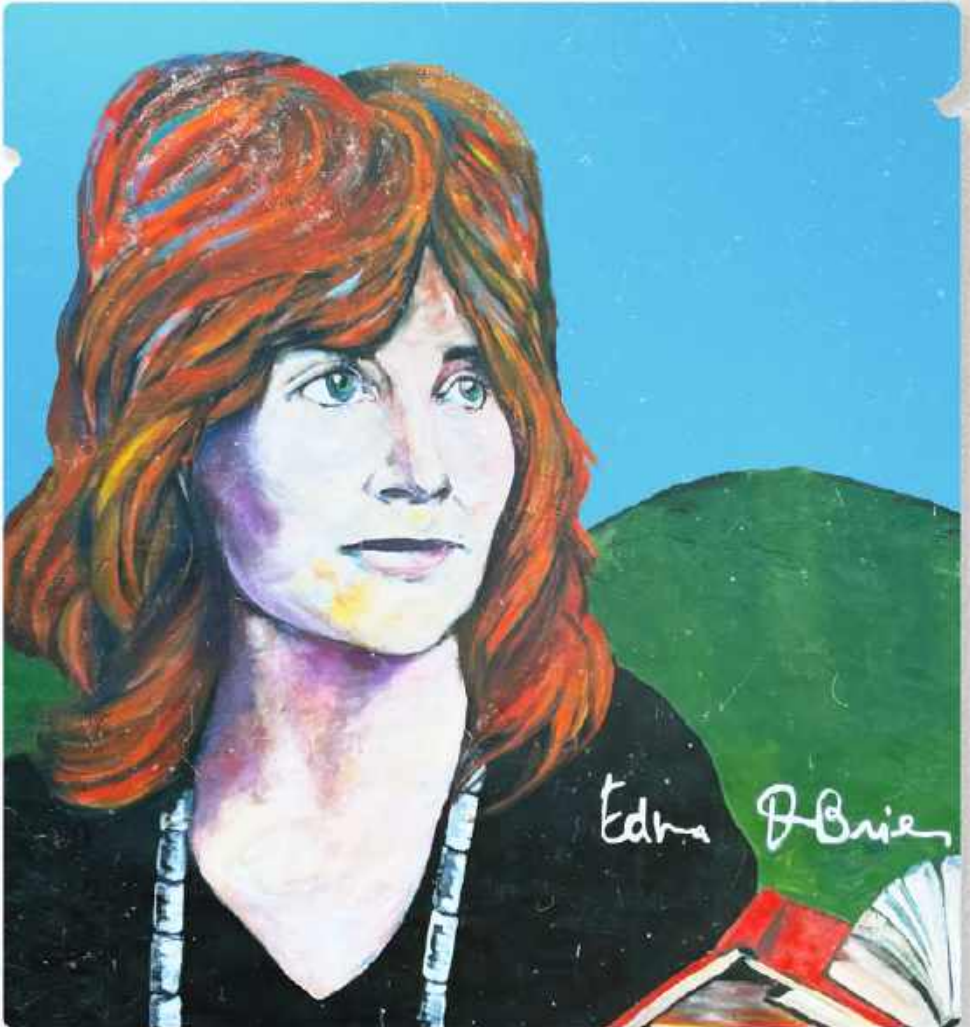


Ennis Book Club Festival

7th-9th March 2025



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

The Clare  Champion

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

glór

who provide support as a venue and ticket platform

Venues:

De Valera Library, Temple Gate Hotel, Old Ground Hotel, Sweet N Green café, Ennis Courthouse, Scéal Eile Books, Súil Gallery

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.

Welcome to the 19th Ennis Book Club Festival

On behalf of myself and the organising Committee, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to friends old and new to Ennis for another year of celebrating reading. Our Festival has become a home away from home for readers and book lovers each year, where friendships are made 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. 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 in our programme, I hope you find something that inspires, challenges and satisfies your curiosity. So, let the pages of Ennis unfold before you, and may this weekend be a new chapter in your own literary adventure.



Niamh O'Donovan
Chairperson

We are pleased to welcome you all to this edition of the Ennis Book Club Festival. Our mission here is to bring people together to celebrate the beauty and mystery, the drama and reflection, the hope and sometimes horror to be found within the pages of a book.

We wish for the audiences and visiting writers & performers to meet at the intersection of imagination and achievement.

It is a privilege to introduce new writers and to welcome the ones that feel like old friends, such is the love we have for their work. The act of writing out into the world is a powerful undertaking of generosity by each writer and we deeply appreciate the effort and the sharing.

As one of our celebrated guests at this year's Festival, Ian McEwan, puts it, "you spend the morning, and suddenly there are seven or eight words in a row. They've got that twist, a little trip, that delights you. And you hope they will delight someone else. And you could not have foreseen it, that little row". Here's to those words and their creators and deep thanks to the audience that comes to hear and meet them in Ennis in 2025.

Martina Durac
Artistic Director



EBCF 2025 Committee:

Niamh O'Donovan, Angela Connaughton, Emer Bowen, Louise Eccles, Bríd Hayes

The committee can be contacted at:

info@ennisbookclubfestival.com

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EBCF 2025

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All events are ticketed. Pre-booking advised.

Booking on
www.ennisbookclubfestival.com
 and with
 glór box office on (065) 68 43103



Five Books That Could Save Your Life



Friday 7th March | 12pm | Temple Gate Hotel | Free but ticketed

Sarah Harte, Irish Examiner columnist and writer, in conversation with **Madeline Mc Aleer** from Haven Horizons, **Danielle Roberts** from Reclaim the Agenda, and **Noelle Collins** from Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid, discuss the impact of coercive control and consider 'Five Books that Could Save Your Life'. The five books are *Operation Lighthouse*, by **Luke and Ryan Hart**, whose mother and sister were murdered by their father in a domestic homicide; *Brutally Honest*, by Spice Girl and coercive control survivor **Mel B**; *Invisible Chains*, by psychologist **Dr Lisa Aronson Fontes**, *In Control* by **Professor Jane Monckton Smith**, a criminologist and former UK police officer, and *What is to be Done About Violence Against Women* by **Professors Kate Fitz-Gibbon and Sandra Walklate**, experts in the field of domestic abuse. In this event, the panel examines why victims of coercive control find themselves trapped in 'invisible chains' and explores 'dangerous relationships and how they end in murder'. They also consider barriers to recognising and responding to coercive control and why a radical new all-island approach is needed to eliminate domestic, sexual and gender-based abuse from society.

This event is kindly supported by the Shared Island Civic Society Fund, Department of Foreign Affairs. The ideas, opinions and comments in this event are entirely the responsibility of the presenters and do not necessarily represent or reflect the policy of the Department of Foreign Affairs.



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

Joe Canning - Sporting Legend



Friday 7th March | 2pm | Temple Gate Hotel | Free but ticketed

One of the greatest hurlers Ireland has ever produced, **Joe Canning** is a sporting icon. His memoir, *My Story*, gives fantastic insights into the highs and lows of what was a remarkable playing career. EBCF is thrilled to have Joe appear at the Festival this year, to talk with his usual searing honesty about a life spent steeped in sport.

The youngest of seven children from a renowned Portumna hurling family, Joe Canning was regarded as a prodigy from the moment he stepped onto the pitch as a boy. His career was always about the pursuit of excellence and it was written in the stars that he was destined for greatness. When he lifted the McCarthy Cup after a nail-biting final, the whole country cheered him on. His book delves into the personal challenges and triumphs that shaped his path, offering insights into the dedication, resilience, and passion required to excel in a sport deeply embedded in Irish culture. Through candid reflections and vivid storytelling, the book captures the essence of a life full of brilliant sporting moments.

This event will be a fascinating insight into family, sport and so much more.

Kindly Sponsored by



Andrew O'Hagan *in conversation* with Wendy Erskine



Friday 7th March | 4pm | Temple Gate Hotel | €13/11

In his ambitious novel, *Caledonian Road*, **Andrew O'Hagan** takes us on a picaresque journey through a city and a life. His protagonist, Campbell Flynn, is about to be confronted by the mistakes of his past, and in the city of London a vast web of connections is revealed. Born in Glasgow, O'Hagan's novels include *Mayflies*, *The Secret Life* and *The Illuminations*. He has been nominated for the Booker Prize and he won the E.M. Forster prize. Belfast writer **Wendy Erskine** whose new novel *The Benefactors* is due shortly, will explore the world of *Caledonian Road* with Andrew in what should be an absorbing exchange of ideas.

Poetry & Film *with Pat Boran*



Friday 7th March | 4pm | De Valera Library | Free but ticketed

In this interactive event, poet **Pat Boran** will combine text, photos and moving images and will read from his latest collection, *Hedge School*. As well as the many books he has published, Pat has been making short poetry films for a number of years. In this enchanting talk and screening of a selection of his films, Pat will delve into the creative impulse that drives him to match words and images in this way. His poetry films have played in festivals around the world. Pat Boran is the director and publisher of **Dedalus Press**, one of Ireland's most established poetry imprints.

Presented in
association with

The Art of the Short Story - Cathy Sweeney, Maggie Armstrong & David Butler *in conversation with Olivia Fitzsimons*.



Friday 7th March | 6pm | glór | €13/11

Short stories have a distinctive place in the modern Irish literary tradition. Many of our best writers, both in English and Irish, have been practitioners of the form. The winner of our short story competition will read at this event and **Olivia Fitzsimons** will then lead a discussion on what makes the short story so intriguing and perfect for readers to explore. She will be in conversation with **Maggie Armstrong** (*Old Romantics*), **David Butler** (*The Witch & other stories*) and **Cathy Sweeney** (*Modern Times*).

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Clare-based writers - Tracy Fahey, Kitty Murphy & Eilís Haden-Storrie *in conversation with Ciana Campbell*.



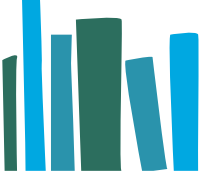
Friday 7th March | 6pm | Temple Gate Hotel | €13/11

Tracy Fahey is an award-winning Irish author. She has been a British Fantasy Award finalist a number of times. In 2024, she won the Paul Cave Prize for Literature. Her latest book is *They Shut Me Up* and deals with reimagined folklore and female Gothic. *Death in Heels* and *Death in the Dark* are two of **Kitty Murphy's** murder mysteries with an irresistible twist. *These Intangible Things*, **Eilís Haden-Storrie's** new book asks what can we learn from age-old and natural practices? Can we review our past in a measured way so that we take what we need and leave the rest? **Ciana Campbell** will moderate this event.

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Festival Weekend Opening



Ennis Book Club Festival

Friday 7th March | 7pm | glór Foyer | Free

Join us in the wonderful setting of glór foyer to celebrate the opening of our 19th 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.

Edwina Guckian *in conversation with* Paula Carroll



Friday 7th March | 8.30pm | glór Studio | €20/18

Edwina Guckian, celebrated sean-nós dancer, artistic director of the Leitrim Dance Project, and author of the children's book *Sparks from the Flagstones*, joins **Paula Carroll**, broadcaster and concert curator, for an engaging and inspiring conversation.

Hailing from Drumsna, Co. Leitrim, Edwina has spent her life preserving and reimagining Irish cultural traditions. Founder of **Áirc Damhsa**, a youth culture club with over 500 members, and recipient of the TG4 Gradam Ceoil Outstanding Contribution Award, Edwina's passion for community and heritage shines through in her work.

The event will also feature performances by Edwina and cellist **Sharon Howley**.

Ann Cleeves *explores her work* with **Brian McGilloway**



Friday 7th March | 8pm | glór | €16/14

Award-winning author of the *Shetland*, *Vera* and *Two Rivers* novels, **Ann Cleeves** has written some of the most popular crime fiction of recent times. Fuelled by great characterisation and knotty plots, her books have sold over 5 million copies and The Guardian has called her 'the best living evoker of landscape'. Ann has had two crime series adapted for television; *Vera* and *Shetland* are hugely successful dramas starring Brenda Blethyn and Douglas Henshall respectively.

Her books explore the lives of flawed and complex characters caught up in extreme life events, violent death and dense mysteries that unfold like a Russian doll, with her popular detectives trying to solve the mystery at the heart of human motivation towards destruction. Her latest books are *The Dark Wives* and *The Raging Storm*. Ann Cleeves has been a passionate advocate for public libraries throughout her career and initiated and part-funded her Reading for Wellbeing project with local authorities across the Northeast of England. In this wide-ranging discussion with writer **Brian McGilloway** (*The Empty Room*, *The Last Crossing*), Ann will explore the journey of her writing life so far.

Books and Buns Quiz



Saturday 8th March | 9.30am | Temple Gate Hotel | €15

Start your Saturday morning with our much-loved Books and Buns session - a delightful book club gathering that will put your literary knowledge to the test. Enjoy refreshments as you gear up for a busy day of Festival activities.

Participate in teams of four - bring your own team or join with fellow attendees to form a team of four on the day.

Spaces fill quickly, so early booking is highly recommended. Don't miss this fun and interactive start to your Festival experience!

Walking Tour of Ennis



Saturday 8th March | 9.30am | Meet at glór | €10

Join **Jane O'Brien** for her award-winning walking tour of Ennis, exploring many of the town's major sights and hidden gems.

Highly praised as the best way to experience the charm and history of Ennis, this tour offers an unforgettable journey through its streets. Don't miss the opportunity to see the town through Jane's expert and captivating storytelling.

Rónán Hession *in conversation* with Neil Hegarty



Saturday 8th March | 10am | Ennis Courthouse | €13/11

Rónán Hession is an Irish writer based in Dublin. His debut novel *Leonard and Hungry Paul* was published by Bluemoose Books in 2019 and The Sunday Times chose it as one of the 50 great Irish novels of the century. It was selected as the 2021 One Dublin One Book by Dublin UNESCO City of Literature. As **Mumblin' Deaf Ro**, Rónán has released three albums of storytelling songs. His second novel *Panenka* was published in 2021 and was shortlisted for Novel of the Year at the An Post Irish Book Awards.

His third novel, *Ghost Mountain*, came out in 2024 and has been met with great critical acclaim. It opens with a seismic event: the sudden, unexplained appearance of a mountain on the edge of an unremarkable town. Its impact on the town and its people slowly grows, in fresh and surprising ways. A tapestry of interconnected vignettes told with humour and charm, the novel goes further than this and throws a deep emotional punch at the reader.

Rónán will be in the company of writer **Neil Hegarty** (*Inch Levels*) in what promises to be an enriching conversation.

Ten Books You Should Read - Mark O'Halloran & Oliver Callan with Tara Flynn



Saturday 8th March | 11.30am | glór | €16/14

This is one of the most popular events of the Festival, where our audience gets to probe the minds of two guests and hear about the books that inspire them. It consistently delivers surprises and great recommendations every year. In 2025 we are joined by **Mark O'Halloran** and **Oliver Callan**.

Mark is an actor and screenwriter. From Ennis, he has worked with all the major theatre companies in Ireland. On screen he has appeared in numerous films, most notably in *Adam & Paul*, for which he also wrote the screenplay. Mark's writing credits include *Garage*, *Viva*, and *Rialto*, which premiered at the 2019 Venice Film Festival.

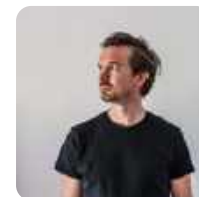
As the creative force behind *Callan's Kicks*, a radio satire with TV specials, comedy albums, and live shows, Monaghan native Oliver Callan is known as a sharp force in Irish comedy. He also presents *Oliver Callan* on RTÉ Radio One, a wide-ranging morning programme that demonstrates his empathetic interviewing skills to good effect. He also presents the annual Irish Book of the Year Award on RTÉ television.

This event is moderated by actress, writer and comedian, **Tara Flynn**.

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Debut Novelists - Aimée Walsh, Patrick Holloway & Cathy Sweeney *in conversation* with Declan Hughes



Saturday 8th March | 2pm | glór | €13/11

In *Exile*, **Aimée Walsh** opens out a world of unsettling possibilities and haunted territories, when the life of her young protagonist, Fiadh, is changed forever one night. *The Language of Remembering*, **Patrick Holloway's** debut, takes on home, memory and language in a tender exploration of how to remake an identity. In **Cathy Sweeney's** *Breakdown*, a woman rebels against traditional roles and expectations, and walks away from her life one morning. She wanders through a series of unexpected moments and days, searching for a way to re-emerge as herself. In conversation with novelist and playwright **Declan Hughes**, these writers will discuss their keen explorations of lives upended by circumstance and accident.

Clare Youth Theatre *presents* Class Acts



Saturday 8th March | 2pm | glór Studio | Free but ticketed

Join the talented members of **Clare Youth Theatre** as they present an engaging event of classic drama and literature. The performance will feature their unique interpretations of renowned texts, scenes, and speeches by literary greats such as William Shakespeare, George Bernard Shaw and more.

Prepare to be entertained as these young actors bring timeless works to life with passion and creativity.

The **cast** will be delighted to take questions afterwards. 'To hold as t'were, the mirror up to nature'. *Suitable for all ages.*

Beyond Borders Book Club - Tarsila Krüse, Zainab Boladale & Amanie Issa in conversation with Sarah Clancy



Saturday 8th March | 2pm | Temple Gate Hotel | Free but ticketed

This event offers the great discovery of writing from countries beyond Ireland, recommended by guests who have personal connections to those places. Our guests this year are **Tarsila Krüse**, author and illustrator, **Amanie Issa**, PhD researcher and Hardiman Scholar at the Irish Centre for Human Rights and the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, NUIG and **Zainab Boladale**, journalist and TV presenter. They will be in conversation with writer **Sarah Clancy**.

Beyond Borders is a chance to discover narratives and perspectives from other places and represents a link in the chain of what connects us all around the world, despite the differences in our lives and societies.

Tarsila will discuss *The Alchemist* by **Paulo Coelho**, a blend of spirituality, magical realism and folklore. Amanie will explore *Mornings in Jenin* by **Susan Abulhawa**, a story of faith, forgiveness and life-sustaining love. Zainab will talk about *The Girl With The Louding Voice* by **Abi Daré**; a teenage girl grows up in a rural Nigerian village and longs to get an education so that she can find her "louding voice" and speak up for herself.

Nicola's Book Club



Nicola Lennon, an Irishwoman based in Brussels, has been running a world literature book club for 20 years, selecting works by both men and women writers from across different continents and organising the club by season. To celebrate the club's 20th anniversary in March 2025, she is hosting a special meeting at the Ennis Book Club Festival. During this event, Nicola will introduce her book club, sharing its history and unique approach, and lead a discussion on the book chosen for March, *Happiness*, by **Aminatta Forna**, with fellow readers.

Saturday 8th March | 3pm | De Valera Library | Free but ticketed



Beyond Borders Writing Club Showcase



Saturday 8th March | 4pm | Temple Gate Hotel | Free but ticketed

Beyond Borders Writing Club was inspired by the much loved Beyond Borders Book Club as a way to provide a space to people who have migrated to Clare from other countries to create their own stories to share. A series of workshops in songwriting, poetry and creative writing were held around Clare during January and February. These workshops encouraged people from marginalised communities to find their voices, speak out and be heard.

Join us for an hour of music, poetry and stories created by the participants of these workshops. Hosted by **Sarah Clancy**.

*This project is supported by the **Ireland Against Racism Fund**.*



Remembering Edna O'Brien - Andrew O'Hagan, Danielle McLaughlin, Eoin McNamee & Sally Hayden in conversation with Rachael English



Saturday 8th March | 4pm | glór | €13/11

A writer from Clare who carved out an impressive literary career internationally that lasted 60 years, **Edna O'Brien** was one of a kind. She was a novelist, short story writer, writer of non-fiction, dramatist and children's writer who also published one book of poetry. O'Brien was lauded globally, and awards included the Ordre des Artes et des Lettres, France's highest honour for the arts, the David Cohen Prize for Literature, the Irish Book Award's Lifetime Achievement Award, the Irish Pen Award, the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Prize and the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. Her best-known books include *The Country Girls*, *House of Splendid Isolation*, *In the Forest*, *The Little Red Chairs*, *James & Nora* and *The Love Object*. Edna O'Brien's work provoked controversy and discussion and though sometimes vilified, she remained completely steadfast to the cause of writing, her life's work. Her wit and knowledge, beauty and talent as a writer will be explored and celebrated in this panel discussion by writers who loved her work and cherish the inestimable contribution she made to Irish literature.

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EssilorLuxottica

Ageing in Life and Literature - Rose Anne Kenny, Mary O'Donnell & Ian Robertson in conversation with Barbara Scully



Saturday 8th March | 6pm | Temple Gate Hotel | €13/11

This panel event on ageing in life and literature will be a fascinating exploration of how ageing is represented and understood both in real life and in fictional narratives. Moderated by **Barbara Scully**, the author of *Wise Up*, *Power*, *Wisdom* and *The Older Woman*, the panel will explore the social, emotional, and psychological dimensions of ageing, as well as how literature and storytelling have captured the complexities of growing older. Our guests include **Rose Anne Kenny**, Chair of Medical Gerontology at Trinity College Dublin and Principal Investigator of Ireland's largest adult population study on the experience of ageing in Ireland - The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA). She is the author of *Age Proof: The New Science of Living a Longer and Healthier Life*. We are also joined by writer **Mary O'Donnell** who contributed to *Well, You Don't Look It*, a collection of essays and poems and stories on the theme of ageing. Our final guest is **Ian Robertson**, a neuroscientist and clinical psychologist who explores the impact of brain function and memory as we age. His many books include *Mind Sculpture* and *The Stress Test*.

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NOZOMI
SHOE BOUTIQUE

Ian McEwan *in conversation* with **Seán Rocks**



Saturday 8th March | 8pm | glór | €16/14

EBCF is delighted to welcome **Ian McEwan** to the Festival, to discuss his life in writing. Known for the precision and clarity of his work, McEwan explores the turmoil of human interactions in the private and public spheres, the role of class difference, family relationships, love and loss. His prose is beautiful and luminous, richly detailed and brimming with life. The language is eloquent and expressive, yet restrained.

McEwan won the Booker Prize with *Amsterdam*. His next novel, *Atonement*, earned great praise and was adapted into an Oscar-winning film. His later novels have included *The Children Act*, *Enduring Love*, *Nutshell*, *Machines Like Me*, *On Chesil Beach*, and *Lessons*. He has said of his writing, "What still lures me is the sense, probably an illusion, that just ahead of me, always just out of my reach and completely without definition, is the perfect and beautiful thing, probably a novella, that unwraps everything around it, the ultimate human story that illuminates our brilliance and stupidity".

Ian McEwan will be in conversation with arts journalist and presenter of radio arts show *Arena*, **Seán Rocks**.

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the ENNIS BOOKSHOP

Hush Hour



Step into Hush Hour, a reading party that redefines social gatherings for book lovers. You are invited to bring your favourite book, indulge in some solo reading, and connect with like-minded individuals for an hour. A facilitator will then open up the floor to discussion about the books for the final 15 minutes of the session.

Sunday 9th March | 9.30am | Sweet N Green Café | Free but ticketed

Sunday Symposium - International Conflict in a Globalised World - Sally Hayden, Paulo Nunes dos Santos & Vincent Durac *in conversation with* Katie Hannon



Sunday 9th March | 11am | glór | €16/14

The panel will examine the politics of peace & conflict in a globalised world. In Gaza and Lebanon, Syria and Yemen, Iraq & Afghanistan and parts of the continent of Africa, conflict and civil war are not just a threat to local populations but also have global impacts.

The unstable picture keeps changing and our guests will explore what this means for the coming years in conversation with **Katie Hannon**, RTE journalist and presenter of *Upfront*.

Sally Hayden has reported from many countries and her award-winning book, *My Fourth Time We Drowned* is a staggering investigation into the migrant crisis across North Africa.

Paulo Nunes dos Santos is a photojournalist and reporter covering armed conflict and social issues worldwide. He is a frequent contributor to *The New York Times* and *Jornal Expresso*.

Dr. Vincent Durac is Associate Professor in Middle East Politics at University College Dublin. He is co-author (with **Francesco Cavatorta**) of *Politics and Governance in the Middle East*.

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SOLICITORS

Literary Lunch - Two for the Road



Sunday 9th March | 1.30pm | Old Ground Hotel | €30

This event will be fuelled by two engaging individuals coming from very different parts of the book world, **Cónal Creedon** and **Mairéad Hearne**. Mairéad has made her mark as a highly regarded and popular books reviewer and blogger over the last decade and Cónal is a writer and documentary maker who recently received the Leonardo da Vinci World Award for Arts 2024 from the World Cultural Council (WCC) in Switzerland.

Mairéad and Cónal will explore the journey through books and writing they both undertook in this engaging and warm-hearted event. A journey by accident, by default or was it predestined? Cónal has some strong opinions on this. They'll talk about the advent of social media and the changes it has created in the book world and the rise of book bloggers as a vital cog in the wheel. They will share funny personal stories and cautionary tales of their respective adventures and insights into the difference between traditional publishing and the tidal wave of self-publishing which is now gaining huge respectability as Indie publishing.

A light lunch is served. Please inform the Hotel directly of any dietary requirements.

Children & Young Adult Events

CLARE LIBRARIES EVENTS

We are delighted to be partnering once again with Clare Libraries to offer readings and workshops with young adult authors, facilitators and visual artists. Events will take place in **De Valera Library, Ennis** and **Edna O'Brien Library, Scariff**. Library events will be made available to Secondary Schools to book for class groups. Booking inquiries can be made by contacting:

De Valera Library, Ennis | Email ennislibrary@clarecoco.ie
Edna O'Brien Library, Scariff | Phone: (061) 922893

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.

Zine Making Workshop



Monday 3rd March | Free

9.30am – 11am | De Valera Library, Ennis
12pm – 1.30pm | Edna O'Brien Library, Scariff

Join **Tiffany Glen** and **Caoilfhinn Geary** of Limerick Zine Fest for a fun session on creating your own zine. Zines are a vibrant medium for self-expression, individuality, and sharing ideas, often amplifying marginalised voices. Tiffany is a writer and collage artist who hosts Cut Loose collage workshops and co-organises Limerick Zine Fest. Caoilfhinn is a multidisciplinary artist specialising in print, photography, and bookmaking, and a teacher at Limerick Printmakers. Together, they celebrate DIY art and storytelling

Fighting Words Creative Writing Workshop



Tuesday 4th March | Free

10am – 12pm | De Valera Library, Ennis
1.50pm – 3.50pm | Edna O'Brien Library, Scariff

Join Fighting Words for a two-hour short story writing workshop during Teen Week 2025 at Clare Libraries. This fun, creative session begins with a collective story-writing exercise, including improvisation to build characters, setting, and plot. Participants will edit as they write and then have time to finish the story individually or work on their own pieces. The workshop concludes with an opportunity to share their work aloud. Support and encouragement will be provided by the Fighting Words team throughout.

Our Sun, the Nearest Star



Wednesday 5th March | Free

10am – 11am | De Valera Library, Ennis
12.30pm – 1.30pm | Edna O'Brien Library, Scariff

The Sun has inspired awe and wonder since ancient times. Join astronomer **Tony O'Hanlon** for an illustrated talk exploring our Sun, its role in our lives, and its future. Learn how we study the Sun using telescopes and space data, blending science with the beauty of nature. Discover what it means to live with a star and the mysteries it holds. Presented in association with Astronomy Ireland, this talk offers a fascinating look at our nearest star.

Film Production for the Big Screen *with Ronan Daly*



Thursday 6th March | Free

10am – 12pm | De Valera Library, Ennis
1.50pm – 3.50pm | Edna O'Brien Library, Scariff

Ronan Daly of West Clare Film will introduce secondary school students to the world of filmmaking and its various stages from page to screen, bringing students through the stages of creating a short film including:

- Pre-production: Sets, filming locations, powers of persuasion.
- Production: Equipment, safety, filming for the big screen.
- Post-production: Editing, sound and sound effects and musical score.

Ronan works in film production and provides creative film workshops for TY students in St. Joseph's Secondary School, Spanish Point.

Braids Take a Day with Zainab Boladale



Join author and TV journalist **Zainab Boladale** to celebrate her Young Adult debut novel, *Braids Take A Day*, published by The O'Brien Press. Set in Ennistymon, this coming-of-age novel follows Abidemi, a young woman spending her final summer at home learning new braiding techniques and navigating relationships before college. When she meets a mysterious Nigerian woman, family secrets surface, prompting Abi to explore her identity and future.

This one-hour event includes a talk, a reading and a Q&A, offering teens a chance to delve into themes of self-discovery, cultural heritage and the unique experience of growing up in small towns.

Friday 7th March | Free

10am – 11am | De Valera Library, Ennis

12.30pm – 1.30pm | Edna O'Brien Library, Scariff

A Talk on the work of Derek Mahon



Derek Mahon, a celebrated Irish poet of the late 20th century, is renowned for illuminating ordinary life through masterful verse. Mahon explored themes of isolation, loneliness, and alienation, reflecting his voluntary exile from Belfast. In this insightful talk, **Aoife O'Driscoll** of *Aoife's Notes* and author of *Excellence in English* and *Excellence in Texts*, examines Mahon's poetic themes, language, and emotional depth, highlighting the compassion and profound feeling he brought to his finest poems.

Friday 7th March | 10-11am | glór | Free but pre-booking required

Children's Bookclub event – Shane Hegarty in conversation with Sarah Moore Fitzgerald



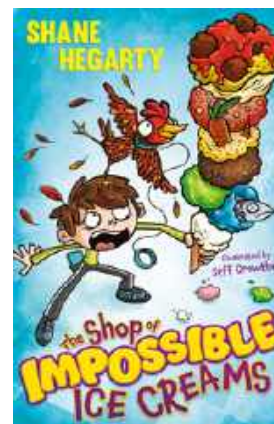
Friday 7th March | 12-1pm | glór | Free but pre-booking required

Award-winning author **Shane Hegarty** discusses his acclaimed books, including *Boot*, *Darkmouth*, and *Dexter Lost His Boo-Woo* and shares insights into his new picture book, *The One and Only You*, with writer **Sarah Moore Fitzgerald**.

Darkmouth introduces us to Finn who has been born into a line of Legend Hunters. *Dexter Lost His Boo-Woo* is an action-packed adventure about losing – and finding! – your favourite toy.

Winning entries from the Ennis Book Club Festival schools' writing competition, part of the annual Children's Book Club series hosted by Sarah Moore Fitzgerald and supported by **Creative Ireland**, will be read.

Shane Hegarty's Childrens Workshop

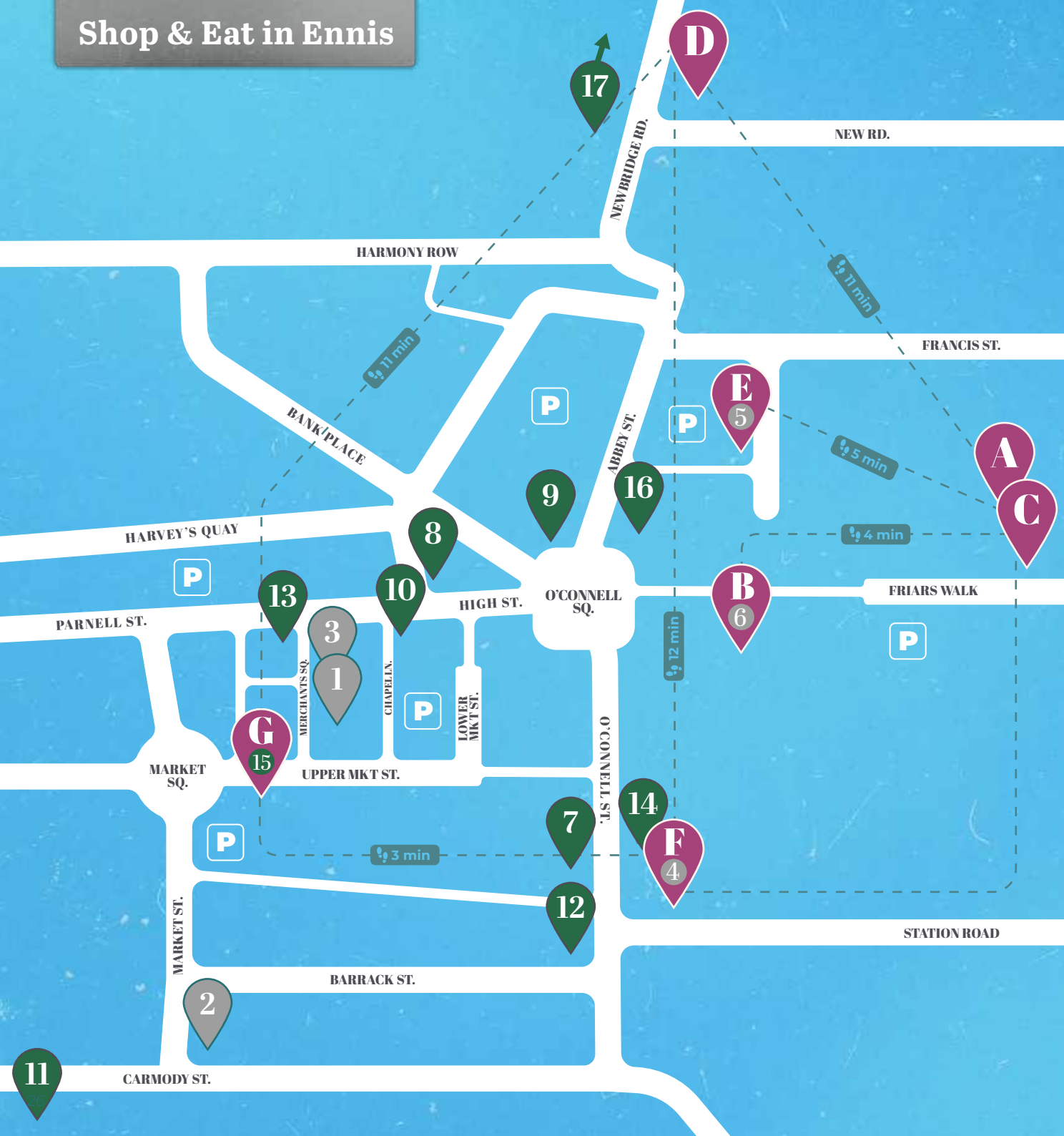


There is so much fun and creativity in the room with a **Shane Hegarty** childrens workshop. There will be tall tales and story making. From Magic Monsters to Very Odd Ice Creams, join Shane as he helps you come up with amazing story ideas from the world all around you.

Suitable for ages 7-12 years
Adults are required to attend with children.

Saturday 8th March | 11am-12pm
glór Studio | Free but pre-booking required

Shop & Eat in Ennis



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1. **Eva's Café**
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2. **Henry's Bistro & Wine Bar**
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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

Shopping

7. **County Boutique**
57 O'Connell Street, www.countyboutique.ie
8. **Ela Maria**
4 Salt House Lane, www.elamaria.ie
9. **Eye Care Centre**
O'Connell Square, [facebook.com/Eye-Care-Centre](https://www.facebook.com/Eye-Care-Centre)
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13. **O'Mahony's Book Sellers**
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14. **Pamela Scott Ennis**
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15. **Scéal Eile Books**
16 Lower Market St. (065) 68 48648
16. **The Ennis Book Shop**
13 Abbey Street, www.ennisbookshop.ie
17. **Vaughan's Garden Centre**
Gort Road Business Park, www.vaughansgardencentre.com

Venues

- A. glór
- B. Temple Gate Hotel
- C. De Valera Library/Súil Gallery
- D. Ennis Courthouse
- E. Sweet N Green Café
- F. Old Ground Hotel
- G. Scéal Eile Books

FRINGE

AT EBCF '25

EBCF is delighted to bring the Fringe back to the Festival in 2025. This year will feature a number of music and spoken word events hosted at smaller venues. Please check our website and social media for the full Fringe programme as the Festival weekend draws near.

We are thrilled to welcome Neil Ó Lochlainn's **Immram**, a chamber ensemble performance featuring singer Inni-K, of a suite of poems written by Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill. This suite combines influences from the sean nós tradition, jazz, improvised music and contemporary chamber music to create an innovative style of Irish music rooted in the singing and dance music tradition of Ireland. This event will be in the new **Súil Gallery** on **Friday 7th March @ 4.30pm**



Caoilte Breatnach will read from his new book, *Longlines*, at **Scéal Eile Bookshop** on **Saturday, 8th March @ 4.30pm**. *Longlines* focuses on the challenges facing militant republicans in Ireland during the peace process negotiations in the mid-1990s. Caoilte was raised in a trilingual environment (Irish, Spanish and English). His parents and siblings were involved in various republican and socialist issues and in defending human rights.

All event and booking information can be found at
www.ennisbookclubfestival.com

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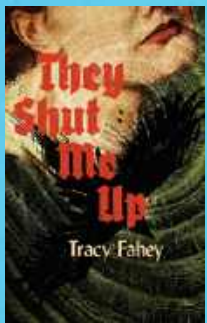
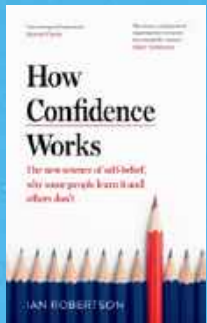
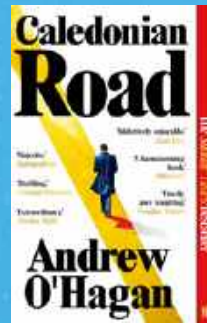
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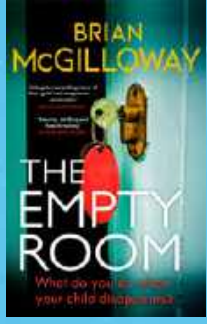
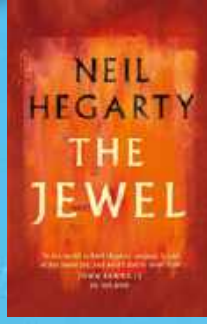
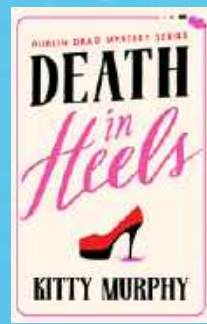
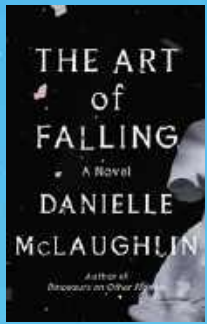
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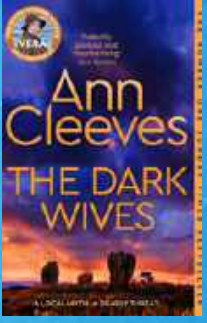
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We would like to thank all who supported EBCF 2025

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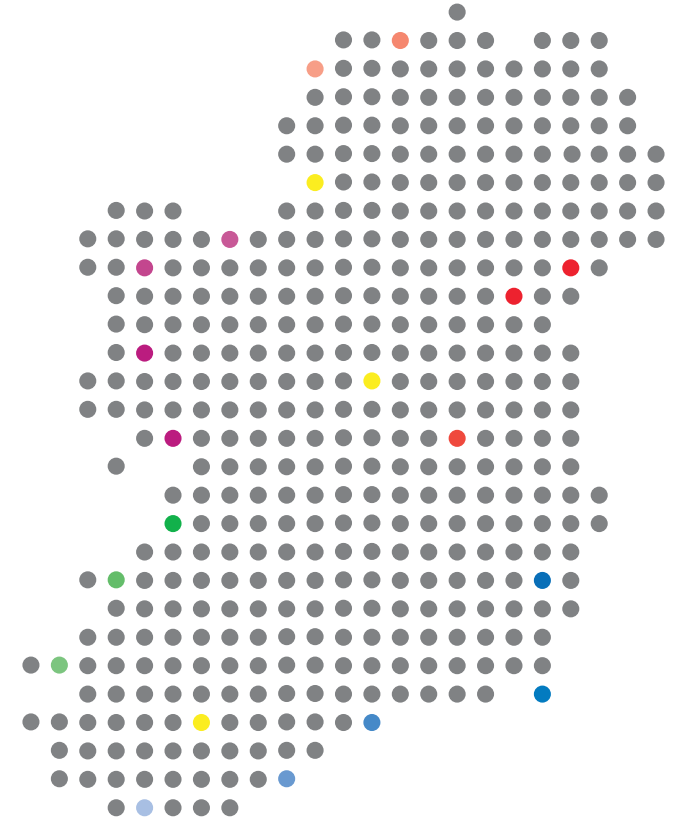


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- Edna O'Brien
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Edna O'Brien Mural Artwork by Ana Colomer