

SINCE  1971

Writers' Week

Listowel

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME 2026

27th - 31st May, 2026

www.writersweek.ie



a writer's workshop in
the home of Irish writing

THE CASE FOR
THE TREATY
ALFRED O'RAHILLY

The Florentine
Brendan Kennelly

Donerail
J. Anthony Gaughan

The second Donerail
is a comprehensive study
of the town, its history
and its surroundings.

CUP

While Rivers
Run

Jack O'Moora and
King of Ireland's Son
BY BRYAN MACMAHON
Illustrated by RICHARD BENNETT

A Strange Woman's
Daughter
MAURICE

Brendan of Ireland
SUGGESTED BY AND ILLUSTRATED BY BRYAN MACMAHON

HIGHEST HOUSE
ON THE MOUNTAIN
JOHN B. KEANE

HUT
42
by
John B. Keane
General Editor - Robert Hogan

STRONG TEA
by John B. Keane

PICTURES
IN THE
IRISH NATIONAL GALLERY
THOMAS MACGREGVY

THE FAMILY
AT BETHAN
ALFRED O'RAHILLY

POEMS
MURIEL GILVIN

Gift of Ink
by Tim Danaher

SPLENDID
PRESENCE
S. WILMOT

GOSPEL
MEDITATIONS

the Lion-tamer
and other stories
THOMAS MACGREGVY

MISE M
SEAMUS WID

Howl Called Listowel
JOHN B. KEANE

DANTA GRADHA
AN ANTHOLOGY OF IRISH LOVE
POETRY (A.D. 1380-1750)
COLLECTED AND EDITED
BY THOMAS F. O'RAHILLY

THE CROOKED
CROSS
BY BRENDA
KENNELL

The
Cobweb's Glory
A COMEDY
IN
THREE ACTS
by
Bryan Michael O'Connor

MONEY
BRYAN

LETTERS OF A
SUCCESSFUL T.D.
JOHN B. KEANE

GEORGE FITZMAURICE
The Crows of
Mephistopheles
and other stories
edited by Robert Hogan

My Dark Fathers
Brendan Kennelly

ART
FELLOW
MAURICE
WALS



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Writers' Week

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WELCOME FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

Happy Anniversary

Fáilte is fiche go Lios Tuathail agus Seachtain na Scríbhneoirí 55.

It is my great honour and privilege to welcome you all to the 55th Anniversary of Listowel Writers' Week.

It's hard to believe we have been in existence for so long and, once again, we doff our caps to our founders who had the vision and courage to take on such an ambitious programme all those years ago.

We acknowledge also the great many Writers' Week officers and members and volunteers who kept the show on the road through good times and difficult times along with the writers and artists who helped us along the way.

What started out as a celebration of the North Kerry writing tradition has grown into the multi-faceted international literary festival of today and I have no doubt that, long after we are gone to our reward, future generations of Listowel men and women will be inventing new ways to attract visitors and writers to our lovely town on the June Bank Holiday Weekend.

Without the support and generosity of our valued sponsors and the town's business community, Writers' Week would not have flourished, and we are very grateful to them all.

So, a dhaoine uaisle, bainigí taitneamh as an fhéile!
Enjoy the programme, enjoy the debates and most of all,
enjoy yourselves at Listowel Writers' Week 55.

Ned O'Sullivan



PLAY IN THREE ACTS BY
JOHN B. KEANE

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Writers' Week

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OFFICIAL OPENING NIGHT OF LISTOWEL WRITERS' WEEK 2026

'Soul clap its hands and sing, and louder sing'
- W.B. Yeats

Miriam O'Callaghan is one of Ireland's foremost broadcasters. Her recent absorbing memoir *Miriam: Life, Work, Everything* was an instant bestseller. She is also loud and proud about her Kerry heritage! Miriam O'Callaghan will officially open the 2026 festival.

Our Masters of Ceremonies for the evening are writers, broadcasters and local legends **Billy Keane** and **Éadaoin O'Connell**.

The presentation of literary prizes honours the finest of contemporary Irish writing with many highlights including *The Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year*, *The Piggott Poetry Prize* and *The John B. Keane Lifetime Achievement Award*.

Popular singer, entertainer and musician **Tommy O'Flaherty** lives in London but has returned to his native Listowel to open the evening with some enchanting songs. You will be welcomed to the Festival with the soulful sounds of **Linda Galvin** and the joyous music of the **Yershov Family**.



Price 5/- net

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JOHN B. KEANE

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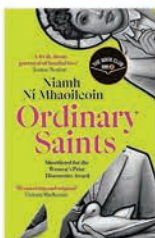
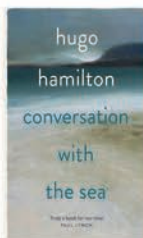
Listowel

LITERARY AWARDS 2026 IRISH NOVEL OF THE YEAR

Kindly Sponsored by KERRY GROUP PLC

KERRY

The adjudicators of this year's award were
Nicola Sturgeon & Andrew O'Hagan.



The Shortlisted Novels are:

- Conversation with the Sea by **Hugo Hamilton**
- The Wardrobe Department by **Elaine Garvey**
- Ordinary Saints by **Niamh Ní Mhaolcoirn**
- The Boy from the Sea by **Garrett Carr**
- Thirst Trap by **Gráinne O'Hare**

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Writers' Week

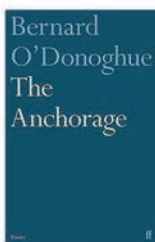
Listowel

LITERARY AWARDS 2026 PIGOTT POETRY PRIZE

Kindly Sponsored by

**Mark Pigott KBE &
The Pigott Family**

The adjudicators of this year's award were
Zaffar Kunial & Isabelle Galleymore



The Shortlisted Poetry Collections are:
After Party by **Dean Browne**
New Arcana by **Jessica Traynor**
The Anchorage by **Bernard O'Donoghue**

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JOHN B. KEANE

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

KINDLY SPONSORED BY XAVIER MCAULIFFE

Colum McCann is the 2026 recipient of the John B. Keane Lifetime Achievement Award for his '*lyrical empathetic voice, revelatory narratives and his commitment to the restorative power of storytelling for young people.*'

Born in Dublin in 1965, McCann began his career as a journalist for The Irish Press. He is the author of eight novels, three collections of short stories and two works of non-fiction. McCann has won several prestigious awards including the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature, the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, the National Book Award for Fiction, a Chevalier des Artes et des Lettres from the French Government and an Oscar. McCann's notable works include *Let the Great World Spin*, *Transatlantic*, *Apeirogon*, *American Mother* and *Twist*. McCann's work has been translated into 40 languages. He currently resides in New York.

McCann is co-founder and president of *Narrative 4*, a global non-profit that uses story exchanges to foster empathy among young people. Narrative 4 now operates in 35 countries.



PLAY IN THREE ACTS BY
JOHN B. KEANE

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Writers' Week

Listowel

Programme at a Glance

WEDNESDAY 27th MAY

Time	Event	Venue	Cost
2.00pm	Sunday Miscellany Live from Listowel Writers' Week	St. John's Theatre	€20
8.00pm	Official Opening of Listowel Writers' Week	Listowel Arms Hotel	Free

THURSDAY 28th MAY

Time	Event	Venue	Cost
10.00am	Historical Walk with Jimmy Deenihan	Departs: Listowel Arms Hotel	Free
10.00am	Miriam O'Callaghan meets Eadein O'Connell	Listowel Arms Hotel	€20
10.00am	Enjoy a morning of stories, songs & laughter with Frances Kennedy	Lizzy's Little Kitchen	Free
11.00am	Exhibition Opening - Michael Flaherty Coast	St. John's Theatre	Free
11.00am	Exploring History & Politics with Dr Owen O'Shea	Kerry Writers' Museum	€15
11.30am	Winners' Readings	Listowel Arms Hotel	Free
12noon	Book Launch - Dermot L Martyn	Kerry Writers' Museum	Free
12.30pm	Windows of Wonder Museum Tour	Kerry Writers' Museum	€10
1.00pm	John B. Keane Lecture with Christian O'Reilly	St. John's Theatre	€15
2.00pm	Colm Tóibín in conversation with Cathy Galvin	Listowel Arms Hotel	€20
3.00pm	Rud in Easnamh le Dic Walsh	St. John's Theatre	Free
3.30pm	Poetry Pharmacy with Enda Wyley	The Kilmorna Collection	€10
4.30pm	An Afternoon with Nicola Sturgeon		
	in conversation with Andrew O'Hagan	Listowel Arms Hotel	€20
6.00pm	Poetry Trio: Zafar Kunial, Cathy Galvin and Victoria Kennefick	St. John's Theatre	€15
6.00pm	Joe Philpott talks to Billy Keane	John B. Keane's Bar	Free
6.30pm	Andrew O'Hagan & Brian Dillon	Listowel Arms Hotel	€20
7.30pm	A Troubadour's Dramatic Tour through the streets of Listowel led by Paddy McElligott	Departs: Listowel Arms Hotel	Free
8.00pm	An Evening with Merlin Holland & Colm Tóibín	Listowel Arms Hotel	€20
8.00pm	Evening Theatre - Am I Irish Yet with Kate Kerrigan	St. John's Theatre	€20
8.00pm	The Rambling House	Kerry Writers' Museum	Free
9.00pm	Mike Joyce of the Smiths talks The Drums with Paul McAloon	Mike The Pies	€30
9.30pm	Words & Music with Colum McCann & Colm Mac Con Iomaire	Listowel Arms Hotel	€20
9.30pm	Poet's Corner	Christy's Bar	Free



FRIDAY 29th MAY

Time	Event	Venue	Cost
10.00am	Morning Walk with Vincent Carmody	Departs: Listowel Arms Hotel	Free
10.00am	Enjoy a morning of stories, songs & laughter with Frances Kennedy	Lizzy's Little Kitchen	Free
11.00am	Catriona Crowe & Diarmaid Ferriter - Live Podcast	Listowel Arms Hotel	€15
11.00am	Ciorcal Cómhra le Áine Ní Ghlinn	St. John's Theatre	Free
11.00am	Art Exhibition: Henry Morgan - What The Light Holds	Kerry Writers' Museum	Free
12noon	Book Launch - Barbara Byar	Listowel Library	Free
12noon	Tom Hubbard - The Seamus Heaney Lecture	The Plaza Centre	€15
12.30pm	Windows of Wonder Museum Tour	Kerry Writers' Museum	€10
1.00pm	Lunchtime Theatre - The Man in the Woman's Shoes	St. John's Theatre	€20
1.00pm	Debut Duo, Neil Tully & Dara Waldron with Niall MacMonagle	Listowel Arms Hotel	€10
1.30pm	Poetry on the Bawn with John McGrath	Outside Kerry Writers' Museum	Free
2.30pm	John O'Donnell with Niall MacMonagle	The Plaza Centre	€15
3.00pm	Presenting Mr Hoo & Other Stories		
	Edel Coffey & Charleen Hurtbuiise with Katriona O'Sullivan	Listowel Arms Hotel	€15
3.30pm	Poetry Pharmacy with Enda Wyley	The Kilmorna Collection	€10
4.00pm	Thuas í Lios Tuathail: 400 years of Irish Language Literature le Seamus Barra O'Suilleabháin	St. John's Theatre	€10
4.30pm	Pen Event with Éilís Ní Dhuibhne & Catherine Dunne	Listowel Arms Hotel	€10
5.00pm	Art Exhibition - Where Land Meets Sea by Olive Stack	Olive Stack Gallery	Free
5.30pm	Poetry with Győző Ferencz & Karen J McDonnell	St. John's Theatre	€15
6.00pm	John Connell - The Wisdom of Farmers	Listowel Arms Hotel	€15
6.00pm	Salmon Poetry Celebration	Kerry Writers' Museum	€15
8.00pm	Katriona O'Sullivan in conversation with Edel Coffey	Listowel Arms Hotel	€15
8.00pm	Evening Theatre - I Hear You and Rejoice	St. John's Theatre	€20
8.00pm	Owen O'Neill - I Could Write A Book About It	Mike The Pies Bar	€10
9.30pm	Poet's Corner	Christy's Bar	Free

SATURDAY 30th MAY

Time	Event	Venue	Cost
10.00am	Morning Walk with John Keane	Departs: Listowel Arms Hotel	Free
11.00am	Arlen House Celebration with Liz Mc Manus & Nessa O'Mahony	Kerry Writers' Museum	€15
12noon	The Frank Hayes Memorial Event: The Looming Storm with Fergal Keane, Sally Hayden, Mick Lynch & Dr. Bozena Cierlik	Listowel Arms Hotel	€20
12.30pm	Windows of Wonder Museum Tour	Kerry Writers' Museum	€10
12.30pm	Erin Fornoff - We Are An Archipelago	Kerry Writers' Museum	€10
1.00pm	Lunchtime Theatre - The Curious Case of Kitsey Rainey	St. John's Theatre	€20
2.00pm	Cúirt Filíochta	An Leabharlann	Free



SATURDAY 30th MAY

Time	Event	Venue	Cost
2.30pm	Mary Costello in conversation with Niall MacMonagle	St. John's Theatre	€20
3.30pm	This is Also a Love Story - Sally Hayden	Listowel Arms Hotel	€20
5.00pm	Ladies of Crime with Liz Nugent & Claire Coughlan	The Plaza Centre	€20
5.30pm	Book Launch - Mary Kennelly & Tony Guerin	Listowel Arms Hotel	Free
5.30pm	Keith Ridgway and Neil Jordan talk to Niall MacMonagle	St. John's Theatre	€15
6.00pm	Siobhán de Paor Bilingual Spoken Word Performance	The Kilmorna Collection	€10
6.30pm	Award-Winning Voices: Christine Dwyer Hickey & Andrew Miller in conversation with Enda Wyley	The Plaza Centre	€20
8.00pm	Evening Theatre - Paddy Armstrong	St. John's Theatre	€20
8.30pm	David McWilliams - The History of Money	Listowel Arms Hotel	€20

SUNDAY 31st MAY

Time	Event	Venue	Cost
9.30am	Creative Writing & Kerry's Wildlife Corridors	Listowel Community Ctr.	Free
10.00am	River of Words Literary Bus Tour	Departs: Listowel Arms Hotel	€20
11.00am	Finding Joy - Dearbhla Mescal with Eadaoin O'Connell	Listowel Arms Hotel	€20
11.30am	Listowel Writers Week Mass	St. Mary's Church	
12noon	The Healing Session and the Laying of the Hands	John B. Keane's Bar	Free
1.00pm	Diasuke Yosumi - Let Go	Listowel Arms Hotel	€15
1.00pm	Lunchtime Theatre - Grace	St. John's Theatre	€15
2.00pm	Anya Bergman - The Tarot Reader of Versailles	Kerry Writers' Museum	€15
3.00pm	Sarah Breen & Emer McLysaght - The Aislings are Back in Listowel	Listowel Arms Hotel	€15
3.30pm	Mary Ann Kenny - The Episode	St. John's Theatre	€15
4.00pm	The Maureen Beasley Poetry Hour	Kerry Writers' Museum	Free
6.00pm	One of our Own: 'The Bard of Bellanaleck' - A Homage to Mickey MacConnell	Listowel Arms Hotel	€20
8.00pm	Evening Theatre: Inishfallen Fare Thee Well	St. John's Theatre	€20



The full programme of events is available to view and book online at www.writersweek.ie

Follow us on Social Media for all the latest news and events



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@WritersWeek

Price 5/- net

PLAY IN THREE ACTS BY

JOHN B. KEANE



WEDNESDAY

27TH
MAY

SHARON'S GRAVE

JOHN B. KEANE

TROMPA NA BHFLAITHEAS

CECILE O'RAHILLY

SELECTED POEMS
BRENDAN KENNELLY

PATSY-O AND HIS WONDERFUL PETS

MAURICE WALSH

The Damsel Debonair

THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

TRANSLATED FROM A CRITICALLY REVISED HEBREW TEXT WITH COMMENTARY

BY REV. EDWARD J. KISSANE, D.D., L.S.S.

THE PLAYS OF GEORGE FITZMAURICE

SAUSAGES for tuesday

June

DRAMATIC FANTASIES

SIVE

A Play in Three Acts
BY JOHN B. KEANE

Price 5/- net

EARA MOT

MacMAHON

MacMAHON

BRYAN MacMAHON

THE HONEY SUKE
Bryan MacMahon

Eoch

June 2

SONS YWOR

MacMahon



WEDNESDAY 27TH MAY

www.writersweek.ie

2.00pm / St. John's Theatre - The Square

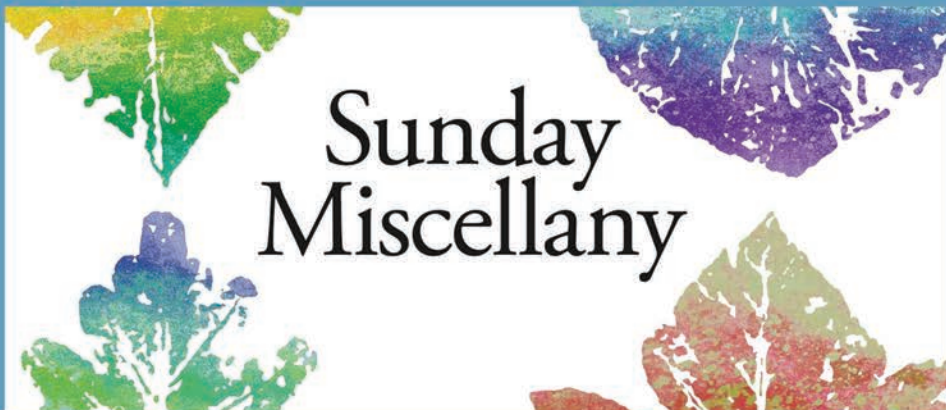
Entry: €20

Sunday Miscellany Live from Listowel Writers' Week

"An intimate kind of magic" is how writer Paul Howard has described Sunday Miscellany. With a simple format of short radio essays and the occasional poem interspersed with complementary music, this Sunday morning jewel in the RTÉ Radio 1 schedule has been part of listeners' lives for over half a century.

The show explores themes of Irish life, culture, and personal reflection, and offers a quiet and reflective space for listeners. Featuring a wide spectrum of literary talent, the Programme has well over 300,000 weekly listeners in Ireland and many thousands more overseas, online, and on podcast. An anthology of scripts broadcast from the show won an Irish Book Award in 2023; the latest, bestselling anthology, *Sunday Miscellany: A Selection 2023-2025* is currently in the shops.

The Miscellany team record a small number of highly popular live shows every year, and are delighted to return to Listowel in the Festival's 55th year. Presented by producer Sarah Binchy. (90 minutes approx).



THURSDAY

28TH
MAY



10.00am / The Listowel Arms Hotel - The Square

Entry: €20

Miriam O'Callaghan Meets Éadaein O'Connell

Life, Work, Everything

Miriam O'Callaghan is one of Ireland's best-known broadcasters and is known for hosting award winning television and radio programmes for RTE. She has covered all the major news events over the past few decades and is a household name. Her memoir 'Miriam: Life, Work, Everything' is an Irish bestseller and was shortlisted for the Irish biography of the year at the 2025 Irish Book Awards. Miriam will be in conversation with journalist and broadcaster Éadaein O'Connell.



10.00am / Departs Outside The Listowel Arms Hotel

Entry: Free Event

Historical Walk with Jimmy Deenihan

Explore Listowel with Jimmy Deenihan on a literary and historical walking tour, complete with poetry readings and iconic songs. The tour will depart from outside the Listowel Arms Hotel.

10.00am / Lizzy's Little Kitchen - Church Street

Entry: Free Event

Frances Kennedy

Enjoy a morning of stories, songs and laughter

Start your morning in good company with Frances Kennedy, a celebrated storyteller and singer whose performances are full of warmth, humour, and heart. Originally from Cork and now based here in Listowel, Frances comes from a tradition where songs and stories were shared as naturally as conversation. Renowned for her engaging style and mastery of the Irish oral storytelling tradition, she is the winner of the All-Ireland Storytelling Competition at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2018. Expect a relaxed and uplifting session filled with stories and songs rich in character, local wisdom, and gentle laughter.



11.00am / St. John's Theatre - The Square

Entry: Free Event

Art Exhibition

Coast by Michael Flaherty

This extraordinary exhibition from Clohane artist Michael Flaherty is a celebration of the Kerry Coast and its surroundings painted at various times over the past two decades. Flaherty has exhibited far and wide and his sought-after works are held in many prestigious private and public collections reflecting a distinguished career firmly rooted in place.



11.00am / Kerry Writers' Museum - The Square

Entry: €15

From Bullets to Ballots

Owen O'Shea in conversation with Catriona Crowe

The Civil War has long shaped and defined Irish politics and cast a long shadow over twentieth-century Ireland. The development and evolution of politics in the years after 1923 was hugely influenced by the deep divisions of the preceding conflict and in County Kerry, the ruptures caused by the war were more deep-seated and longer lasting than most others. In this session, archivist and historian Dr. Catriona Crowe speaks to Kerry historian and author Dr. Owen O'Shea about his recently published *From Bullets to Ballots: Politics and Electioneering in Post-Civil War Kerry, 1923-33*.



11.30am / The Listowel Arms Hotel (Feale Room)

- The Square

Entry: Free Event

Winners Readings

Celebrating a selection of standout voices from the Listowel Writers' Week Literary Awards. From compelling prose to evocative poetry, this event promises an inspiring and intimate glimpse into some of the finest writing of the year.

SINCE 1971

Writers' Week
Listowel

12noon / Kerry Writers' Museum - The Square

Entry: Free Event

Book Launch Professor Martin J. Newell, Hard Sums and Soft Stories

As part of a family genealogy project, remarkable literary discovery emerged: a collection of short stories written over eighty years ago by Professor Martin J. Newell (Máirtín Ó Tnúthail), affectionately known to family and friends as 'Brod'. The stories were found among the papers of his son, Fr Eamonn Newell, whose wish was that they would one day be published.



12.30pm / Kerry Writers' Museum - The Square

Entry: €10

Windows of Wonder Museum Tour

Step into a world where stories come to life with the Windows of Wonder performance-guided tour at Kerry Writers' Museum. Blending theatre, history, and imagination, this unique experience invites audiences to journey through the museum alongside engaging performers who animate the lives and works of Kerry's literary greats. Expect an immersive, family-friendly event filled with charm, creativity, and a touch of magic around every corner.



1.00pm / St. John's Theatre - The Square

Entry: €15

John B. Keane Lecture with Christian O'Reilly A Giant who Cast Both Shadow and Light

Listowel playwright Christian O'Reilly was not only influenced by the work of John B Keane, he used to regularly call to him for advice on how to become a writer. Throughout Christian's career, John B's advice has served as a touchstone, providing Christian with the guidance he has needed to navigate his way forward, especially when he had lost his way. In this very personal memorial lecture, Christian will talk about John B as a mentor and as a literary giant who might have cast a long shadow, but who always encouraged aspiring writers to step into the light.



2.00pm / The Listowel Arms Hotel - The Square

Entry: €20

Colm Tóibín

in conversation with Cathy Galvin

The News from Dublin comes to Listowel

A master of understated emotions, the bestselling author of *Brooklyn* and *Long Island* returns to Listowel Writers' Week with a beautiful new collection of short stories. A woman in Galway hears of the death of her son in the First World War. An Irishman seeks anonymity in Barcelona, haunted by crimes he has committed. A young woman is pregnant during the Spanish Civil War... *In The News from Dublin* he delves into the days and nights of those living far from home: lives of great longing, at a great distance from past lives and past selves.

Colm Tóibín is the author of eleven novels and three collections of stories. He has been three times shortlisted for the Booker Prize. In 2021, he was awarded the David Cohen Prize for Literature. Between 2022 and 2024 he was the Laureate for Irish Fiction.

Cathy Galvin is a poet and journalist who has served as a senior editor for *Newsweek* and *The Sunday Times*.

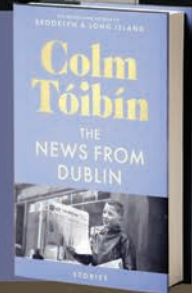
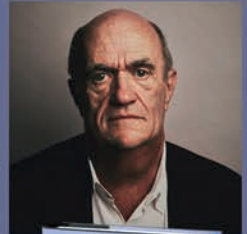
3.00pm / St. John's Theatre - The Square

Entry: Free Event

Rud in Easnamh le Dic Walsh

A performative, interactive bi-lingual reading of a new novel-play by Dic Walsh with actor Timmy Creed

Ger Power returns to a fishing village in the Gaeltacht where his brother died by suicide 10 years earlier. He uncovers a web of gentrifiers, environmentalists and drug dealers who seem to be manifesting the destruction of the village's native culture and fishing industry and are also potentially responsible for his brother's death. Though the real causes for that may be closer to home...



3.30pm / The Kilmorna Collection - Church Street

Entry: €10

Poetry Pharmacy with Enda Wyley

A gentle remedy for the challenges and joys of life

Hosted by poet and poetry pharmacist, Enda Wyley will select and prescribe a poem, designed to make you feel better, which you can bring home and read at your leisure. Wyley shares poems that offer comfort, reflection and moments of quiet connection. Rediscover the healing power of words at this truly lovely experience. Book your one-to-one appointment as they are strictly limited through our website www.writersweek.ie



4.30pm / St. John's Theatre - The Square

Entry: €20

An Afternoon with Nicola Sturgeon in conversation with Andrew O'Hagan

Leadership, Resilience and Finding Your Voice

Join Nicola Sturgeon in conversation with Andrew O'Hagan to discuss her first book *Frankly*, taking readers from her working-class roots to the very heart of Scottish and British politics. With candour, insight and warmth, she shares personal achievements and regrets, discusses the challenges of being a woman in a high-stakes political arena, and reveals the person behind the public figure. The result is a deeply personal and revealing memoir from one of Britain's most significant political leaders of recent times.

Andrew O'Hagan is an award-winning, Booker-nominated writer and one of the foremost chroniclers of contemporary Britain, acclaimed for both his fiction and influential essays.



6.00pm / St. John's Theatre - The Square

Entry: €15

Coast to Coast: A Poetry Trio with Zaffar Kunial, Victoria Kennefick and Cathy Galvin

Join poets Zaffar Kunial, Victoria Kennefick, and Cathy Galvin for an inspiring hour of readings, conversation, and reflection on the craft of poetry. UK based Zaffar Kunial will share selections from his acclaimed collection *England's Green*, a richly textured book shortlisted for the T. S. Eliot Prize.

Victoria Kennefick's debut collection *Eat or We Both Starve* won the Seamus Heaney First Collection Poetry Prize and the Dalkey Book Festival Emerging Writer Award and was widely celebrated as a Book of the Year across major publications. Her second collection *Egg/Shell* has continued to earn critical acclaim.

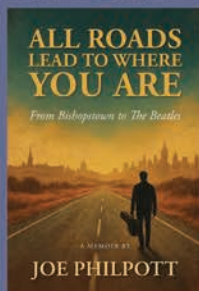
Cathy Galvin will present work from her first full-length poetry collection *Ethnology: a love song for Connemara*, which blends lyricism with landscape, myth, and personal history from her roots in Connemara. She is the recipient of a Hawthornden Fellowship.

6.00pm / John B. Keane's Bar - William Street

Entry: Free Event

Joe Philpott, All Roads Lead To Where You Are with Billy Keane

From Bishopstown to the great stages of America, Cork musician Joe Philpott, founding member of Rubyhorse, has lived a life steeped in sound, song, and stories. His new memoir, *All Roads Lead To Where You Are*, traces that journey from suburban bedrooms and backroom rehearsals to recording sessions with George Harrison and the long highways of the USA. A lyrical exploration of music, migration, and memory, *All Roads Lead To Where You Are* is a story of chasing songs, chasing dreams, and finding your way home again.



6.30pm / The Listowel Arms Hotel - The Square

Entry: €20

Vignettes of Life

With Andrew O'Hagan and Brian Dillon

Andrew O'Hagan and Brian Dillon are two exceptional writers who elevate the essay into a powerful and distinctive literary form. Andrew O'Hagan's *On Friendship* is a reflective collection of essays exploring the many facets of the friendships that make us great and the relationships that shaped his life, from schoolmates to the Stone Roses and Edna O'Brien. In these gorgeous personal reflections, O'Hagan illuminates the many ways and reasons that people come together, and how our lives are all the better because we do.

Brian Dillon presents *Ambivalence*, tracing his formative years in Dublin, following the early death of both his parents. It is at once a memoir of that city in the 1980s and 1990s, an uncynical portrait of the adolescent and early-adult mind, and an intimate defence of radical thinking about literature and life, presented in vivid fragments.



7.30pm / Departs Outside The Listowel Arms Hotel

Entry: Free Event

A Troubadour's Dramatic Tour of The Streets of Listowel

Listowel's own Troubadour, Paddy McElligott will lead a dramatic tour through the Streets of Listowel, stopping off at a number of the famous town hostelries for drama, music and the odd song.



8.00pm / The Listowel Arms Hotel - The Square

Entry: €20

An Evening with Merlin Holland in conversation with Colm Toibin

Oscar Wilde's only grandson offers his insight into his grandfather's life.

Oscar Wilde died in November 1900, exiled in Paris and exhausted by scandal and prison life. The details of his life in the limelight are well known; what has regularly been ignored are the reverberations of the scandal for decades after his death: the myths and legends that have been created, the quarrels between his friends and enemies, the court cases...

His only grandson, **Merlin Holland**, has dedicated himself to studying Oscar's life and works, and their wider legacy. In *After Oscar: The Legacy of a Scandal*, Merlin debunks many inaccurate or entirely fictitious stories that have grown up around this iconic figure. Join Merlin for much-needed light on the repercussions of a life and a scandal.

Merlin will chat to our Festival President **Colm Tóibín** who has written of Oscar Wilde in the London Review of Books and on his father in *Mad, Bad, Dangerous to Know: The Fathers of Wilde, Yeats and Joyce*.

8.00pm / St. John's Theatre - The Square

Entry: €20

Evening Theatre Am I Irish Yet?

From being one of the 'Bombing Irish' of Mrs Thatcher's era to a reviled 'Plastic Paddy' back 'Home' in Ireland, New York Times bestselling author **Kate Kerrigan** hilariously explores what it takes to finally fit into small town Ireland in her taboo-breaking one woman show. Exploring identity, culture, exile, this is a fabulously funny, bittersweet journey into the dreams and disasters of every young person who grew up with the 'wrong' accent calling somewhere else home.



AFTER OSCAR
The Legacy of a Scandal



MERLIN
HOLLAND



8.00pm / Kerry Writers' Museum - The Square

Entry: Free Event

The Rambling House at Kerry Writers' Museum

Join us for Listowel Rambling House where stories are shared, music is played, and everyone's welcome. This much-loved evening celebrates Irish culture through live traditional music, storytelling, and the kind of humour that brings people together. It is a celebration of community, heritage, and the joy of a good yarn or a lively tune. Bring a friend, bring the family, or come as you are for a night that honours the old ways and keeps them alive.



9.00pm / Mike the Pies Bar - Upper William Street

Entry: €30

An Evening with Mike Joyce of The Smiths

Celebrating His Memoir – *The Drums*, A Life Behind the Kit in conversation with Paul Mc Loon

Delighted to welcome Mike Joyce, legendary drummer with *The Smiths*, to Mike The Pies for a special evening celebrating his memoir *The Drums*.

One of the most influential bands in music history, The Smiths defined a generation. In this honest, witty and deeply personal memoir, Joyce reflects on his time in the band, sharing stories of friendship, music and life behind the drum kit - including his special bond with bassist Andy Rourke.



9.30pm / Christy's Bar - The Square

Entry: Free Event

Listowel's Poets' Corner

Join Listowel Writers' Week lively Open Mic night, where anything could happen. Feast on plenty of courage, culture and the craic at Christy's Bar. Enjoy verses from emerging and established voices, paired with a pint and good company in the heart of the town.

9.30pm / The Listowel Arms Hotel - The Square

Entry: €20

An Evening with Words and Music with Colum McCann and Colm Mac Con Iomaire

Listowel Writers' Week proudly presents an extraordinary evening with two of Ireland's most celebrated artists - Colum McCann and Colm Mac Con Iomaire - in a unique performance where literature and music meet in powerful harmony.

Colum McCann found deep inspiration in Colm Mac Con Iomaire's music while writing his internationally acclaimed novel *Apeirogon*. In turn, Colm composed music inspired by the book, creating a remarkable artistic exchange between two creative voices at the height of their powers.

This twinning of two exceptionally talented Irish artists brings together ideas of peaceful engagement, community, empathy and the transformative power of art. Through words, conversation and live music, McCann and Mac Con Iomaire create a moving dialogue that speaks to the heart of our shared humanity.

Colum and Colm have performed together on stages across the world, in an experience described as provocative, courageous and life-changing. Their connection, friendship and artistry make for an unforgettable evening of reflection, inspiration and beauty.

Sin an scéal...





FRIDAY

29TH
MAY

SHARON'S GRAVE

JOHN B. KEANE

CATS-O AND HIS WONDERFUL PETS
Bryan MacMahon

MAURICE WALSH
AUTHOR OF "THE SPANISH LADY"

The Damself
Debonair

EARA
MOT

under the
argente
MacMAHON

Patrick Kennedy
SAUSAGES
for tuesday



BRYAN MacMahon
THE TONY SPIKE
Bryan MacMahon

TROMPA NA BHFLAITHEAS

CEILE O'RAHILLY

SELECTED POEMS
BRENDAN KENNELLY



GRÁO NÍOS MÓ
Drama trí mhí.
SÉAMUS Ó DILMOC

THE BOOK OF ISAIAH
TRANSLATED FROM A CRITICALLY
REVISED HEBREW TEXT WITH
COMMENTARY
BY
REV. EDWARD J. KISSANE, B.D., L.S.S.
Professor of Hebrew, Catholic University

THE PLAYS OF
GEORGE
FITZMAURICE

June



DRAMATIC FANTASIES
SIVE
A Play in Three Acts
BY
JOHN B. KEANE

Price 5/- net

dream
Brendan of Kennelly
a black
fox



THE MAN FROM C...

Eoch
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SONS
SWOR



MANTIC
HIDDEN
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10.00am / Departs Outside The Listowel Arms Hotel

Entry: Free Event

Morning Walk: Faces and Places with Vincent Carmody

A town tour with Vincent Carmody, award winning historian and book publisher.

10.00am / Lizzy's Little Kitchen - Church Street

Entry: Free Event

Frances Kennedy

Enjoy a morning of stories, songs and laughter

Start your morning in good company with Frances Kennedy, a celebrated storyteller and singer whose performances are full of warmth, humour, and heart. Originally from Cork and now based here in Listowel, Frances comes from a tradition where songs and stories were shared as naturally as conversation. Renowned for her engaging style and mastery of the Irish oral storytelling tradition, she is the winner of the All-Ireland Storytelling Competition at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2018. Expect a relaxed and uplifting session filled with stories and songs rich in character, local wisdom, and gentle laughter.



11.00am / The Listowel Arms Hotel - The Square

Entry: €15

Live Podcast: What Were We Like

with Catriona Crowe and Diarmaid Ferriter

Live from Listowel, Diarmaid Ferriter and Catriona Crowe bring us on a journey through the hidden histories, humanity and humour of our past, looking at the angriest and most bizarre Irish political insults of the last 100 years.



11.00am / St. John's Theatre - The Square

Entry: Saor in Aisce

Ciorcal Comhrá

Bí linn don ócáid speisialta seo - dreas cainte, ceoil agus craic faoi stiúir Aine Ní Ghlinn. Beidh Áine ag caint faoina saol agus a saothar.

Tá roinnt mhaith duaiseanna bainte amach aici dá saothar – ina measc Gradam Reics Carló Leabhar na Bliana ceithre huairé, Duais Fhoras na Gaeilge, Seachtain na Scríbhneoirí, Lios Tuathail trí huairé agus Gradam Ficsin Leabhair Pháistí Éireann. Is ball í d'Aosdána.

Join us for a morning of coffee and conversational Irish. From beginners, all are most welcome to come along, join in and enjoy the craic! This will be a very special Writers Week Ciorcal Comhrá as we welcome poet **Áine Ghlinn**.

Bí linn gan teip!

12noon / Kerry Writers' Museum - The Square

Entry: Free Event

Exhibition: Henry Morgan What The Light Holds

Henry Morgan is a renowned Irish artist who has exhibited far and wide. Born in Adare, Co. Limerick, this exciting exhibition holds a tension between stillness and motion. Surfaces are active, layered and unsettled suggesting a world in continual change. Forms emerge, dissolve and reform. What is seen is only part of what is present. Each painting is a beginning unfolding further in the viewer's own seeing.

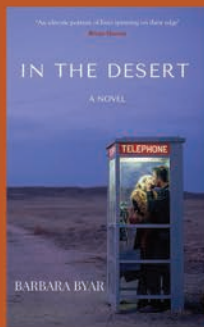


12noon / Listowel Library - Courthouse Road

Entry: Free Event

Book Launch Barbara Byar, In the Desert

A traumatized movie star returns to his dying hometown to find the woman he loves has disappeared. He vows to find her. In the Desert follows five friends as the consequences from their childhood unravel in betrayal, murder and undying love. **Barbara Byar** is a recipient of an Irish Arts Council Literature Bursary and an Agility Award. This is her debut novel.



12noon / The Plaza Centre - Upper Church Street

Entry: €15

Lecture: Tom Hubbard

The Emerald Passport – Seamus Heaney and Europe

Tom Hubbard will deliver a lecture exploring Seamus Heaney's relationship with Europe, examining how Heaney's poetry and cultural outlook connected Irish writing with wider European traditions and ideas. Tom Hubbard is a Scottish poet, literary scholar, and critic. He has published widely on contemporary poetry, Irish and European literature and is respected for his engaging lectures and insightful analysis.



12.30pm / Kerry Writers' Museum - The Square

Entry: €10

Windows of Wonder Museum Tour

Step into a world where stories come to life with the Windows of Wonder performance-guided tour at Kerry Writers' Museum. Blending theatre, history, and imagination, this unique experience invites audiences to journey through the museum alongside engaging performers who animate the lives and works of Kerry's literary greats. Expect an immersive, family-friendly event filled with charm, creativity, and a touch of magic around every corner.



1.00pm / St. John's Theatre - The Square

Entry: €20

Lunch Time Theatre Mikel Murfi Trilogy:

The Man in the Woman's Shoes

Just outside of town, cobbler Pat Farnon lives on his own, contentedly aging in the cottage in which he was reared. Join him as he walks the five miles into his "metropolis," populated with no-necked water diviners, sporting savants, loudmouths, and preachers.



1.00pm / The Listowel Arms Hotel - The Square

Entry: €10

Daily Debuts

Dara Waldron and Neil Tully with Niall MacMonagle New Journeys from East Clare to New Ross

Two debuts, two writers who explore very different yet deeply human forms of tension and connection in Irish life. Dara Waldron, author of *A Sheepdog Named Oscar*, is a reflective memoir following his journey through grief and healing in rural Clare, where rescuing a border collie becomes a source of solace and renewal and an exploration of the unspoken understanding between human and animal.

Neil Tully's *The Visit* transports readers to 1963 New Ross on the brink of JFK's historic visit, weaving a tense story of ambition, frustration, and consequence in a small-town community. Sergeant Jim Field feels a guilty paternalism for Patrick Hatten, a young man struggling to find a job, a life and a purpose. Both are used to being on the fringes but while Jim is a romantic with bad health and regret, Patrick is full of anger and action, and his actions could have devastating effects.



1.30pm / Outside: Kerry Writers' Museum - The Square

Entry: Free

Poetry on the Bawn with John McGrath

An open mic session with local poet John McGrath, devoted exclusively to your poetry. No songs, no stories, just three minutes to present your poetic masterpiece to an appreciative audience of fellow poets on the steps of Listowel Castle when the sun shines, or indoors in the Seanchai if it rains.



FRIDAY 29TH MAY

www.writersweek.ie

2.30pm / The Plaza Centre - Upper Church Street

Entry: €15

John O'Donnell with Niall MacMonagle Presenting Mr Hoo and Other Stories

Mr Hoo & Other Stories is the latest short story collection from award-winning writer John O'Donnell. Loneliness, vengeance, sorrow, and desire are among the themes featuring in these compelling stories of schemers and survivors: a gullible bird-lover, a woman seeking revenge against an author, a brooding survivor of the Titanic, a young murderer trying to cheat the gallows. Here are almost-winners and not-quite losers, a grieving father and a desperate mother, an unhappy judge, and a troubled client. Love and loss, redemption and remorse, yearning and heartbreak; in clear, incisive language these exhilarating stories movingly examine the human condition.

John O'Donnell has won major awards including the Hennessy Award for Emerging Fiction and the Cúirt New Writing Prize. He has also published four poetry collections and has received several poetry prizes.



FESTIVAL BOX OFFICE

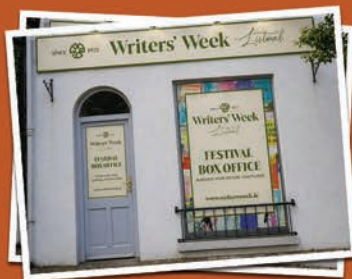
Opens 15th May

Beside The Listowel Arms, Hotel,
The Square, Listowel, Co. Kerry, Ireland

Telephone: +353 (0)86 402 7807

Email: boxoffice@writersweek.ie

**Tickets can only be purchased online
or at our dedicated box office.**



3.00pm / The Listowel Arms Hotel - The Square

Entry: €15

Edel Coffey and Charleen Hurtubise

The Art of Reinvention

Edel Coffey, author of *In Glass Houses*, and Charleen Hurtubise, author of *Saoirse* brings us their new novels, which follow women navigating hidden pasts and high-stakes choices - one a determined journalist chasing a buried truth, the other a young woman living under a false identity as her new life begins to unravel. Together, they offer a gripping discussion on power, belonging and the fragile line between who we are and who we pretend to be.

In Glass Houses is a fast-paced, twist-filled thriller set in the glittering but corrupt world of New York's elite, where power, privilege, and dark secrets collide. *Saoirse* is a poignant love story about reinvention and redemption, following a young American who flees to Ireland under a stolen identity, intending only a temporary escape but instead building a new life. Through their new novels, they explore identity, secrets, and the art of reinvention.

Edel and Charleen will be in conversation with Katriona O'Sullivan, bestselling author of *Poor*.

3.30pm / The Kilmorna Collection - Church Street

Entry: €10

Poetry Pharmacy with Enda Wyley

A gentle remedy for the challenges and joys of life
Hosted by poet and poetry pharmacist, Enda Wyley will select and prescribe a poem, designed to make you feel better, which you can bring home and read at your leisure. Wyley shares poems that offer comfort, reflection and moments of quiet connection. Rediscover the healing power of words at this truly lovely experience. Book your one-to-one appointment as they are strictly limited through our website www.writersweek.ie



4.00pm / St. John's Theatre - The Square

Entry: €10

Thuas i Lios Tuathail: 400 years of Irish Language Literature

Tá litríocht na Gaelainne á saothrú i Lios Tuathail leis na cianta. Sa chaint shuaithinseach seo, léifidh agus pléifidh Séamus Barra rogha saothar ó bhruach na Féile le ceithre céad bliain anuas. Ó fhilíocht na mbard anuas tríd an traidisiún béil go dtí Séamus de Bhilmot in aimsir na hathbheochana, bígí linn chun blaiseadh a fháil den oidhreacht shuibhir seo atá ró-fhada á ligean i ndeardad.

Séamus Barra Ó Súilleabháin will bring the audience on a journey through four pieces of Irish language literature composed in Listowel over four centuries. From a 16-century praise poem composed by a visiting professional bard, through the oral tradition of local Irish speakers, down to the work of a brilliant playwright, join us to get a taste of the hidden Irish language literary tradition in Listowel district.

4.30pm / The Listowel Arms Hotel - The Square

Entry: €10

Voices of Irish Women An Afternoon with Éilís Ní Dhuibhne and Catherine Dunne.

Join Laureate for Irish Fiction Éilís Ní Dhuibhne and Catherine Dunne in conversation.

Expect wit, warmth and great words with celebrated authors Éilís Ní Dhuibhne and Catherine Dunne. Éilís Ní Dhuibhne writes short stories and novels, in English and Irish, and has published almost thirty books. Her work is widely translated and anthologised. Her novel, *The Dancers Dancing*, was shortlisted for the Orange Prize for Fiction.

Catherine Dunne is the best-selling author of twelve novels, several essays and one work of non-fiction. Catherine's novels have been shortlisted for several prizes, including Novel of the Year at the Irish Book Awards and the International Strega Prize. Her work has been translated into several languages and she was the recipient of the 2018 Irish PEN Award for Outstanding Contribution to Irish Literature.



5.00pm / Olive Stack Gallery - Main Street

Entry: Free Event

Kerry - Where Land Meets Sea

A collection of recent paintings

by Olive Stack, inspired by the Kerry coastline

This exhibition of work explores the rugged beauty of places where land meets the Atlantic. Through changing light, movement and seasonal growth, each moment offers a new composition.



5.30pm / St. John's Theatre - The Square

Entry: €15

Across Languages:

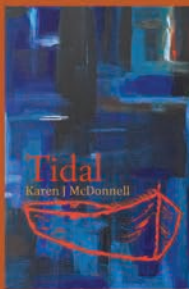
A Poetry Afternoon from Clare to Budapest

Győző Ferencz and Karen J McDonnell

West of Ireland Poet Karen J McDonnell will join distinguished Hungarian poet, critic, and translator Győző Ferencz for a unique evening of poetry and conversation. Bringing together voices from Ireland and Hungary, this special event explores poetry across languages, traditions, and landscapes.



A leading figure in Hungarian literary life, Győző Ferencz has a deep engagement with Irish literature, having translated works by W. B. Yeats and Seamus Heaney among others. He has taught Irish and English literature and is Executive President of the Széchenyi Academy of Letters and Arts.



Tidal is the second poetry collection by west of Ireland poet Karen J McDonnell. Her poems explore the roles we impose on memory and history: what we commemorate, what we choose to remember and how age affects viewpoints. Her collaborations include the 32 Poets for Ireland podcast, Labellit project, Poems Meet Painters, the Clare Poetry Collective, Poetry Jukebox and Poetry as Commemoration. She has performed her work at many festivals and on radio, including the much-loved *Sunday Miscellany*.

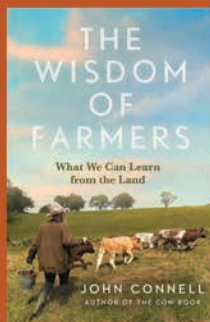


6.00pm / The Listowel Arms Hotel - The Square

Entry: €15

John Connell: The Wisdom of Farmers What we can learn from the land

Award winning Longford author, John Connell's *The Wisdom of Farmers: What We Can Learn from the Land* is a thoughtful, illuminating rumination on the life lessons from those who work the land and the millennia of wisdom they draw upon when they go about their day, 'making a living by turning light and time into money'. He skilfully synthesises philosophy, art, literature and spirituality to bolster his thoughts on such topics as stoicism, the food chain and the role of community.

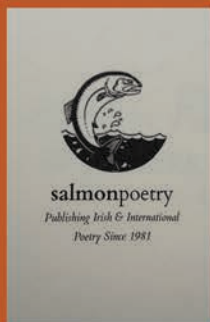


6.00pm / Kerry Writers' Museum - The Square

Entry: €15

Salmon Poetry Celebration A Legacy of Voice and Vision

This year Salmon Poetry celebrates 45 years of publishing. From its early groundbreaking titles to its ongoing commitment to international dialogue and fresh perspectives, Salmon has continually expanded the boundaries of Irish writing. We are delighted to present this special event featuring **Gabriel Fitzmaurice, Mary B Kennelly, Eithne Hand, Mark Granier and Joan McBreen.**



8.00pm / St. John's Theatre - The Square

Entry: €20

Evening Theatre Mikel Murfi Trilogy: I Hear You and Rejoice

Following the sellout success of *The Man In The Woman's Shoes*, Mikel Murfi returns with a sequel one-man show. Late in his life, Pat Farnon, a cobbler and all-round contented man, embarks on a journey he had not quite planned and finds that every twist in the road can bring its own surprises.



8.00pm / The Listowel Arms Hotel - The Square

Entry: €15

Hungry: A Biography of my Body Join **Katriona O'Sullivan** for a captivating conversation with **Edel Coffey**

Hungry is the 2026 memoir by Dr. Katriona O'Sullivan, following her bestselling book *Poor*. The book delves into themes of body image, trauma, self-acceptance, and the societal pressures women face.

Katriona focuses on her life after escaping poverty, focusing on her relationship with her body and her struggle to feel "enough". These two friends in conversation explore the fragile truths of the human body and mind.



8.00pm / Mike The Pies - Upper William Street

Entry: €10

Owen O'Neill **I Could Write A Book About It**

I Could Write A Book About It is a hilarious, honest, no-holds-barred dramatic retelling of a life lived by a boy who wanted to escape from his roots.

Owen O'Neill is a poet, actor and writer of stage and screen. He has written and performed 17 one-man plays and has won awards at the Edinburgh Festival including a Fringe First, The Herald Angel award for best play and the Edinburgh Critics award for best comedy.



9.30pm / Christy's Bar - The Square

Entry: Free Event

Listowel's Poets' Corner

Join Listowel Writers' Week lively Open Mic night, where anything could happen. Feast on plenty of courage, culture and the craic at Christy's Bar. Enjoy verses from emerging and established voices, paired with a pint and good company in the heart of the town.



SATURDAY

30TH
MAY



10.00am / Departs Outside: The Listowel Arms Hotel

Entry: Free Event

Morning Walk: A Guided Walk Through Listowel's Tall Tales, Poets and with John Keane

Join John Keane as he passes by the birth places of literary greats, Bryan McMahon and John B. Keane and examines the work of the master of plaster; the doyen of Sculptural stuccos, Pat McAuliffe. The tour will end in the Small Square where in May 1951, Tom Doodle, president of the Independent Coulogeous Party made his only public appearance. The man who promised to drill for oil off the coast of Ballybunion and who secured gravel rights on the moon for Listowel will be celebrated. No spoofers please!

11.00am / Kerry Writers' Museum - The Square

Entry: €15

Arlen House Celebration with Liz Mc Manus and Nessa O'Mahony

This joint event celebrates 50 years of Arlen House, the first organisation to introduce diversity and equality in the Irish arts world.

Liz McManus launches her fiction collection, *Tiny Bruises*, revealing an emotional history of Ireland over the past century since independence and partition. While Nessa O'Mahony premieres the first sequel to *Look! It's a Woman Writer!* the critically-acclaimed bestseller; focusing on contemporary women writers born in the 1960s who reflect on their writing lives in a changing Ireland.



12noon / The Listowel Arms Hotel - The Square

Entry: €20

The Frank Hayes Memorial Event: The Looming Storm with Fergal Keane, Sally Hayden, Mick Lynch and Dr. Bozena Cierlik

With the rise of authoritarianism and intolerance across the world should we fear for the future of democracy? Foreign correspondent **Fergal Keane** leads a panel of expert voices from the worlds of academia, journalism and social activism to discuss the great challenge of our age.

Sally Hayden is an award-winning journalist, photographer and author. She is an international correspondent for the *Irish Times* and has reported all over the world for an array of outlets. Her first book, *My Fourth Time, We Drowned: Seeking Refuge on the World's Deadliest Migration Route* - won the Orwell Prize for Political Writing.

Trade unionist **Mick Lynch** was general secretary of RMT from 2021-2025. One year into his tenure, the UK's first national railway strike since 1989 catapulted him into the public eye. He quickly became the face of a revitalised trade union movement and became the combative, unapologetic working-class leader and icon the British left had been missing.

Dr. Bozena Cierlik is a lecturer in Polish and East Central European history in the School of History, UCC. Her research is focused on modern Polish history, especially issues of nation building and nationalism. She has served as an expert evaluator for the European Commission in key programmes on the human-computer interface and the challenges of the enlargement of the European Union.



12.30pm / Kerry Writers' Museum - The Square

Entry: €10

A Poetry Performance with Erin Fornoff We Are an Archipelago

Described 'as close to music as poetry gets', join Erin Fornoff for a dynamic spoken word poetry performance as she brings her epic poem *We Are an Archipelago* to life. First created as a one-woman spoken-word performance piece that premiered at the Dublin Fringe Festival, this lyrical work blends narrative and verse to tell the semi-true story of a 99-year-old man's return to the isolated island of his birth and his unexpected friendship with a young woman facing her own storms.



12.30pm / Kerry Writers' Museum - The Square

Entry: €10

Windows of Wonder Museum Tour

Step into a world where stories come to life with the Windows of Wonder performance-guided tour at Kerry Writers' Museum. Blending theatre, history, and imagination, this unique experience invites audiences to journey through the museum alongside engaging performers who animate the lives and works of Kerry's literary greats. Expect an immersive, family-friendly event filled with charm, creativity, and a touch of magic around every corner.



1.00pm / St. John's Theatre - The Square

Entry: €20

Lunchtime Theatre Mikel Murfi Trilogy: The Mysterious Case of Kitsy Rainey

Having married Kitsy Rainey late in life, cobbler Pat Farnon finally decides to lift the lid on a life previously lived by his wife. And all the while Pat faces down his own reckoning. Tender, heartfelt and joyously funny *The Mysterious Case of Kitsy Rainey* finishes out Pat Farnon's journey in a most unexpected way.



2.00pm / Leabharlann Liostuathail - Courthouse Road

Entry: Saoir in Aisce

Cúirt Filíochta

Tráth teagmhála do lucht labhartha, léite agus scríofa na Gaeilge, ag ceiliúradh Cúirt Lios Eiltín agus Traidisiún Chiarraí Thuaidh. I measc na bhfilí a bheidh ag reacaireacht beidh: Ceaití Ní Bheidiúin; Séamus Barra Ó Súilleabháin; Cormac Mac Gearailt; Paddy Bushe; Tomás Ó Coileáin; Gormfhlaith Ní Shíocháin Ní Bheoláin; Pádraig Mac Fhearghusa; Bríd Ní Mhóráin; Máire Ní Laoire; Ciarán Ó Ceallaigh; Pádraig Ó Súilleabháin; Louis Mulcahy; Micheál Ó hUanacháin. Matt Ó Maonaigh,

Eagraithe ag Matt Ó Maonaigh, cléireach na Cúirte, i gcomhar le Seachtain na Scríbhneoirí, le Glór na nGael Lios Tuathail agus le tacaíocht Oifig na Gaeilge, Comhairle Co. Chiarraí.



2.30pm / St. John's Theatre - The Square

Entry: €20

Mary Costello: A Beautiful Loan in conversation with Niall MacMonagle

Join us for a literary reflection with Irish writer Mary Costello, known for her luminous prose and deeply human storytelling, as she discusses her latest work, *A Beautiful Loan*. Set in 1980s Dublin, *A Beautiful Loan* follows Anna's strained marriage to her older husband, Peter.

After a devastating miscarriage and his cold refusal of support, Anna reflects on the inherited suffering of Irish women. Yet the novel is not only about loss - it is also about breaking cycles, reclaiming the self, and finding the possibility of renewal.



3.30pm / The Listowel Arms Hotel - The Square

Entry: €20

Sally Hayden

in conversation with Fergal Keane

This Is Also a Love Story

From the Orwell Prize-winning author, *This Is Also a Love Story* chronicles both the astonishing acts of bravery that love inspires, as well as the touchingly ordinary connections people make in extraordinary times. Her book is a powerful account of human resilience in an era defined by crisis - war, displacement, climate collapse and inequality - drawing on Hayden's reporting from some of the darkest moments of our time.

Sally Hayden is an award-winning journalist, photographer, author and an international correspondent for the *Irish Times*. Her first book, *My Fourth Time, We Drowned* won the Orwell Prize for Political Writing, the An Post Irish Book of the Year Award, the Michel Déon Prize and was shortlisted for the Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction. Sally will be in conversation with Fergal Keane.

5.00pm / The Plaza Centre - Upper Church Street

Entry: €20

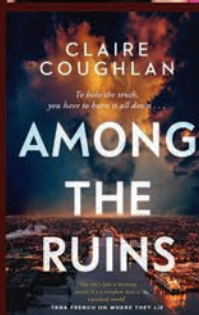
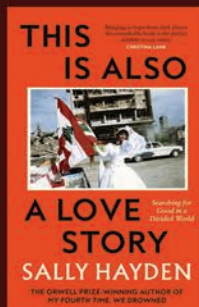
Ladies of Crime

An Early Evening with Liz Nugent and Claire Coughlan

Join two of Ireland's most compelling crime writers for a gripping evening of conversation exploring their latest novels - stories of secrets, consequences, and the dark undercurrents of seemingly ordinary lives.

Liz Nugent's sixth novel, *The Truth About Ruby Cooper* is centred around the repercussions of a rape. Set between Boston and Dublin, this haunting novel traces the devastating aftermath that ripples across decades, shaping - and shattering - lives. Liz Nugent's previous novels have each been Number One bestsellers and she has won five Irish Book Awards, as well as the James Joyce Medal for Literature. She lives in Dublin.

The new atmospheric mystery from Claire Coughlan, *Among the Ruins* is a beautifully written tale about one woman's need to find the truth, whatever the cost. In Dublin, 1970, journalist Nicoletta Sarto balances career and motherhood while investigating the mysterious death of Helen Leonard and the vanished nurse who inherited everything. Claire Coughlan's debut novel, *Where They Lie*, was published in 2024 and shortlisted for the An Post Irish Crime Novel of the Year award.



5.30pm / The Listowel Arms Hotel - The Square

Entry: Free Event

Book Launches:

Mary Kennelly: *On the Wind and the Singing Tide*

Across nearly twenty-five years of writing, Mary Kennelly has crafted poems that reframe the everyday with startling precision and profound empathy. This selected collection celebrates the qualities readers and critics alike have admired in her poetry: its honest relatability, its keen observations, and its capacity to reveal art in what we too often overlook... *'This is a book I would like to keep, to read and re-read and to share, and that is the best tribute that one can give to both Salmon Poetry and Mary Kennelly.'* - Denis Smyth Díaz

Tony Guerin: *Quilt*

Quilt is a rollicking intermeshing fortyfour chaptered journey of the most diverse people and places, where every word, every line, every page, every story, is given freedom to breathe to shape to paint its very own destiny.

5.30pm / St. John's Theatre - The Square

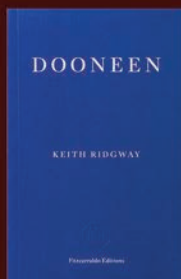
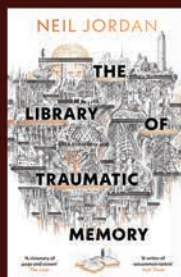
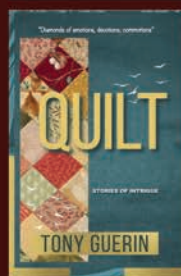
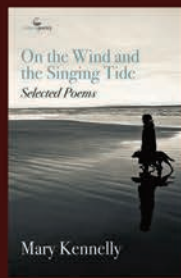
Entry: €15

Imagining Worlds and Inventing Realities

Neil Jordan and Keith Ridgway in conversation with Niall MacMonagle

We are delighted to welcome back to Listowel, twice winner of our Kerry Irish Novel of the Year for *Shade* and *Mistaken*, author Neil Jordan. He will discuss his latest novel *The Library of Traumatic Memory*, the first literary science fiction novel from the visionary director of *The Crying Game*, *Michael Collins* and *The Butcher Boy*. Set in 2084, Christian Cartwright, a quiet librarian at the Huxley Institute archives traumatic memories and, after the mysterious death of his lover Isolde, risks everything by resurrecting her as a digital consciousness to uncover a deeper conspiracy.

Novelist and short story writer, Keith Ridgway is regarded as one of Ireland's most distinctive literary voices. His debut novel *The Long Falling* won the prestigious Prix Femina Étranger and *Standard Time* which won the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature. Today, he presents *Dooneen*, his dreamlike and inventive novel of dislocation, alternate Dublin realities, and insurgent possibilities.



6.00pm / The Kilmorna Collection - Church Street

Entry: €10

The Raw Bone

An Chnámh Amh: filíocht ó béal le Siobhán De Paor
Spoken Word with Siobhán De Paor

Filíocht ó béal: Tá ómós go dtí an saoltach agus an naofacht sa léiriú seo. Tá gairm chuig na haircítíop ársa agus nochtú ar an scéal chaipitleachais comhairsithe. Filíocht na mbard atá i gceist atá éachtach agus tráthúil leis. Déannann sí trácht ar codarsnacht an taithí dhaonna i glaoch ar gníomhaíocht spiorodálta agus athbheochan a dhéanamh ar ár gcultúr.

An ode to the mundane and the mystical in this spoken word performance. There are invocations to the ancient archetypes and exposés of our contemporary capitalist story. Siobhán's pieces are bardic, epic and witty. She speaks to the contradiction of the human experience in a call to spiritual activism and cultural reclamation.

6.30pm / The Plaza Centre - Upper Church Street

Entry: €20

Award-Winning Voices: Christine Dwyer Hickey and Andrew Miller in conversation with Enda Wyley

One of Ireland's most beloved literary voices, **Christine Dwyer Hickey** returns to Listowel and will be joined by Booker nominated and prize-winning author **Andrew Miller**. Together, these two celebrated writers explore themes of memory, love, and human resilience across time. They will be in conversation with poet **Enda Wyley**.

Christine Dwyer Hickey has published nine novels. *The Narrow Land* won the Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction, *Tatty* was nominated for the Orange Prize and named one of the 50 Irish Novels of the Decade, while *Last Train from Liguria* was shortlisted for the Prix L'Européen de Littérature. Her latest novel, *Our London Lives* follows the captivating story of two Irish immigrants in England.

Andrew Miller's latest novel, *The Land in Winter*, is set during the brutal winter of 1962-63, where two young marriages are tested amid a village slowly unravelling under the weight of isolation, secrets, and emotional strain. The event explores how memory, love, and human resilience endure across time, whether in a speculative future shaped by technology or a vividly rendered past grounded in lived experience.



8.00pm / St. John's Theatre - The Square

Entry: €20

Evening Theatre

PADDY: The Life and Times of Paddy Armstrong

Fifty years after his wrongful conviction, at the age of 74, Paddy is facing into his twilight years and wrestling with a thousand turbulent memories. In Paddy he relives the journey that forever altered his destiny. A one-man show, starring Don Wycherley as Paddy, the play is inspired by Paddy's memoir *Life After Life*, a *Guildford Four* Memoir.



Paddy is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the power of forgiveness, reminding us that the privilege of freedom and love, family and everyday life can restore us and mend the scars of even the most savage injustice. Don Wycherley brings unflinching honesty, pathos and humour to his portrayal of Paddy, a man failed and scarred by a flawed system yet refusing to be defined by it.

8.30pm / The Listowel Arms Hotel - The Square

Entry: €20

The Ann Marie O'Sullivan Memorial Event

David McWilliams

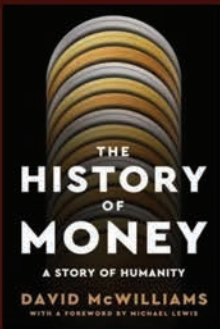
The History of Money

Author, journalist, economist and podcast host **David McWilliams** breaks down the mysteries of money, from how it's created to why it's such a powerful force in society. In his recent book, *The History of Money*, McWilliams takes us across the world, from the birthplace of money in ancient Babylon to the beginning of trade along the Silk Road, from Marrakech markets to Wall Street. Along the way, we meet a host of innovators, emperors, frauds, and speculators, who have disrupted society and transformed the way we live.



Whether you're an economics novice or a seasoned expert, this event will leave you with a deeper understanding of the currency that fuels our lives.

David will be in conversation with **Audrey Galvin**, Lecturer in Journalism and Communication in UL.





SUNDAY

31ST
MAY

ROMANTIC
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ANTHONY AND THE
POLITICAL, ECONOMIC
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9.30am / Listowel Community Centre - Bridge Road

Entry: Free Event

Creative Writing and Kerry's Wildlife Corridors

A creative writing workshop with writer Susan Browne and naturalist Ger Scollard, inspired by nature in the beautiful surroundings of Listowel Town Park and the Garden of Europe. Enjoy creative writing exercises, a mindful wildlife walk, inspiring prompts, and gentle guidance to help you connect with nature and your own voice.



10.00am / Departs Outside The Listowel Arms Hotel

Entry: €20

River of Words Literary Bus Tour

Enjoy a tour through the literary landscape of North Kerry, from Lisselton, to Ballylongford, over to Tarbert and finishing in Moyvane. We will retrace the footsteps of renowned poets like Robert Leslie Boland, Brendan Kennelly, Tom MacGreevy and Gabriel Fitzmaurice and explore the places that brought their work to life.



11.00am / The Listowel Arms Hotel - The Square

Entry: €20

Meet Dearbhla Mescal Finding Joy with Éadaicín O'Connell

A poetry lover, a curator of joy and a wise woman with a deep sense of compassion, Dearbhla Mescal has inspired thousands online to slow down, savour the small moments and rediscover the beauty in everyday life. Now in her first book, Dearbhla shares her own practice of finding joy in a beautiful and uplifting collection of thoughts, recollections and poems.



11.30am / St. Mary's Church - The Square

Festival Mass

Join us for our annual mass from St. Mary's Church which will be celebrated by Canon Declan O'Connor. Live streaming also available online at www.listowelparish.com.

12noon / John B. Keane's Bar - William Street

Entry: Free Event

The Healing Session and the Laying of the Hands with Billy Keane

Music, songs and stories led by Billy Keane. Everyone gets a turn. Now in its 33rd year, this afternoon of gaiety never fails to disappoint and there might even be a playing of a teapot!

12.30pm / The Listowel Arms Hotel - The Square

Entry: €15

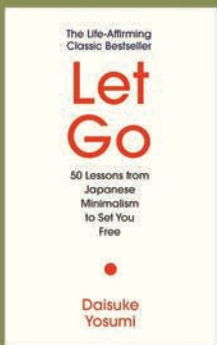
Let Go

50 Lessons from Japanese Minimalism to Set You Free with Daisuke Yosumi

'Letting go is not a loss - it is an act of self-respect.' Marie Kondo
What if a freer, richer life doesn't come from gaining more but from letting go? In today's world, everything is too busy, too fast, too complicated and too connected.

In this talk, bestselling author **Daisuke Yosumi** shares practical lessons from Japanese minimalism, showing how 'letting go' helps you simplify your life and focus on what truly matters, from money and time to habits and relationships. This is not about decluttering - it's a life strategy in a chaotic world.

Daisuke Yosumi has created ten million-selling hits as a music producer in Japan, before moving to a lakeside forest in New Zealand in 2010 to fulfil a long-held dream. He mastered the art of 'letting go' through three radical life stages: his difficult school years, the corporate battlefield in Tokyo, and now a self-sufficient life free from the pressures of time and money in New Zealand, where he lives with his family. He also leads LifestyleDesign.Camp, an online community school for post-capitalist living.



1.00pm / St. John's Theatre - The Square

Entry: €15

Lunchtime Theatre

Grace

Presented by Bewley's Café Theatre, James Joyce's *Grace* is a tale of booze, bombast and religious confusion that brilliantly satirises the role of the Catholic Church in early twentieth century Irish life. When struggling salesman, Tom Kernan, is found drunk and injured in a pub toilet and brought home in disgrace to his long suffering wife, his friends hatch a plot to save him from his errant ways. Featuring actor and comedian, Terry O'Neill, who brings to life Joyce's rare collection of characters and takes you on a hilarious journey from purgatory to paradise.



1.30pm / Listowel Town Park - Bridge Road

Entry: Free Event

Unveiling of Danny Hannon Memorial Seat

Danny Hannon was one of the founding members and guiding lights of the Lartigue Theatre Group in Listowel, dedicating decades of his life to amateur drama, literature and the cultural life of North Kerry. A passionate champion of the arts, he was also closely associated with Listowel Writers' Week and helped nurture generations of performers, writers and audiences through his vision, warmth and generosity.



Lartigue Theatre Co.

The unveiling of this commemorative seat in Listowel Town Park is a fitting tribute to a man whose creativity, friendship and love of theatre left an enduring mark on the town. It stands as a place of remembrance and reflection, honouring Danny's extraordinary contribution to the artistic and community spirit of Listowel for over half a century.

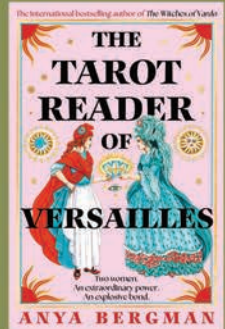


2.00pm / Kerry Writers' Museum - The Square
Entry: €15

Anya Bergman The Tarot Reader of Versailles

Join the enchanting Anya Bergman to discuss her latest novel, *The Tarot Reader of Versailles* and the inspiration, research, and writing process behind the novel. It is the early days of the French Revolution and, on the streets of Paris, terror reigns. Marie Anne Adelaide Lenormand has an extraordinary power. Through her tarot cards she can commune with the dead. She is loyal to Marie Antoinette - despite foreseeing her fate. She meets Cáit, an Irish maid who can see the past, and the two young women share an electrifying connection, drawn to each other's abilities. But Cáit has secrets, and who will she betray?

Anya Bergman is the author of the bestselling *The Witches of Vardø*, a Sunday Times best historical fiction book of 2023, and was shortlisted for the Kerry Irish Novel of the Year 2023.



3.00pm / The Listowel Arms Hotel- The Square
Entry: €15

Sarah Breen and Emer McLysaght Our Deadly Summer

The authors of the bestselling *Oh My God, What A Complete Aisling* series have teamed up again to bring us *Our Deadly Summer*, offering a fresh twist on their signature Aisling-style comedy. It is a story about friendship, young women and bad men. Set in Dublin, London and New York, the book follows Trinity Students Laura and Dee, who set off to The Big Apple to have the summer of their lives. But there's a twist: the book opens with them standing over a dead body.



Join this hilarious duo for some noughties nostalgia and a catch up on life after the Aislings.

Sarah and Emer will be in conversation with Deirdre Walsh, Broadcaster & Presenter with Radio Kerry.

3.30pm / St. John's Theatre - The Square

Entry: €15

Mary Ann Kenny

The Episode

A True Story of Loss, Madness and Healing

In this deeply moving event, author Mary Ann Kenny discusses the raw and personal story behind her book *The Episode*. She explores her remarkable journey through grief, following the sudden death of her husband, John. She reflects on her descent into psychosis, the complexities of psychiatric treatment, and her path to healing. Mary Ann delves into the power of storytelling, the urgent need for advocacy within mental health care, and the persistent stigma that surrounds mental illness.

With honesty and grace, Mary Ann reflects on trauma, resilience, and the ongoing journey of self-belief.

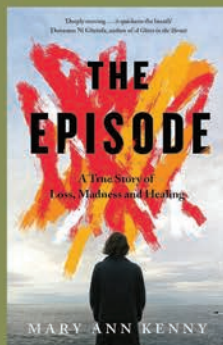
4.00pm / Kerry Writers' Museum - The Square

Entry: Free Event

The Maureen Beasley

Poetry Hour

Come along to our annual poetry event in memory of Maureen Beasley, where we will gather to celebrate the power, beauty and intimacy of poetry through readings, reflection and shared voices. This special event honours Maureen's enduring love of literature and her lasting connection to the festival, inviting audiences to pause, listen and enjoy poetry in a warm and welcoming setting.

SINCE  1971

Writers' Week

Listowel

Celebrating 55 Years 1971 to 2026

6.00pm / The Listowel Arms Hotel - The Square
Entry: €20

One of our Own: 'The Bard of Bellanaleck' A Homage to Mickey MacConnell

We will sing farewell to Listowel Writers' Week 2026 with a rousing and heartfelt tribute to entertainer, songwriter and journalist **Mickey MacConnell**. A native of Ballanaleck, Co. Fermanagh, Mickey became an adopted Kerryman when he moved to Listowel with his beloved wife Maura and daughters Kerry and Claire.

Mickey is best known for lyrical, iconic songs such as *Only Our Rivers Run Free*, *The Man who Drank the Farm*, *Supermarket Wine* and the world famous *The Lidl and Aldi Song* and many many more.

His songs have been recorded by Christy Moore, Liam Clancy, The Wolfe Tones, Planxty, Onóir and numerous others.

Join Gabriel Fitzmaurice, Denis Leahy and Kerry stars, Lorraine Nash and Bryan Murphy who will sing to the imitable, ingenious Mickey MacConnell.



8.00pm / St. John's Theatre - The Square

Entry: €20

Evening Theatre: Inishfallen Fare Thee Well performed by Ronan Wilmot.

Based on the life of socialist writer and playwright Sean O'Casey, Inishfallen finds him at age 78, living far from his inner-city Dublin tenement upbringing in Devon. Ronan Wilmot, famous for his film roles in *In The Name of the Father*, *The Field* and *The General*, is enthralling as O'Casey. Audience members will be invited to walk down memory lane with the writer as he reminisces about life-changing events like the 1913 Dublin Lockout and the Easter Rising, and how he was inspired to write plays like the *Shadow of a Gunman*, *Juno and the Paycock*, *the Plough and the Stars* and the *Silver Tassie*. Written by Eddie Naughton, whose *Zelda* was a critical hit in 2014, *Inishfallen Fare Thee Well* is a unique window into the mind of one of Ireland's most celebrated creatives.



CHILDREN'S

EVENTS



PUBLIC EVENTS

SATURDAY 30TH MAY

10.30am / Listowel Library

Entry: Free Event. Limited to 30 participants - Booking Essential
(Ages 6 years to 8 years)

11.30am / Listowel Library

Entry: Free Event. Limited to 30 participants - Booking Essential
(Ages 8 years to 10 years)

Workshop with Dr. Shane Bergin **Experiment, explore, and uncover the secrets hidden in everyday objects.**

Roll up your sleeves and join scientist **Dr. Shane Bergin** for an exciting adventure from *The Experimenters: Luke and Ruby's Scientific Sleepover!* Luke and Ruby are visiting their grandparents, who teach them how to do science and explore the world around them. This workshop will have you build musical instruments from recycling material, just like Luke and Ruby did in one of their science adventures. Ready to join in and help solve a science mystery? **Dr. Shane** needs your help!



Dr. Shane Bergin is a physicist and an associate professor in science education at University College Dublin. His work focuses on informal science learning; education policy development, and public engagement in science. In recent years, he has published children's science books that value play and creativity; produced a podcast series, *The Trust Race*, about scandals and controversies that have impacted trust in science. He has created several informal science and arts education programmes, such as *Quavers to Quadratics* - where children play with ideas common to science and music. He enjoys regular slots on RTE radio and Newstalk FM and has hosted live TV shows from UCD.



When booking please use parents'/guardians' name and contact details.

Parents'/Guardians' must accompany children to sign in.

SATURDAY 30TH MAY

2.00pm / Meet at Gazebo in grounds of Community Centre

Workshop will take place in The Garden of Europe

Entry: Free Event. Limited to 25 participants -Booking Essential

(Ages 6 years to 14 years)

Bandia na Bealtaine

Queen of the May

A Nature Tradition.

Bilingual Workshop with Siobhan de Paor

Imeacht clainnne: Le chéile dearfhamid Bandia na Bealtaine le luach an fhód. Rachfhaimid i cómhra le na nithe fiáin thart timpeall orainn agus aimseóimid na seoda a bheidh mar chuid don altóra nó mandala. Le athshamhlú an sean tradisiúin seo, tá deis ár oidhreacht saibhir a chuir in iúil do na pháistí. Imeacht dhá theangach le **Siobhán de Paor**.



Together we will create the *Queen of the May* in the woods with foraged wild things around us. We will search for precious things to be part of a mandala or nature altar, developing our relationship with the mystical and the natural world. In this re-imagining of an old Irish tradition, there is an opportunity for children to experience the wealth of their cultural inheritance. Suitable for children of all ages.

Siobhán de Paor is a multi-disciplinary artist who creates immersive ritual theatre and spoken word. Her work with children includes workshops in drámdraócht, magical theatre, improv drama, shadow theatre, contemporary dance and nature connection. Her work aims to empower children in the context of ecological collapse and to encourage children to use their Irish language skills in a fun environment. Her work is low tech, portable and adaptable to a variety of sites.

When booking please use parents'/guardians' name and contact details.

Parents'/Guardians' must accompany children to sign in.

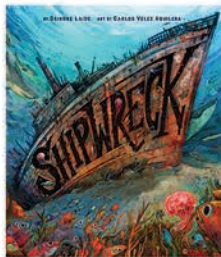
CONFINED EVENTS

MONDAY 25TH MAY

Lenamore National School

Story Time and Writing Workshop with Deirdre Laide

Author Deirdre Laide will lead a full school workshop incorporating storytelling, history and creative writing. Deirdre Laide is a primary school teacher and children's book author living in Kerry. She is passionate about nature, conservation and the lesser-known aspects of history. She aims to bring curiosity and wonder to young readers through storytelling, making history accessible and engaging. Her debut children's book *Shipwreck* is a lyrical non-fiction picture book exploring famous and infamous shipwrecks, the intrepid scientists and treasure hunters who discovered them, and the scientific techniques used in the process.



MONDAY 25TH MAY

Scoil Réalta na Maidine

Story Time and Character Creation Workshop with Sue Loughnane

Author Sue Loughnane will read from her books and lead the junior classes in a creative illustration workshop where children will be given an opportunity to work together to design their characters' outfits. Sue Loughnane is an actress, author and children's art facilitator. She is known for playing Debbie in TV drama *Love / Hate* for which she won the 2013 Irish Film and Television Award for Best Supporting Actress. Her first novel *The Art of Scandal* was published in October 2014, and she has published five children's books including *The Slug Who Came to the Sleepover*, *Football Nursery Rhymes* and *Dusty the Irish Dancing Dolphin*.



TUESDAY 26TH MAY

Presentation Primary School & Nano Nagle Special School

Story Time and Writing Workshop

with Katie O'Donoghue

Katie O'Donoghue will bring the magic of sensory story-time to pupils at Presentation Primary School and Nano Nagle School, Listowel.

Dr. Katie O'Donoghue is a Kerry based author, illustrator, and Art Psychotherapist with a PhD in Health Psychology. Both her creative and therapeutic work focus on nurturing children's minds, hearts and imaginations. Her books include *The Little Squirrel Who Worried*, *The Little Otter Who Tried* and *The Little Lamb Who Led*, published by Gill Books. Katie finds much of her inspiration in nature, whether it's growing vegetables and flowers in her cottage garden or exploring the wild landscapes of Ireland.



WEDNESDAY 27TH MAY

Presentation Primary School & Nano Nagle Special School

Tallest Smallest Theatre

The Tallest Smallest Theatre will bring their magical Trunk of Tricks to the students at Nano Nagle School for a fun-filled morning of interactive story time, puppetry and fun. In the afternoon, the BFG will arrive at Presentation Primary School to chat about all things huge and dreamlike. He will need help to create more "ringabellers" and who better to ask than a gaggle of "childers"?



THURSDAY 28TH MAY
 Gaelscoil Lios Tuathail
 Listowel Library

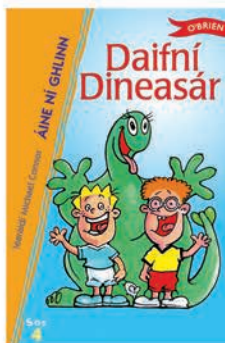
Ceardlann Filíochta Irish Language Poetry Workshop

Déanfaidh Áine Ní Ghlinn céardlann filíochta sa leabharlann le grúpaí ó Ghaelscoil Lios Tuathail. Cabhróidh sí leis na páistí dánta simplí a scríobh agus saothar ealaíne spráúil a chur leo.

Áine Ní Ghlinn will deliver poetry writing and illustration workshops with children from Gaelscoil Lios Tuathail.

File, drámadóir agus scríbhneoir do dhaoine óga í Áine Ní Ghlinn. Tá 40 leabhar scríofa aici - pictiúrleabhair, drámaí do pháistí, scéalta agus úrscéalta do léitheoirí óga agus do dhéagóirí, cnusaigh filíochta do pháistí agus do dhaoine fásta. Ainmníodh í mar an séú Laureate na nÓg, 2020-2023. Tá sí ina ball d'Aosdána.

Áine Ní Ghlinn is a poet and children's writer. She has written forty books, including picture books for very young readers, stories and novels for children and teenagers and poetry collections for children and adults. She was named as Ireland's sixth Laureate na nÓg, 2020-2023. She is a member of Aosdána.



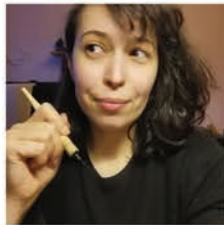
THURSDAY 28TH MAY
 Youthreach Listowel

Graphic Novel Workshop

Comic Book Artist, Mari Rolin, will lead a comic book workshop to explore storytelling through words and images.

Mari Rolin is a Brazilian comic book artist residing in Kerry. She's one half of the team behind the webcomic *Chaotic Neutral* and part of both the editorial and artistic team of OPArt, nominated for the Angoulême Alternative Comics Award in 2024.

Mari created zines and featured in several comic book anthologies/magazines like *Café Espacial #20*, *HOME*, and *Failure to Launch*; she is also the artist in the indie graphic novel *When Language Fails*. When not drawing Mari can be found reading, writing, teaching or playing with her cats.



THURSDAY 28TH MAY
Scoil Réalta na Maidine

Stories and Sport: A Winning Team!

Author Emma Larkin will show the pupils at Scoil Réalta na Maidine that reading and sport have a lot more in common than you might think, and that reading can actually help you level up on the pitch. The children will create their own story, as part of a team, using Emma's secret trick: mapping out a plot using the positions on a Gaelic Football pitch!

Emma Larkin lives in Kerry with her husband, four children and dog. Emma is the author of the *Twin Power* series for O'Brien Press and the *Izzy's Magical Adventures in Sport Series*. The third *Twin Power* book in the series, *Féile, A Twin Power Adventure*, was published in May 2025. Emma's original inspiration to write her books was her grandmother, Maureen Hennebry, (née Cashman), who was on the Cork camogie team which won the All-Ireland Camogie Championship three times in row between 1939 and 1941. Emma hopes that the young people who read her books will be inspired to keep playing and reading and most importantly, to have fun in both of these pursuits.



SINCE  1971

Writers' Week

Listowel

FESTIVAL WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOPS

Thursday 28th to Saturday 30th May, 2026

Workshops begin at 9.30am each morning

Creative Writing with Catherine Dunne

Poetry: A Celebration with Enda Wyley

Life Writing with John Connell

Writing Brave Poems with Victoria Kennefick

Short Stories with Éilís Ní Dhuibhne (Friday & Saturday only)

MASTERCLASSES

Friday 29th and Saturday 30th May, 2026

Masterclasses begin at 10.00am each morning

**Personalised Masterclass on Writing a Novel
with Christine Dwyer Hickey**

**Our Stories Are The Glue of What We Are
with Colum McCann & Narrative 4**

All workshops can be booked online at www.writersweek.ie
Subject to availability as numbers are strictly limited.

SINCE  1971

Writers' Week

Listowel

LITERARY AWARDS 2026

KERRY

The Kerry Irish Novel of the Year Award

Sponsor: Kerry Group PLC
Adjudicators: Nicola Sturgeon & Andrew O'Hagan
Prize Fund: €22,000

**Mark Pigott KBE &
The Pigott Family**

**The Pigott Poetry Prize in association
with Listowel Writers' Week**

Sponsor: Mark Pigott KBE & the Pigott Family
Adjudicators: Zaffar Kunial & Isabelle Galleymore
Prize Fund: €24,000



The Bryan MacMahon Short Story Award

Sponsor: Kerry County Council
Adjudicator: Cathy Galvin
Prize: €1,000

**PRIVATE
SPONSOR**

The Single Poem Award

Sponsor: Private Sponsor
Adjudicator: John O'Donnell
Prize: €700



Foras na Gaeilge

Comórtas Filíochta Fhoras na Gaeilge

Urraitheoir: Foras na Gaeilge
Moltóir: Áine Ní Ghlinn
Duais: €1,000



KILFERGUS, GLIN, CO. LIMERICK.

Collection of Poetry Competition

Dedicated to the memory of Joni Costelloe

Sponsor: Tim Costelloe - Profile Developments
Adjudicators: Eileen Sheehan
Prize Fund: €2,500

**THE
NILSSON
FAMILY**



The Nilsson Local Heritage Writing Competition

Sponsor: The Nilsson Family
Adjudicators: Mike Lynch
Prize Fund: €1,400

Writing in Prisons Competition

Sponsor: Irish Prison Service,
Northern Ireland Prison Service
& Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas
Adjudicator: Listowel Writers' Week Board
Prize: €700

**Creative Writing for Adults
with Learning Difficulties / Disabilities**

Sponsor: Pierse Fitzgibbon Solicitors LLP
Adjudicator: Listowel Writers' Week Board
Prize: €1,000

The Children's Writing Competition

Sponsor: GoSafe
Adjudicator: Listowel Writers' Week Board
Prize: €950

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FESTIVAL FUNDERS AND SPONSORS



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Mark Pigott KBE &
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KERRY



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THE TAE LANE STORE

Brona
handmade Irish chocolates

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Mags Deli • Hilda Doodly • Ned Morkan

Jim & Dore Normile • Robert & Olive Pierse

The Lynch Family, Ballinruddery • Xavier McAuliffe • Bill Walsh & Family

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MEET THE FESTIVAL TEAM

Listowel Writers' Week Chairman:	Ned O'Sullivan
Listowel Writers' Week Directors:	Mary Kennelly, Christy Walsh, Lisa O'Flaherty, Joanna Keane O'Flynn, Margaret Sheehan, Aidan O'Murchu, Eilis Casey, Aoife Kennelly
Festival Curator:	Máire Logue
Festival Office Co-ordinator:	Geraldine Griffin
Festival Finance Officer / Children's Festival Curator:	Joanne Hunter
Festival Office Admins:	Pat Mulvihill, Viktoriia Minkovska
Video Production:	Michael O'Gorman
Social Media:	Mairead O'Gorman
Social Media Advertising:	Tara Daly Marketing
Website Development:	SJS Web Design
Design & Printing:	Listowel Printing Works

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our heartfelt thanks goes to our Company Members, our incredible volunteers and our young adult volunteers of this year's Listowel Writers' Week whose generosity, warmth and dedication will continue to bring the festival to life. From welcoming audiences and supporting events to assisting artists, writers and visitors from near and far, their enthusiasm and community spirit are at the heart of everything that makes the festival so special. Their time, energy and goodwill ensure that Listowel continues to offer the unique atmosphere of friendship, creativity and hospitality for which the festival is renowned, and we are deeply grateful for their invaluable contribution. Tá sibh uilig molta dá mbeimid inár dtost.

Listowel Writers' Week would like to thank the community of Listowel for their help, sponsorship, patronage and support of this year's Festival. We also thanks St. John's Theatre & Arts Centre, Kerry Writers' Museum, The Listowel Arms Hotel and The Plaza Centre for the use of their venues.

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FESTIVAL BOX OFFICE

Listowel Writers' Week is delighted to announce the opening of a dedicated Central Box Office in Listowel for the duration of this year's Festival.

This year, tickets for all festival events will be available exclusively through the Central Box Office rather than at individual venue doors. Festival-goers are strongly encouraged to book tickets in advance where possible, as a number of events are expected to sell out. Please note that cash payments will only be accepted at the Central Box Office, with no cash sales available at individual event venues during the Festival.

During the festival, opening hours will extend from 9am daily until the start time of the final event each evening.



BOX OFFICE NUMBER 086 402 7807



Box Office open from Friday 15th May.



Monday to Friday: 10.am - 6pm / Saturday 10am - 2pm.



Located next door to the Listowel Arms Hotel.

BOOKING INFORMATION

Book online at www.writersweek.ie.

EVENTS

Programme and performers may be subject to change. All information in this programme is correct at the time of going to print. Events are approximately 1 hour in duration. For ticket enquiries visit the bookings desk in the Listowel Arms Hotel or our website www.writersweek.ie.

RECORDING

The recording of events will not take place for live events on this year's programme. We ask participants to refrain from recording these live events. This is in compliance with our safeguarding policy.

TICKET EXCHANGE

Once purchased, tickets cannot be exchanged or refunds given. Refunds will only be made in the event of a cancelled performance.

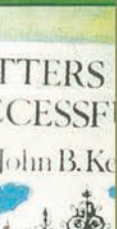
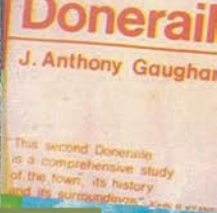
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GOVERNANCE

Listowel Writers' week is a company limited by guarantee and is a registered charity. We confirm that our organisation complies with The Governance Code for Community, Voluntary and Charitable Sector of Ireland.

a writers workshop in
the home of Irish writing



LISTOWEL TOWN MAP

THE SQUARE

1. Kerry Writers Museum
2. Listowel Castle
3. St. John's Theatre & Arts Centre
4. St. Mary's Church
5. Pat McAuliffe Plasterwork Foundation, 'Harp & Lion, The Blar' Saul)

BRIDGE RD./TOWN PARK

6. Greenway
7. Listowel Ponds & Park Course
8. Listowel Community Centre
9. Listowel Bridge/Flower Field Walk
10. Holocast Memorial & Garden of Europe

CIVIC CENTRE

11. Listowel Library
12. Listowel Courthouse

CHURCH STREET & WILLIAM STREET

13. St. Michael's Graveyard
14. Church Tower (In Graveyard)
15. Carnegie Library (ODS Centre)
16. Learys Larder / John B. Keane

JOHN B. KEANE ROAD

17. Larrigan Memorial & Museum
18. Templell Blar Famine Graveyard

Follow the Greenway

FREE PARKING IN LISTOWEL DURING LISTOWEL WRITERS' WEEK FESTIVAL 2026

TOURIST INFORMATION

- TOURIST INFORMATION
- BIKE PARKING
- PLAY AREA
- BUS STOP
- FREE PARKING

PARKS & GARDENS

- PARKS & GARDENS
- EV CHARGE POINT
- PUBLIC TOILETS
- DEFIBRILLATORS - PORTABLE AED

LISTOWEL - ABBEYFEALE KINGDOM OF KERRY GREENWAYS LISTOWEL RIVER WALK

LISTOWEL - WHERE STORIES BEGIN



a writer's workshop in
the home of Irish writing

THE CASE FOR
THE TREATY
ALFRED O'RAHILLY

The Florentine
Brendan Kennelly

Donorail
J. Anthony Gaughan

The second Donorail
is a comprehensive study
of the town, its history
and its surroundings.

CUP

While Rivers Run

Jack O'Moora and
King of Ireland's Son
BY BRYAN MACMAHON
Illustrated by RICHARD BENNETT

A Strange Woman's
Daughter
MAURICE

Brendan of Ireland

HIGHEST HOUSE
ON THE MOUNTAIN
JOHN B. KEANE

HUT
42
John B. Keane
General Editor - Robert Hogan

STRONG TEA
by John B. Keane

PICTURES
IN THE
IRISH NATIONAL GALLERY
THOMAS MACGREGVY

THE FAMILY
AT BETHAN
ALFRED O'RAHILLY

POEMS
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Gift of Ink
to Tim Danaher

SPLENDID
PRESENCE
S. WILMOT

GOSPEL
MEDITATIONS

the Lion-tamer
and other stories
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MISE
SEAMUS WILMOT

Howl Called Listowel
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DANTA GRADHA
AN ANTHOLOGY OF IRISH LOVE
POETRY (A.D. 1380-1750)
COLLECTED AND EDITED
BY THOMAS F. O'RAHILLY

ALFRED O'RAHILLY

The
Cobweb's Glory
A COMEDY
IN
THREE ACTS
by
Bryan Michael O'Connor

MONEY
BRYAN MICHAEL O'CONNOR

LETTERS OF A
SUCCESSFUL T.D.
JOHN B. KEANE

THE CROOKED
CROSS
BY BRENDA
KENNELL

GEORGE FITZMAURICE
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