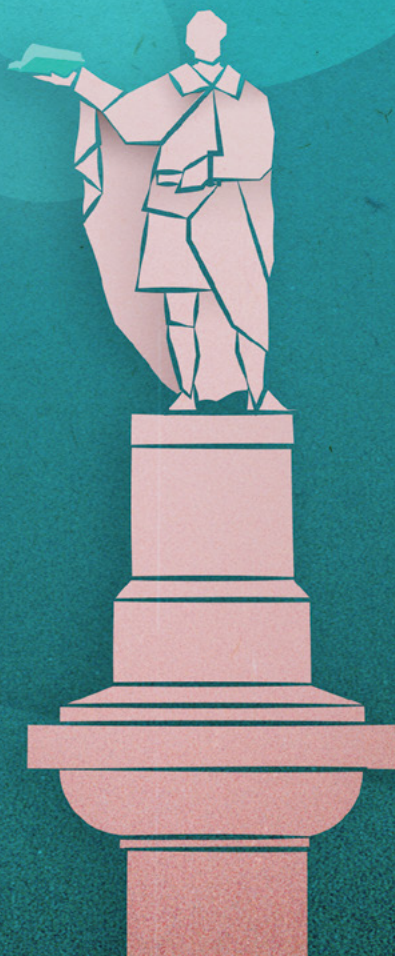


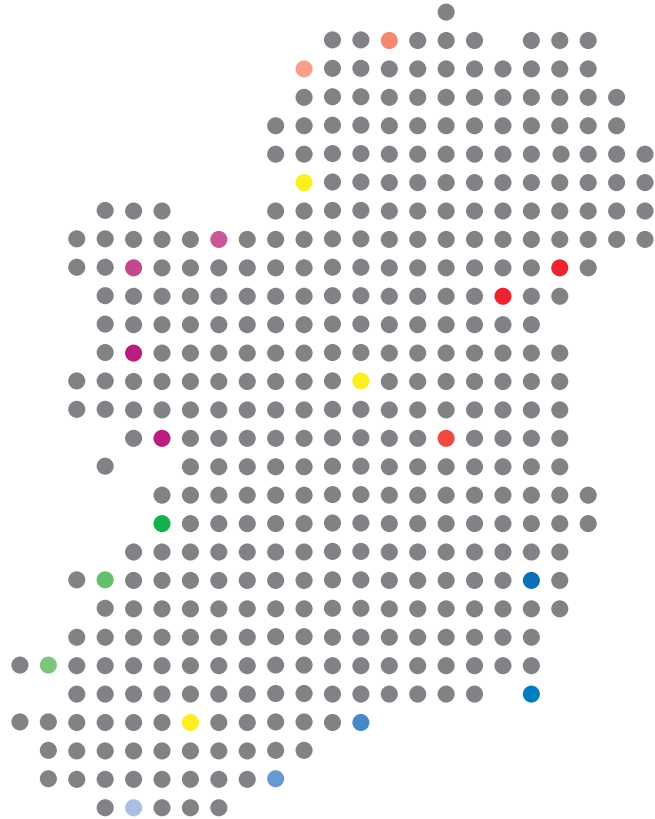


Ennis Book Club Festival

1st - 3rd March 2024

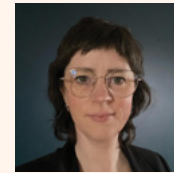
PROGRAMME





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**Welcome to the 18th Ennis
Book Club Festival.**

On behalf of myself and the organising Committee, it is my great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to our returning friends and to those joining us for the first time in Ennis this weekend. We are delighted to present this diverse programme of events to you and hope that there is something for book lovers and readers of all ages.

In the enchanting streets of Ennis, where each cobblestone holds a tale of its own, our festival has found a home for celebrating the written word. This is not just a festival; it's a literary haven where friendships are made, conversations flourish, and the love for storytelling resonates through every corner of our charming town.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Arts Council of Ireland for their continued support over the years. We are also very grateful for the support from Clare County Council, Clare Libraries, Clare Arts Office and Creative Ireland Clare.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our local partners including those in hospitality and retail whose unwavering support reflects the true community spirit of our Festival.

As you browse the events lined up for the weekend, relish the chance to engage with Irish and international authors, explore the realms of fiction and non-fiction, revel in the beauty of poetry, and discover the joys of reading in the company of fellow book lovers.

So, let the pages of Ennis unfold before you, and may this weekend be a delightful chapter in your own literary adventure. Enjoy the journey!

Niamh O' Donovan
Chairperson



There is one constant celebrated at EBCF and that is the spirit of enquiry and curiosity we are gifted when we open the covers of a book. In the words of Toni Morrison, "books are a form of political action. Books are knowledge. Books are reflection. Books change your mind".

With our festival, we aim to bring readers and writers together in a communion of ideas, an exchange of viewpoints and an exploration of the written word. Every day requires a new negotiation with the world around us and writers constantly interpret and interrogate notions of identity, place and belonging. We salute their efforts in all parts of the globe.

The festival this year brings many wonderful creators to Ennis; poets, novelists, musicians and performers who want to share what they've created in the solitary spaces where they write. We'll celebrate emerging writers as well as established ones, Michael Magee, Una Mannion, Denise Mina, Mike McCormack, Dani Gill, Paula Meehan and Lauren Mackenzie being just a few of our guests. We will have music in our new fringe element at the festival and the winner of our short story competition will be announced on Friday 1st March.

There promises to be a stimulating and spirited festival happening over three days in Ennis and with an open heart we invite you to join us.

Martina Durac
Artistic Director

EBCF 2024 COMMITTEE:

Emer Bowen, Angela Connaughton, Bríd Hayes and Emily O'Dwyer

The committee can be contacted at:

info@ennisbookclubfestival.com and (086) 152 2169

FRIDAY 1st MARCH

TIME	EVENT	PAGE
12pm	<i>We Are Human Too</i> — Book Launch	4
2pm	Paula Meehan	5
4pm	Claire Kilroy in conversation with Sinéad Gleeson moderated by Edel Coffey	6
5pm	Festival Weekend Opening	6
6pm	Writers from the West — Una Mannion, Mike McCormack & Sarah Gilmartin in conversation with Derek Hand	7
7.30pm	Old Flames: Brian Leyden & Seamie O'Dowd	7
8.30pm	Crime Fiction — Denise Mina, Andrea Mara and Doug Johnstone in conversation with Andrea Carter	8

SATURDAY 2nd MARCH

TIME	EVENT	PAGE
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10am	Books and Buns Quiz	9
10am	Mark O'Connell in conversation with Theo Dorgan	10
11.30am	Ten Books you Should Read: Rónán Hession & Liam Ó Maonlaí with Cónal Creedon	11
2pm	Debut Novelists — Lauren Mackenzie, Michael Magee, Colin Barrett in conversation with Peter Murphy	12
2pm	Beyond Borders Book Club	12
2pm	Clare Youth Theatre	13
4pm	Dani Gill and Alice Kinsella	13
4pm	Clare-based writers — John Lillis, Darragh McKeon & Tara Smith	14
6pm	Memoir — Martin Doyle, Kerri ní Dochartaigh and Eimear Ryan in conversation with Pat Carty	15
8.30pm	Rebecca Makkai in conversation with Belinda McKeon	16
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AT A GLANCE

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CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

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27/02	Music Tech for Teens	26
28/02	A Dive Into Comics!	26
29/02	Expert Tips for Teenage Reads	27
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01/03	Secondary Schools Event — Paula Meehan	28
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Events denoted with an * are free but ticketed. Pre-booking advised.

Booking on
www.ennisbookclubfestival.com

and with
glór box office on (065) 68 43103



We Are Human Too — Book Launch

Friday 1st March | 12pm | Temple Gate Hotel | Free *but ticketed*



This ground-breaking book delves into the dark reality of neglect, abuse and deprivation of liberty faced by disabled people in Ireland. Edited by Ann Marie Flanagan, it's a testament to the activists who challenged limiting attitudes and fought for emancipation, independent living, and human rights. This book emerges as a powerful narrative of claiming one's own freedom. It's a call to action for society to reject ableism, transcend charity models, and stand in solidarity.

A co-production of the Clare Leader Forum.

Paula Meehan

Friday 1st March | 2pm | Temple Gate Hotel | Free *but ticketed*



The Solace of Artemis is the latest collection from Paula Meehan, one in which she explores the mythic and the commonplace, encounters of family love and the city she calls home. Always an empathetic poet, Meehan's ear is finely-tuned to the experience of often ignored communities. She takes her place in the ranks of Ireland's finest poets by virtue of her attention to craft, the musicality of her work, its great humour and depth. Collections include *Return and No Blame*, *Mysteries of the Home*, *Pillow Talk* and *As If By Magic*. In 2013, Paula Meehan was named Ireland Professor of Poetry, a post she held for three years. Her work is marked by a strong sense of place, direct speech and idiomatic language. The range of her poetry is wide in both subject and form and her fidelity to the world she explores is profound and powerful. It has been translated into languages including French, German, Greek, Estonian, Japanese, and Irish. She has said "The artist can sometimes be more powerful as an activist by following the muse."

Claire Kilroy in conversation with Sinéad Gleeson moderated by Edel Coffey

Friday 1st March | 4pm | Temple Gate Hotel | €13/€11



Soldier Sailor is Claire Kilroy's first novel in over a decade and it has received great plaudits since it was published. An urgent and breath-taking dive into the immensity and turmoil of early motherhood, it sweeps all along in its wake. Superbly enthralling, in the chaos and wild blur that follows, it delivers a gut punch with a detailed and at times hallucinatory depiction of this time in life. Previous novels include *Tenderloin* and *All Names Have Been Changed*. As a writer, editor and broadcaster, Sinéad Gleeson has published a number of non-fiction books and essay collections, including *Constellations* and *This Woman's Work*. Her work often explores the nexus between the creative act, the body and womanhood and she has consistently championed the work of female writers in the anthologies she has edited. Sinéad Gleeson's first novel, *Hagstone*, will be released in 2024. Set on a remote island, it will explore the interplay of folklore and landscape against the backdrop of an unfolding mystery. Claire and Sinéad will be in conversation with Edel Coffey, author of best-selling book *Breaking Point*.

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Festival Weekend Opening

Friday 1st March | 5pm | glór foyer | Free

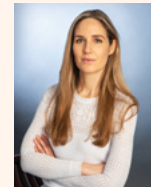
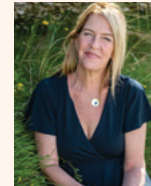


Join us in the wonderful setting of glór foyer to celebrate the opening of our 18th festival. The perfect opportunity to meet friends old and new and plan your weekend activities.

There is a myriad of events to choose from and we look forward to welcoming everyone to the festival.

Writers from the West — Una Mannion, Mike McCormack & Sarah Gilmartin in conversation with Derek Hand

Friday 1st March | 6pm | glór | €13/€11



From Philadelphia, Una Mannion now lives in Sligo. *Tell Me What I Am* is an unsettling and multi-layered novel about loss and secrets. A woman disappears and her family is left bereft. In Sarah Gilmartin's *Service*, conflicting memories of the same events send the characters reeling. Mike McCormack's *This Plague of Souls* is set in his own county of Mayo. A man returns to his house in a rural landscape after a long absence to find his wife and child gone. There follows a mysterious series of phone calls with a stranger. Against a backdrop of vague terror in the outside world, he sets out for a meeting. Derek Hand, Executive Dean of Humanities at DCU, will moderate this event.

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Old Flames: Brian Leyden & Seamie O'Dowd

Friday 1st March | 7.30pm | glór | €16



Brian Leyden and Seamie O'Dowd marry stories and music from across the decades in a warm-hearted, lyrical evocation of romance and courtship in Ireland, emigrant Britain and America: from house dances and dinner dances to ballroom mineral bars, teenage crushes, Radio Luxembourg on transistor radios, and 'free love' remembered with playful precision.

Brian Leyden's books include the bestselling memoir *The Home Place* and his new novel *Love These Days*. For three decades multi-instrumentalist Seamie O'Dowd has toured the world, performing with the leading names in Irish music.

Presented by glór

Crime Fiction — Denise Mina, Andrea Mara and Doug Johnstone

in conversation with **Andrea Carter**

Friday 1st March | 8.30pm | glór | €16/€14



In 2023, Doug Johnstone published *The Space Between Us* and *The Opposite of Lonely*. The first book explores connections between humans and another world in a road trip taken by an unlikely bunch of misfits. The second catches up with the Skelfs in Edinburgh, a family of undertaker-detectives embroiled in missing bodies, arson attacks and female astronauts.

In Denise Mina's Glasgow, the city is a seething world of broken lives and thwarted ambitions. But it is also one of inventiveness and great humour. Mina's novels are deft, gritty and compassionate. In 2023 she released *The Second Murderer*, and became the first female writer to re-create Chandler's famous detective, Philip Marlowe.

In *No One Saw a Thing*, Andrea Mara explores every parent's fever dream, the disappearance of a child. One second, they're on a busy train platform, the next they're gone, whisked away on a speeding train. With characters that can't be trusted and surprises that knottily reveal themselves, this book delivers a riveting strike. Our guests will be in conversation with writer Andrea Carter, author of *Death Writes* and the *Inishowen* series.

Kindly Sponsored by:



Walking Tour with Jane O'Brien

Saturday 2nd March | 9.30am | Meet at glór | €10



Join Jane O'Brien on her award-winning walking tour of Ennis. Praised by the Lonely Planet as the best way to appreciate the town!

Books and Buns Quiz

Saturday 2nd March | 10am | Temple Gate Hotel | €15



Enjoy a Saturday morning book club gathering and test your knowledge of all things literary in our beloved Books and Buns session. Refreshments included, setting you up for a busy day!

Teams of 4. Bring your own team or join with other attendees on the day to make a team.

Early booking advised.

Mark O'Connell *in conversation* with Theo Dorgan

Saturday 2nd March | 10am | Ennis Courthouse | €13/€11



Mark O'Connell is the author of *A Thread of Violence*, *Notes from an Apocalypse*, and *To Be a Machine*, which was awarded the 2018 Wellcome Book Prize, the 2019 Rooney Prize for Irish Literature, and was shortlisted for the Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction. With *A Thread of Violence*, he has produced a probing portrait of one of the most notorious Irish murderers of the 20th century.

After the release from prison of Malcolm Macarthur, a man who killed two strangers in a bizarre set of circumstances and was later captured in a most curious way, O'Connell struck up an acquaintance with him and somehow won his trust. Over a period of time, O'Connell recorded their conversations and began to write the book, a rigorous and deft examination of motivation and doubt, his own as much as Macarthur's. Immaculately paced, the book won Best Non-Fiction book of the year at the An Post Awards 2023.

Theo Dorgan is a poet, novelist, essayist and translator. This event promises to be a fascinating exploration of truth and lies, coincidence and doubt, as Theo and Mark unravel what lies at the heart of this remarkable book.

Ten Books you Should Read — Rónán Hession & Liam Ó Maonlaí with Cónal Creedon

Saturday 2nd March | 11.30am | glór | €16/€14



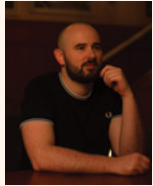
Festival favourite Ten Books You Should Read returns to glór. Liam O'Maonlaí and Rónán Hession join us for an adventurous leap into their most recommended books. Intended for readers and book clubs looking for new titles to explore, this event is a Saturday highlight of the festival. Moderated by novelist Cónal Creedon, this event is sure to be a discerning and enjoyable one. Hearing what other people love to read is an inspiration, to feel that rush of discovery and anticipation all readers know, to understand the thrill of how craft and creativity is so appreciated. Rónán Hession is the author of *Leonard and Hungry Paul* and *Panenka*. His upcoming novel *Ghost Mountain* will be published in May 2024. Liam O'Maonlaí has had a long and successful career spanning over 30 years, both with *The Hothouse Flowers* and in his solo career. His passion for music has seen success in both the rock and traditional forms. As well as being a singer and pianist, Liam also plays the tin whistle, bodhran and the harp.

Kindly Sponsored by:



Debut Novelists — Lauren Mackenzie, Michael Magee, Colin Barrett in conversation with Peter Murphy

Saturday 2nd March | 2pm | glór | €13/€11



Colin Barrett, a gifted short story writer, has produced his first novel, *Wild Houses*, an electric ride through small-town lives and the desperation of bruised hopes. *The Couples* is scriptwriter Lauren Mackenzie's vivid and perceptive insight into long relationships and how dissatisfaction can lead to devastating change. With *Close to Home*, winner of the Rooney Prize 2023 Michael Magee offers a tender portrait of a young man trying to find a way beyond forces that threaten his sense of self.

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NOZOMI
SHOE BOUTIQUE

Beyond Borders Book Club

Saturday 2nd March | 2pm | Temple Gate Hotel | Free but ticketed



The Beyond Borders Book Club is a celebration of great literature from countries beyond Ireland, recommended by guests who have connections to the places discussed in these writings, and which aims to open out the great diversity of writing and literature in the world for audiences in Ireland. Guest panellists Sree Sen, Nandi Jola and Natasha Remoundou will take part in a discussion with writer Sarah Clancy, focusing on books from India, South Africa and Greece respectively.

In conjunction with Creative Ireland

Clare Youth Theatre

Saturday 2nd March | 2pm | glór studio | Free but ticketed

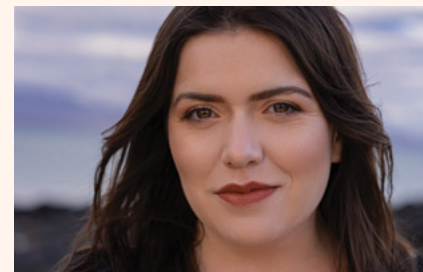


Clare Youth Theatre is a theatre programme for teenagers led by its members and responds to their interests and issues affecting them through theatre and affiliated art forms. Clare Youth Theatre is an initiative of the County Arts Office and espouses an ensemble ethos.

In this performance the group will present an extract from their newly created work *Mirrored in the Forest*, a voyage of discovery and reflection. Created and devised by members of the youth theatre and inspired by Celtic and Greek mythology, they invite you join them to join them as they explore the complexity of self-discovery.

Dani Gill and Alice Kinsella Explore maternal lineage in their work

Saturday 2nd March | 4pm | Ennis Courthouse | €13/€11



Alice Kinsella's non-fiction book, *Milk*, was published in 2023. Dani Gill's poetry collection, *Lessons in Kindness*, came out in the same year. In this conversation they reflect on maternal lineage and grandmothers, who are central figures in both of their books, commanding presences who resonate throughout. In *Lessons in Kindness*, a young woman attempts to make sense of lessons taught and learned. In *Milk*, Kinsella offers a compelling account of her initiation into motherhood following the birth of her first child.

Clare-based writers — John Lillis, Darragh McKeon & Tara Smith *in conversation with Martina Durac*

Saturday 2nd March | 4pm | Temple Gate Hotel | €13/€11



John Lillis is a multi-disciplinary artist based in Liscannor in Co. Clare. His book, *The Beach Report*, explores ritual and the sea in a series of poems and photographs composed every Tuesday at dawn and then read out on NTS radio. Tara Darlene

Smith moved to Clare some years ago from the U.S. Her first book, *Sunflowers in Iraq*, is a series of essays that excavate family, war and love.

In *Remembrance Sunday*, Darragh McKeon has crafted a novel of great style and tenderness, an exploration of trauma and its aftermath, the polarising times of what was known as “The Troubles” in Ireland and how a man might find a way beyond that.

Memoir — Kerri ní Dochartaigh, Martin Doyle & Eimear Ryan talk about the self with Pat Carty

Saturday 2nd March | 6pm | glór | €13/€11



In this event, journalist Pat Carty will explore memoir, nature writing and personal accounts of the self with three writers who gave us fascinating insights into very different worlds with their latest books.

Cacophony of Bone by Kerri ní Dochartaigh interrogates the cycle of a year, the journey from one place to another, from one winter to the next, the living and the breathing of it all.

In *Dirty Linen*, Martin Doyle returns to his home parish of Tullylish to tell the stories of the people whose lives were lost within its locality, to examine the toll that the conflict took, and the grief and sense of loss that continues to linger there. It is an exquisite piece of memoir and honouring.

With *The Grass Ceiling*, writer Eimear Ryan gives us a sharply observed exploration of gender and sport and the questions that relationship throws up about identity, status, competition and self-expression.

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EssilorLuxottica

Rebecca Makkai explores her work in conversation with **Belinda McKeon**

Saturday 2nd March | 8.30pm | glór | €16/€14



Ennis Book Club Festival is delighted to welcome award-winning writer, Rebecca Makkai, to this year's festival where she will be in conversation with Belinda McKeon. Author of New York Times-bestselling *I Have Some Questions For You* as well as novels *The Great Believers*, *The Hundred-Year House* and *The Borrower*, she has also published a short story collection, *Music for Wartime*. Rebecca Makkai's extraordinary novel, *The Great Believers*, a book about friendship and redemption in the face of tragedy and loss set in 1980s Chicago and contemporary Paris, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, and received the ALA Carnegie Medal and the L.A. Times Book Prize. *I Have Some Questions For You* featured on best-of 2023 novel lists everywhere and been described as spellbinding and a twisty, immersive whodunit and literary page-turner. Belinda McKeon is a prize-winning Irish writer. She is the author of novels *Solace*, winner of the Geoffrey Faber Prize and *Tender*. She has also edited an anthology of short stories, *A Kind of Compass*. Belinda leads the MA in Creative Writing at Maynooth University.

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the **ENNIS BOOKSHOP**

Rónán Ó Snodaigh & Myles O'Reilly

Saturday 2nd March | 9.30pm | Old Ground Hotel | €16/€14



Musicians Rónán Ó Snodaigh and Myles O'Reilly's album *The Beautiful Road*, a soulful blend of folk, traditional, and ambient music follows the success of their debut album *Tá Go Maith*. Rónán and Myles have since been showcasing their unique sound live to an ever-growing fan-base. In *The Beautiful Road* the pair set out to create a soothing listening experience by focusing on higher frequencies, inspired by the calming effects of nature, while also seeking to counter the increased levels of intrusive ambient 'white noise' caused by traffic, machinery, and other unpredictable sounds. The result is an exceptional album that creates a kind of mysterious magic when played.

Rónán and Myles' unique sound and devoted friendship make for a truly magic live show, not to be missed. Rónán is a founder member of Kíla, whose performances are legendary and he brings that same energy to these gigs with Myles, who is a musician, composer and filmmaker steeped in the sounds and sensitivities of everyday life. There might be a few unexpected guests at this show so be sure to book your tickets early.

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OLD GROUND HOTEL
ENNIS

Mary Ellen Hodgins Reading and Poetry Collective Open Mic

Sunday 3rd March | 9am | Record Break Café | Free *but ticketed*



A new collection of poems by Maryellen Hodgins

A reading by Mary Ellen Hodgins from her new book, *Life and Other Poems*, followed by the Poetry Collective Open Mic. The Collective provides a friendly, facilitated, free gathering of poets and aspiring poets to share their original work, to read aloud or simply listen and discuss. It's an opportunity to hear some new work and, if you wish, read some of your own.

Hush Hour

Sunday 3rd March | 9.30am | Sweet N Green | Free *but ticketed*



Step into Hush Hour, a reading party that redefines social gatherings for book lovers. Leave behind the noise of the outside and join us in a serene space filled with the soft rustle of pages and contemplative conversations. You are invited to bring your favourite book, indulge in some selfish reading, and connect with like-minded individuals for an hour.

Reading parties have been growing in popularity as an alternative to Book Clubs. Participants are invited to bring a book, a comfy blanket or cushion and read in the enjoyment of fellow readers. A facilitator will then open up the floor to discussion about the books for the final 15 minutes of the session.

Join us for an unconventional social experience and make reading for pleasure your Sunday morning ritual.

Sunday Symposium — Breaking the Cycle of Poverty: A Crisis of Imagination?

Sunday 3rd March | 11am | glór | €16/€14



While most of us don't want to think about or ever experience it, poverty is a very real part of life in Ireland. Join us for a timely and necessary debate about what we mean when we talk about poverty and how can we change the narrative. In this discussion, we will be looking at how poverty affects people's lives, from housing to education, welfare, working, to the challenges of accessing culture and art. What does it mean to have an open and healthy civic society where voices are heard and encouraged? Is there a poverty of imagination at play in how we are governed? Amongst our guests will be writer and broadcaster Justine McCarthy (*An Eye On Ireland*) whose work has long shone an acute eye on many parts of the social fabric of the country. She will be joined by Dr Rory Hearne (*Gaffs*), a lecturer and commentator whose work explores housing rights and inequality and the changing nature of the welfare state. They will be joined by two other guests and we anticipate a lively and challenging event.

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SOLICITORS

Literary Lunch

Sunday 3rd March | 1.30pm | Old Ground Hotel | €30



As a poet, librettist, documentary writer, essayist, novelist and translator, Theo Dorgan is one of Ireland's best-known writers. Previously the director of Poetry Ireland, Theo has generously championed the creative life of Ireland in all aspects of his work. His latest collection, *Once Was a Boy*, touches on childhood, a beloved, ghostly city of memory, and the promises we make to ourselves when young. Previous collections include *Orpheus* and *Sappho's Daughter*. Theo's prose work includes *Sailing For Home – a Voyage from Antigua to Ireland*. In this wide-ranging conversation with Martina Durac, Theo will delve into the adventures of a life spent in writing.

Once Was a Boy has just received the accolade of One City, One Book 2024 in his native Cork. Theo is also a documentary screenwriter, keen sailor, translator and editor. In 2022 he devised the script for ANU's production of *Staging the Treaty* and scripted and presented the multi-award-winning Alan Gilsean documentary *An Buachaill Gealgháireach/The Laughing Boy*. Translations of his work have been published in Greek, Italian and French, with a volume in Spanish due in 2024. He is a member of Aosdána.

Presented in
Association with:



FRINGE EVENTS AT EBCF 2024

We are thrilled to launch a new element to the festival this year, the EBCF Fringe. It's a chance for a variety of artists to bring their talents to the festival and add to our rich tapestry. There will be storytelling, music, poetry, song and collaborative performance, as Gaeilge agus Béarla. Amongst our performers will be **Michael McCaughan** with an event that mixes storytelling and music and life on the road. **Rónán Ó Snodaigh** and **Myles O'Reilly** will play from their latest album, *The Beautiful Road* and we can expect to see other musicians join them. The Fringe gives our performers a space to explore and create in an open and vibrant way, in a variety of venues and all throughout the weekend.

Expect to hear music and word, poetry and song, stories galore.

Fringe events will be announced in the lead up to the festival. Visit our website to find out more and to book your tickets.

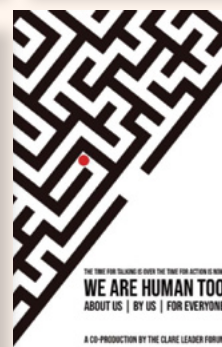
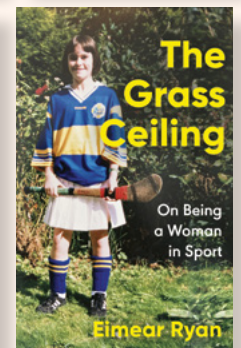
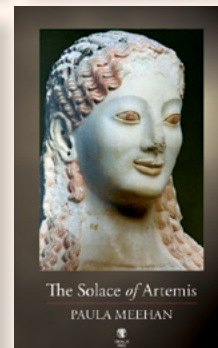
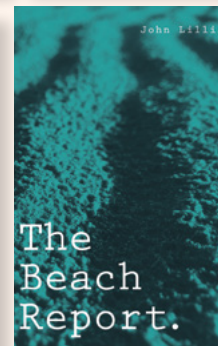
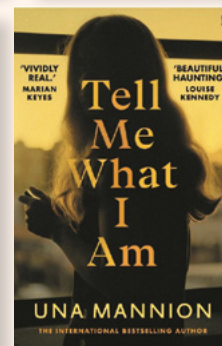
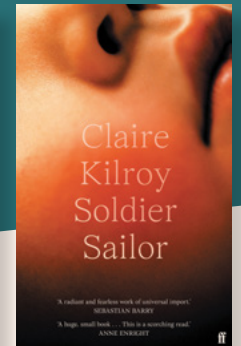
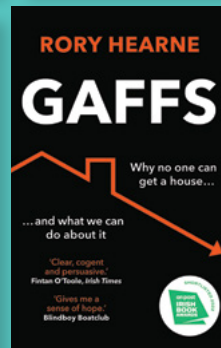
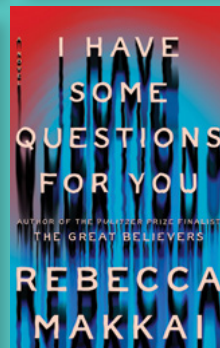
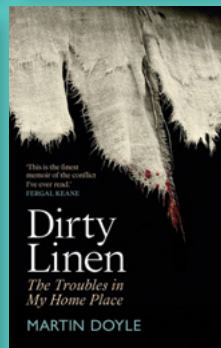
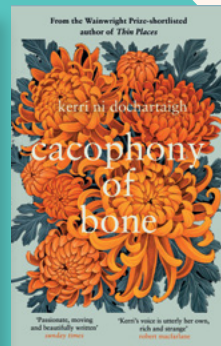
Curated by John Lillis.

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Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme



THE BOOKS OF EBCF 2024



CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

CLARE LIBRARY EVENTS

We're delighted to be teaming up once again with Clare Libraries to offer readings and workshops with award-winning young adult authors. Events will take place in Kilkee Library and Kilrush Library.

Library events are booked by contacting:

- Kilkee Library on **(065) 905 6034**
- Kilrush Library on **(065) 905 1504**

Places limited so early booking advised.

EBCF EVENTS

Ennis Book Club Festival events as part of the Children and Young Adults programme will take place in glór and require pre-booking. Please call glór box office on **(065) 684 3103** to secure your tickets.

Fighting Words

Monday 26th February | Free

10am – 12pm in Kilrush Library

1.50pm to 3.50pm in Kilkee Library



FIGHTING WORDS

The write to right.

Fighting Words is about using the creative practice of writing and storytelling to empower young people to tell their stories.

Discover how you can use writing as a fun and powerful means of self-expression in Fighting Words workshops facilitated by Fighting Words, the creative writing centre co-founded by Roddy Doyle. Learn how to harness the power of your imagination to create stories with your friends that are particularly relevant to your interests and that will appeal to you as readers.

With guidance from the Fighting Words team, you will be part of interactive writing workshops where everyone in the class participates. Together you will choose your own setting, plot, characters and dialogue to create an original piece of fiction.

Music Tech for Teens

Tuesday 27th February | Free
10.30am to 12pm in Kilkee Library
2pm – 3.30pm in Kilrush Library



Expert musician educators from Music Generation Clare will demonstrate the basic skills of music technology and production to students from Secondary Schools. Participants will have access to laptops, digital audio workstations, software and microphones during the fun-packed session which offers a variety of learning opportunities built around problem solving, creativity and group work.

A Dive Into Comics!

Wednesday 28th February | Free
10.45am – 12.15pm in Kilrush Library



Join artist and storyteller Wayne O'Connor as he guides you through the techniques of comic making and illustration. In his workshop you will look at the history of comic books through the ages. Wayne will provide a breakdown of the steps involved in designing comics and provide practical examples. You will learn how character creation and stories are intricately linked as he inspires you to create your own comic strip in a fun-filled, inspirational session.

Wayne O'Connor is a Sligo based artist whose work is chiefly inspired by his love of myth, fantasy and folklore. Working primarily as a digital artist, Wayne has had his work featured in several games and books. He is also a storyteller and arts educator, working regularly in libraries and schools around the country.

Expert Tips for Teenage Reads

Thursday 29th February | Free
11am to 12.15pm in Kilkee Library
2pm – 3.15pm in Kilrush Library



Reading for fun as a teen or young adult can sometimes fall by the wayside for many reasons, but there are lots of amazing books and ways to engage with reading available to teens. Join Ruth Concannon, Publications Officer of Children's Books Ireland, to explore some great recommended reading for teens aged 15+. In this 75-minute workshop focusing on a mix of genres for different interest levels and abilities, Ruth will explore some great reading recommendations as well as tips and tricks for helping to incorporate the habit of reading into everyday life. Students will also get to take part in an activity to match them with the best type of book for them. Effective and practical resources will also be provided to supplement the session.

Originally from Galway, Ruth Concannon holds a BA in English and History, an MA in Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama from University College Dublin and completed her MA in Children's and Young Adult Literature at Dublin City University in 2019. Ruth has held roles in many areas of literature, publishing, and culture. Having previously worked as one of Children's Books Ireland's Book Doctors, Ruth joined the team permanently in April 2023.

Clara Kumagai discusses her YA Novel, *Catfish Rolling*

Friday 1st March | Free
10.30am to 11.30pm in Kilkee Library
2pm – 3pm in Kilrush Library

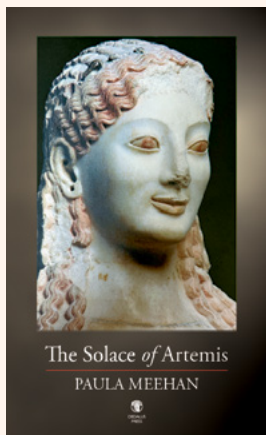


In her presentation to Secondary School students at Kilrush and Kilkee libraries, Clara Kumagai will introduce her YA novel *Catfish Rolling* with a reading and explanation of the inspirations behind it – the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Japanese myth. She will also ask students to think about mythical characters and monsters and discuss how they might use them to consider stories and characters in more depth. Clara will finish with a Q&A in which students can ask about anything, from writing advice to the path to publication.

Clara Kumagai is from Canada, Japan and Ireland. Her fiction and non-fiction for children and adults has been published in *The Stinging Fly*, *Banshee*, and *The Kyoto Journal*, among others. *Catfish Rolling* is her debut novel and has been shortlisted for the 2023 Great Reads Awards and nominated for the 2023 YOTO Carnegie Award.

Paula Meehan Event for Secondary Schools

Friday 1st March | 10 - 11am | glór | Free *but pre-booking required*



As a poet whose powerful work is suffused with themes of family and community, the oral tradition and vibrant and forceful language, we are pleased to invite Paula Meehan to EBCF in 2024. Her poetry appears on the school syllabus and adds great depth and colour to our understanding of life in Ireland. She takes her place in the ranks of Ireland's finest poets by virtue of her attention to craft, the musicality of her work, its great humour and depth. Collections include *Return* and *No Blame*, *Mysteries of the Home* and *As If By Magic*. In 2013, Paula Meehan was named Ireland Professor of Poetry, a post she held for three years.

Children's Bookclub event — Ellen Ryan in conversation with Sarah Moore Fitzgerald

Friday 1st March | 12 - 1pm | glór | Free *but pre-booking required*

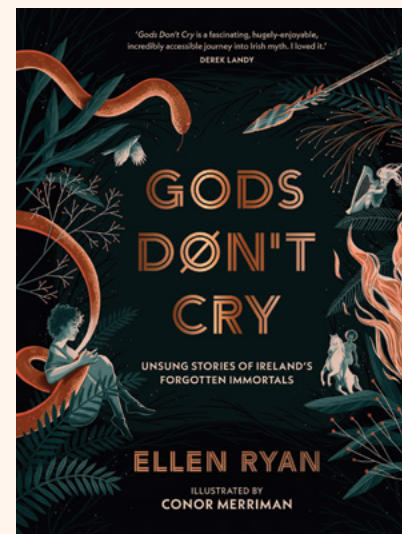


Ellen Ryan, award-winning children's writer, will be in conversation with Sarah Moore Fitzgerald on her new book, *Gods Don't Cry*, which features a cast of male gods and immortals with connections all over Ireland and beyond. Amongst many, we meet Mannanan, who uses his neurodiversity to discover the Otherworld, Meiche, who finds the courage to accept his illness, and Cnu Deroil, who overcomes bullies with his musical talent. Here are gods of many abilities, sizes, and skin shades, from every corner of Ireland

In conjunction with Creative Ireland.

Ellen Ryan — *Gods Don't Cry*

Saturday 2nd March | 12 - 1pm | glór | Free *but pre-booking required*



An exciting event with Ellen Ryan as she explores the remarkable journey she went on when researching her book, *Gods Don't Cry*. Finding out about the Gods who are our ancient and courageous heroes was an adventure she will never forget. *Gods Don't Cry* reawakens these gods, whose ancient tales redefine modern ideas of what it means to be a hero. In this event, she brings her participants into that magical space and time.

Suitable for ages 9 - 12.

SHOP & EAT



1. **Eva's Café**
Merchant's Square, 065 68 23901
2. **Henry's Bistro & Wine Bar**
Market Street, 065 68 99393
3. **Mondo Coffee Shop**
Merchant's Square, 087 955 8339
4. **Old Ground Hotel**
31 O'Connell Street, 065 68 44325
5. **Sweet N Green Café**
Friary Car Park, 065 68 21724
6. **Temple Gate Hotel**
The Square, 065 68 23300
7. **The Record Break Café**
9 Lower Market Street, 065 67 06817
8. **County Boutique**
57 O'Connell Street, www.countyboutique.ie
9. **Ela Maria**
4 Salt House Lane, www.elamaria.ie
10. **Eye Candy Opticians**
25 Abbey Street, www.eyecandyopticians.com
11. **Eye Care Centre**
O'Connell Square, facebook.com/Eye-Care-Centre
12. **Freya Boutique**
16 Parnell Street, facebook.com/FreyaBoutique
13. **Mulqueen's Florist**
9 Carmody Street, www.flowersbymulqueens.com
14. **Nozomi Shoe Boutique**
71A O'Connell Street, www.nozomishoes.ie
15. **O'Mahony's Book Sellers**
Merchants Square, www.omahonys.ie
16. **Pamela Scott Ennis**
50 O'Connell Street, www.pamelascott.com
17. **The Ennis Book Shop**
13 Abbey Street, www.ennisbookshop.ie
18. **Vaughan's Garden Centre**
Gort Road Business Park, www.vaughansgardencentre.com
19. **Willow Boutique**
4 O'Connell Street, www.willow.ie



- A. glór**
- B. Old Ground Hotel**
- C. Temple Gate Hotel**
- D. Ennis Courthouse**
- E. Record Break Café**
- F. Sweet N Green Café**

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Best wishes to
Ennis Book Festival



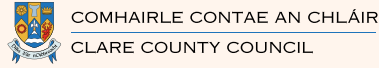
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We are grateful for the invaluable and continuous support of local media.



EBCF thanks all who supported in the production of the Festival:

glór

who provide support as a venue and ticket platform

Venues:

Temple Gate Hotel, Old Ground Hotel,
Sweet N Green, Record Break Café & Ennis Courthouse

Matt Purcell, Festival Sound technician

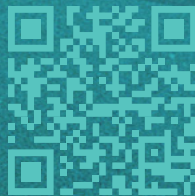
Ian Malone Design

Realprint

Eamon Ward Photography

Our many volunteers

Photographs are taken at events at the Festival and are available on our website and used for promotional purposes. If you would prefer not to be included in any photographs, please let either the photographer or one of our volunteers know.



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