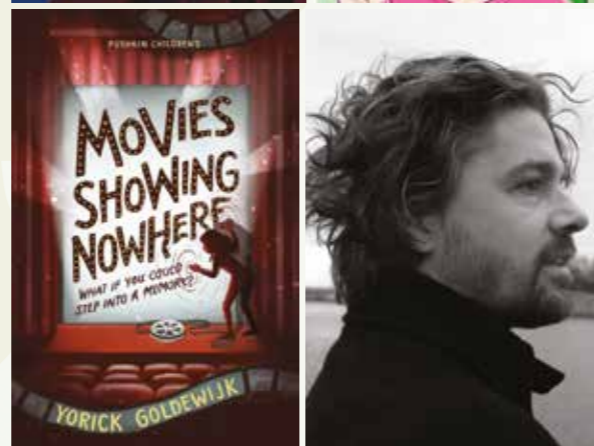


TUESDAY 16 / 12.00 / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL / FREE / AGE: 9+ 

**MOVIES SHOWING NOWHERE: YORICK GOLDEWIJCK**



Join **Yorick Goldewijck**, Dutch author of *Movies Showing Nowhere*, for a reading and an interactive event about storytelling. Yorick will provide prompts and story ideas and we'll all create together. Imagine a photo as a starting point for a time travel story. Imagine a dull story than we can work together to turn into a full and fun story. Families welcome! Winner of the Golden Pencil Prize for the best Dutch children's book of the year

This event is supported by the Dutch Foundation for Literature/Nederlands Letterenfonds as part of their New Dutch Writing programme two logos  



From top: Tristan Rosenstock, Mark Wickham, Yorick Goldewijck

TUESDAY 16 / 13.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE / AGE: YA **IRONHEAD, OR, ONCE A YOUNG LADY: JEAN-CLAUDE VAN RIJCKEGHEM**

*Ironhead, or, Once A Young Lady* is the riotous story of a fierce renegade, and the silly men who try to bring her down. Belgian author **Jean-Claude van Rijckeghem** will join us in person whilst the book's translator **Kristen Gehrman** will join us via pre-recorded video to talk about the translation process. Eighteen-year-old Constance ("Stance") is *not* interested in marriage or in being a "young lady." But for a young woman coming of age in the early 1800s, that's just about all that's expected of (or available to) her. When her parents arrange her marriage with a man more than twice her age, she's powerless to resist. Stance couldn't possibly find her newfound husband less appealing, but what can she do? This event is supported by Flanders Literature as part of their Flip Through Flanders programme two logos  



WEDNESDAY 17 / 12.00 / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL / FREE / AGE: 8+ 

**THE LONELY BOOK: MEG GREHAN**

*The Lonely Book* is a warm and loving story about how a non-binary person comes to understand and accept themselves and it is written by **Meg Grehan**, an award-winning LGBTQIA+ Irish author. This is a loving story written in short lines of verse so it is accessible to readers of all ages and Meg explores non-binary gender identity in a reassuring and age-appropriate way. Get ready to fall in love with Meg's writing and her gorgeously written characters.



WEDNESDAY 17 / 16.00 / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL / FREE / AGE: YA

**RAINBOW LIBRARY**

The Rainbow Library Writers and Illustrators Youth Group is for young people in County Cork aged 14-23 and identifying as LGBTQIA+. They take part in monthly hybrid workshops facilitated by writers, illustrators and designers. Some of the young people involved will read from their work in the showcase facilitated by writers **Kel Menton** and **Sasha de Buyl**.

This event is supported by Cork County Council and Creative Ireland   



From top: Ironhead, Meg Grehan, Rainbow Library



THURSDAY 18 / 12.00 / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL

FREE / AGE: 4-7

## THE SLUG AND THE SNAIL/ AN DRÚCHTÍN AGUS AN SEILIDE: OEIN DEBHAIRDUIN

A bilingual performance of The Slug and the Snail for 4-7-year-olds featuring slug and snail puppets, storytelling and song with author **Oein DeBhairduin** and teacher and musician **Natalie Ní Chasaide**.

Seisiún scéalaíochta dátheangáil le hamhránaíocht agus puipéid drúchtín is seilide do pháistí 4-7 bliana d'aois. Bilingual event in Irish and English

An Irish Traveller folktale told by award-winning author **Oein DeBhairduin**, co-published by inclusive Irish presses Little Island and Skein Press and illustrated by Olya Anima. It is published in two different editions, in English as *The Slug and the Snail* and in Irish as *An Drúchtín agus an Seilide*.



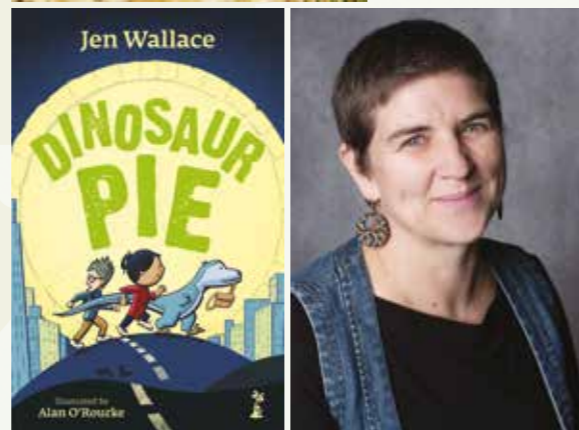
FRIDAY 19 / 12.00 / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL

FREE / AGE: 6+

## DINOSAUR PIE: JEN WALLACE

*Dinosaur Pie* is **Jen Wallace's** hilarious and heart-warming story about a boy with ADHD who is transformed into a dinosaur. Jen is a debut author from Cork and she explores ADHD and celebrating difference in *Dinosaur Pie*, in a relatable and compassionate manner informed by years of working with children. Jen Wallace will host a T-Rific creativity event for families. She will explore the benefits of incessant questions, brainstorms and weird mash-ups in this interactive workshop.

We would like this event to be as inclusive as possible so please do let us know if you and family require additional information about the event and the setting.



From top: Oein DeBhairduin, Natalie Ní Chasaide, Jen Wallace

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# Cork County Council Library & Arts Service



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#### Contacts:

Email: [bantry@nlm.ie](mailto:bantry@nlm.ie)

Phone: 027-51027



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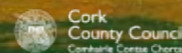
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# WEST CORK CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL 2024

FRIDAY 28 JUNE to SUNDAY 7 JULY  
BANTRY, CO. CORK

For Information & Booking visit

[www.westcorkmusic.ie](http://www.westcorkmusic.ie)



Cover image: Maurice Desmond – *Early Spring Evening* (detail), Acrylic on board, 56 x 34 cm Courtesy of Aoife Desmond / Photograph: Dara McGrath

## BANTRY MUSIC CENTRE

Help us build a home and a hub  
for West Cork Music



Learn more about our exciting plans  
to develop a world-class arts venue  
and music education centre in the  
heart of Bantry town!

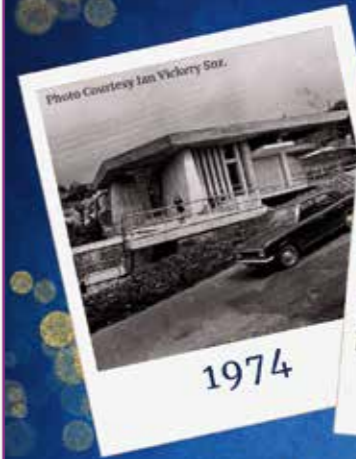


[westcorkmusic.ie/venue](http://westcorkmusic.ie/venue)

*Our Capital Project Endowment Fund is supported by  
a generous gift from Armen Vartian and Candice Foss.*

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# TRADITION



21 - 25 AUGUST 2024  
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Featuring: MARTIN HAYES • IARLA Ó LIONÁIRD  
CORMAC MCCARTHY • BILL WHELAN  
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For Information & Booking visit

[www.westcorkmusic.ie](http://www.westcorkmusic.ie)   



 West Cork Literary Festival

## SUPPORT US

### BECOME A FRIEND OF THE WEST CORK LITERARY FESTIVAL

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at Main Evening Events \*

15% off if you book 5 or more events  
(excluding Workshops) \*\*

Exclusive Friends Newsletters

Invitation to Festival Opening Reception

Invitation to attend one Evening Event,  
with a wine reception beforehand

Free Draw for signed copies of books

\*Advance booking only, first come first served

\*\* Single transaction only ( excluding Workshops)



## SUPPORT US

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## THE FESTIVAL TEAM

Festival Director: **Eimear O’Herlihy**

Board of West Cork Music:

**Donagh Collins** [Chair], **Deborah Kelleher** [Vice-Chair]

**John Bowen**, **Holly Cairns**, **Ailbhe Cunningham**,

**Ann Davoren**, **Dan Flinter**, **Aiden McCarthy**,

**Patrick G Murphy**, **John O’Kane**, **Sheila Pratschke**

Company Secretary: **Grace O’Mahony**

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

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

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

Box Office Manager: **Lia Choice**

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

Venue Development Manager: **Siobhán Burke**

Box Office and Website: **Daniel Burke**

Box Office Assistant: **Meg O’Connell**

Cork County Council Arts Officer: **Ian McDonagh**

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

Regional Librarian, Cork County Council: **Dolores Casey**

Bantry Librarian: **Denis Murphy**

Bantry Library Staff: **Geraldine Keohane**,

**Pamela Barry & Marton Csaltos**

Graphic Design: **Stuart Coughlan at edit +**

PR: **Kearney Melia Barker Communications**

Social Media: **Rebecca Roche**

Photography: **Karlis Dzijamko**

Sound: **Matt Purcell of Purcell Audio**

## PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**West Cork Music gratefully acknowledges** the generous sponsorship of Creative Places West Cork Islands 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 and Sam Shelswell-White, Bantry House; Maria Collard and Matt Keane, Future Forests; Claire Cronin and Sinead Murphy, National Learning Network; Stephen and Gillian O’Donovan, The Brick Oven, Bantry Bay and the Mariner; Canon Paul Willoughby, Rector of Kilmocmogogue 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; Noel O’Mahony; Ma Murphy’s Bar; Elizabeth Goldrick; Marie Guillot; Tessa Gibson; Jenni Debie; Alice Barry; Aisling Arundel; Erin Connally; Juliet Matthews; Paul O’Donoghue; Lia Curtin; Annie McCarthy; 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** Eilís O’Connell for permission to reproduce her painting ‘REST’ on the cover of this brochure.

**Thank you and welcome to** our Festival Friends: Hazel Daniells; Chris Gray; Fidelma Kelly; Jill Desmond; Ciara Banks and Simon Hauxwell.

**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



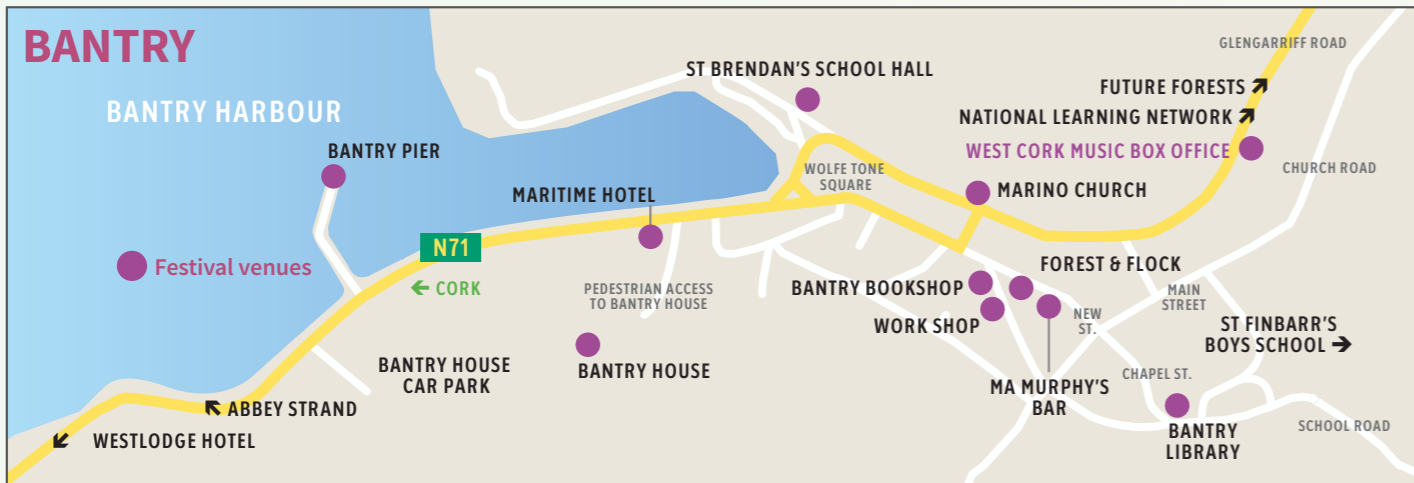
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FESTIVAL

West Cork  
Literary Festival

MASTERS  
Since 1803 of 2003  
TRADITION



## Accessibility & Inclusivity

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.

If you have any access needs or questions about the accessibility of our venues please contact us and we will endeavour to make your visit as enjoyable as possible.

Staff and volunteers wearing this symbol during the festival have completed training to support festival attendees with dementia or memory issues. Please speak to us if you need assistance.



## West Cork Literary Festival

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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 WEST CORK LITERARY FESTIVAL,  
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## West Cork Literary Festival

## Booking Form

Workshop	Price	Qty	Total
<b>Monday 15 to Wednesday 17 JULY</b>			
Non-Fiction with Aoife Barry	€230		
Short Story with Jan Carson	€230		
Poetry with Mícheál McCann	€230		
Novel with Priscilla Morris	€230		
Nature & Place / John Connell (Whiddy)	€245		
(Carry over to Main Form) SUB TOTAL			

## SPECIAL OFFER

Reduced ticket rate of €12 for workshop participants

Discount only available on door 15 mins prior to event

(Excludes workshops/professional development. Subject to availability)

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BOX OFFICE OPEN: MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9.30 – 17.00

**+353 (0)27 52788**

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

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.

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.

Full Terms & Conditions at [www.westcorkliteraryfestival.ie](http://www.westcorkliteraryfestival.ie)

JULY	EVENT	Price	Qty	Total
Fri 12	Dexter Lost His Boo-Woo: S. Hegarty	Free		
Fri 12	Caleb A. Nelson & Rónán Hession	€16		
Fri 12	Nuala O'Connor	€20		
Sat 13	Discover Irish Children's Books	Free		
Sat 13	Aga Grandowicz & E.R. Murray	Free		
Sat 13	Eoin Warner	€25		
Sat 13	Historical Walking Tour	Free		
Sat 13	Adania Shibli	€12		
Sat 13	Anne Enright & David Nicholls	€20		
Sun 14	Dani Robertson	€12		
Sun 14	Fruitcake: Alice Barry	€12		
Sun 14	Inis Mara: Rosenstock & Wickham	Free		
Sun 14	Shari Lapena & Andrea Mara	€18		
Sun 14	Victoria Kennefick & Paula Meehan	€18		
Sun 14	Writing for Children with Sarah Webb	Free		
Sun 14	Maggie Armstrong & Mike McCormack	€16		
Sun 14	Emer Martin & Irvine Welsh	€16		
Sun 14	Dolly Alderton & Elizabeth Day	€25		
Mon 15	Kerri Andrews	€12		
Mon 15	Danielle McLaughlin & Siobhán Rea	Free		
Mon 15	Nita Prose	€18		
Mon 15	Burning Books: Michael Magee	€12		
Mon 15	Miriam Margolyes	€35		
Tues 16	Fleur Pierets	€12		
Tues 16	Movies Showing Nowhere:	Free		
Tues 16	Tobi Lakmaker	€18		

JULY	EVENT	Price	Qty	Total
Tues 16	Hedley Thomas	€16		
Tues 16	Hisham Matar & Priscilla Morris	€20		
Wed 17	Tracey Williams	€12		
Wed 17	The Lonely Book: Meg Grehan	Free		
Wed 17	V. Fox O'Loughlin: Publishing (online)	€12		
Wed 17	Atlas of the Irish Civil War	€18		
Wed 17	Irish Writers Centre Info Session	Free		
Wed 17	Jan Carson & Thomas Morris	€16		
Wed 17	Paul Lynch	€20		
Thur 18	Aoife Barry	€12		
Thur 18	Writing Poetry Together	Free		
Thur 18	John Connell	€18		
Thur 18	The Slug & The Snail: O. DeBhairduin	Free		
Thur 18	Colin Barrett & Kevin Barry	€18		
Thur 18	Roxanne de Bastion	€16		
Thur 18	Sinéad Gleeson & Cathy Sweeney	€20		
Fri 19	Mary Morrissy	€12		
Fri 19	Dinosaur Pie: Jen Wallace	Free		
Fri 19	Mark O'Connell	€18		
Fri 19	Jason Allen-Paisant	€16		
Fri 19	Colm Tóibín	€25		
Book 5+ separate events & get 10% discount				
Sub Total				
Ticket Postage - if required + €3				
Booking Fee			€5.00	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>				







# West Cork Literary Festival

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