



West Cork Literary Festival

Friday 11 – 18 July 2025

Bantry, Co. Cork

Leading the development of the arts in Ireland.



arts council.ie



WELCOME TO THE 2025 WEST CORK LITERARY FESTIVAL

This is our **twenty-seventh festival** and it's our biggest one yet with over 110 authors across 95 events. It's going to be an exciting and jam-packed week. I read so many incredible books this year and can't wait to share them with you. The best part of my job is getting to read all of these 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 have exciting partnerships this year with the Irish Writers Centre, Literature Ireland, Creative Places West Cork Islands, the Glucksman Art Library and so many others.

It brings us great joy having West Cork as our festival backdrop. 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 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,


Work Shop, Ma Murphys, Future Forests, Forest & Flock and the outdoor auditorium at the National Learning Network.

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 this year's West Cork Literary Festival. The festival has an outstanding line up, showcasing the emerging literary talent in Ireland, demonstrating how important support for the Arts is and how much talent then is in Cork and the Country to nurture and develop.

Cork County Council's Writer in Residence, LeeAnne O'Donnell, is experiencing firsthand the hunger for writing opportunities and learning forums. LeeAnne is a writer and podcaster who lives on the foothills of Mount Gabriel in West Cork. As part of her residency, she has been working with communities in the county to improve access to literature and creative writing. A key aspect of Cork County Council's Writer in Residence programme is the use of local library branches as centres of creative writing. During her residency, LeeAnne will work libraries in Castletownbere, Charleville, Fermoy, Macroom and Schull and has proposed an exciting programme of engagement with writers' groups, community groups and young people, as well as podcasting.

West Cork Literary Festival author, Patrick Holloway, is shortlisting this year's entries to the annual short story anthology *From the Well*. We have a record number of submissions with over 160 stories to be considered. Patrick is a writer of fiction and poetry and editor of the literary journal *The Four Faced Liar*. His work was previously published in *From the Well* in 2023, and appears in *The Stinging Fly*, *The*

London Magazine, *Poetry Ireland*, *The Moth*, *Southword*, *The Ilanot Review*, *Carve*, *Irish Times* and *Irish Independent*. The *Language of Remembering*, Patrick's debut Novel is a Cork County Council Book Club Title along with many of the other writers at this year's festival.

Reading is a pleasure and a support that is there though all of life's stages. As part of its Age Friendly programme, Cork County Council Library and Arts Service will launch the second edition of *Come Sit Awhile*, a collection of dementia friendly stories and memories. There are currently 64,000 people living with dementia in Ireland. We hope this book can help family and carers enjoy hearing the written word and invoke a comforting memory through the familiar words of a story, poem or song.

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 during the festival.

Emer O'Brien

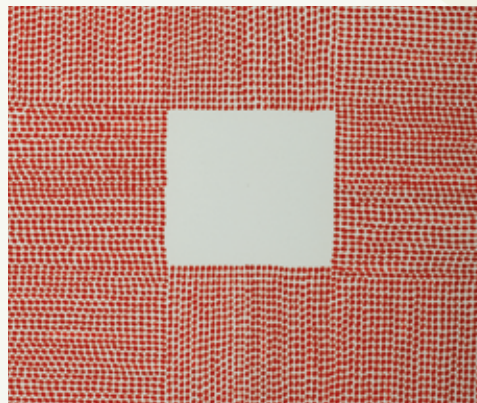
County Librarian, Cork County Library and Arts Service



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council



Above: *Future Forests* by Fiona Kelly which will be part of The Glucksman Art Library Exhibition on display at venues around Bantry



ALL WEEK / VARIOUS VENUES / FREE

SEEDS OF CHANGE: AN ART LIBRARY PROJECT, THE GLUCKSMAN

This spring four Bantry schools were loaned an original artwork from the University College Cork Art Collection through the **Glucksman's Art Library**, a loan collection of artworks that is available to schools, community hubs and healthcare settings across Ireland. The artworks by **Amber Broughton**, **James L. Hayes**, **Fiona Kelly** and **Garret Phelan** explore ways in which we might better nurture and care for our planet. The artworks are seeds of change, planting ideas, climate action prompts and creative activities into the local schools. The students creative responses will be showcased in St. Brendan's Hall during WCLF whilst the original artworks will be displayed in Bantry Library and venues across the town (see our website for details).

The Art Library is funded by a Visual Arts Touring Award from the Arts Council of Ireland.

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

Ascent by **Bernadette Cotter**, © 2002. Ink on paper, 127x133cm. (left) www.bernadettecotter.com



GLUCKSMAN



FRIDAY 11 / 13.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE

COME SIT AWHILE: DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY STORIES & MEMORIES

As part of its Age Friendly programme, Cork County Council Library and Arts Service will launch the second edition of *Come Sit Awhile*, a collection of dementia-friendly stories and memories. A number of readings will take place as part of the event, including the winning entries from the Age Friendly short story competition. Fiona Foley, Senior Project Manager at the HSE's National Dementia Office with responsibility for 'Dementia: Understand Together' and 'Brain Health', will highlight the value of reading and being read to for those living with dementia.

This event is presented in partnership with Cork County Council and Age Friendly Cork County



FRIDAY 11 / 15.00 / MARITIME HOTEL / €12

DOIRE PRESS: CLAIRE HENNESSY & JENNIFER HORGAN

Welcome to our annual presentation of new writing published by **Doire Press**, a Connemara-based publisher of award-winning Irish poetry and short stories. We are joined by short story writer **Claire Hennessy** and poet **Jennifer Horgan**. *In the Movie of Her Life*, Claire Hennessy's adult fiction debut, is a work of edgy, voice-driven short stories that go to dark places with gut-wrenching honesty. Haunted by the gap between what they imagined their lives would be and what they really are, the characters grapple with unspeakable longings and quiet devastation. *Care* is the debut collection by Cork-based poet Jennifer Horgan. Through her work born of personal experience and characterised by arresting imagery, Jennifer calls on us to reconcile and to unite. This is a hopeful collection, intent on championing the goodness in people and our propensity towards kindness and away from hate.

This event is supported by Doire Press



From top: Claire Hennessy and Jennifer Horgan



From top: Katy Derbyshire and Salena Godden

FRIDAY 11 / 15.00-16.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €12 / MAX 30

SPOT THE TRANSLATION: KATY DERBYSHIRE

What makes a translation different to an original – and can you tell them apart? Take a deep dive into the minutiae of translated fiction and explore voice, syntax and experimentation with **Katy Derbyshire**, prizewinning translator of German author **Judith Hermann**. In a relaxed atmosphere, we'll examine anonymised passages and ask you to 'spot the translation' to sharpen your own reading, writing or indeed translating practice. With plenty of time for questions about the task of the translator, you should come away with a whole new literary worldview! *This event is supported by Mercier Press*



FRIDAY 11 / 17.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE

OPENING RECEPTION OF THE 27th 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 11 / 18.30 / MARINO CHURCH / €16 **SALENA GODDEN**

Renowned performance poet and powerhouse of British poetry, **Salena Godden** published her first full-length poetry collection in over a decade *With Love, Grief and Fury* in May 2024 and on the same day her memoir *Springfield Road: A Poet's Childhood Revisited* was re-released. Salena's electrifying live performances, at everywhere from literary festivals to the Women's March and Extinction Rebellion protests in London's Parliament Square, have earned her a devoted following and we can't wait to witness her West Cork performance.

'Read these poems then listen to Salena read these poems then go and watch Salena read these poems. She is a master of every incarnation this art form may take and I am constantly in awe of her. This collection brings so much joy and makes me determined to live more, lust more and love more.' **Hollie McNish**



Alan Hollinghurst

FRIDAY 11 / 20.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €20

ALAN HOLLINGHURST

Our Evenings is the new novel by Booker Prize-winning author **Alan Hollinghurst**. Both dark and luminous, deeply affecting and wickedly funny, this incredible novel gives us a portrait of modern England through the lens of one man's acutely observed and often unnerving experience. It is a story of race and class, theatre and sexuality, love and the cruel shock of violence, from one of the finest writers of our age. Join us for one evening when Alan will be in conversation with **Sue Leonard**

'The finest novel yet from one of the great writers of our time.' **The Guardian**

'Book of the Year' for *The Guardian*, *Observer*, *The Times*, *Daily Express*, *The Spectator*, *Financial Times*, *Daily Telegraph* and *New Statesman*

Alan Hollinghurst is the author of six previous novels, *The Swimming-Pool Library*, *The Folding Star*, *The Spell*, *The Line of Beauty* (winner of the 2004 Man Booker Prize), *The Stranger's Child* and *The Sparsholt Affair*. He was awarded a knighthood in the 2025 New Year's Honours list for services to literature. His latest novel *Our Evenings* was published by Picador in 2024 and became an instant *Sunday Times* Bestseller. Alan lives in London.

FRIDAY 11 / 21.00 / MA MURPHYS / FREE POP UP GAELTACHT

Pop-Up Gaeltacht, Ma Murphys Beantraí, an 11ú lá de mhí Iúil. Cómhrá, craic agus scúps. Bígí Linn! Pints and craic and Irish chats. All levels welcome



SATURDAY 12 / 10.00 / MARINO CHURCH / €15 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 at 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.



SATURDAY 12 / 11.30 / BANTRY BOOKSHOP / FREE CAUVERY MADHAVAN

The Inheritance is the latest novel from acclaimed Indian writer – and West Cork local – **Cauvery Madhavan**. It is inspired by her love of Ireland, her home for over 30 years, and is perfect for lovers of both contemporary and historical fiction. With a beautiful evocation of the rich Irish environment and the magical Beara peninsula, alongside a link to a real piece of history, this is an unforgettable and lyrical tale of longing, identity, and finding peace. Cauvery has written a compelling modern Irish novel of religion, culture and family life in rural communities, interwoven with the true history of The Long March of O'Sullivan Beara in 1602.



SATURDAY 12 / 13.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE HEATHER CLARK

The Scrapbook is the new novel by Pulitzer Prize-nominated author **Heather Clark**. Inspired by a real-life discovery it is a story of a consuming love haunted by European history and inherited guilt. In 1996 Anna is about to graduate from Harvard when she meets Christoph, a German student visiting campus. Anna falls desperately in love and begins to visit Christoph in Germany. Christoph condemns his country's actions during the Holocaust but remains vague about the part his grandparents played. Anna's grandfather was an American GI who took photos of the end of the war, photos that capture its horror, preserved in a scrapbook only Anna has seen. This is Heather Clark's debut novel. She has written four works of non-fiction, including *Red Comet: The Short Life and Blazing Art of Sylvia Plath*

From top: Dani Robertson, Cauvery Madhavan and Heather Clark

SATURDAY 12 / 14.15 / WHIDDY ISLAND / €25 (INCLUDES RETURN FERRY TRIP)

WAKE OF THE WHALE: ALICE KINSELLA, DANIEL WADE & PATRICK DEXTER

Wake of the Whale is a collaborative cross-disciplinary multimedia project which includes the book of the same name by Alice Kinsella and Daniel Wade, and an in-progress performance piece featuring original compositions by Patrick Dexter, visual accompaniment by Paul Kinsella, and direction by Sarah O'Toole. It tells the story of the 20th century whaling stations which operated in County Mayo, not far from the area that would be at the heart of the Corrib gas controversy decades later. *Wake of the Whale* asks if the attitudes that brought whales to the brink of extinction are now threatening our own. Called 'one of the most extraordinary titles in recent times' the book was selected as a Sunday Independent Book of the Year 2024 and won a Mayo Cathaoirleach Award for Best Publication. The project was selected for Druid Theatre's FUEL programme in 2025, and the artists are developing it into a full stage show. With each performance tailored to the location, writers **Alice Kinsella** and **Daniel Wade** and cellist **Patrick Dexter** will present a truly unique performance of live literature and music from this evolving project.

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.

This event is supported by Creative Places West Cork Islands and Cork County Council



SATURDAY 12 / 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.

SATURDAY 12 / 16.30-18.00 / MA MURPHYS / FREE

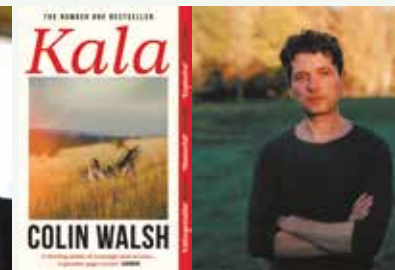
SOCIETY OF YOUNG PUBLISHERS IRELAND INFORMATION SESSION

The **Society of Young Publishers** supports those breaking into the publishing industry and junior professionals who want to advance. Come along and chat with **Leigh Brady** and **Isabelle Cooper** – whether you're interested in publishing, want to learn about our monthly events or just want to chat with like-minded people.

Top: Patrick Dexter Center: Alice Kinsella and Daniel Wade Bottom: Leigh Brady and Isabelle Cooper



SYP
SOCIETY OF YOUNG PUBLISHERS



SATURDAY 12 / 17.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE LINA SCHEYNIUS & SASKIA VOGEL

In *Diary of an Ending*, internationally renowned Swedish photographer **Lina Scheynius** expands her artistic vision to prose, offering an unflinching and intimate exploration of heartbreak and self-recovery. Blurring the boundaries between diary and essay, *Diary of an Ending* explores the break-up of a relationship, combining extracts from Lina's diary – written by her in Swedish and translated by **Saskia Vogel** – with reflective essays written by Lina in English five years on, exploring ideas about art and photography, sex and passion, the act of diary-making, destructive relationships, motherhood and home. **Lina Scheynius** is a photographer known for her distinct, diaristic style of image-making. Her photography has been showcased in both solo and group exhibitions internationally. **Saskia Vogel** is a writer and translator from Swedish and German into English. She was awarded a Berlin Senate grant for non-German literature and was a finalist for the PEN Translation Prize. This event is supported by the Swedish Arts Council in collaboration with the Embassy of Sweden, UK as part of their Stories From Sweden programme



SATURDAY 12 / 18.30 / MARINO CHURCH / €16 FERDIA LENNON & COLIN WALSH

Ferdia Lennon and **Colin Walsh** are the award-winning authors of two of the most exciting and talked-about debut Irish novels of the past year. **Ferdia Lennon's** novel *Glorious Exploits* is set in Ancient Greece and is an exhilarating and fiercely original story of brotherhood, war and art; and – in the face of the Gods' apparent indifference – of daring to dream of something bigger than ourselves. *Kala* by **Colin Walsh** is a gripping literary page-turner in which former friends, estranged for fifteen years, reckon with the terrifying events of the summer that changed their lives. The importance of friendship lies at the heart of both of these beautiful novels.

From left: Lina Scheynius, Saskia Vogel, Ferdia Lennon and Colin Walsh

SATURDAY 12 / 20.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €35

RICHARD E. GRANT

Join us for a very special Saturday night with actor and author **Richard E. Grant**. Richard will be in conversation with **Rory O'Connell** from Ballymaloe Cookery School.

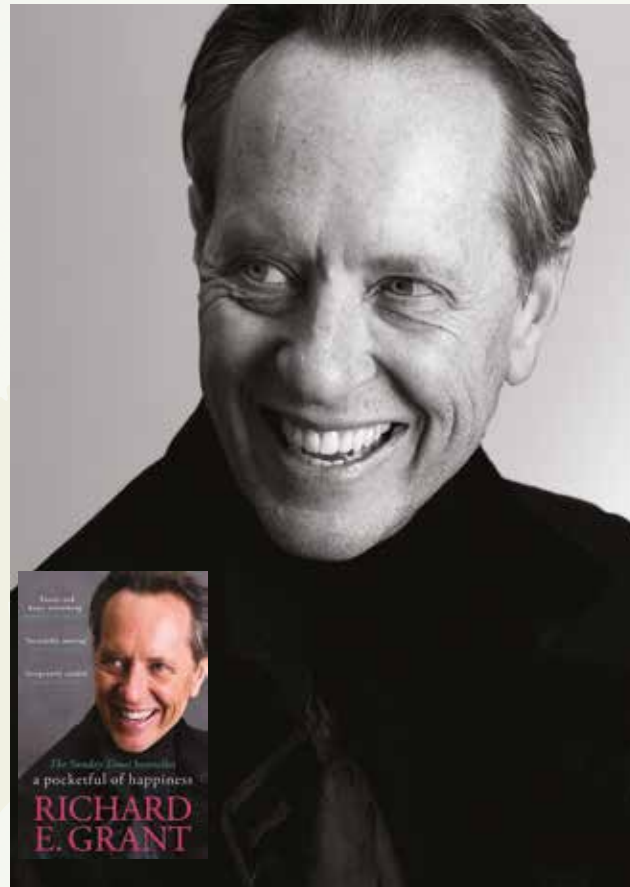
Born in Swaziland in 1957, Richard moved to the UK to pursue his acting career and has been a fixture on our screens since his breakout role in *Withnail and I* in 1987. When his beloved wife Joan died in 2021 after almost forty years together, she set him a challenge: to find a pocketful of happiness in every day. Funny, tender and perceptive, *A Pocketful of Happiness* is an insight into the life – and the long and happy marriage – of a much-loved actor. It is a beautiful, sometimes heart-breaking and always life-affirming book.

Set between the present day and flashbacks to delightfully funny and candid diary entries which recall landmarks from his remarkable life and glittering career, this is an immensely personal and profound memoir that cherishes life's unexpected joys.

'Fascinating, funny and heart wrenching. Ultimately uplifting because it's a beautiful and honest celebration of a deep, deep love.' **Julie Walters**

'A gorgeously candid account of acting and showbusiness. And an intimate and heartfelt story of love, loss and a life spent together. I cannot remember being so moved by a book.' **Dolly Alderton**

SATURDAY 12 / 22.00 / MARITIME HOTEL / FREE
OPEN MIC All welcome



Richard E. Grant



SUNDAY 13 / 9.00-10.15 / BANTRY HOUSE

€15 (PAY ON THE DAY, CASH ONLY) / 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 and 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 13 / 10.00 / BANTRY HOUSE LOGGIA / €12

COFFEE & CHAT with MARIA BARNAS & KEITH PAYNE

Maria Barnas is a Dutch poet, writer, critic, and visual artist. Her poetry collection *Nachtboot* was translated from Dutch into English by Donald Gardner and published as *Night Boat & Other Poems* in January 2025. **Keith Payne** is a poet and translator who divides his time between Cork and Galicia. Keith will read from his new collection *Savage Acres* which is published in April 2025. Join us to hear both of these poets read their work and for a coffee and chat about poetry and translation.

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



SUNDAY 13 / 12.00 / MARITIME HOTEL / FREE BUT TICKETED

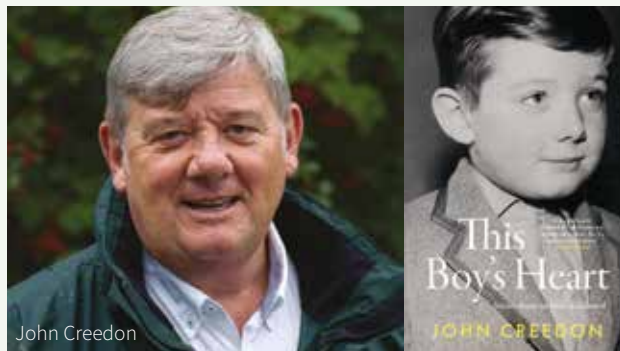
IRISH WRITERS CENTRE: AN ISLAND OF MANY NATIONS

Come along to this Irish Writers Centre panel discussion with writers from various birthplaces and backgrounds. Regardless of where we live and how we write, do our roots still seep into our words? Writers **Ferdia Lennon** and **Cauvery Madhavan** will be in conversation with **Catherine Gander**

This event is presented by the Irish Writers Centre

Clockwise from top: Maria Barnas, Keith Payne, Cauvery Madhavan and Ferdia Lennon





SUNDAY 13 / 13.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €18

JOHN CREEDON

In **John Creedon's** *This Boy's Heart: Scenes from an Irish Childhood* he paints a colourful and sometimes hilarious picture of a changing Ireland and the growing pains of being a young boy. These are his stories of friendship, fun, family and folklore. The result is a heart-warming and revealing journey into an Irish boyhood.

'A thing of beauty. I adored it. Full of heart and warmth and humour, this is a book to lift your spirits.' **Donal Ryan**

John Creedon lives in Cork and is one of Ireland's best-loved broadcasters. He produces and presents *The John Creedon Show* on RTÉ Radio 1. He also presents popular television series on RTÉ One, including *Creedon's Wild Atlantic Way* and several series of *Creedon's Atlas of Ireland*.



SUNDAY 13 / 13.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €10

W/W: A PERFORMANCE BY SARAH LONG

W/w is a work of autofiction by Cork-based artist and writer, **Sarah Long**. Sarah's work focuses on suppressed female archetypes, the politics of representation, nationhood, and myth through the lens of feminism and she creates autofiction that she translates across painting, sound, moving image, performance and publication. In 2024 Bloomers collaborated with Sarah on *W/w* to produce a live performance adapted from the book. The *W/w* performance is a poignant and provocative exploration of these issues, brought to life by Sarah herself, combining elements of performance art and literary exploration. Duration: 30 minutes followed by a Q&A.



SUNDAY 13 / 15.00-16.30 / WORK SHOP BANTRY / €20

CHILDREN'S BOOKS IRELAND:

THE CRAFT OF WRITING FOR CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS

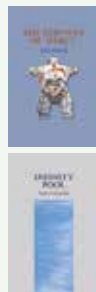
Are you interested in how children's books – from picture books to YA novels – are created? Would you like to know how to write and format a picture book, or how children's novels are crafted, from initial idea to final draft? Would you like to find out about resources available to children's writers and illustrators, what publishers are looking for, if an agent is necessary, and how to submit your manuscript? Suitable for children's writers and illustrators at all stages of their book career, from beginners to more experienced writers, all are welcome! Speakers at this ProperBook event include author **Sarah Webb**, **Aoife Murray** from CBI, author **Leona Forde**, Laureate na nÓg **Patricia Forde** and illustrator **Mark Wickham**. *Note re financial support for attendees: Children's Books Ireland offers some financial support for anyone who may require it towards travel, accommodation or child-care costs to be able to attend this event and can cover the cost of a limited number of ProperBook tickets. To let them know about your needs and what level of financial support would allow you to come along, email info@childrensbooksireland.ie*



SUNDAY 13 / 15.00 / MARINO CHURCH / €18

SOMERVILLE AND ROSS: CLAIRE CONNOLLY

In November 2024 riverrun editions released beautiful new editions of the beloved Irish classics *Experiences of an Irish R.M.* and *The Real Charlotte* by **Somerville and Ross**. These new editions include prefaces by **Claire Connolly** who is Professor of Modern English at University College Cork. **Edith Somerville** (1858-1949) and **Martin Ross** (the pseudonym of Violet Martin, 1862-1915) were Irish authors best known for their Irish R.M. stories and they lived in Castletownshend in West Cork.



SUNDAY 13 / 17.00 / MARINO CHURCH / €16

GALLERY GOES TO WCLF: TOM FRENCH, VONA GROARKE & AIFRIC MAC AODHA

We are delighted to be one of the lucky festivals on this year's **Gallery Goes** circuit as three incredible poets published by **Gallery Press** come to West Cork. Join us for a magical hour of poetry with **Tom French**, **Vona Groarke** and **Aifric Mac Aodha**, all reading from their new collections. Tom French's collection *Convent of Mercy* will be published in July 2025, Vona Groarke's *Infinity Pool* in May and Aifric Mac Aodha's bilingual poetry collection *Old Friends* was published in 2024 with her Irish-language poems translated into English by David Wheatley. *This event is supported by The Gallery Press*

THE
GALLERY
PRESS

SUNDAY 13 / 17.30-18.30 / MA MURPHYS / FREE

CHILDREN'S AUTHORS & ILLUSTRATORS MEET-UP HOSTED BY SARAH WEBB

If you love children's books and like nothing better than talking about books, writing and illustrating, this meet-up is for you! All welcome. There is no need to book, just drop in and join us on the day. This gathering will be hosted by children's author, **Sarah Webb** from Discover Irish Children's Books. Please note, this is a social occasion and not an event. If you are interested in finding out more about writing and publishing for children, the Children's Book Ireland ProperBook event at 3pm today is the perfect match for you!

SUNDAY 13 / 18.30 / MARINO CHURCH / €16 MONA ARSHI & OLUWASEUN OLAYIWOLA

Join us for an evening of poetry with **Mona Arshi** and **Oluwaseun Olayiwola**.

Mona Arshi's new poetry collection *Mouth* will be published in July and it gives voice to the marginal women of Greek tragedy to present fresh perspectives on war and migration today. As a human rights lawyer, Mona saw power and its abuses, the structures of silencing set against refugees. As a poet, she charts the movements and migrations that change the course of our lives – from child to adult, from home to elsewhere, from grief to what lies beyond.

Strange Beach is the debut collection from poet and choreographer **Oluwaseun Olayiwola**. Intimate and erotic, ecological and philosophical, the poems in *Strange Beach* illuminate the body as a porous landscape across which existential dramas, filial fractures, and sexual reckonings occur.

This event is presented in association with Poetry Ireland

From top: Aifric Mac Aodha, Tom French, Vona Groarke, Mona Arshi and Oluwaseun Olayiwola

P
Poetry
Ireland
Epic
Edition



SUNDAY 13 / 20.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €20 CAOILINN HUGHES & CLAIRE KILROY

Caoilinn Hughes and **Claire Kilroy** both published new novels last year to huge public and critical acclaim. Caoilinn's novel *The Alternatives* was a Book of the Year according to the *Irish Times*, *Irish Independent* and *Good Housekeeping*. *Soldier Sailor* by Claire Kilroy was *The Times* Novel of the Year and a *Guardian*, *FT*, *Economist*, *Irish Times*, *Daily Telegraph*, *New Statesman*, *Irish Independent* and *Independent* Book of the Year. In these two very different but equally brilliant books Caoilinn and Claire look at families, motherhood and how we try to remain ourselves through it all.

In her latest novel *The Alternatives*, **Caoilinn Hughes** introduces us to the four Flattery sisters who were plunged prematurely into adulthood when their parents died in a tragic turn of events. Now in their thirties, they are leading disparate, busy lives, carving out impressive careers. But when the eldest, Olwen – reluctant matriarch, lodestar and, of late, zealous consumer of gin – abruptly disappears – the sisters descend on the Irish countryside to find her, whether she likes it or not. Fiercely witty, original and profound, *The Alternatives* is an unforgettable portrait of a family perched on our collective precipice, told by one of Ireland's most gifted storytellers. **Caoilinn Hughes** is an award-winning poet, short story writer and the author of three novels.

In *Soldier Sailor*, her first novel for over a decade, **Claire Kilroy** takes us deep into the early days of motherhood. Exploring the clash of fierce love for a new life with a seismic change in identity, she vividly realises the raw, tumultuous emotions of a new mother, as her marriage strains and she struggles with questions of love, autonomy and creativity. As she smiles at her baby, Sailor, while mentally composing her own suicide note, an old friend makes a welcome return, but can he really offer a lifeline to the woman she used to be? **Claire Kilroy** is the author of five novels, including *Soldier Sailor*, which was shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction and Eason Novel of the Year at the An Post Irish Book Awards.

SUNDAY 13 / 22.00 / MARITIME HOTEL / FREE OPEN MIC All welcome

From top: Caoilinn Hughes and Claire Kilroy

MONDAY 14 / 10.00 / BANTRY HOUSE LOGGIA / €12 COFFEE & CHAT with KATIE GOH

In **Katie Goh's** memoir *Foreign Fruit: A Personal History of the Orange* she uses the journey and cultivation of a single fruit – the orange – to reckon with her own identity and unpack themes of globalisation, colonialism and migration. In this distinct, subversive and intimate hybrid memoir, Katie explores the orange as a means of understanding the world, and herself within it. What she finds is a world of violence, colonialism, resilience, survival, adaptation – and of unexpected beauty and sweetness against all odds. The orange's odyssey parallels Katie's search for her own heritage and, drawing on her family history as well as extensive travel and research – from Longyan, China, to the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur and the groves of California.

MONDAY 14 / 11.30 / BANTRY BOOKSHOP / FREE KEL MENTON

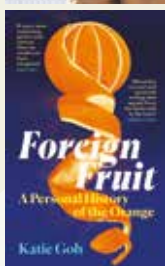
A Fix of Light is trans love story with a dark magical twist, from Cork author **Kel Menton**, an astonishing new Irish voice in YA fiction. This powerful and moving novel seamlessly blends queer romance and fantasy. It's a story that champions hope and the possibility of surviving trauma to build a life worth living, with protagonists that destigmatise trans experience. Kel Menton is a non-binary, neurodivergent writer from Cork. Kel works in youth theatre as a facilitator and playwright mentor and has written, produced and published a number of plays for teen actors.

'A Fix of Light will break your heart and heal it all over again.' **Clara Kumagai**, author of *Catfish Rolling*

MONDAY 14 / 13.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE WRITER IN RESIDENCE: LIBRARY WRITING GROUPS

Leeanne O'Donnell is writer-in-residence for Cork County Council Library & Arts Services and is working with writers groups in **Castletownbere, Charleville, Fermoy, Macroom and Schull** libraries over the course of this year. Join Leeanne and writers from all five groups as they share their work with us today. Leeanne O'Donnell started her storytelling career working in radio with RTÉ and BBC, and has made a number of award-winning radio documentaries. She wrote her first novel *Sparks of Bright Matter* from her home on the foothills of a mountain in West Cork.

Katie Goh



Kel Menton



Annie Mar



Balsam Karam



Alice Barry

MONDAY 14 / 13.00-15.00 / WORK SHOP BANTRY / €5 / AGE 18+ / MAX 15**IRISH WRITERS CENTRE: ZINE WORKSHOP WITH ANNIE MAR**

This two-hour zine workshop will be hosted by artist and Cork Zine Fest producer **Annie Mar**. In an accessible introduction to creating, storytelling and self-expression where participants can create their own mini publication/booklet, Annie will guide you in producing your own individual bespoke 'zines' (small, independent publications individually created) through writing, drawing and collage. Materials are provided but feel free to bring your own stationery, stickers, magazines, etc.

This event is presented by the Irish Writers Centre

**MONDAY 14 / 14.30 / MARINO CHURCH / €18 BALSAM KARAM**

The Singularity is a lyrical and devastating novel by **Balsam Karam**, a Swedish author of Kurdish ancestry. It is a study of grief, migration and motherhood from one of Sweden's most exciting new novelists. It was translated into English by **Saskia Vogel** and published by multi-award-winning publisher Fitzcarraldo Editions. **Balsam Karam** is of Kurdish ancestry and has lived in Sweden since she was a young child. She is an author and librarian and made her literary debut in 2018 with the critically acclaimed *Event Horizon*, which was shortlisted for the Katapult Prize. *The Singularity* is her second novel.

This event is supported by the Swedish Arts Council in collaboration with the Embassy of Sweden, UK as part of their Stories From Sweden programme

**MONDAY 14 / 15.00-17.00 / MARITIME HOTEL / €15 / MAX 12****PERFORMANCE IS A VERB: ALICE BARRY**

Join writer and performer **Alice Barry** for an interactive session which explores how performance techniques can enhance the writing process, amplify storytelling, and engage audiences more deeply. *Performance Is A Verb* bridges the gap between the page and the stage, empowering participants to bring their words to life through movement, voice, and presence. Open to writers of all genres, spoken-word artists, educators, public speakers, and anyone interested in learning how to use performance techniques to communicate more effectively. No prior performance experience is required. Please bring a notebook and writing materials and samples of your own written work (this bit is optional, but encouraged)

MONDAY 14 / 17.00 / MARINO CHURCH / €16

SEÁN FARRELL & QUYNH TRAN

Frogs For Watchdogs is the debut novel from Irish writer and editor **Seán Farrell**. It's dark, funny, tender and raw, and it thrums with the intensity of childhood. It is an ode to the blended family: the bewildering joy, wary safety and profound new bonds of love. **Quynh Tran**'s multi-award-winning debut *Shade and Breeze* is a moving story about love, the compulsion to create, and the meaning of family. Like Seán's novel it is also written from the perspective of a young boy, living with his mother and only sibling in a solitary world far from their original home. The mother in Quynh's novel has moved from Vietnam to a small town in Finland. Neither family seems to fit into their new community as they strive to build their own ideas of what family and home mean.

This event is supported by the Swedish Arts Council in collaboration with the Embassy of Sweden, UK as part of their Stories From Sweden programme



From left: Seán Farrell and Quynh Tran; Daniel Galvin, Holly Hughes, Joe Murphy, Paddy O'Brien, Diarmuid Ó Drisceoil and Niamh Prior.

MONDAY 14 / 18.30 / MARINO CHURCH / €15

grapevine

An exciting platform for contemporary Irish storytelling, **grapevine** places the Seanchaí tradition alongside modern forms like spoken word and stand-up to explore the art of telling stories in 2025. In the short few months since it launched, **grapevine** has sold out a string of events in Kinsale and Cork City and was featured in the Weekend supplement of the *Irish Examiner*. **grapevine**'s founder **Daniel Galvin** is joined by fellow storytellers **Holly Hughes**, **Joe Murphy**, **Paddy O'Brien**, **Diarmuid Ó Drisceoil** and **Niamh Prior**.



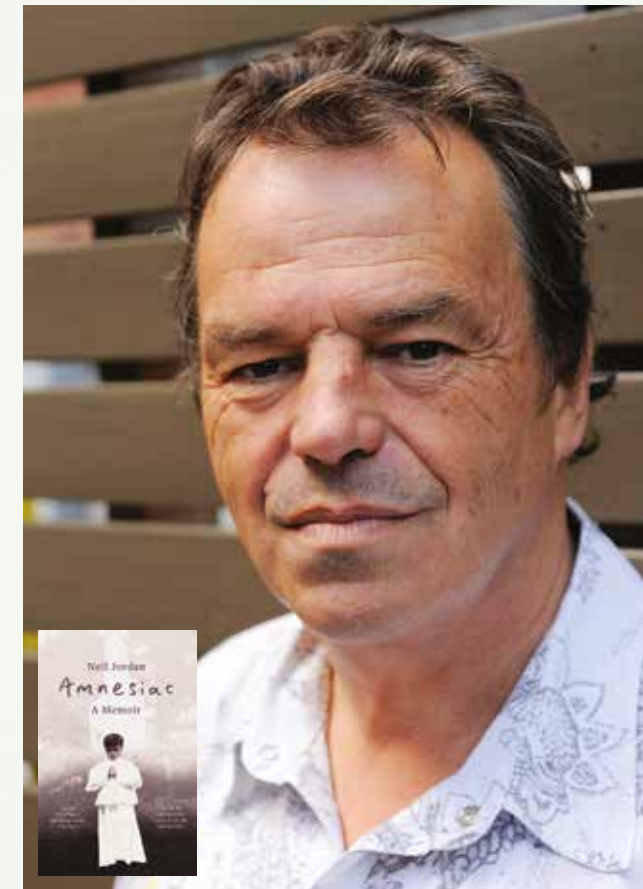
MONDAY 14 / 20.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €25

NEIL JORDAN

Amnesiac is the illuminating, moving and surprising memoir of Academy Award-winning film director, screenwriter and author **Neil Jordan**. Reflecting on both the ghosts of his past and his personal triumphs, this is a deeply intimate account of one of Ireland's greatest storytellers. In his first memoir, Neil takes us behind the scenes and shares the story of his life, family, relationships, friendships and career. He writes entertainingly about the making of great films and about his encounters with eccentric, brilliant filmmakers like Stanley Kubrick. But, much more than a story of great accomplishment, *Amnesiac* also movingly explores Neil's childhood, his relationship with his father, and his family's past.

Neil Jordan was born in Sligo in 1950 and inherited from his parents a strong visual gift, a love of music and an interest in the uncanny. At the age of 26, Neil published his first book, *Night in Tunisia*, which won a Somerset Maugham Award and the *Guardian* Fiction Prize and established him as a rising literary star. His novel, *The Past*, followed and further cemented his reputation. As an acclaimed film director and screenwriter, Neil's credits include *Mona Lisa*, *Michael Collins*, *The Butcher Boy*, *The Company of Wolves* and *Interview with a Vampire*. In 1992, his film *The Crying Game* won the Academy award for Best Original Screenplay and the BAFTA Award for Best British Film. He has worked with actors including Stephen Rea, Brad Pitt, Tom Cruise, Forest Whittaker, Bob Hoskins and many others, creating movies that relish the supernatural, the irrational and the dreamlike aspects of the lives we live.

MONDAY 14 / 22.00 / MARITIME HOTEL / FREE OPEN MIC All welcome



Neil Jordan

TUESDAY 15 / 10.00 / BANTRY HOUSE LOGGIA / €12 COFFEE & CHAT with WILL SLINEY

Will Sliney is a comic book artist from Ballycotton, Co. Cork. He has worked as an illustrator for *Marvel* comics for the last 14 years, working on titles like *Spider-Man* and *Star Wars*. His creator owned book; *The Shrouded College* has been optioned by Universal and Seth McFarlane. Over the pandemic he was sent 500,000 drawings from kids while he was part of RTÉ's Home School hub. He then created and presented two shows, *Will Sliney's Storytellers* for RTÉ and *Draw With Will* for Sky Kids which is now a brand new how to draw book. His directorial debut, *Droid Academy*, a 3D animated short, will be shown on RTÉ in June 2025.

TUESDAY 15 / 11.30 / BANTRY BOOKSHOP / FREE ANNA FITZGERALD

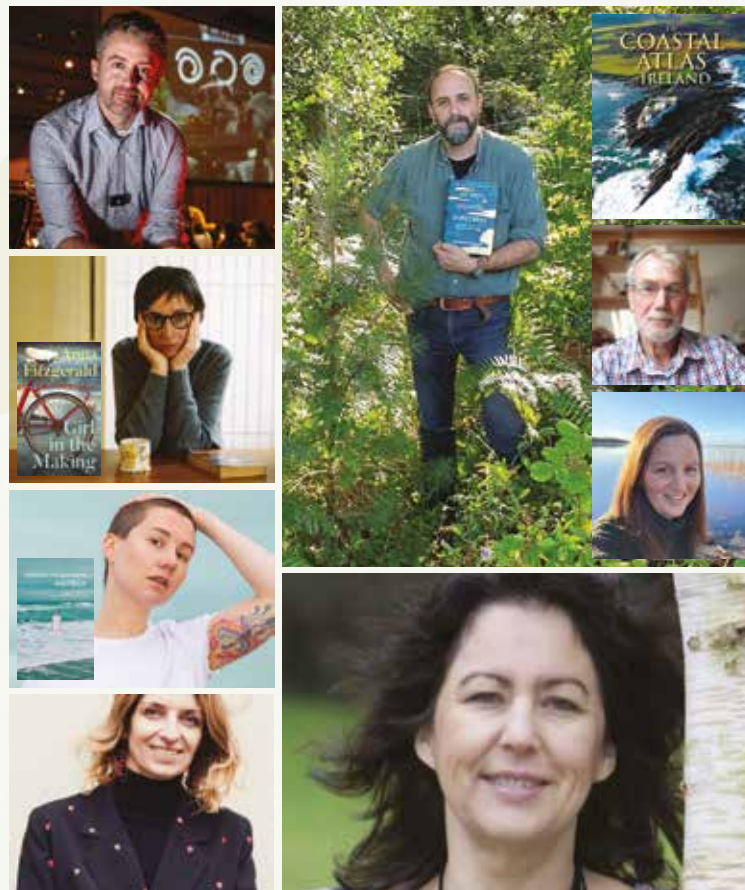
Girl in the Making is the debut novel by **Anna Fitzgerald** and it is a deeply moving, propulsive coming-of-age story from a major new talent. Jean Kennedy is a gentle, perceptive girl growing up in a strange world: suburban Dublin in the 1970s and '80s. In the company of her mother, her Auntie Ida, and her brother Baby John F., Jean experiences love and joy. But home is not a safe place, and Jean is unequal and unprotected. When she speaks just one small part of the truth, she must quickly learn to navigate the dangers and possibilities of a world she scarcely understands.

TUESDAY 15 / 13.00/ BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE VALENTIJN HOOGENKAMP & MICHELE HUTCHISON

Antiboy by Dutch author **Valentijn Hoogenkamp** is a poignant exploration of identity and transformation as it chronicles Valentijn's decision to undergo a mastectomy due to a genetic predisposition to cancer—a choice that becomes a catalyst for embracing a non-binary identity. This beautiful book delves into the complexities of gender identity, personal loss, and the journey towards self-discovery. It is a lyrical and compelling memoir which was translated into English by **Michele Hutchison**.

Valentijn Hoogenkamp debuted in 2021 with the critically acclaimed novel *Het aanbidden van Louis Claus*. *Antiboy* is his second book, reflecting his personal experiences with gender identity and transformation. **Michele Hutchison** was born in the UK and has lived in Amsterdam since 2004. She translates literary fiction, nonfiction, poetry, graphic novels, and children's books. Recent translations include Marieke Lucas Rijneveld, with whom she shared the 2020 International Booker Prize for *The Discomfort of Evening*. This event is supported by the Dutch Foundation for Literature/Nederlands Letterenfonds as part of their New Dutch Writing programme

From top: Will Sliney, Anna Fitzgerald, Valentijn Hoogenkamp, Michele Hutchison

**TUESDAY 15 / 14.30 / MARINO CHURCH / €18****THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF IRELAND'S COAST: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE COASTAL ATLAS OF IRELAND – CORK UNIVERSITY PRESS AT 100**

Join us for a compelling panel discussion marking the centenary of Cork University Press, the publishing arm of University College Cork. This event delves into themes explored in *The Coastal Atlas of Ireland* (2021); featuring perspectives from experts deeply engaged in Ireland's coastal and marine affairs. The panel, led by **Professor Robert Devoy**, Emeritus Professor of Geography at University College Cork and a renowned expert in coastal science and climate change includes **Eoghan Daltun**, author of the award-winning *An Irish Atlantic Rainforest*; **Dr. Connie Kelleher**, State Underwater Archaeologist and author of *An Alliance of Pirates*; **Kieran McCarthy**, Independent councillor and prolific author on Cork's heritage; and **Anna Ryan Moloney**, Lecturer at the University of Limerick and author of *Where Land Meets Sea: Coastal explorations of landscape, representation and spatial experience*.

This event is supported by Cork University Press

**TUESDAY 15 / 15.00-16.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €7****IRISH WRITERS CENTRE:****CREATIVE WRITING SEMINAR with SARAH MOORE FITZGERALD**

Join **Sarah Moore Fitzgerald** for this creative writing seminar and discover the secret doorways to your novel's plot and structure. Writers often struggle to be sure that the shape of their stories is going to be satisfying and impactful for their readers. The mystery of plot and structure can't easily be solved through formula or frameworks. In this seminar, Sarah will help participants to think about fresh ways of finding their way to creating wonderful plots. Participants will look at different approaches to structuring their stories and explore the ways in which they can grow and nurture their own confident approach to developing story.

This event is presented by the Irish Writers Centre



Top, main image: Eoghan Daltun. Inset from top: Professor Robert Devoy, Anna Ryan Moloney. Left: Sarah Moore Fitzgerald



TUESDAY 15 / 17.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE
IRISH WRITERS CENTRE: THE WORD ON THE STREET
 Don't miss this **Irish Writers Centre** showcase of some of Cork's finest spoken word artists. Come along and hear **Jim Crickard, Kemi George Simpson, Shaunna Lee Lynch** and **Raphael Olympio**.

This event is presented by the Irish Writers Centre

TUESDAY 15 / 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 Collective**.

TUESDAY 15 / 18.30 / MARINO CHURCH / €16
SARAH MARIA GRIFFIN & ROSE KEATING

Whether you love horror and gothic novels or whether you just love great writing, come along to this event with Irish authors **Sarah Maria Griffin** and **Rose Keating**. *Eat the Ones You Love* is **Sarah Maria Griffin's** new twisted, tangled novel about workplace love-affairs, and plants with a taste for human flesh. It is a story about possession, and monstrosity, and working in retail. It is about hunger and desire, and other terrible things that grow.

Rose Keating's *Oddbody* is a collection of ten bold and unsettling short stories that confront themes of desire, fear and shame, each one asking how far the bounds of the human form can be pushed, stretched – and subverted. This collection of brilliantly strange and uniquely captivating literary horror stories from a thrilling new Irish talent will be published in July 2025.

From left: Jim Crickard, Raphael Olympio, Shaunna Lee Lynch, Kemi George Simpson, Sarah Maria Griffin and Rose Keating



TUESDAY 15 / 20.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €20 CAROL DRINKWATER

One Summer in Provence is the brand new novel from beloved author and TV personality **Carol Drinkwater** and it is the perfect summer read – a heartwarming, sun-kissed novel of family, community and wine-making. Join us for an evening with Carol and be whisked away to Provence for this story of betrayal and belonging, and of discovering love in unexpected places. This summer is a season of surprises... Celia Grey appears to have the perfect life: married to the man of her dreams, and living on a glorious, thriving vineyard in the south of France. To celebrate their good fortune, she throws a huge party. When she is contacted by a stranger who claims to be her long-lost son, the newborn she gave up at twenty and has never spoken of since, Celia impulsively invites him for the weekend of celebrations – without mentioning it to her husband.

Carol Drinkwater is a multi-award-winning actress, writer and film-maker, best known for her portrayal of Helen Herriot in the classic BBC television series *All Creatures Great and Small*. She is the author of twenty-five books, both fiction and non-fiction and including the bestselling Olive Farm memoir series set in the south of France. Her latest TV work is a six-part travel/lifestyle programme commissioned by UK's Channel 5, *Carol Drinkwater's Secret Provence*. Carol lives with her husband in France. Her new novel *One Summer in Provence* will be published in July 2025.

TUESDAY 15 / 22.00 / MA MURPHYS / FREE
OPEN MIC All welcome

WEDNESDAY 16 / 10.00 / BANTRY HOUSE LOGGIA / €12**COFFEE & CHAT with KATHERINE MAY**

Katherine May's bestselling *Enchantment: Reawakening Wonder in an Exhausted Age* is a balm for anxious times and an invitation to rediscover the feelings of awe and wonder available to us all. Katherine encourages us to experience life in all its sensual complexity and to find the beauty waiting there. Feeling bone-tired, anxious and overwhelmed by the rolling news cycle, she seeks to unravel the threads of a life wound too tightly and as she explores the restorative properties of the natural world she begins to rekindle her sense of wonder. **Katherine May** is a bestselling and internationally renowned writer, podcaster and speaker whose work touches on nature, spirituality, slow living and neurodivergence.

WEDNESDAY 16 / 11.30 / BANTRY BOOKSHOP / FREE**CHLOE MICHELLE HOWARTH**

Sunburn is the debut novel by West Cork author **Chloe Michelle Howarth**. It is an astute and tender portrayal of first love, adolescent anxiety and the realities of growing up in a small town where tradition holds people tightly in its grasp. This atmospheric LGBTQIA+ love story and coming-of-age novel was inspired by Chloe's own experiences growing up in rural West Cork. *Sunburn* was shortlisted for the Polari First Book Prize 2024, the 2024 Book of the Year: Discover Award by the British Book Awards, the 2023 Nero Book Award for Debut Fiction and longlisted for the Diverse Book Awards 2024. **Chloe Michelle Howarth** was born in 1996 and grew up in the West Cork countryside, which has served as an inspiration for her writing. She currently lives in Brighton.

From top: Katherine May and Chloe Michelle Howarth

**WEDNESDAY 16 / 13.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE****SMALL COUNTRY, BIG CONTINENT: TRANSLATING GAËL FAYE'S BURUNDI & RWANDA**

We are delighted to be teaming up with **Literature Ireland** to bring you this very special celebration of literary translation and the ways in which translators can bring us to new worlds. **Gaël Faye** is a Rwandan-French singer, songwriter, rapper, and writer and we are joined by two of the translators of Gaël's award-winning novel *Petit Pays* which was inspired by his teenage-years' experience of the war in Burundi. It was first published in France in 2016, it has been translated into 36 languages and a film adaptation was released in 2020. **Sarah Ardizzone** translated *Petit Pays* from French into English and it was published as *Small Country* by Hogarth Penguin in 2018. **Antain Mac Lochlainn** translated *Petit Pays* from French into Irish and it was published as *Tír Bheag* by Barzaz, an imprint of Futa Fata, in 2024. 2025 is the thirtieth anniversary of Literature Ireland and in that time they have funded the translation of over 2,500 works of Irish literature into 58 languages around the world. *This event is supported by Literature Ireland*

**WEDNESDAY 16 / 14.30 / BANTRY HOUSE / €18 MAURICE J. CASEY & MICHEL KRIELAARS**

Hotel Lux: An Intimate History of Communism's Forgotten Radicals by historian **Maurice J Casey** is the extraordinary story of a group of forgotten radicals who found themselves drawn to communist Moscow's hotbed of international revolutionary activity: the Hotel Lux. The book follows Irish radical May O'Callaghan and her friends, three revolutionary families brought together by their vision for a communist future and their time spent in the Comintern's Moscow living quarters, the Hotel Lux.

The Sound of Utopia: Musicians in the Time of Stalin by Dutch journalist and literary editor **Michel Krielaars** is a fascinating, dramatic portrait of musicians trying to operate amidst repression, ranging from famous composers to forgotten figures to popular music stars. When Stalin came to power, making music in Russia became dangerous. Composers now had to create work that served the socialist state, and all artistic production was scrutinized for potential subversion. Michel vividly depicts Soviet musicians and composers struggling to create art in a climate of risk, suspicion and fear.

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

From top: Sarah Ardizzone, Antain Mac Lochlainn, Maurice J Casey and Michel Krielaars



WEDNESDAY 16 / 15.00 / MARITIME HOTEL / FREE BUT TICKETED**IRISH WRITERS CENTRE: OUT ON THE PAGE**

Come along to this Irish Writers Centre panel discussion and celebration of Queer literature and the importance of reflecting our identities onto the page. Writers **Liz Quirke**, **Chloe Michelle Howarth** and **Mark Ward** will be in conversation with **Damien B. Donnelly**

This event is presented by the Irish Writers Centre

**WEDNESDAY 16 / 17.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE HELEN SCALES**

No matter where we live, 'we are all ocean people', **Helen Scales** observes in *What the Wild Sea Can Be: The Future of the World's Ocean*, her bracing yet hopeful exploration of the future of the ocean. Beginning with its fascinating deep history, Helen links past to present to show how prehistoric ocean ecology holds lessons for the ocean of today.

Offering innovative ideas for protecting coastlines and cleaning the toxic seas, Helen insists we need more ethical and sustainable fisheries and must prevent the other existential threat of deep-sea mining. Inspiring us all to maintain a sense of awe and wonder at the majesty beneath the waves, she urges us to fight for the better future that still exists for the ocean. *What The Wild Sea Can Be* is shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction

**WEDNESDAY 16 / 18.30 / MARINO CHURCH / FREE LAUNCH OF THE 2025 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 **Sean Lusk**, **Ted Simon**, **Tania Hershman** 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.



From top: Liz Quirke and Damien B. Donnelly, Mark Ward and Chloe Michelle Howarth, Helen Scales, Fish Anthology Launch 2024

WEDNESDAY 16 / 20.30 / MARITIME HOTEL / €20**EIMEAR MCBRIDE**

The City Changes Its Face is set in London in 1995 and reintroduces Eily and Stephen, the couple from **Eimear McBride's** earlier novel *The Lesser Bohemians*. It is an intense story of passion, possessiveness and family from this trailblazing author. Intimate, experiential, and immersive, the novel explores a passionate love affair tested to its limits. Outside the filthy window, the city rushes by. But up in the flat, there is only Eily and Stephen, nineteen and thirty-nine. The total obsession of new love. Eighteen months later, a rainy Camden night. Eily and Stephen retrace the course of their two-year romance now their world is merging with the commonplace and ties from the past are intruding.

'Brilliantly rule-breaking fiction.' **The Guardian**

'Eimear McBride is that old-fashioned thing, a genius.' **Anne Enright**

Eimear McBride grew up in the west of Ireland and trained at Drama Centre London. Her first novel, *A Girl is a Half-formed Thing*, took nine years to find a publisher and won a number of awards, including the Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction, Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year, and the Goldsmiths Prize. Her second novel, *The Lesser Bohemians*, won the 2016 James Tait Black Memorial Prize, and was shortlisted for the Goldsmiths Prize and the International Dublin Literary Award.

WEDNESDAY 16 / 22.00 / MA MURPHYS / FREE OPEN MIC All welcome

Eimear McBride

THURSDAY 17 / 9.00 / ABBEY STRAND / FREE
THE FESTIVAL SWIM

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

THURSDAY 17 / 10.00 / BANTRY HOUSE LOGGIA / €12
COFFEE & CHAT with POLLY ATKIN

Owls have been a long-time fascination for **Polly Atkin**. Tawny owls live in the woods above her Lake District cottage and each night they come down to her cottage at dusk, calling out as night falls and they nest on the route of her daily walk, enabling her to observe a trio of owlets grow from fledglings to young adults. *The Company of Owls* is a beautiful love song to owls, a reflection on what makes them and us, unique and different. It is a call to celebrate difference, and to embrace all the qualities that make you yourself. **Polly Atkin** is a poet and nonfiction writer. Her previous nonfiction includes Barbellion-longlisted biography *Recovering Dorothy: The Hidden Life of Dorothy Wordsworth* and Wainwright Prize for Nature Writing longlisted memoir *Some Of Us Just Fall: On Nature and Not Getting Better*.

THURSDAY 17 / 11.30 / BANTRY BOOKSHOP / FREE
ANNETTE SKADE

Annette Skade's poetry chapbook *Holdfast* originated during the lockdown when she was confined to the area around her home in Bantry Bay. Annette began to comb the landscape and archives of her locality in search of connection to the life of one of its most famous residents: nineteenth-century botanist Ellen Hutchins, who collected hundreds of seaweeds, lichens, mosses and liverworts and discovered several new species in the course of a short life spent in Bantry. It is a moving tribute to Ellen Hutchins, to the Bantry coastline and to the resilience of seaweed. *Holdfast* is the debut standalone chapbook from Channel, Ireland's leading journal of eco-writing,

From top: Polly Atkin and Annette Skade


THURSDAY 17 / 11.30 / FUTURE FORESTS / €18
TIFFANY MURRAY

My Family and Other Rock Stars is **Tiffany Murray**'s funny, touching, fascinating memoir of a rural childhood surrounded by rock stars. It's a remarkable, truly unique story of growing up in a rural idyll, of Cordon Bleu cookery and of a childhood where the chances of bumping into Freddie Mercury playing piano, or a group of Hell's Angels turning up to record for Lemmy, or even the hope of David Bowie appearing, were as normal as hopscotch and homework. It's the late 1970s and Tiff lives with her mum, Joan, at Rockfield, the iconic recording studios. This place of legend, where some of the most famous rock albums of all time were recorded, is the background to a freewheeling, ever-changing whirlwind of a childhood. **Tiffany Murray**'s writing has appeared in *Granta*, the *Guardian*, the *Telegraph*, *Sunday Times Style*, *GQ*, *Independent on Sunday* and featured on BBC Radio 4. She has written three novels and she currently lives in a forest.

THURSDAY 17 / 13.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE
ANGELO TIJSENS

Mesmeric and tender, *The Edges* is the tale of one man's search for love and affection. It is a deeply humane and moving debut by a skilled storyteller. This beautiful novel by Flemish screenwriter and playwright **Angelo Tijssens** has been translated into English by **Michele Hutchison**. A man returns to his hometown to clear out the flat of his recently deceased mother. While there, he cannot resist visiting his former lover. As the storm rages in the night outside, he finds in the man's embrace some kind of quiet; some kind of home. *'Bursts with sensuality and deep emotion'* **The Telegraph**

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



From top: Tiffany Murray and Angelo Tijssens



THURSDAY 17 / 14.30 / NATIONAL LEARNING NETWORK / €20 SEÁN RONAYNE

Join us for a magical afternoon with ornithologist and naturalist **Seán Ronayne** in the unique setting of the National Learning Network's outdoor amphitheatre. Many of us first heard about Seán when we watched *Birdsong*, an award-winning documentary on RTÉ about his project to sound record all the regularly occurring bird species in Ireland. His beautiful and inspiring book *Nature Boy: A Journey of Birdsong and Belonging* won Biography of the Year at the 2024 An Post Irish Book Awards. Seán always knew he was different. Nicknamed 'nature boy' by the other kids, as a child he struggled to fit in and regularly escaped to the woods around his Cork home. The natural world was his happy place, and he soon discovered his unique talent – identifying birds through their sound and song. As Seán found his path working as an ornithologist, he began to see how, by highlighting the wonder and beauty of the natural world, he could draw attention to the danger it currently faces. Then, at the age of thirty-two, he received an autism diagnosis and his life finally started to make sense. *Nature Boy* is an inspiring story of love, connection and the healing power of nature. As this is an outdoor event please dress for the weather and come prepared for sunshine and showers. We have a rainy day alternative at this venue.

THURSDAY 17 / 17.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE PAUL McVEIGH & ROSS RAISIN

In this event we celebrate the art of the short story with two incredible writers, **Paul McVeigh** and **Ross Raisin**. Paul will read from *I Hear You*, his new collection of stories all of which were commissioned by, and have been read on, BBC Radio 4. Ross will read his short story, 'Ghost Kitchen', which won the BBC National Short Story Award in 2024 and was also read on BBC Radio 4.

Paul McVeigh's short stories have been in anthologies, journals and newspapers, and read on BBC Radio 3, 4 and 5, RTÉ Radio and Sky ARTS. His ten-part short story series, *The Circus*, aired on BBC Radio Ulster, BBC Radio Foyle and BBC Radio 4. He co-founded *The London Short Story Festival* and has edited three anthologies. His collection of BBC Radio 4 short stories, *I Hear You*, was published in March 2025. **Ross Raisin** is the author of four novels: *A Hunger*, *A Natural*, *Waterline* and *God's Own Country*. In 2013, he was named on Granta's once-a-decade Best of Young British Novelists list. His work has won and been shortlisted for over a dozen literary awards, including winning the *Sunday Times* Young Writer of the Year award and the 2024 BBC National Short Story Award.

From top: Seán Ronayne, Paul McVeigh and Ross Raisin

**THURSDAY 17 / 18.30 / MARINO CHURCH / €16****PICADOR PRESENTS: LOUISE HEGARTY, SARAH MOSS, GRÁINNE O'HARE**

Picador is known for its amazing fiction authors. This summer is no different as they publish a new novel from the brilliant **Sarah Moss** and two incredible debut novels from **Louise Hegarty** and **Gráinne O'Hare**. Join us for an hour of new fiction and get your summer reading list sorted. *Fair Play*, the debut novel from Cork author **Louise Hegarty**, is a murder mystery. It is a story about love. Or is it?... *Fair Play* is the puzzle-box story of two competing tales that brilliantly lay bare the real truth of life – the terrifying mystery of grief. **Sarah Moss'** new novel *Ripeness* moves between 1960s rural Italy and contemporary Ireland. *Ripeness* is a sweeping, engrossing novel about familial love and the communities we create, about migration and new beginnings, and about what it is to have somewhere to belong.

Thirst Trap by **Gráinne O'Hare** is a funny and bittersweet story about the messy reality of friendship. It's a wildly original and brilliantly assured debut set in modern Belfast: full of the pain, joy and bad decisions arising from young friendship, grief and bad house shares. It is a brilliant and beautiful page-turner.

This event is supported by Picador

PICADOR

THURSDAY 17 / 20.30 / MARINO CHURCH / €20**NOTHING COMPARES TO YOU: WHAT SINÉAD O'CONNOR MEANS TO US**

Nothing Compares to You: What Sinéad O'Connor Means to Us is a collection of essays edited by Sonya Huber and Martha Bayne. It is an intimate and evocative celebration of the life and legacy of music and political icon Sinéad O'Connor and we are joined tonight by three of the contributing authors **Martha Bayne**, **Mieke Eerkens** and **Allyson McCabe**.

This book is a loving and accessible reconsideration and entry point for understanding the Irish icon. Exploring themes such as gender identity, spirituality, artistic expression, and personal transformation, this collection shows that Sinéad's voice continues to ring on even after her death and brilliantly illustrates the power of creative expression to inspire far beyond any presumed lines of age, culture, or class.

THURSDAY 17 / 22.00 / MA MURPHYS / FREE OPEN MIC All welcome

From top: Louise Hegarty and Sarah Moss, Gráinne O'Hare



FRIDAY 18 / 10.00 / BANTRY HOUSE LOGGIA / €12 COFFEE & CHAT with BARBARA LEAHY

Barbara Leahy's *Rembrandt's Promise* opens in 1642. The Dutch Golden Age is underway, with rapidly expanding Amsterdam at the height of its powers. Geertje, an impoverished widow from Edam, enters a melting pot of wealth and culture when she becomes nursemaid in the house of renowned painter, Rembrandt.

Barbara Leahy is a debut novelist from Cork and she was a winner of the Irish Writers' Centre Novel Fair in 2023. Her short stories have won numerous awards, appeared in the Bridport Prize Anthology, the Bristol Prize anthology, and been broadcast on RTÉ Radio 1.

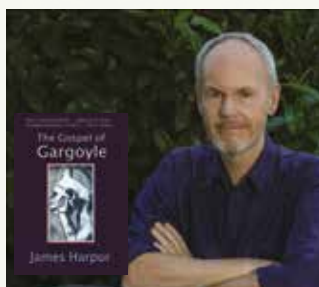
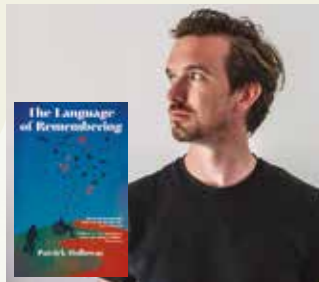
FRIDAY 18 / 11.30 / BANTRY BOOKSHOP / FREE PATRICK HOLLOWAY

In **Patrick Holloway's** debut novel *The Language of Remembering*, Oisín returns from Brazil with his wife and daughter, looking to rebuild a life in Cork and reconnect with his mother who has early-onset Alzheimer's. As her condition deteriorates, she starts to speak Irish, the language of her youth, and reflect on her childhood dreams and aspirations. Mother and son embark on a journey of personal discovery and, as past traumas are exposed, they begin to understand who they really are. **Patrick Holloway** lives in Cork and is an award-winning writer of fiction and poetry. He is an editor of the literary journal, *The Four Faced Liar*. He completed a Masters in Creative Writing at the University of Glasgow and a PhD in Creative Writing in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

FRIDAY 18 / 13.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE JAMES HARPUR

The Gospel of Gargoyle is the latest collection by West Cork poet **James Harpur** and it is published by Eblana, a specialist art press in Ballydehob, in a high-quality numbered edition, with artwork by the artist Paul Ó Colmáin. A poet residing at the Irish College in Paris has a series of dreams in which he flies to the rooftop of Notre-Dame cathedral and encounters a gargoyle. Gargoyle and Poet become unlikely companions, bound by a pact: in return for the poet's visits and conversations on the great questions of life, Gargoyle promises to reveal the answer to the question obsessing Poet: who or what caused the great fire of Notre-Dame in 2019. **James Harpur** has published 10 books of poetry and won many prizes, including the UK National Poetry Competition and Michael Hartnett Prize.

From top: Barbara Leahy, Patrick Holloway and James Harpur

**FRIDAY 18 / 14.30 / MARINO CHURCH / €18 WENDY ERSKINE & LISA HARDING**

Wendy Erskine's debut novel *The Benefactors* and **Lisa Harding's** *The Wildelings* are two of the most anticipated novels of the year, one set in Belfast, the other in Dublin and both raising importance questions about class and social status. These two unputdownable novels will have you hooked from the first page. In **Wendy Erskine's** *The Benefactors* we meet three very different women but all mothers to 18-year-old boys. They do not know each other yet, but when their sons are accused of sexually assaulting Misty Johnston, whose family lacks the wealth and social-standing of their own, they'll leverage all the power of their position to protect their children. Brutal, tender and rigorously intelligent, *The Benefactors* is a daring, polyphonic presentation of modern-day Northern Ireland. It is also very funny.

The Wildelings by **Lisa Harding** is a vivid and compulsive story of obsession, control and guilt, set in Nineties Dublin. Jessica and Linda, best friends since the first day of school, are from very different broken homes. At eighteen they come to Wilde – an elite university in the heart of Dublin, far from their troubled childhoods. Jessica thrives and with the faithful Linda at her side, finds herself at the heart of a new circle of friends. But then Mark enters the picture and Linda falls under the charismatic man's control. Years later, Jessica is still grappling with her guilt over what happened at Wilde. And when Mark resurfaces to write his version of events, she knows she owes it to herself – and Linda – to set the record straight once and for all.

FRIDAY 18/ 15.00 / MARITIME HOTEL / FREE THE ENGINE OF STORY: READINGS FROM UCC'S MA IN CREATIVE WRITING

Join us for a showcase of short readings from fresh, dynamic and diverse emerging voices. Four students from UCC's MA in Creative Writing, **Evelyn Cynk**, **Ciara Dunne**, **Parrish Finn** and **Beatriz Capelo Ramos**, will read from their works-in-progress in fiction and memoir, introduced by **Danny Denton**, author and lecturer in creative writing. UCC's MA in Creative Writing is designed to enable writers to develop their practice in a supportive environment, and to give them the tools to unlock the book within, be it fiction, memoir or poetry. As well as honing the techniques and craft of creative writing, the MA introduces students to the publishing industry and Ireland's thriving community of literary practice.

From top: Wendy Erskine and Lisa Harding



FRIDAY 18/ 17.00 / BANTRY LIBRARY / FREE FROM THE WELL

From the Well is the annual short story competition organised by **Cork County Library and Arts Service**. Twenty stories are shortlisted by **Patrick Holloway** for publication in the From the Well anthology. **Eamon Doggett**, the winner of the competition, and two other shortlisted writers will read their stories in this event hosted by **Patrick Holloway**. Patrick lives in Cork and is an award-winning writer of fiction and poetry. He is an editor of the literary journal, *The Four Faced Liar*. He is the winner of the Bath Short Story Award, The Molly Keane Creative Writing Prize, The Flash 500 Prize, the Allingham Fiction contest and he was the recipient of the Paul McVeigh Residency in 2023.

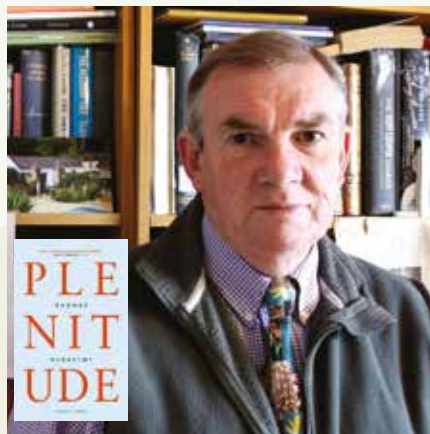
FRIDAY 18/ 18.30 / MARINO CHURCH /€16 THOMAS MCCARTHY & RUTH PADEL

Join us for an evening of poetry with two masters of their craft, **Thomas McCarthy** and **Ruth Padel**. Both of these poets are regular visitors to our festival and it gives us huge pleasure to hear them read side by side. Prepare to be entranced and inspired.

Thomas McCarthy has been hailed as ‘the most important Irish poet of his generation’ by Dennis O’Driscoll whilst Mona Arshi calls **Ruth Padel** ‘one of our most gifted poets’. Thomas will read from his new collection *Plenitude*, a collection of formal, lyrical poems of family, politics and memory, enriched by a sense of history. Ruth will read from *Girl*, her latest collection which takes a fresh questioning look at girlhood and its icons, unravelling millennia of myth woven around girls.

Thomas McCarthy has won many awards for his poetry, including The Patrick Kavanagh Award, the Alice Hunt Bartlett Prize, the O’Shaughnessy Prize and the Ireland Funds Annual Literary Award. His first collection, *The First Convention*, was published by The Dolmen Press, Dublin, in 1978 and his eleventh collection, *Plenitude*, was published by Carcanet Press in 2025. **Ruth Padel** is a writer of unusual range, with close links to India, Greece, music and wildlife, but first and foremost an award-winning poet. She has won the UK National Poetry Competition and published thirteen acclaimed poetry collections as well as much-praised novels and non-fiction. She is a Fellow of both the Royal Society of Literature and Zoological Society of London.

From top: Thomas McCarthy and Ruth Padel

**FRIDAY 18/ 20.30 / MARITIME HOTEL /€35****GRAHAM NORTON**

Join us for this year’s festival finale with one of our favourites, **Graham Norton**. Graham’s fifth novel *Frankie* is his best yet and is a dazzling, decades-sweeping novel about love, bravery, and what it means to live a significant life.

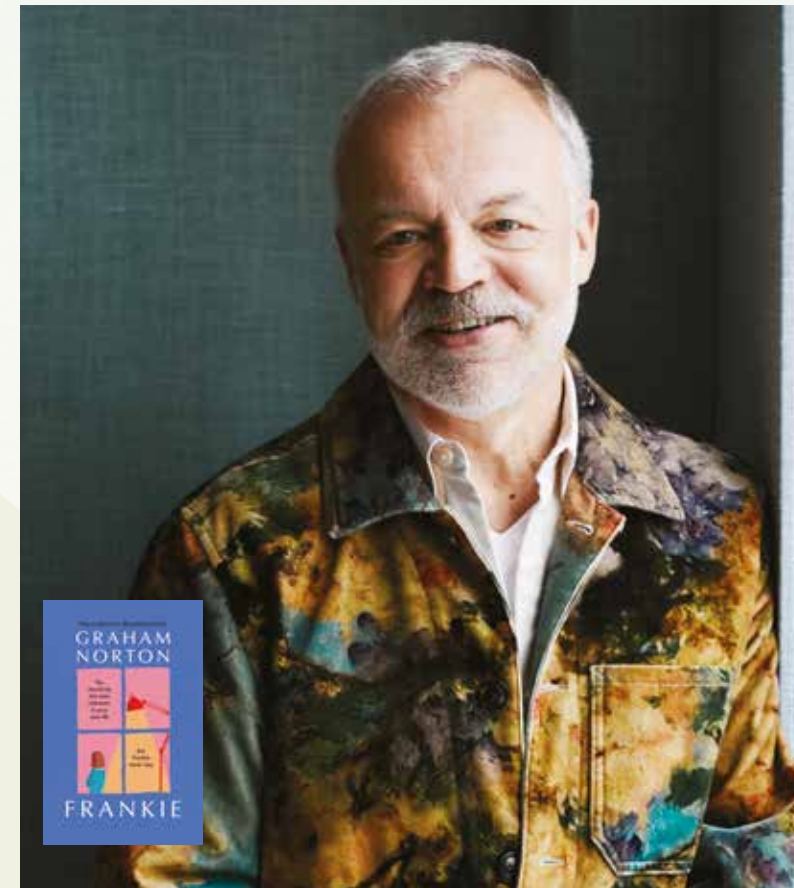
Travelling from post-war Ireland to 1960s New York – a city full of art, larger than life characters and turmoil Frankie shares a world in which friendship and chance encounters collide. A place where, for a while, life blazes with an intensity that can’t last but will perhaps live on in other ways and in other people.

‘I loved Frankie so much. I couldn’t stop reading it, but feel bereft now that I’ve finished.’ **Nigella Lawson**

‘A masterclass in storytelling that grabs you by the heartstrings from page one and refuses to let go.’

Sunday Independent

Graham Norton is the author of five novels, *Holding*, *A Keeper*, *Home Stretch*, *Forever Home* and *Frankie*, all of which became instant bestsellers both in the UK and Ireland and have won outstanding praise from across the media and the literary community. *Frankie* won the 2024 An Post Irish Book Award for Popular Fiction Book of the Year



Graham Norton

| Time | Title | Venue |
|------------------|--|-------------------|
| FRIDAY 11 JULY | | |
| All week | Glucksman Art Library: Exhibition | See Website |
| All week | Letter Café | Forest & Flock |
| 13.00 | Come Sit Awhile | Bantry Library |
| 15.00 | Doire: Claire Hennessy & Jennifer Horgan | Maritime Hotel |
| 15.00 | Spot the Translation: Katy Derbyshire | Maritime Hotel |
| 17.00 | Opening Reception of WCLF | Bantry Library |
| 18.30 | Salena Godden | Marino Church |
| 20.30 | Alan Hollinghurst | Maritime Hotel |
| 21.00 | Pop Up Gaeltacht | Ma Murphys |
| SATURDAY 12 JULY | | |
| 10.00 | Dani Robertson | Marino Church |
| 11.30 | Cauvery Madhavan | Bantry Bookshop |
| 12.00 | Jenny Peckles: Paul Delaney | St Brendan's Hall |
| 13.00 | Heather Clark | Bantry Library |
| 14.15 | Wake of the Whale | Whiddy Island |
| 14.30 | Historical Walking Tour | Bantry Town |
| 15.00 | Braids Take A Day: Zainab Boladale | St Brendan's Hall |
| 16.30 | Society of Young Irish Publishers info session | Ma Murphys |
| 17.00 | Lina Scheynius & Saskia Vogel | Bantry Library |
| 18.30 | Ferdia Lennon & Colin Walsh | Marino Church |
| 20.30 | Richard E. Grant | Maritime Hotel |
| 22.00 | Open Mic | Maritime Hotel |

| Time | Title | Venue |
|----------------|--|---------------------|
| SUNDAY 13 JULY | | |
| 09.00 | Yoga on the Lawn | Bantry House |
| 10.00 | Maria Barnas & Keith Payne | Bantry House Loggia |
| 12.00 | IWC: Island of Many Nations | Maritime Hotel |
| 12.00 | Milly McCarthy: Leona Forde | St Brendan's Hall |
| 13.30 | John Creedon | Maritime Hotel |
| 13.30 | W/w: Performance by Sarah Long | Maritime Hotel |
| 15.00 | CBI: Writing for Children & Teenagers | Work Shop Bantry |
| 15.00 | Somerville & Ross: Claire Connolly | Marino Church |
| 17.00 | Gallery: V. Groarke, T. French, A. Mac Aodha | Marino Church |
| 17.30 | Children’s Writers & Illustrators Meet-Up | Ma Murphys |
| 18.30 | Mona Arshi & Oluwaseun Olayiwola | Marino Church |
| 20.30 | Caoilinn Hughes & Claire Kilroy | Maritime Hotel |
| 22.00 | Open Mic | Maritime Hotel |
| MONDAY 14 JULY | | |
| 10.00 | Katie Goh | Bantry House Loggia |
| 11.30 | Kel Menton | Bantry Bookshop |
| 12.00 | Letters to a Monster: Patricia Forde | St Brendan's Hall |
| 13.00 | Library Writing Groups Showcase | Bantry Library |
| 13.00 | IWC: Zine workshop with Annie Mar | Work Shop Bantry |
| 14.00 | Lore Zine workshop for teens | St Brendan's Hall |
| 14.30 | Balsam Karam | Marino Church |
| 15.00 | Performance is a Verb: Alice Barry | Maritime Hotel |
| 15.30 | Rainbow Library: Lore anthology | St Brendan's Hall |
| 17.00 | Seán Farrell & Quynh Tran | Marino Church |
| 18.30 | grapevvine | Marino Church |

| Time | Title | Venue |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| MONDAY 14 JULY | | |
| 20.30 | Neil Jordan | Maritime Hotel |
| 22.00 | Open Mic | Maritime Hotel |
| TUESDAY 15 JULY | | |
| 10.00 | Will Sliney | Bantry House Loggia |
| 11.30 | Anna Fitzgerald | Bantry Bookshop |
| 12.00 | Doomsday Club: Kevin Moran | St Brendan's Hall |
| 13.00 | V. Hoogenkamp & M. Hutchison | Bantry Library |
| 14.30 | CUP 100: The Coastal Atlas of Ireland | Marino Church |
| 15.00 | IWC: Creative Writing Seminar | Maritime Hotel |
| 17.00 | IWC: Word on the Street | Bantry Library |
| 18.00 | Open Mic Matinee | Maritime Hotel |
| 18.30 | Sarah Maria Griffin & Rose Keating | Marino Church |
| 20.30 | Carol Drinkwater | Maritime Hotel |
| 22.00 | Open Mic | Ma Murphys |
| WEDNESDAY 16 JULY | | |
| 10.00 | Katherine May | Bantry House Loggia |
| 11.30 | Chloe Michelle Howarth | Bantry Bookshop |
| 12.00 | Story Detectives: E.R. Murray | St Brendan's Hall |
| 13.00 | Small Country, Big Continent | Bantry Library |
| 14.30 | Maurice J Casey & Michel Krielaars | Bantry House |
| 15.00 | IWC: Out on the Page | Maritime Hotel |
| 17.00 | Helen Scales | Bantry Library |
| 18.30 | Launch of the Fish Anthology | Marino Church |
| 20.30 | Eimear McBride | Maritime Hotel |
| 22.00 | Open Mic | Ma Murphys |

| Time | Title | Venue |
|------------------|--|---------------------------|
| THURSDAY 17 JULY | | |
| 09.00 | Festival Swim | Abbey Strand |
| 10.00 | Polly Atkin | Bantry House Loggia |
| 11.30 | Annette Skade | Bantry Bookshop |
| 11.30 | Tiffany Murray | Future Forests |
| 12.00 | World Between the Rain: Susan Cahill | St Brendan's Hall |
| 13.00 | Angelo Tijssens | Bantry Library |
| 14.30 | Seán Ronayne | National Learning Network |
| 17.00 | Paul McVeigh & Ross Raisin | Bantry Library |
| 18.30 | Picador: L. Hegarty, S. Moss & G. O’Hare | Marino Church |
| 20.30 | What Sinéad O’Connor Means To Us | Marino Church |
| 22.00 | Open Mic | Ma Murphys |
| FRIDAY 18 JULY | | |
| 10.00 | Barbara Leahy | Bantry House Loggia |
| 11.30 | Patrick Holloway | Bantry Bookshop |
| 12.00 | President Book Series: Peter Donnelly | St Brendan's Hall |
| 13.00 | James Harpur | Bantry Library |
| 14.30 | Lisa Harding & Wendy Erskine | Marino Church |
| 15.00 | Readings / UCC’s MA in Creative Writing | Maritime Hotel |
| 17.00 | From The Well | Bantry Library |
| 18.30 | Thomas McCarthy & Ruth Padel | Marino Church |
| 20.30 | Graham Norton | Maritime Hotel |



WORKSHOPS

Scan the QR code or

Booking: +353 (0)27 52788

Book online: 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. Full T&Cs on our website

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

From left: Polly Atkin, Paul McVeigh [Photo: Chad Alexander]

NATURE WRITING FOR TIMES LIKE THESE POLLY ATKIN

€230 / 15 MAX

Monday 14 to Wednesday 16 / 11.30-16.30 (2 breaks)

Maritime Hotel

Polly Atkin will draw on examples of contemporary nature writing from around the world to think through different approaches to bringing the natural world into our writing in effective and meaningful ways. This workshop is open to writers at any stage of their practice, and will feature a mix of reading, discussion, and generative exercises each day, as well as practical advice on publication and other outlets. Reading will include short-form pieces published in journals and online, and extracts from books, and will be supplied ahead of time. *Please note that Polly wears a filtering face mask for indoor events, including these workshop sessions.*

Polly Atkin is a poet and nonfiction writer. Her nonfiction includes Barbellion-longlisted biography *Recovering Dorothy: The Hidden Life of Dorothy Wordsworth*, Wainwright Prize for Nature Writing longlisted memoir *Some Of Us Just Fall: On Nature and Not Getting Better* and *The Company of Owls*. Her work on nature and disability is included in various anthologies, including *Moving Mountains*. She works as a freelancer from her home in the English Lake District, where she co-owns historic Grasmere bookshop Sam Read Bookseller.

NOVEL WRITING / PAUL MCVEIGH

€230 / 15 MAX

Wednesday 16 to Friday 18 / 9.30-14.30 (2 breaks)

St Finbarr's Boys' School

Join award-winning novelist **Paul McVeigh** to explore the elements needed to write a novel that hooks a reader. We'll look at how to create characters that capture us, the use of dialogue, how to master emotion on the page, the importance of plotting and how to make your setting more than a passive backdrop to your story. You will also find out what every debut novelist needs to know about the industry and what do you do when your novel is finished. This is for writers at all levels; with talks, writing exercises and lots of Q&A time.

Paul McVeigh's debut novel, *The Good Son*, won *The Polari First Novel Prize* and *The McCrea Literary Award*, and was shortlisted for many others including the *Author's Club Best First Novel Award* and *The Prix du Roman Cezam*. It was Brighton's *City Reads* book choice and was given out across the UK on World Book Night. Paul has judged many literature prizes including the Royal Society of Literature's VS Pritchard Award, the International Dylan Thomas Prize and the Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year for the second time this year. He has edited three anthologies and his writing has been translated into eight languages.

WRITING PLACES / SARAH MOSS

€230 / 15 MAX

Wednesday 16 to Friday 18 / 9.30-14.30 (2 breaks)
 St Finbarr's Boys' School

This course is founded in serious play and in playful presence. With **Sarah Moss** you will be attending to places and the beings in them, thinking about words for things, time and place. You will experiment, trying ideas that probably won't work (but just might), making and un-making, seeing what happens. If you would like to try out or refresh a writing practice, this might be your perfect chance. If you want to hammer out a word count, this isn't for you. Bring your curiosity, writing materials, whatever you need to go out in the weather. Come prepared to be outdoors and indoors, present in your senses and in the presence of your classmates.

Sarah Moss has written several novels including *Ripeness*, the *Sunday Times* top ten bestseller *Summerwater* and *Ghost Wall*, which was longlisted for the Women's Prize. She has written two works of memoir, *Names for the Sea*, an account of her year living in Iceland, and *My Good Bright Wolf*. Sarah was born in Glasgow and grew up in the north of England. After moving between Oxford, Canterbury, Reykjavik, west Cornwall and the Midlands, she moved to Dublin in 2020 to join the UCD Creative Writing department.



Clockwise from top left:
 Sarah Moss
 [Photo: Hugh Chaloner]
 Ross Raisin
 Ruth Padel [Photo: Donna Ford]

POETRY / RUTH PADEL

€230 / 15 MAX

Wednesday 16 to Friday 18 / 9.30-14.30 (2 breaks)
 St Finbarr's Boys' School

If you haven't written poems before, no problem: we will be reading poems together as well as writing them, which will give you an idea of where we all are. **Ruth Padel**'s hope is you might finish these three days with three poems roughed out, and at least one in a near-finished state. She will share three exercises with you (one now and the other two during the workshop). If you want to bring a poem/poems you're already working on that's fine. Otherwise, here is a suggestion of what you might work on first, maybe even before the workshop. *The Shift: write a poem looking back on a moment of intense feeling.*

Ruth Padel is a writer of unusual range, with close links to India, Greece, music and wildlife, but first and foremost an award-winning poet. She has won the UK National Poetry Competition and published twelve acclaimed poetry collections including *Girl*, *Darwin*, *A Life in Poems*, *Beethoven Variations*, and *We Are All from Somewhere Else* on animal and human migration. She has also published much-praised novels and non-fiction, as well as her much-loved *52 Ways of Looking at a Poem*, on reading contemporary poetry. She is a Fellow of both the Royal Society of Literature and Zoological Society of London.

THE SHORT STORY / ROSS RAISIN

€230 / 15 MAX

Wednesday 16 to Friday 18 / 9.30-14.30 (2 breaks)
 St Finbarr's Boys' School

Ross Raisin will provide a relaxed, creative environment for a close examination of the short story form. You will engage in the pleasure of reading and writing stories, and in the technical approaches involved in constructing them. Whether you are starting out or already working on a collection, you will be encouraged to focus on different aspects of the form, producing new writing as well as developing an expertise in re-writing, and leave at the end of the week with new work and a new range of skills, and confidence, to continue writing into the summer.

Ross Raisin is the author of four novels and was named on Granta's once-a-decade Best of Young British Novelists list in 2013. As a tutor, he worked for the *Guardian* Masterclass programme, teaching a long-running 6-week fiction course; he teaches at the University of Leeds; for the education charity, First Story; and also works as a writing mentor to emerging writers. His work has won and been shortlisted for over a dozen literary awards, including winning the *Sunday Times* Young Writer of the Year award and the 2024 BBC National Short Story Award.

TRAVEL WRITING: THE SEA / HELEN SCALES

€245 (incl ferry) / 15 MAX

Wednesday 16 to Friday 18 / 9.30-14.30 (2 breaks)

Whiddy Island

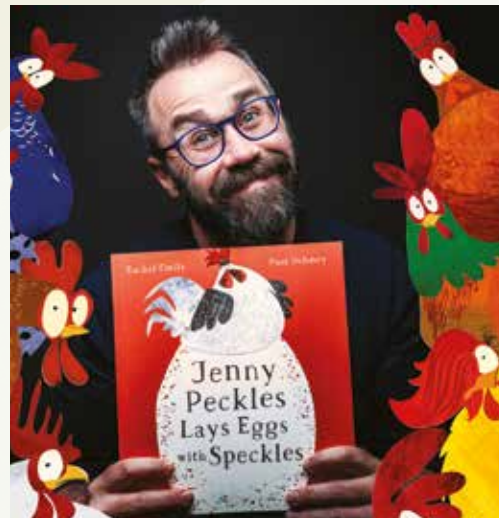
Immersed in the seascape of Whiddy Island, join **Helen Scales** to explore travel writing, with a focus on nature and place in coasts and seas. Beginners welcome. No writing to submit or required reading beforehand. Please bring sturdy footwear and outdoor clothing because some classes will be held outdoors, weather permitting. You may also wish to bring a towel (foot dipping will be encouraged!)

Dr Helen Scales is a marine biologist, acclaimed author and broadcaster who explores the wonders and plight of the oceans and the living planet. She writes for *National Geographic Magazine* and the *Guardian*, teaches at Cambridge University and is a storytelling ambassador for the Save Our Seas Foundation. Her latest book *What the Wild Sea Can Be: The Future of the World's Ocean* was longlisted for the Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction and is shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction. She divides her time between Cambridge and the wild Atlantic coast of France.

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



Helen Scales



YOUNG ADULT & CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

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.

Scan the QR code or

Booking:

+353 (0)27 52788

www.westcorkliteraryfestival.ie



ALL WEEK / VARIOUS VENUES / FREE SEEDS OF CHANGE: AN ART LIBRARY PROJECT, THE GLUCKSMAN

The **Glucksman** partnered with four Bantry schools to give young people an opportunity to reflect on how culture can contribute to climate action by raising awareness of sustainable futures through art. Each school was loaned an original artwork from the University College Cork Art Collection through the **Glucksman's Art Library** initiative, a loan collection of artworks that is available to schools, community hubs and healthcare settings across Ireland.

The selected artworks by **Amber Broughton, James L. Hayes, Fiona Kelly** and **Garret Phelan** each explore ways in which we might better nurture and care for our planet. The artworks are seeds of change, planting ideas, climate action prompts and creative activities into the local schools. The students engaged with the work of art on display in their school, giving expression to their hopes and ambition for climate action in Ireland. Their creative responses are showcased in St. Brendan's Hall whilst the original artworks will be displayed in Bantry Library and venues across the town (see our website for details).

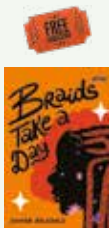
The Art Library is funded by a Visual Arts Touring Award from the Arts Council of Ireland.

SATURDAY 12 / 12.00-13.30 / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL / FREE / AGE: 4+ JENNY PECKLES LAYS EGGS WITH SPECKLES: PAUL DELANEY

Join West Cork children's book Illustrator, **Paul Delaney**, for Words & Birds storytime and a bird-themed draw-along to celebrate his latest picture book, *Jenny Peckles Lays Eggs with Speckles* (written by Rachel Emily). This will be an eggcellent afternoon of storytelling, funny voices, bird-doodles and lots of giggling. *Booking is required only for children attending the event. They are invited to draw-along with Paul, but no problem if some prefer to watch. Accompanying parents and guardians do not need to book.*

From top: Future Forests by Fiona Kelly, Paul Delaney with Jenny Peckles Lays Eggs with Speckles





SATURDAY 12 / 15.00-16.00 / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL / FREE / AGE: 13+

BRAIDS TAKE A DAY: ZAINAB BOLADALE

Braids Take A Day is the eagerly-awaited debut YA novel from journalist and Nationwide presenter **Zainab Boladale** and it is an exciting and heartwarming coming-of-age story. Abidemi can't wait for summer, her last one at home in Ennistymon before she heads off to college. She's ready to say goodbye to school, spend some time learning new braids and hairstyles – and see where things go with her friend Jack. But when she meets an intriguing woman from Nigeria, secrets start to unravel and she realises that uncovering secrets is like undoing braids, one at a time. Join Zainab to hear all about the book and her life as a writer.



SUNDAY 13 / 12.00-13.00 / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL / FREE / AGE: 7+

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF MILLY MCCARTHY: LEONA FORDE

Welcome to the Wonderful World of Milly McCarthy. Milly is a complete catastrophe, a total magnet for mayhem. Whether it's disastrous dancing, shambolic sports days or totally hilarious talent shows, Milly always leaves a trail of chaos behind her. Come and meet Cork author **Leona Forde** and join her on an adventure into the world of Milly McCarthy and her latest *Wild Atlantic Antics* in the Kerry Gaeltacht. Sure, what could possibly go wrong? *Booking is recommended for children and parents/guardians attending this event.*

MONDAY 14 / 11.30 / BANTRY BOOKSHOP / FREE / AGE: YA+ A FIX OF LIGHT: KEL MENTON

A Fix of Light is trans love story with a dark magical twist, from Cork author **Kel Menton**, an astonishing new Irish voice in YA fiction. This powerful and moving novel seamlessly blends queer romance and fantasy. It's a story. that champions hope and the possibility of surviving trauma to build a life worth living, with protagonists that destigmatise trans experience. Hanan is supposed to be dead. The forest outside Skenashogue sent him home alive – but changed. A strange new magic makes every emotion a physical force he can't control. Bright and gentle, fox-like Pax is everything Hanan is not. Only his touch can mute the power, quiet the curse. Secrets give power to the darkness. For their love to survive, the boys will have to open their hearts.

MONDAY 14 / 12.00-12.40 / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL / FREE / AGE: 5-8

LETTERS TO A MONSTER: PATRICIA FORDE

A fun and interactive session with Laureate na nÓg, **Patricia Forde**. Show off your best monster face, practice your monster roar and see what it's like to attend a school for Monsters! *Letters to a Monster* is laugh-out-loud picture book featuring a hilarious exchange of letters between a girl and a very unusual monster! It is written by **Patricia Forde** and illustrated by **Sarah Warburton**. *Booking is required only for children attending the event. Accompanying parents and guardians do not need to book a seat.*



From top: Zainab Boladale and Kel Menton, Leona Forde and Kevin Moran, Patricia Forde

MONDAY 14 / 14.00-15.00 / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL / FREE / AGE: 12-17 LORE ZINE WORKSHOP WITH RAINBOW LIBRARY

Join **Kel Menton** and members of Rainbow Library to create your own zine. Taking the theme of Lore as the starting point, participants will write, draw and create together. Rainbow Library is an LGBTQIA+ group of young writers and illustrators who meet monthly in Cork County Library. *This event is supported by Cork County Council and Creative Ireland*



MONDAY 14 / 15.30-16.15 / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL / FREE / AGE: YA RAINBOW LIBRARY: 'LORE' ANTHOLOGY LAUNCH

Rainbow Library present their second anthology, entitled *Lore*. Rainbow Library is a diverse group of LGBTQIA+ young people from County Cork. The Lore anthology will be launched by **Sarah Maria Griffin** and the event will be MCed by **Kel Menton**. *This event is supported by Cork County Council and Creative Ireland*



TUESDAY 15 / 12.00-12.45 / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL / FREE / AGE: 9-12 THE DOOMSDAY CLUB: KEVIN MORAN

Welcome to *The Doomsday Club*, a thrilling new book series from primary school teacher and author **Kevin Moran**, packed with excitement and scares, rooted in Celtic mythology. Detention can wait. Saving the world comes first when the four school friends in this action-packed thriller find themselves caught up in a terrifying mystery. Jack and Conan's friendship is officially dead. Stuck in detention with Yash and Jerry after an all-out brawl in the toilet, it's a terrible start to sixth class. And that's before they witness a monstrous beast step out of a portal outside their school. When it wanders into the crumbling mansion across the road, where the sinister Mr Kilroe lives, the boys follow. They have to investigate, right? *Booking is recommended for children and parents/guardians attending this event.*

YOUNG ADULT & CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL



WEDNESDAY 16 / 12.00-13.00 / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL / FREE / AGE: 8-12
STORY DETECTIVES: E.R. MURRAY

Have you ever wondered what makes a great story? Join award-winning author, **E.R. Murray**, and become your own Story Detective! Explore the secrets behind creating memorable characters, mind-blowing settings, and edge-of-your-seat plots. Investigate a series of clues to create your own exciting mystery that jumps off the page. Elizabeth will also read from her latest book, *Arabella Pepper The Wild Detective* and answer your questions about what it's like to be a writer – even the tricky ones! *Arabella Pepper: The Wild Detective* is a story of friendship and bravery and the adventures of Arabella and Blue will keep you on the edge of your seat and steal your heart. *Booking is required only for children attending the event. Accompanying parents and guardians do not need to book.*



THURSDAY 17 / 12.00-13.00 / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL / FREE / AGE: 9+
THE WORLD BETWEEN THE RAIN: SUSAN CAHILL

Step into the world between the rain, where shadows hold secrets and everyday items might just be portals to another world! Join Clonakilty author **Susan Cahill**, author of *The World Between the Rain*, for an interactive storytelling adventure exploring portals, emotions, and the power of imagination—what happens when we step into the unknown, and how stories help us understand ourselves. It's the week before Halloween and Marina is about to turn thirteen. She has been sent to live with her mysterious grandmother, Ursula who tells her that that you can enter a strange world between the ever falling rain in the west of Ireland. Marina enters a haunting watery world full of strange creatures, demons and gods. Meanwhile, in our world a strange sleeping sickness has taken over... *Booking is recommended for children and parents/guardians attending this event.*



FRIDAY 18 / 12.00-13.00 / ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL HALL / FREE / AGE: 4-7
THE PRESIDENT BOOK SERIES: PETER DONNELLY

Join the bestselling children's author and illustrator **Peter Donnelly** as he discusses his much-loved *President Book* series. Peter will read two of his books as well as draw some of the characters which appear in his stories. An engaging, colourful and fun event with lots of audience participation. Don't miss Peter's brand new book, *The President's Sticker Activity Book*. *Booking is required only for children attending the event. Accompanying parents and guardians do not need to book a seat.*

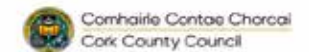


Clockwise from left: E.R. Murray, Susan Cahill and Peter Donnelly



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Sound: **Matt and Darragh Purcell** of Purcell Audio

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The West Cork Literary Festival would like to thank the following for their support and encouragement: the management and staff, Maritime Hotel; Denis Murphy and staff, Bantry Library; Kate Smyth and Marney Smyth Fischer, Bantry Bookshop; Cathal McCarthy of St Finbarr’s Boys School; Danny Crowley of St Goban’s College; Brian Murphy, Principal of St Brendan’s School; Brigitte, Julie and Sam Shelswell-White, Bantry House; Diarmaid Murphy, Marino Church; Maria Collard and Matt Keane, Future Forests; Claire Cronin and Sinead Murphy, National Learning Network; 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; Sunoco; The Irish Examiner; Noel O’Mahony; Ma Murphy’s Bar; Elizabeth Goldrick; Marie Guillot; Tessa Gibson; Jenni Debie; Alice Barry; Aisling Arundel; Erin Connally;

Paul O’Donoghue; Lia Curtin; Annie McCarthy; Kate Whalley; Joan O’Donovan; George Plant; Bernie Wallace; Ian McDonagh and all in the Cork County Council Arts Office; Emer O’Brien and all in the Cork County Library and Arts Service; and all of the publicists, agents and personal assistants who assisted us in putting together the programme.

Thank you to Bernadette Cotter for permission to reproduce her painting ‘ASCENT’ on the cover of this brochure.

Thank you and welcome to our Festival Friends: Ciara Banks, Elma Buckley; Eda Colbert; Madonna Cullinan; Hazel Daniels; Simon Hauxwell; Carol Kelly; Colm Kelly; Fidelma Kelly; Michelle Mangan; Deirdre Murphy; Sarah Raven; Mary Ann Sheehy; Leah Stetson; Deirdre Waldron and Ann Yellowlees

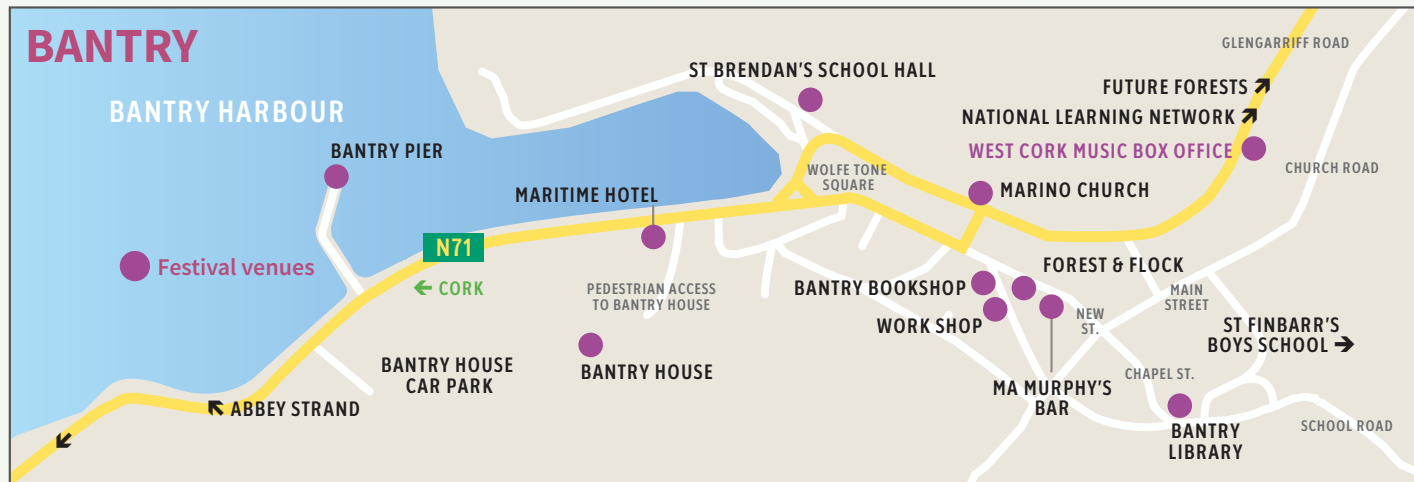
We would like to thank all of the writers, tutors and introducers who will join us this year and all of the writers who weren’t able to make it (we’ll ask you again!)

A special thanks to the Festival volunteers who give their time and energy to the Festival each year

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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.

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 West Cork Literary Festival

| Workshop | € | Qty | Total |
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| Monday 14 to Wednesday 16 | | | |
| Nature with Polly Atkin | €230 | | |
| Wednesday 16 to Friday 18 | | | |
| Novel with Paul McVeigh | €230 | | |
| Short Story with Ross Raisin | €230 | | |
| Poetry with Ruth Padel | €230 | | |
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| JULY | EVENT | € | Qty | Total | JULY | EVENT | € | Qty | Total |
|--------|---------------------------------------|------|-----|-------|---|---------------------------------------|------|-----|-------|
| Fri 11 | Doire: C. Hennessy & J. Horgan | 12 | | | Mon 14 | grapevine | 15 | | |
| Fri 11 | Spot the Translation: Katy Derbyshire | 12 | | | Mon 14 | Neil Jordan | 25 | | |
| Fri 11 | Salena Godden | 16 | | | Tues 15 | Will Sliney | 12 | | |
| Fri 11 | Alan Hollinghurst | 20 | | | Tues 15 | Doomsday Club: Kevin Moran | Free | | |
| Sat 12 | Dani Robertson | 15 | | | Tues 15 | CUP 100: Coastal Atlas of Ireland | 18 | | |
| Sat 12 | Jenny Peckles : Paul Delaney | Free | | | Tues 15 | IWC: Creative Writing Seminar | 7 | | |
| Sat 12 | Wake of the Whale | 25 | | | Tues 15 | Sarah Maria Griffin & Rose Keating | 16 | | |
| Sat 12 | Historical Walking Tour | Free | | | Tues 15 | Carol Drinkwater | 20 | | |
| Sat 12 | Braids Take A Day: Zainab Boladale | Free | | | Wed 16 | Katherine May | 12 | | |
| Sat 12 | Ferdia Lennon & Colin Walsh | 16 | | | Wed 16 | Story Detectives with E.R. Murray | Free | | |
| Sat 12 | Richard E. Grant | 35 | | | Wed 16 | Maurice J Casey & Michel Krielaars | 18 | | |
| Sun 13 | Maria Barnas & Keith Payne | 12 | | | Wed 16 | IWC: Out on the Page | Free | | |
| Sun 13 | IWC: Island of Many Nations | Free | | | Wed 16 | Eimear McBride | 20 | | |
| Sun 13 | Milly McCarthy: Leona Forde | Free | | | Thur 17 | Polly Atkin | 12 | | |
| Sun 13 | John Creedon | 18 | | | Thur 17 | Tiffany Murray | 18 | | |
| Sun 13 | W/w: Performance by Sarah Long | 10 | | | Thur 17 | World Between the Rain: Susan Cahill | Free | | |
| Sun 13 | CBI: Writing for Children & Teenagers | 20 | | | Thur 17 | Seán Ronayne | €20 | | |
| Sun 13 | Somerville & Ross: Claire Connolly | 18 | | | Thur 17 | Picador: Hegarty / Moss / O'Hare | €16 | | |
| Sun 13 | Gallery:Groarke / French / Mac Aodha | 16 | | | Thur 17 | Nothing Compares to You | €20 | | |
| Sun 13 | Mona Arshi & Oluwaseun Olayiwola | 16 | | | Fri 18 | Barbara Leahy | €12 | | |
| Sun 13 | Caolinn Hughes & Claire Kilroy | 20 | | | Fri 18 | President Book Series: Peter Donnelly | Free | | |
| Mon 14 | Katie Goh | 12 | | | Fri 18 | Lisa Harding & Wendy Erskine | €18 | | |
| Mon 14 | Letters to a Monster: Patricia Forde | Free | | | Fri 18 | Thomas McCarthy & Ruth Padel | €16 | | |
| Mon 14 | IWC: Zine workshop with Annie Mar | 5 | | | Fri 18 | Graham Norton | €35 | | |
| Mon 14 | Rainbow Library: Lore Zine workshop | Free | | | Book 5+ separate events & get 10% discount* | | | | |
| Mon 14 | Balsam Karam | 18 | | | *Excludes 3-day workshops & free events | | | | |
| Mon 14 | Performance is a Verb: Alice Barry | 15 | | | Sub Total | | | | €5.00 |
| Mon 14 | Seán Farrell & Quynh Tran | 16 | | | Booking Fee | | | | |
| | | | | | GRAND TOTAL | | | | |





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