
NOTICE GIVEN

THAT THE BEAUTIFUL CO. KERRY TOWN OF

LISTOWEL.

WILL PLAY HOST TO THE

53RD ANNUAL WRITERS' WEEK



COMMENCING ON

WED. 31ST MAY 2023

&! RUNNING UNTIL

SUN. 4TH JUNE 2023



EVENTS & WORKSHOPS FOR ALL WITH MANY

POETS! NOVELISTS! SINGERS! HISTORIANS! & OTHERS!

INCLUDING

Paul Brady, Liz Nugent, Stephen Rea, Louise Kennedy, Richard Ford, Yan Ge, Paul Muldoon, Tess Gunty, Wendy Erskine, Nick Laird, Victoria Kennefick, Claire Kilroy, & *MANY MORE*, giving you more than enough reason to come &

VISIT

LISTOWEL





WELCOME

When I arrived in Listowel in January, I fell in love with the town immediately. The first thing I did was a deep dive into the ethos on which Writers' Week was founded.

Celebrating acclaimed writers while also encouraging new voices has been central to what I've done for most of my adult life, so it has been a privilege to attempt to do this on a much bigger stage than I am used to.

I hope that there is something for readers of all kinds in the 2023 programme: we have best-selling novelists, Pulitzer and Oscar winners and also platforms for those who are taking their first steps into the world of writing. I look forward to seeing lots of people in Listowel for this year's Writers' Week.

Stephen Connolly, Festival Curator

BOOKING INFORMATION

To book tickets for events and places in workshops, use our Ticketsolve site at writersweek.ticketsolve.com. It can also be accessed via our website at writersweek.ie.

Alternatively, use your phone camera to scan the QR codes below for events (left) and workshops (right)



CONTENTS

Opening Night	p.3
Workshops	p.4
Visual Art Exhibition	p.6
Tours	p.6
Lunch Poems	p.7
Book Launches	p.8
Ticketed Events	p.9
Funders & Sponsors	p.24

Listowel Writers' Week Team 2023

Festival Manager

Simone Langemann

Festival Admin

Paula Hand

Volunteer Coordinator

Katelyn Foley

Festival Curator

Stephen Connolly



OPENING NIGHT

**AWARDS &
ENTERTAINMENT**



**LISTOWEL WRITERS' WEEK
OPENING NIGHT AWARDS CEREMONY
HOSTED BY ELIZABETH DUNN**
Wednesday 31 May | 8pm | FREE
Listowel Arms Hotel

The Opening Night Awards Ceremony at Listowel Writers' Week will see the presentation of some of the most prestigious awards and prizes in Irish writing, including the Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year Award, which carries a €20,000 prize for the winner, the Pigott Poetry Prize, which carries a €12,000 prize for the winner.

The John B. Keane Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to Stephen Rea in recognition of his work in theatre and film, with a particular emphasis on his work with Field Day Theatre Company.

Other prizes announced on the night include the Bryan MacMahon Short Story Award, The Collection of Poetry Award, Creative Writing for Adults with a Learning Difficulty/Disability, Duais Foras na Gaeilge, Nilsson Local Heritage Award and the Writing in Prisons Award.

Music will be provided by the acclaimed singer-songwriter Jack O'Rourke, who wrote Opera on the Top Floor about Listowel native Michael O'Connor.

Opening Night is a chance to don your glad rags and begin the festival with some glitter and sparkle.

Doors open at 7pm.

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**DIALOGUE IN FICTION
WITH SUSANNAH DICKEY**

Thursday 1 June & Friday 2 June
10am-12:30pm | €160
Listowel Family Resource Centre

In this two-day workshop you will look at providing exposition through dialogue in a subtle way, learn how to make your characters distinctive through their speaking styles, and think about how humour in dialogue can supplement and strengthen tragic or serious fiction.

Susannah Dickey is a novelist and poet based in London. Her first novel, *Tennis Lessons*, was published by DoubleDay/Penguin Random House in 2020 and was followed by *Common Decency* in 2022. Her first collection of poems, *Isdal*, will be published by Picador in 2023.



**THE GROUP: AN ADVANCED POETRY
WORKSHOP WITH STEPHEN SEXTON**

Thursday 1 June & Friday 2 June
10am-12:30pm | €160
Listowel Family Resource Centre

In this two-session workshop, poets will receive feedback on their writing in a discussion led by Stephen Sexton, author of *Cheryl's Destinies* and *If All the World and Love Were Young*.

He has won the Rooney Prize, the Forward Prize for Best First Collection, the UK National Poetry Competition and is a Lecturer in the Seamus Heaney Centre.

This workshop is aimed at writers who have experience writing poems.



**FICTION WORKSHOP
WITH WENDY ERSKINE**

Friday 2 June & Saturday 3 June
10am-12:30pm | €160
Listowel Family Resource Centre

Join Wendy Erskine, author of *Dance Move* and *Sweet Home* for a two-day workshop looking at the short story.



**WISHING FOR THE CLOTHS OF HEAVEN:
POETRY WORKSHOP WITH TESS TAYLOR**

Thursday 1 June & Friday 2 June
10am-12:30pm | €160
Listowel Family Resource Centre

Join noted American poet Tess Taylor, author of five collections including *Rift Zone* and *Last West*, for a two-day workshop on how poems begin. No experience is necessary.



**INTONATION, INTERPRETATION,
INFLECTION: WITH SEAMUS O'HARA
AND MARY-ELLEN O'HARA**

Friday 2 June | €80
10am-12:30pm
Listowel Arms Hotel

In this workshop you will explore the meeting point between the rhythms of speech and the written word using poems from *The Translations of Seamus Heaney*

as a starting point, you will learn how to match the meaning of the words with your own vocal style to produce a natural tone to moving effect.

Seamus O'Hara is an actor who played Turlough in the 2023 Academy Award-winning short film *An Irish Goodbye*. Mary-Ellen O'Hara is a casting director who has worked on many production for television and film, including *Derry Girls*.



**WRITING FOR THE SCREEN
WITH NATHANIEL JOSEPH MCAULEY**

Thursday 1 June & Friday 2 June
10am-12:30pm | €160

Listowel Family Resource Centre

Here you will familiarise yourself with industry-standard formatting, planning, pitching and writing the important first few pages. You will learn the skills required for pitching your work to industry professionals.



**ONE, FOUR, FIVE: WRITING SONGS
WITH FIACHRA MCKEEVER**

Friday 2 June & Saturday 3 June
10am-12:30pm | €50

Flanagan's

Join Fiachra McKeever in Flanagan's pub to think about three chords and a melody. This is a workshop for beginners, but knowing how to play G, C and D on a guitar or piano would be beneficial.



**CHILDREN'S WRITING MASTERCLASS
WITH SARAH MOORE FITZGERALD**

Saturday 3 June & Sunday 4 June
10am-12:30pm | €160

*Listowel Family Resource Centre
and Listowel Arms Hotel*

This two-day masterclass will outline key approaches to consider when writing fiction for children and young adults. We'll explore strategies for starting, progressing, finishing and pitching a children's/YA novel. The workshop will incorporate exercises, writing prompts and discussion that will help you to make real progress on your writing while enhancing your creative focus and confidence.

Sarah Moore Fitzgerald is an award-winning teacher, researcher, novelist and Professor at the University of Limerick.



**POETRY AS COMMEMORATION:
AN INTERGENERATIONAL WORKSHOP
WITH LUKE MORGAN**

Saturday 27 May & Saturday 3 June
10am-12:30pm | FREE

Kerry Writers' Museum

Poetry as Commemoration is a project based at University College Dublin and looks at the legacy of the War of Independence and the Civil War.

By using archival source materials as the basis for discussion, Luke Morgan will guide a workshop group of young people and older people. This intergenerational approach looks at issues of legacy, the past, future and present and reminds us that we are all part of what Yeats called 'the living stream'.



**DREAMING IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE:
WRITING SONGS WITH ARBORIST**

Thursday 1 June & Friday 2 June
10am-12:30pm | €160

Listowel Family Resource Centre

Open to all levels of experience, this is a two-day workshop with Northern Ireland Music Prize-winning musician Mark McCambridge (ARBORIST) on composition and song-writing.

Having recorded and written with artists such as Kim Deal (Pixies, The Breeders), Matthew E White (Domino Records) and Colm Mac Con Iomaire (The Frames), Mark will be delving into classic song structure—what makes a song a song?—how to spark creativity, and the recording processes and techniques involved in getting your song out into the world.



**THE UNCOLLECTED POSTERS
OF MICHAEL O'CONNOR**
Wednesday 31- June 4
Mike the Pies

Michael O'Connor was a collector. At some point he sent a letter to a film production company asking if they would send him a poster for their latest film. When they did, it started a collection of graphic art that is now of major international significance.

In 1989, he donated almost 3000 original posters from various cultural institutions to the Limerick City Gallery of Art. They have become a permanent collection.

For the first time, you can see a selection of the posters he decided to keep. These rare and beautiful pieces of graphic art offer an oblique glimpse of the life of a fine artist in his own right who lived in the heart of Listowel.

TOURS

**WALKING TOUR
WITH JIMMY DEENIHAN**
Friday 2 June | 10am | FREE
Meet at Kerry Writers' Museum

What Jimmy Deenihan doesn't know about Listowel isn't worth knowing, so join him on this walk around the town and find out everything you could hope to find out about its storied literary history.

**WALKING TOUR
WITH MARY COGAN**
Saturday 3 June | 10am | FREE
Meet at Kerry Writers' Museum

Mary Cogan will delight, surprise and entertain with stories of Listowel old and new: we've been told that you should expect the unexpected.

**KERRY WRITERS' MUSEUM
GUIDED TOUR**
Saturday 3 June | 11:30am
Kerry Writers' Museum

Learn about the literary history of Listowel and Kerry in the beautiful Writers' Museum: find out about John B. Keane, Brendan Kennelly, Maureen Beasley, the Listowel Drama Group and much more. Please book directly through the Writers' Museum.

WRITERS' WEEK PARKRUN
Saturday 3 June | 9:30am | FREE
Listowel Park

Parkrun is a free, weekly timed 5k run hosted in public spaces. Festival Curator Stephen Connolly holds the men's course record in Listowel: can you beat it? A perfect way to start the day before Michael Crawley's running-themed event a little later. Bring your barcode!

LUNCH POEMS

LUNCH POEMS, IN ASSOCIATION WITH POETRY IRELAND

Thursday 1-Saturday 3 | 1pm | Free
The Square

Thursday: William Keohane & Jessica McKinney, introduced by Seán Hewitt

Friday: Simon Costello & Sacha White, introduced by Victoria Kennefick

Saturday: Dean Browne & Michael Dooley, introduced by Stephen Sexton

The idea is simple: bring together two emerging poets who have been making a name for themselves over the last few years and get a near-contemporary to say a few words about them.

These short, informal readings will bring some of the most interesting younger poets working in Ireland right now into the heart of Listowel. And we're even going to give you, the audience, some lunch.



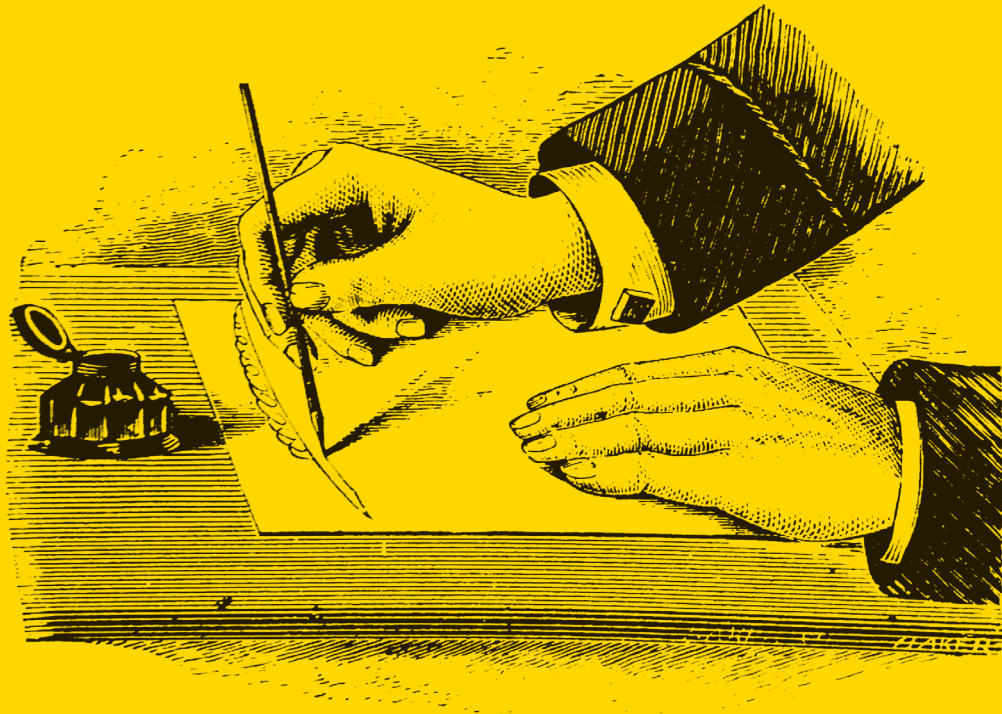
The six chosen writers come from all corners of the island: William Keohane and Michael Dooley from Limerick, Jessica McKinney from Donegal, Simon Costello from Offaly, Sacha White from Fermanagh and Dean Brown from Cork.

Their work will be familiar to poetry readers, but this will be the first time that most of them have appeared at Listowel.

A short pamphlet of the poets' work will accompany these readings, in a nod to the City Lights Poet Pockets Series, which included *Lunch Poems* by Frank O'Hara.

A light lunch will be provided by the team at Dough Mamma Wood-fired Pizza, a new pizzeria with some of the best pizza and pasta you're likely to find this side of Naples.

BOOK LAUNCHES



THE GIRL WITH SPECIAL KNEES
BY ELEANOR O'KELLY-LYNCH
Thursday 1 June | 12pm | FREE
Listowel Library

A novel about a family in trouble: a sister who feels invisible and a child who just wants out. One day, a doll arrives in the post as a birthday gift and something magical happens...

WHAT ANNA DID NEXT
BY DENISE BRASSIL
Thursday 1 June | 3pm | FREE
Listowel Library

What Anna Did Next is a contemporary romance novel with a lot of humour. Started in 1999 as a co-written book with Martha Brassil, it was completed in her memory after she passed away in 2018.

BOOK REVIEWS, VOL. 2
BY J. ANTHONY GAUGHAN
Friday 2 June | 12pm | FREE
Kerry Writers' Museum

Reviews of works by distinguished biographers, historians, philosophers and writers by The Very Rev. Dr. J. Anthony Gaughan.

THE SIX MARYS
BY JEAN FARRELL
Thursday 1 June | 3pm | FREE
Listowel Library

Jean Farrell returns to Writers' Week with the book-length version of her one-woman show about the lives of six girls called Mary over six decades. Come hear about each of the Marys and the ways in which their lives intertwined.

MOUNTAIN NOTES: A NATURE DIARY
BY MAGGIE DOYLE
Friday 2 June | 11am | FREE
Listowel Library

Mountain Notes is based on the diary Maggie kept during 2020. It documents events on her family farm where she and her husband had returned to live with plans to run a small music club, and what followed when the pandemic began.

A KERRY ODYSSEY
BY MARTIN MOORE
Friday 2 June | 2pm | FREE
Listowel Library

Martin Moore explores the fascinating history of the ANZACS and their Kerry connections, with almost three hundred Kerymen fighting for them in World War One. The book will be launched by the New Zealand Ambassador.



SEÁN HEWITT & ALICE KINSELLA
Thursday 1 June | 2pm | €10
The Plaza

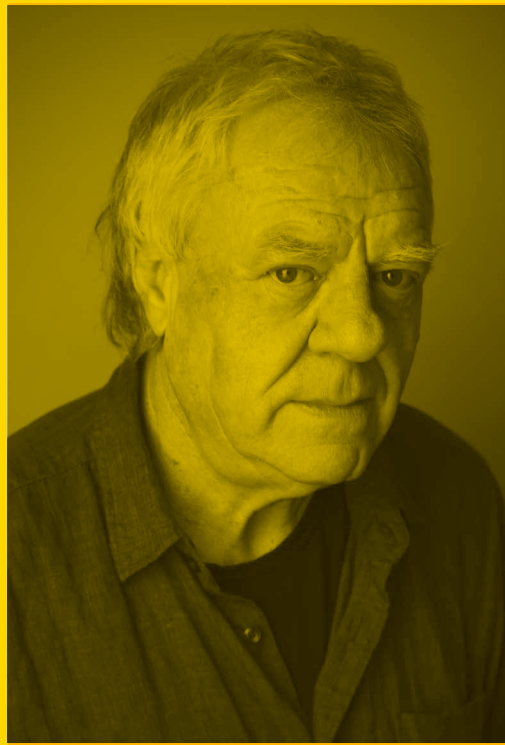
Seán Hewitt's debut memoir *All Down Darkness Wide* is an unflinching meditation on the burden of living in a world that too often sets happiness and queer life at odds, and a tender portrayal of what it's like to be caught in the undertow of a loved one's suffering. By turns devastating and soaring, it is a mesmerising story of heartache and renewal, and a work of rare and transcendent beauty.

The Observer described *All Down Darkness Wide* as 'a remarkable memoir of love and sorrow.'



Alice Kinsella's first book of non-fiction *Milk: On Motherhood and Madness* is set against the backdrop of a seemingly changed Ireland and in it she draws for us her own map of motherhood, a crucial reflection spanning nine months of pregnancy and the first nine months of her child's life. Intimate, warm, startlingly vivid and gentle, this is at once a delicate reflection on a moment of gigantic change in body and mind and a powerful, often painful confrontation of the politics of a country so deeply unsure about its women.

Joseph O'Connor described *Milk* as 'a radiant, meditative, truly powerful and beautiful book.'



FERGUS CRONIN & NITHY KASA
IN ASSOCIATION WITH DOIRE PRESS
Thursday 1 June | 3:15pm | €8
Listowel Arms Hotel

Night Music is the highly-anticipated debut short story collection from Fergus Cronin. In the wilds of Connemara, a lone cowboy exacts a terrible revenge; an abused brother and sister settle scores with their 'ol' unkie'; a grieving man steers his river-craft towards a shocking reckoning. In these tense, by turns troubling and uplifting stories, Fergus Cronin reveals the savagery, the tenderness and the humour that is at the heart of human nature. Richard Ford said that it is 'a stirring, artful and ultimately beautiful suite of stories. Cronin has an instinct for the dire in lived life, and uses the story form as his instrument to uncommon and unforgettable effect.'



Palm Wine Tapper and The Boy at Jericho is Nithy Kasa's debut collection of poetry. It is the diary of a woman's journey from the nature-rich countryside and the red-sanded desert to the Lego-like city. Written in the narrative folklore genre of her native culture, it sketches the passage from a child's world, mystifying and exploratory, to the inner complexities of womanhood.

Fiona Bolger said that 'Kasa's poetry is the jazz, the jive, the joy of her life while never denying the sadness and pain of growing up far from family. Her experience is crafted into original and fresh poetry. If you'd like to see where Irish poetry could be headed this is a good place to start.'



SUSANNAH DICKEY & KARL GEARY
Thursday 1 June | 4:30pm | €12
The Plaza

Susannah Dickey's *Common Decency* is a darkly powerful novel about two lives running closely in parallel but divided by gulfs of misunderstanding. With boundless wisdom and deep empathy, Dickey charts the anonymity and hidden intimacies of modern existence, and our profound human need to connect.

Jan Carson said that 'Susannah Dickey has an uncanny ability to get right to the dark heart of her characters, blending acidic observation with a generous side of kindness. *Common Decency* is sharp as tacks, extremely funny and deeply moving. This novel is very good company.'



Set during the political and social unrest of the 1980s, as families struggled to survive and their children struggled to be free, Karl Geary's *Juno Loves Legs* is a beautiful, vivid novel of childhood friendship; about being young, being hurt, being seen and, most of all, being loved.

Juno has loved Legs since their first encounter at school in Dublin, where she fought the playground bullies for him. He feels brave with her, she feels safe with him, and together they feel invincible, even if the world has other ideas.

Douglas Stuart, author of *Shuggie Bain*, said '*Juno Loves Legs* broke my heart. I never wanted it to end.'



BAD BRIDGET: CRIME, MAYHEM AND THE LIVES OF IRISH EMIGRANT WOMEN
Thursday 1 June | 6pm | €15
Listowel Courthouse

Bad Bridget: Crime, Mayhem and the Lives of Irish Emigrant Women is a masterpiece of social history and true crime, showing us a fascinating and previously unexplored world.

Elaine Farrell and Leanne McCormick, creators of the celebrated 'Bad Bridget' podcast, have unearthed a world in which Irish women actually outnumbered Irish men in prison, in which you could get locked up for 'stubbornness', and in which a serial killer called Lizzie Halliday was described by the New York Times as 'the worst woman on earth'. They reveal the social forces that bred this mayhem and dysfunction, through stories that are brilliantly strange, sometimes funny,

and often moving. From sex workers and thieves to kidnappers and killers, these Bridgets are young women who have gone from the frying pan of their impoverished homeland to the fire of vast North American cities.

Ireland in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was not a good place to be a woman. Among the wave of emigrants from Ireland to North America were many young women who travelled on their own, hoping for a better life. Some lived lives of quiet industry and piety. Others quickly found themselves in trouble—bad trouble, and on an astonishing scale.

Join the authors in the historic setting of the still-working Listowel Courthouse as they discuss their captivating work of social history.



**A POETRY READING WITH
MOLLY TWOMEY & CIARA NÍ É**
Thursday 1 June | 6pm | €8
Listowel Arms Hotel

In *Raised Among Vultures*, Molly Twomey's spectacular debut seemingly nonchalant expressions of hard experience meld with vivid imaginings. Excited hearts are 'bumper cars', a Coke is 'a huge cup of starless sky' and a radish is 'a red grenade'.

Ciara Ní É is a bilingual poet, educator and television presenter. She is at the forefront of a renaissance of spoken word poetry in Irish and is the founder and host of REIC, a series of events that showcases new work as Gaeilge alongside writing in English and in other languages. Her work has featured across many platforms and she is a contributor to *Queering the Green: post-2000 Queer Irish Poetry*.





THE TRANSLATIONS OF SEAMUS HEANEY, FEATURING STEPHEN REA, NEIL MARTIN, CIARA NÍ É, STEPHEN SEXTON, SEÁN HEWITT, SEAMUS O'HARA & VICTORIA KENNEFICK

Thursday 1 June | 8pm | €20

Listowel Arms Hotel

Irish theatre icon Stephen Rea and cellist Neil Martin top the bill at this gala reading from *The Translations of Seamus Heaney*,

a landmark new volume edited by Marco Sonzogni. Seamus Heaney translated works from a variety of languages, and this event will feature his work from Irish, Latin and Greek poems and plays, among other works.

A special limited edition print will be produced featuring a poem in Irish with Seamus Heaney's English translation and will be given to all audience members.



MINIMAL HUMAN CONTACT

Thursday 1 June | LATE | €15

Mike the Pies

Le Naoise Ó Cairealláin, rapálaí duaisiúil leis an mhógrhrúpa Kneecap. Tochlaíonn ár seó, aon duine, go domhain isteach i saol an chearrbhachais neamhshrianta, le torthaí cartairseacha a nochtadh. Glór úr ó Ghaeltacht uirbeach Iarthar Bhéal Feirste – greanach, dian, agus i nGaeilge!

This one-man show delves deep into the world of compulsive gambling to produce cathartic results. Gritty and intense, this new play as Gaeilge is written by Naoise Ó Cairealláin, award-winning rapper Moglaí Bap from Kneecap. It showcases the cutting-edge of what is happening in writing in Irish today.

Doors open at 9:45pm and the running time is approximately 45 minutes.



**THE SPORTSWRITERS:
EIMEAR RYAN AND REBECCA PERRY
IN CONVERSATION WITH EMMA LARKIN**

Friday 2 June | 11:30am | €8

The Plaza

What if the sport that you play has a different name for women than it does for men, despite identical rules? And what if you don't even feel entirely comfortable in an all-female sporting environment because you're shy, bookish, not really one of the girls? In *The Grass Ceiling*, acclaimed novelist and camogie player Eimear Ryan digs deep into the confluence between gender and sport, and all the questions it throws up about identity, status, competition and self-expression. At a time when women's sport is on the rise but still a long way from equality, it is a sharp, nuanced and heartfelt exploration of questions that effect every girl—and boy—in sport.



When Rebecca Perry was growing up, she competed nationally and internationally as a trampolinist. This immersive and compelling book deftly blends memoir and lyrical nonfiction to explore a time she 'chose air over earth' and intensive schedules of practice. From the aerial views of English sports halls and international stadiums, to the texture of a fingernail pressed against silver beads on a leotard, Perry's explorations are immersive, sensuous, funny, traumatic and tender. In *On Trampolining*, Perry weaves arresting tales on pain, expectation, flight and grief in relation to competitive sport, memory and the body.

The conversation will be led by Emma Larkin, author of the Izzy series of sports-themed books for children. It will be introduced by Aisling Darby, a champion junior gymnast who did her work placement with Writers' Week in January.



**NEVER SAY WHATEVER:
RICHARD A. MORAN**

Friday 2 June | 1pm | €12

Listowel Arms Hotel

In *Never Say Whatever*, Richard A. Moran, San Francisco-based writer, business leader and radio host, delivers an important message: 'You should care. You need to care.' Moran wants you to make choices, no matter how small, in order to move

ahead in your career and lead a satisfying life. He cuts to the chase of the wishy-washy mindset that holds careers back and provides the tools you need to reframe seemingly nonessential moments into prime opportunities for moving ahead.

A must-attend event for those with an interest in organisational structure and business strategy.



**INTRIGUING HISTORIES: AMANDA
GEARD & SHEENA WILKINSON**

Friday 2 June | 2pm | €10
The Plaza

A faded photograph. An abandoned house. A wartime secret... *The Moon Gate* is the second novel from the author of the Richard and Judy Book Club pick *The Midnight House*. It is a mesmerising story of love, war, and a mystery that ensnares three stories from three generations, sweeping the reader from London to Tasmania and to Ireland. Perfect for fans of Kate Morton, Lucinda Riley and Eve Chase.

Sinead Moriarty said that she found *The Moon Gate* 'intriguing, moving and [she] loved the way the stories moved back and forth in time.'



Mrs Hart's Marriage Bureau by Sheena Wilkinson is a charming and witty romantic comedy about friendship, loneliness, and the unexpected places where we find fulfilment.

April McVey hasn't a romantic bone in her body. So how has she found herself at the door of Mrs Hart's Marriage Bureau, job application in hand?

Matchmaker Martha hopes the lively Irish girl will breathe fresh air into a business struggling to keep with the times amid the tumult of 1930s Britain. So when lonely widower Fabian arrives at the bureau, the pair's matchmaking skills—and professionalism—meet their first true test.



**BAY VIEWS: A POETRY READING WITH
KIMBERLY REYES & TESS TAYLOR**

Friday 2 June | 3:15pm | €10
Listowel Arms Hotel

Kimberly Reyes is an poet, essayist, popular culture critic, and visual culture scholar who began her career as a music and entertainment reporter. Her latest poetry collection is *vanishing point*, published in 2023 by Omnidawn.



Tess Taylor is a poet, critic and academic who has been a reviewer for The New York Times and NPR, as well as being a contributor to CNN. Her recent poetry collections are *Rift Zone* and *Last West: Road Songs for Dorothea Lange*.

Both poets have been recipients of Fulbright Scholarships and their recent work looks at the San Francisco Bay Area.



ELAINE FEENEY, UNA MANNION & SARAH GILMARTIN

Friday 2 June | 5pm | €15
Listowel Arms Hotel

Join three of the best novelists at work in Ireland today to hear from and about their most recent books, all of which are second novels following highly-praised debut works.

Elaine Feeney's *How to Build a Boat* is about 13-year-old Jamie O'Neill, whose two biggest ambitions are to build a Perpetual Motion Machine and to connect with his mum, Noelle, who died when he was born. With vivid imagery and beautiful prose, Elaine Feeney tells the story of how Jamie's mission transforms the lives of those in his community.



Tell Me What I Am by Una Mannion is about the aftermath of Deena Garvey's disappearance in 2004 and the effect it leaves on her sister and daughter: her daughter grows up in the country while her sister stays stuck in the city. Una Mannion tells the tale of these two women, four hundred miles apart, slowly unearthing the secrets and lies at the heart of their family.



Service by Sarah Gilmartin circles three different stories: the waitress, the chef and the chef's wife. But which one contains the truth? The story of truth coming to light after many years, the elegance of the food, the wild parties after service, and the sizzling tension of the kitchens. This is a novel about the facades that we maintain, the lies that we tell and the courage it takes to face the truth.



**TESS GUNTY & JEAN HANFF KORELITZ
IN CONVERSATION WITH UNA MANNION**
Friday 2 June | 7pm | €15
Listowel Arms Hotel

Join Una Mannion for a conversation with Tess Gunty, winner of the US National Book Award for Fiction in 2022 and author of *The Rabbit Hutch*, and Jean Hanff Korelitz, author of eight novels, most recently *The Latecomer*.

The Rabbit Hutch is a biting funny, razor-sharp debut from Tess Gunty about a motley assortment of residents (an online obituary writer; a young mother with a secret; a woman waging a solo campaign against rodents) in a crumbling apartment block. Separated by the thin walls of The Rabbit Hutch, a low-cost housing complex in the run-down Indiana town of Vacca Vale, these individual lives unfold.



In *The Latecomer*, the most recent novel from Jean Hanff Korelitz, The Oppenheimer triplets have been reared with every advantage: wealth, education, and the determined attention of at least one of their parents. But they have been desperate to escape each other ever since they were born. Now, on the verge of their departure for college and so close to their long-coveted freedom, the triplets are forced to contend with an unexpected

complication: a fourth Oppenheimer sibling has just been born.

What has possessed their parents to make such an unfathomable decision? The triplets can't begin to imagine the power this little latecomer is about to exert—nor just how destructive she'll be to their plans...



**PAUL MULDOON & NICK LAIRD:
A POETRY READING**

Friday 2 June | 8:30pm | €15
Listowel Arms Hotel

Paul Muldoon was recently appointed as Professor of Poetry for Ireland. He is the author of more than a dozen collections of poetry. His accolades include a Pulitzer Prize, the T. S Eliot Prize, and he has been the Oxford Professor of Poetry. The New

York Times said that he is ‘one of the great poets of the past hundred years, who can be everything in his poems—word-playful, lyrical, hilarious, melancholy. And angry. Only Yeats before him could write with such measured fury.’

A recent film, *Laoithe’s Lirici*, about his life and work, and featured contributions from Stephen Rea, Paul Simon, PJ Harvey, Liam Neeson and many others.



Nick Laird was born in County Tyrone in 1975. A poet, novelist, screenwriter, critic and former lawyer, his awards include the Betty Trask Prize, the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature, the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize, the Somerset Maugham Award and a Guggenheim fellowship. For many years he taught at American universities including Columbia, Princeton and NYU and he is currently the Seamus Heaney Professor of Poetry at Queen’s

University, Belfast. His books include *To A Fault* and *On Purpose*. His last collection, *Feel Free*, was shortlisted for the TS Eliot and the Derek Walcott prizes. His poem, ‘Up Late’, was awarded the Forward Prize for Best Single Poem in 2022, and a new collection is forthcoming in June 2023.

His new book, *Up Late*, is published the day before this event at Writers’ Week.



**OUT OF THIN AIR: MICHAEL CRAWLEY
ON ETHIOPIAN RUNNING CULTURE**
Saturday 3 June | 11:30am | €8
The Plaza

Michael Crawley is a writer and international long distance runner who spent time researching elite professional long distance running in Ethiopia. The resulting book, *Out of Thin Air: Running Wisdom and Magic from Above the Clouds*

in Ethiopia, tells the story of his time there. The book is as much about male friendship in the face of adversity as it is about professional sport.

Arguably the greatest distance runner of all time, Haile Gebrselassie, said 'through reading this book you will come to understand that the heart and soul of running are to be found in Ethiopia.'



**ELSEWHERE: YAN GE IN CONVERSATION
WITH LUCY CALDWELL**
Saturday 3 June | 1:45pm | €12
Listowel Arms Hotel

In her highly anticipated English-language debut, Yan Ge explores isolation in nine iridescent, witty and wondrous tales. Both contemporary and ancient, real and surreal, the stories in *Elsewhere* range from China to Dublin to London and Stockholm.

From a group of writers lounging on the edge of a disaster zone to a mandarin ostracised from his old court trying to avoid assassination, these are strange and beguiling stories of dispossession, longing and the diasporic experience.

Yan Ge will be in conversation with Lucy Caldwell, author of *These Days*, who described *Elsewhere* as 'precise, surreal and emotionally devastating.'



THREADS WITH PAUL GALVIN

Saturday 2 June | 3pm | €15

Listowel Arms Hotel

Threads is a fascinating history of Irishmen, woven through the clothes they wear.

Taking the clothes they wore as a starting point, Paul Galvin skilfully weaves together a collection of stories of Irish men who defined the culture and mood of their time.

In 'Push' he tells the story of the legendary Walker Brothers—cyclists and soldiers who pedalled through a storm for Ireland at the 1912 Stockholm Games.

In 'Born Mad', discover another side to Samuel Beckett—sartor and prolific sportsman who had knockout power as a champion boxer in school. In 'Boland' we

learn about Harry Bolland's background as a trained tailor, and in 'Jack' we encounter Jack B. Yeats at the Olympic Games in Paris.

These are just some of men who have inspired Paul's own fashion collections and whom he writes about here in a fascinating collection that shines a light on how history is woven into the clothes Irishmen wear.

Paul Galvin is among the all-time greatest Gaelic football players. As a stalwart of the Kerry inter-county team from 2003 until his retirement in 2014, he won four All-Ireland titles. A qualified teacher, at 30 years old he sought a new challenge as a clothing designer. He has rewritten the language of men's fashion, creating 15 men's collections to date with Dunnes Stores.



LOUISE KENNEDY, MEGAN NOLAN & MICHAEL MAGEE IN CONVERSATION

Saturday 2 June | 4:15pm | €15

The Plaza

Louise Kennedy, author of the acclaimed *Trespasses* and *The End of the World is a Cul de Sac*, will lead a conversation with two emerging stars of Irish writing: Megan Nolan, author of *Acts of Desperation*, and Michael Magee, author of *Close to Home*.

Trespasses by Louise Kennedy was the most-recommended book of 2022 by newspaper critics in Ireland and the UK.

Megan Nolan has been a recipient of a Betty Trask Award and shortlisted for the Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award.

Michael Magee was named as one of The Observer's Best New Novelists for 2023.





**STRANGE SALLY DIAMOND:
LIZ NUGENT IN CONVERSATION
WITH DAVID TORRANS**

Saturday 2 June | 6pm | €15
Listowel Arms Hotel

Strange Sally Diamond is the fifth novel by Liz Nugent. It has consistently topped the Irish fiction charts since its publication in March 2023.

Sally Diamond cannot understand why what she did was so strange. She was only doing what her father told her to do, to put him out with the rubbish when he died.

Now Sally is the centre of attention, not only from the hungry media and worried police, but also a sinister voice from a past she has no memory of. As she begins to discover the horrors of her childhood, recluse Sally steps into the world for the first time, making new friends, finding

independence, and learning that people don't always mean what they say.

But when messages start arriving from a stranger who knows far more about her past than she knows herself, Sally's life will be thrown into chaos once again...

Praise for the book has flooded in: Graham Norton said 'Liz Nugent has outdone herself. Twisted and twisty, dark and gripping, no one is going to forget Sally Diamond in a hurry!' Marian Keyes said she is 'lost in admiration for Liz and her writing: vivid, pacy, taut but so very moving.' Sebastian Barry said 'If Liz Nugent was a clockmaker she'd be Galileo. She is as excellent a writer as anyone living I can think of.'



**CRAZY DREAMS: PAUL BRADY
IN CONVERSATION WITH PAUL MULDOON**

Saturday 2 June | 7:30pm | €15
Listowel Arms Hotel

Crazy Dreams is the compelling and highly-anticipated autobiography from Paul Brady, a musician whose remarkable career has spanned six decades and who is indisputably regarded as one of Ireland's greatest songwriters.

From his early days as a teenager playing in hotel showbands in Donegal, to his ground-breaking work with Andy Irvine and his decades as a songwriter whose work has seen him earn a place as one of Bob Dylan's favourite artists, *Crazy Dreams* is a must-read for anyone with a love of music.

He will be in conversation with Paul Muldoon, who wrote the introduction to the book.



**SHORE LINES: A SEA SWIM WITH
EASKEY BRITTON, TESS TAYLOR
& MANUELA MOSER**

Sunday 4 June | 10:30am | FREE
Ballybunion Beach

Easkey Britton is a writer, surfer and researcher whose recent book *Ebb & Flow* is an exploration of water's power to heal us, inspire us and offer us spiritual meaning.

Tess Taylor is a poet, critic and academic from the San Francisco Bay Area.

Manuela Moser is a poet currently based in Galway, where she is the Director of Cúirt International Festival of Literature.

All three writers are keen sea-swimmers and they will share readings on the beach inspired by the sea: bring your swimming gear and a towel if you want to go for a dip!



**IMPERMANENCE: ESSAYS FROM
THE CENTRE CULTUREL IRLANDAIS**

Sunday 4 June | 12pm | €8
Listowel Arms Hotel

Impermanence is a book of essays on a wide range of subjects by writers who have spent time at the Centre Culturel Irlandais in Paris, a major hub of Irish arts and culture in Europe. Join Neil Hegarty, author of *The Jewel* and *Inch Levels*, one of the



book's editors and a contributor of one of the essays, and Susannah Dickey, author of *Tennis Lessons* and *Common Decency* for a conversation chaired by Emma Warnock, the Editor at No Alibis Press.

Impermanence has been serialised on RTÉ Radio 1 on Sunday evenings since March 2023.



**OUR STARS COME FROM IRELAND:
KERRY & CALIFORNIA CONNECTIONS**

Sunday 4 June | 1:30pm | €8
Listowel Arms Hotel

The poet Wallace Stevens, a major figure in twentieth-century American poetry, wrote a poem addressed to Thomas McGreevy that named places on the coast in North Kerry and highlighted imaginative connections between Ireland and the USA.

In this event, which takes its title from that poem, a panel of festival contributors will discuss their relationship with the two sides of the Atlantic and will seek to find new connections and ways to cement literary allegiances.

Listowel is twinned with the town of Los Gatos in Northern California and we will explore ways of continuing the relationship between these two areas.



**BE MINE: RICHARD FORD
IN CONVERSATION WITH SEAN CARLSON**
Sunday 4 June | 3pm | €20
Listowel Arms Hotel

Join Richard Ford (author of *The Sportswriter* and *Independence Day* (Winner of the 1996 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction) for a reading and conversation with Sean Carlson on the occasion of the publication of his new novel *Be Mine*.

Be Mine is the final installment in the internationally-acclaimed Frank Bascombe series. Over the course of four celebrated works of fiction and almost forty years, Richard Ford has crafted an ambitious, incisive, and singular view of American life as lived. Unconstrained, astute, provocative, often laugh-out-loud funny, Frank Bascombe is once more our guide to the great American midway.



**A POETRY READING WITH JOEY
CONNOLLY & VICTORIA KENNEFICK**
Sunday 4 June | 4:30pm | €8
Listowel Arms Hotel

Joey Connolly's funny and feverish second collection, *The Recycling*, considers dissolution and aftermath. Poems experiment with forms and histories, grieving for estrangement and heartbreak, haunted by climate anxiety.



Victoria Kennefick's daring first book, *Eat or We Both Starve*, draws readers into seemingly recognisable set-pieces —the family home, the shared meal, the rituals of historical occasions, desire—but Kennefick forges this material into new shapes, making them viable again for exploring what it is to live with the past—and not to be consumed by it.



**TWIN POWER: THE LOST CUP
GAA, HISTORY & A MYSTERY
WITH EMMA LARKIN**
Sunday 4 June | 4:30pm | FREE
Kerry Writers' Museum

'The Lost Cup? You don't want to know about that.' Aidan has been thwarted at every turn, in his efforts to find out where the mysterious lost cup is hidden, or if it even really exists. A year after the escapades of Gaelic football-mad twins, Aoife and Aidan Power, along with their four best friends in *Twin Power: Throw In*, the Droichead Beag gang are back! Can Aoife and Aidan solve this mystery, reunite their gang of friends and return to having fun on the football field?

A perfect Sunday afternoon for all the family: footballers and non-footballers alike.



CLAIRE KILROY & LUCY CALDWELL
Sunday 3 June | 6pm | €12
Listowel Arms Hotel

In *Soldier Sailor*, 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 emotions of a new mother, as her marriage strains and she struggles with love, autonomy and creativity.



In *These Days*, Lucy Caldwell's most recent novel, the lives of sisters Emma and Audrey—one engaged to be married, the other in a secret relationship with another woman—as they try to survive the horrors of the four nights of bombing which were the Belfast Blitz, *These Days* is a timeless and heart-breaking novel about living under duress, about family, and about how we try to stay true to ourselves.

LATE

**KEVINS IN KEVIN'S:
THE FIRST ANNUAL GATHERING
OF KEVINS (IN KEVIN'S)**
Friday 2 June | LATE | FREE
Kevin's

Irish letters, nay Irish culture in general, is replete with talented Kevins: Kevin Barry, Kevin Breathnach, Kevin Power, Kevin Curran, The Surrealist Poet Kevin Bateman, Saint Kevin of Glendalough.

POETRY CORNER IN CHRISTY'S
Friday 2 June/Saturday 3 June | LATE | FREE
Christy's

Come one, come all, read a verse great or small. All are welcome in the back room of Christy's to read a poem or recite a verse. Sign up at the start of each night to gain your place: readings will continue until no readers are left.

MAUREEN BEASLEY POETRY CORNER
Sunday 4 June | 8pm | FREE
Kerry Writers' Museum

The traditional closing event at Writers' Week. Poets are encouraged to read a poem of their own and a prize will be awarded to the adjudicator's favourite performance of the evening.

Meet in Kevin's Pub after the poetry reading with Paul Muldoon and Nick Laird where anyone by the name of Kevin will be welcomed to take the microphone and read, sing or perform anything they like.

This is the first annual Omnium Gatherum of Kevins, in what could be the start of a rich tradition of readings and an important date in the calendar for Kevins everywhere.

THE SESSION IN FLANAGAN'S
Sunday 4 June | LATE | FREE
Flanagan's

Every Sunday a group of singers and musicians happen upon Flanagan's pub for a session that's at once planned and impromptu. Everyone is made to feel welcome, and everyone is encouraged to do a turn.



We would like to gratefully acknowledge funding, sponsorship and other forms of partnership from the following organisations, statutory bodies, businesses and families; without their support the festival would not be possible:



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,
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We gratefully acknowledge the patronage of the following people and thank them for their generous support:

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