BLF Programme 2019

With thanks to our sponsors:
FRIDAY 20th SEPTEMBER

BRAY TOWN HALL: 7.30PM

Join us for an evening of poetry, stories and song!

Poet Katie Donovan will host a reading of poems from *Origami Doll* (Arlen House), by the late Bray poet Shirley McClure, while music will be provided by popular Bray trio *Mood Swings*. We will also hear the winning poems and stories from our Bray Literary Festival competitions, along with readings from the IWC’s New Irish Communities and Glencree Fighting Words groups.

Fighting Words provides free tutoring and mentoring in creative writing and related arts to as many children, young adults and adults with special needs as we can reach. Our programmes and workshops are delivered mainly by volunteer writing tutors. A selection of young readers will read their work at tonight’s event.
This **FREE** illustrated talk will explore the extraordinary lives of Oscar Wilde’s parents, the brilliant Sir William and his flamboyant wife Lady Jane Wilde, also known as ‘Speranza’ the ‘Poet of the Nation’. Both experienced enormous successes but also deep tragedies. Writing in *De Profundis*, Oscar acknowledged his parents’ great influence – they ‘bequeathed me a name they had made noble and honoured, not merely in literature, art, archaeology and science, but in the public history of my own country, in its evolution as a nation’. This talk is based on Gerard Hanberry’s biography ‘More Lives Than One – The Remarkable Wilde Family Through the Generations’.

Gerard Hanberry is an award-winning poet, biographer, author and musician. His fourth collection of poems ‘What Our Shoes Say About Us’ was published in 2014 by Salmon Poetry and he is currently completing his fifth collection. Hanberry’s biography of the Wilde family ‘More Lives Than One – The Remarkable Wilde Family Through the Ages’ was published by The Collins Press in 2011. His most recent work ‘On Raglan Road – Great Irish Love Songs and the Women Who Inspired Them’ (The Collins Press, 2016) combines his two great interests – music and literature. Most recently he was the writer/researcher on RTE’s ‘Search for Ireland’s Favourite Folk Song’.

The talk on Wilde will be preceded by the launch of the Bray Arts Journal from 7pm, and will be followed by an Open Mic from 9pm for poets, authors and musicians.
TWO FREE EVENTS !!

Bray Literary Lecture: “Practice, Process, Product”
Saturday 28th Sept, 11:30-12:30, Bray Town Hall

Mia Gallagher will explore writing through three lenses: writing as practice, writing as process and writing as product. She’ll look at the differences and overlaps between these perspectives, with a view to identifying how, and when, each may best support ‘good’ writing. She’ll also discuss how confusing these perspectives can create problems for the writer—both in making their work, and in bringing their work to a public. She’ll finish by exploring strategies which have helped her to navigate some of these problems in her own practice.

Mia Gallagher’s novels are HellFire (2006), awarded the 2007 Irish Tatler Literature Award, and Beautiful Pictures of the Lost Homeland (2016), longlisted for the 2016 Republic of Consciousness Award. Her short-story collection, Shift (New Island, 2018) is longlisted for the 2019 Edge Hill Short Story Award. Mia is a contributing editor to the Stinging Fly and a member of Aosdána. [Photo by Robbie Fry.]

FOOD STORIES

Sunday 29th Sept, 12:00-1:00, The Harbour Bar

Food connects and brings people together. It is something that all of us, no matter where we’re from, can share in and enjoy. Join participatory-based artist Katie Ceekay, 80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World and Fighting Words in welcoming local direct provision residents to chat about food stories and food journeys, as well as sampling some food in the Harbour Bar. Curated in a group setting, participants tell the story of their journey through recipes, ingredients, flavours and memory. Developed as part of a new project the recipes, stories, and the experiences will be documented and collected together in a short publication.
Writing from Life: Memoir & Poetry
Saturday 28th Sept, 13.00-14.00, Bray Town Hall

Éilis Ní Dhuibhne is a novelist, short story writer and playwright in both Irish and English. Her fiction includes The Dancers Dancing (1999), The Bray House (1990), Fox Swallow Scarecrow (2007), The Shelter of Neighbours (2012) and Hurlamaboc (2009). Plays include Dún na mBan trí Thíne, Milseog an tSamhraidh, Casadh an Taperecorder, Bábóga, and an episode in Signatories (2016). Prizes include the Stewart Parker Award for Drama, Bisto Book of the Year Award, and a shortlisting for the Orange Prize for Fiction. She received the Irish Pen Award for an Outstanding Contribution to Irish Literature in 2015, and a Hennessy Hall of Fame Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2016. She is a member of Aosdána.

Katie Donovan has published five collections of poetry, all with Bloodaxe books. Her first collection, Watermelon Man, appeared in 1993, followed by Entering the Mare; Day of the Dead and Rooting: New and Selected Poems. Her most recent collection, Off Duty (2016) was shortlisted for the 2017 Poetry Now Prize. She is a recipient of the Lawrence O'Shaughnessy Award for Irish Poetry.

Thomas Kilroy was born on Greenview Terrace, Callan, Co. Kilkenny and studied at University College Dublin. He was play editor at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin and later sat on the board of Field Day Theatre Company. He became Professor of English at UCG. He is currently living in Mayo and is a member of the Royal Society of Literature, Aosdána and the Irish Academy of Letters. His many plays include Double Cross, Talbot’s Box and The Secret Fall of Constance Wilde.

Event sponsored by The Open University
Wendy Erskine’s debut short story collection, *Sweet Home*, was published by The Stinging Fly Press in September 2018, and was published by Picador in June 2019. It was shortlisted for The Republic of Consciousness Prize, is longlisted for The Gordon Burn Prize and shortlisted for The Edge Hill Short Story Prize. The story ‘Inakeen’ from the collection was longlisted for the Sunday Times Audible Short Story Prize. Her stories have appeared in The Stinging Fly, Winter Papers, *Female Lines* (New Island) and *Being Various* (Faber and Faber), and on BBC Radio 4. She lives in Belfast where she works as a teacher in a secondary school.


Jackie Gorman has been published in a number of journals including Poetry Ireland Review, The Lonely Crowd and The Honest Ulsterman. She was part of the 2017 Poetry Ireland Introductions Series. In the same year, she won the Listowel Writers Week Single Poem Award and was commended in the Irish Poem of the Year Award at the Bord Gáis Energy Irish Book Awards. She has been commended twice in the Patrick Kavanagh Poetry Awards and received a Blue Nib Chapbook Award. She recently completed a Masters in Poetry Studies at the Irish Centre for Poetry Studies in DCU. Her first full collection *The Wounded Stork* was published by The Onslaught Press in Spring 2019 and was launched at Listowel Writers’ Week.

Event sponsored by The Open University
Breathing Green: Eco-Poetry

Saturday 28th Sept, 16.00-17.00, The Harbour Bar

Jane Robinson lives in Dublin, holds a PhD in biology, and was a recipient of the Strokestown International Poetry prize. This year she won the Shine-Strong Award for her début poetry collection Journey to the Sleeping Whale (Salmon, 2018) ‘a collection of poems which comes at its ecological subject awry, never obviously’ and which commemorates a voyage her father, Michael Robinson, who sailed out of Bray Harbour, made around the world in a homemade boat.

Grace Wells’ poetry and prose are strongly informed by nature, the environment, and spirit of place. Her debut poetry collection, When God Has Been Called Away to Greater Things (Dedalus Press, 2010), won the Rupert and Eithne Strong Award and was shortlisted for the London Festival Fringe New Poetry Award. Her second collection Fur (Dedalus Press, 2015) expanded the boundaries of eco-poetics, and was lauded by Poetry Ireland Review as ‘a book that enlarges the possibilities of poetry’. Her poem ‘Otter’ received a 2017 Forward Prize.

Moyra Donaldson is a poet and creative writing facilitator. She has published eight collections of poetry, most recently Carnivorous, from Doire Press, 2019. Her awards include The Allingham Award, Cuirt New Writing Award, Women’s National Poetry Competition, North West Words Poetry Award and the Belfast Year of the Writer Award. Other projects include a collaboration with photographic artist Victoria J Dean resulting in the publication Abridged 0 -36 Dis-Ease, and a collaboration with Wexford artist Paddy Lennon, Blood Horses, culminating in a limited edition publication of artworks and poems.

Mark Flynn was formerly the lead vocalist with the Blood Red Mountain Band whose album Far From Daylight reached no. 1 in the itunes charts to critical acclaim. Since that project ended, he’s been working on solo material for release this year. He is well-known for his high vocals and gutsy guitar, and plays a regular slot on a Monday night in the International Bar.
LITERARY SALON
Saturday 28th Sept, 17.15-18.30, The Harbour Bar

Niall McArdle’s work has appeared in The Irish Times, The Lonely Crowd, Banshee, Spontaneity, AGNI, Honest Ulsterman, and Phoenix Irish Short Stories, and has been broadcast on RTÉ Radio. He has been shortlisted for the Hennessy Literary Awards, the Francis MacManus Short Story Competition and the Cúirt New Writing Prize, and was the winner of the 2018 RTÉ Guide / Penguin Ireland Short Story Competition.

Daragh Bradish’s work has been published in Crannóg, the Moth, Acumen, Orbis, the North, Poetry Salzburg, The French Literary Review. In 2018 he won the Trócaire Poetry Ireland Prize. His first collection *Easter In March* was published by Liberties Press in 2016.

Robyn Rowland has written 10 books of poetry, most recently *Mosaics from the Map* and the bi-lingual *This Intimate War Gallipoli*. Her poetry appears in national/international journals and over forty anthologies. Her CDs are *Off the Tongue* and *Silver Leaving – Poems & Harp with Lynn Saoirse*. Her Gallipoli book was given to Heads of State and Princes Harry and Charles during the centenary celebrations on Gallipoli.

Simon Lewis was the winner of the Hennessy Emerging Poetry Prize and runner-up in the Patrick Kavanagh Poetry Award in 2015. His first collection, *Jewtown*, (Doire Press, 2016), was a finalist in the Shine/Strong Award. His second collection, “Ah, Men!” will be published in October by Doire Press.

Celia de Fréine writes in Irish and English. *Ceannródaí* (LeabhairCOMHAR), her biography of Louise Gavan Duffy, won ACIS Duais Leabhar Taighde na Blána (2019) and was nominated on the shortlist for An Post Irish Book Awards (2018). *Mná Dána* her collection of prize-winning plays has recently been re-issued by Arlen House who have also published the second edition of her poetry collection *imram : odyssey* described in the Irish Times as ‘some of the finest poems being published in Ireland today’.

Olivia Fitzsimons is a Northerner living in Wicklow. She won and came third in the Bray Literary Festival Flash Fiction Competition 2018. Winner Fiction At The Friary Runner New Writer Showcase, Cork International Short Story Festival 2018. Runner Up Benedict Kiely Short Story Competition. She has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and is currently working on her first novel. @oneflawediris

Keith Burke is a singer-songwriter from Skerries, Co Dublin. He has recorded three studio albums to date, *The Dancer Who Stole Your Shoes*, *Nobody Wants to Move* and *These Boys*, which led to concerts in Pittsburgh USA, Cairo and Beirut. DJ Tony Fenton called Keith’s music “A mix between Tom Waits, Nick Drake and James Taylor.” He is currently working on a new album, and will play a full-band gig in The Harbour Bar on Sunday 29th September at Bray Literary Festival.
An Evening with John Boyne & Jess Kidd
MERMAID ARTS CENTRE
SATURDAY 28th Sept, 8pm, €12/10

Join award-winning authors John Boyne (*The Heart’s Invisible Furies; The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas; My Brother’s Name is Jessica*) and Jess Kidd (*The Hoarder; Things in Jars; Himself*) for an entertaining evening of readings, discussion, Q&A and conversation.

With authors Tanya Farrelly and Edward O’Dwyer.
PUTTING IT WRITE!

Sunday Sept 29th, 11:30-12:30, Bray Town Hall

Rob Doyle was born in Dublin. His first novel, Here Are the Young Men, was published in 2014 by Bloomsbury and the Lilliput Press. It was chosen as a book of the year by the Irish Times, Independent, Sunday Times and Sunday Business Post, and was among Hot Press magazine’s ’20 Greatest Irish Novels 1916-2016’. It is being adapted for film. Doyle’s collection of short stories, This is the Ritual, was published by Bloomsbury in 2016. Doyle is the editor of The Other Irish Tradition, an anthology published by Dalkey Archive Press. His writing has been published in many newspapers and journals, and he writes a weekly books column for the Irish Times. Rob Doyle’s next novel, Threshold, will be published by Bloomsbury in 2020. He currently lives in Berlin.

Rebecca O’Connor’s first novel, He Is Mine and I Have No Other, was published by Canongate last year, and was described as ‘powerful and searing’ by the Sunday Times, as ‘eerie, tender and wonderful’ by Sophie Mackintosh, and ‘heartfelt and daring’ by Sjon. O’Connor is a recipient of a Geoffrey Dearmer Prize, and her first poetry collection, We’ll Sing Blackbird, was shortlisted for the Irish Times Shine Strong Award. She is co-director of The Moth, and designs and edits The Caterpillar and The Moth magazines from their office in Co. Cavan, where she lives with her husband and three children.

Strangers in a Strange Land

Sunday 29th Sept, 13.00-14.00, Bray Town Hall

Nuala O’Connor lives in Co. Galway. In 2019 she won the James Joyce Quarterly competition to write the missing story from Dubliners, ‘Ulysses’. Her fourth novel, Becoming Belle, was published to critical acclaim in 2018 in the US and Ireland and will be published in the UK in June 2019. She is currently writing a bio-fictional novel about Nora Barnacle, wife and muse to James Joyce. Nuala is editor at new flash e-zine Splonk. www.nualaoconnor.com

Oisín Fagan has had short fiction published in The Stinging Fly, and the anthology Young Irelanders, with work featured in the Irish Museum of Modern Art. In 2016, he won the inaugural Penny Dreadful Novella Prize for The Hierophants. Hostages, his debut collection, was also published in 2016 by New Island and in 2018 by Head of Zeus. His debut novel, Nobber, was released by JM Originals in July, 2019.

Mary Costello lives in Galway. Her short story collection, The China Factory (2012), was nominated for the Guardian First Book Award and shortlisted for an Irish Book Award. Her first novel, Academy Street (2014), won the Irish Book Awards Novel of the Year Award and was named overall Irish Book of the Year in 2014. It was shortlisted for the International Dublin Literary Award, the Costa First Novel Prize, the EU Prize for Literature and the Prix Littéraire des Ambassadeurs de la Francophonie en Irlande, and has been translated into several languages. Her second novel, The River Capture, will be published in October 2019.
ACROSS THE GENRE

Sunday 29th Sept, 14.30-15.30, Bray Town Hall

Geraldine Mills is poet and short story writer from County Galway. She has published four collections of poetry, three of short stories and a children’s novel. She has been awarded many prizes and bursaries including the Hennessy/Tribune New Irish Writer Award, two Arts Council Bursaries and a Patrick and Katherine Kavanagh Fellowship. Her fiction and poetry are taught in universities in St Louis, Missouri, Connecticut, Emory, Atlanta, U.S.A, and on the Emerson College summer course in Ballyvaughan. She was awarded an Individual Artist’s Bursary from Galway County Council in 2018 to work on her fifth poetry collection, Bone Road, forthcoming from Arlen House. She is a fiction mentor with NUI Galway and a facilitator on the Poetry Ireland Writers in Schools’ Scheme.

Paul Perry is a poet, and fiction writer. A winner of The Hennessy Award for Irish Literature, and the Patrick and Katherine Kavanagh Fellowship in Poetry, Paul has published five collections of poetry, including Gunpowder Valentine, New and Selected Poems. He also co-authored four international bestselling novels as Karen Perry with Penguin Random House. His latest collection of poetry is The Ghosts of Barnacullia, published by the above/ground press, 2019. His debut children’s book is The Cyclops with Two Eyes, 2019. Paul directs the Creative Writing Programme at UCD and lives in Dublin with his wife, and three children.

John O’Donnell has been published and broadcast widely. Awards include the Irish National Poetry Prize, the Ireland Funds Prize, and the Hennessy Poetry Award. He also won the Hennessy Award for Fiction and the Cuirt International New Fiction Prize. His most recent poetry collection is Sunlight: New and Selected Poems (Dedalus Press 2018). A collection of short stories Almost the Same Blue is forthcoming from Doire Press in 2020.
A DIFFERENT NOTE

Sunday 29th Sept, 16.00-17.00, The Harbour Bar

Hear music journalist Allan Jones (pictured above with Lou Reed) in conversation with author Philip St John.

Allan Jones is an award-winning British music journalist and editor. In 1974, he applied for a job on the UK’s best-selling music paper as a junior reporter, signing off his application with “Melody Maker needs a bullet up the arse. I’m the gun, pull the trigger”, He was editor of Melody Maker from 1984 to 1997 and until 2014 editor of music and film monthly Uncut. He is the author of Can’t Stand Up For Falling Down, a memoir of his experiences as a music journalist in the 70s and 80s, which was The Sunday Times’ Music Book Of The Year, 2017.

Philip St John has published short stories in New Irish Writing and in anthologies in Ireland and abroad. He has twice received Literature Bursaries from the Arts Council of Ireland. Four of his stage plays have been produced in Dublin in the last five years. An Italian translation of his dark comedy The Sylvia toured Italy in 2016/17. Earlier this year, his ghost story Temptress was restaged by his company High Seas in a co-production with Speckintime. Philip was 2018 Writer-in-Residence in Farmleigh House and is currently writing a novel about music and espionage during World War Two.
POETRY SALON
Sunday 29th Sept, 17.15-18.30, The Harbour Bar

Susan Lindsay’s third collection of poetry was launched in October, 2018. Milling the Air follows two former volumes also from Doire Press, Fear Knot (2013) and Whispering the Secrets (2011). A co-founding editor of Skylight 47 for a number of issues, Susan’s work has appeared in numerous journals and anthologies.

John W. Sexton’s latest book, Inverted Night, is published by SurVision Books. He is the author of six previous poetry collections, the most recent of which is Futures Pass (Salmon Poetry 2018). He is a past nominee for The Hennessy Literary Award and his poem ‘The Green Owl’ won the Listowel Poetry Prize 2007. Also in 2007 he was awarded a Patrick and Katherine Kavanagh Fellowship in Poetry.


Anne Fitzgerald’s poetry collections are Vacant Possession, (Salmon Poetry, 2017), Beyond the Sea, (Salmon Poetry, 2012), The Map of Everything, (Fort Foot Press, 2006) and Swimming Lessons, (Stonebridge, 2001). She founded two school publishing houses, in addition to www.fortyfoot.press.com. Anne is a recipient of the Ireland Fund of Monaco Literary bursary at the Princess Grace Irish Library in Monaco.

Jean O’Brien has five collections of poetry, her latest Fish on a Bicycle (New & Selected. Salmon Poetry). A 2018 holder of the Patrick Kavanagh Fellowship she has won competitions such as the prestigious Arvon International (UK), the Fish International and was Highly Commended in the Forward Prize and others. She holds an M.Phil in creative writing from TCD. and tutors in CW.

London-born Donald Gardner is a poet and performer and a translator of poetry from four languages. Recent books of his poetry are The Wolf Inside (Hearing Eye, 2014) and Early Morning (Grey Suit editions, London 2017). His selection of Remco Campert’s poetry, In Those Days, (Shoestring Press, 2014) was awarded the Vondel Prize for literary translation.

Ailie is a musician and songwriter from Carrick on Shannon in Co. Leitrim. Part folk and part electronic, her début album, ‘West to the Evening Sun’ - released 2017 - was described as “a tour de force of masterful songwriting, which pushes the boundaries, both sonically and lyrically” (Róisín Dwyer, Hot Press). She is currently working on her second album. (Pic: Ailie by Fergal Woods)
SUNDAY SEP 29th, 9:00pm, THE HARBOUR BAR

Keith Burke – lead guitar & vocals
Dave Mooney - bass
Oliver Ansaldi - saxophone
Brendan Doherty - drums

will close Bray Literary Festival 2019.

Join us for a great night of music and a final drink before you hit the road!
FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

Friday 20th

Culture Night (see page 1), Bray Town Hall, 8pm

Friday 27th

Wilde Times & Bray Arts launch, The Strand Hotel 7pm

Saturday 28th

Bray Literary Lectures  Bray Town Hall  11:30am
Writing from Life  Bray Town Hall  1:00pm
Brave New Words  Bray Town Hall  2:30pm
Breathing Green  Harbour Bar  4:00pm
Literary Salon  Harbour Bar  5:30pm
John Boyne & Jess Kidd  Mermaid Theatre  8:00pm

Sunday 29th

Putting it Write  Bray Town Hall  11:30am
Food Stories  The Harbour Bar  12:00am
Strangers in a Strange Land  Bray Town Hall  1:00pm
Across the Genre  Bray Town Hall  2:30pm
A Different Note  Harbour Bar  4:00pm
Poetry Salon  Harbour Bar  5:30pm
Keith Burke & Band  Harbour Bar  9:00pm