

Hinterland

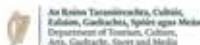
FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE AND ARTS - KELLS

26 - 29 June 2025



...illuminating words & ideas

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WELCOME Hinterland

FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE AND ARTS - KELLS



We warmly invite you to our 13th festival in our beautiful heritage town, for another memorable weekend of illuminating words and ideas emanating from Kells as they have for centuries.

Hinterland starts and finishes with two mini-festivals. Hindsight runs over Thursday and Friday, and this year will focus on 1975 – reflecting on events in Ireland and abroad 50 years ago.

There will be other events over the weekend where we look back at key political figures and events with distinguished contributors like Martin Sixsmith, Fintan O'Toole, Lara Marlowe, Diarmaid Ferriter and Patsy McGarry. Lovers of literature will be spoilt for choice as we'll welcome Booker Prize winner John Banville, John Boyne, Roisín O'Donnell, and many more.

We'll join Bryan Dobson, George Hamilton, John Creedon and Michael Harding as they reflect on their lives and careers. And Jack Lukeman will join us for a special evening drawing from his 30-year musical career. One of Brighton's best-loved club nights comes to Kells with SPELLBOUND - The Alternative 80s Night featuring the best of Goth, Post-Punk, New Romantic, Alternative Rock, Synth from 1979 - 1989. So, dig out the eyeliner and practice your backcombing!

We'll have a celebration of two comic geniuses – the 250th anniversary of the birth of Jane Austen and our commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the death of 'England literature's performing flea' P.G.Wodehouse. And we'll look to the future and how technology is reshaping our world with Dr Lollie Mancey.

Our younger festival goers will have plenty to engage and entertain, and be inspired by Myths & Legends as they join this year's Treasure Hunt.

We'll wrap up the weekend with a fabulous programme of free events in Lit Crawl, showcasing wonderful local writing, dramatic, comedic and musical talent.



HINTERLAND TEAM

DIRECTORS OF KELLS LITERARY & CULTURAL FESTIVAL LTD

Geraldine Gaughran,
Deirdre Hurley, Fintan Hogan,
Joe McKenna, Dara Mullen,
Bill Sweeney

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THANKS

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& the staff of Meath County
Council Libraries, Libby Finnegan,
Sandra Balfe and George Murphy
at the Kells Courthouse Tourism
& Cultural Hub, Kay Deignan,
Penny McGowan, Matt Spangler,
Tony Bucher, Cormac Kinsella,
Declan Heeney, Elaine Egan,
Conor Graham, Paul Elkington
& his fantastic A-Team, Bronwyn
Lally, O'Connell Family Practice,
Hugh Morris, Rev William Seale,
Gerald Williamson, John Grant,
Brian O'Neill, the McEntee Family,
Gerard O'Rorke, Olivia Duff and
all the teams at Headfort Arms
Hotel, and Boyne Valley Flavours,
Jess Olohan, Aoife & Trevor Gillic,
An Garda Síochána Ceanannas
Mór, Meath Civil Defence, 5th
Meath Kells Scout Group, Kells
Local Heroes, Anne Cunningham,
John O'Donoghue and The Meath
Chronicle team, Meath Chambers,
Valerie Smith, Faculty of Arts, Hu-
manities and Social Sciences Trinity
College Dublin, all our Lit Crawl
participants, the business owners
of Kells for their continued support
of the festival, and especially all our
wonderful volunteers.

FESTIVAL INFO

PROGRAMME & TICKET INFORMATION

In an effort to reduce the volume of paper we use, this year we won't have printed tickets.

Tickets can be bought via our on-line booking system at www.hinterland.ie, or scan the QR code:



The Box Office will be open at the BOOKMARKET Café for limited hours in the 3 weeks prior to the festival, but we encourage people to book on-line to avoid disappointment.

Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram for regular updates, or sign up to our Newsletter via our website.

Children's events are denoted by yellow highlight at event number. All children must be accompanied by an adult or guardian.

Programme details are correct at the time of going to press.

FESTIVAL BOOKSHOP

Books by festival authors will be available over the entire weekend in the Festival Bookshop at Kells Theatre. Books will also be available to purchase at the venues after the author's event, and signing will take place at each venue.

VENUES

- Church of Ireland - The Jane Barrett Stage [A82 AY20]
- The Courthouse - Meath County Council Stage [A82 RY62]
- Kells Theatre [A82 PX65]
- Eureka House - O'Brien's SuperValu Stage [A82 DX47]
- Rockfield House, 3km outside Kells - [A82 V9D5]
- The Headfort Arms [A82 D2C1]
- The Red Chapel [A82 W6TY]

Please see the map on the inside back cover for the location of venues.

Lit Crawl Venues, with [Eircodes] are:

- The Courthouse [A82 RY62]
- Kells Library, Maudlin Street [A82 YN52]
- O'Rorke's Pub, Castle Street [A82 E0X9]
- McEntee's Funeral Parlour [A82 K0D7]

COMPANY DETAILS

Kells Literary & Cultural Festival Company Ltd, c/o The BOOK MARKET Café, Market Street, Kells, Co. Meath, Ireland.

Registered in Dublin, Ireland. Company registration number 525038.

THURSDAY 26 JUNE

HINDSIGHT @ HINTERLAND

Supported by Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and Meath County Libraries

COURTHOUSE - MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL STAGE

[1] 10.30am €10

Liam McNiffe:

Teenager in 1975: Church, State and Girls

Bohemian Rhapsody, Herrema kidnapping, De Valera dies, Minister for Hardship, *Jaws*, Fall of Saigon, Rise of Thatcher, *Starsky and Hutch*, Miami massacre, no contraception, *Dear Frankie*, no equal pay, road slaughter, the horrible hidden Ireland, *Druid* founded, McGahern redeemed, teenage experience, boarding school, summer job, football and 'pure' thoughts, Maynooth seminary, dances/discos and death.

Yet 1975: Liberating, affluent, promising.



[2] 12pm €10

Joe McKenna – John Mulvany, from Meath to the Little Bighorn

In 1881, John Mulvany produced the iconic painting 'Custer's Last Rally', depicting the defeat of the 7th Cavalry at the battle of the Little Big Horn. The artist, John Mulvany from Dyrallagh, Moynalty, also renowned for his painting of the Battle of Aughrim and many others, is hardly known in his native land. This is an opportunity to lift the veil on a wonderful artist and his colourful life.

[3] 2pm €10

Ultan Courtney – The Igoe Gang

If anyone was going to break Michael Collins's Squad in 1921 it was the infamous Identification Company, better known as the Igoe Gang. This was a team of ruthless RIC detectives under the command of Head Constable Eugene Igoe from Mayo. It was their mission to patrol the streets of Dublin searching for IRA men on the run who had come to the city. Ultan Courtney reflects on this serious threat to the IRA in his new book.

[4] 3.30pm €10

Tony Bucher - The Story of Irish Crime in America

Before the Italian mobster came to America, the Irish ran the mean streets of American cities. Join Tony on a journey through 170 years of Irish American law and disorder, from street criminals in Gold Rush San Francisco to the slum gangsters and political bosses of the east coast. Thrill to stories of enterprising scoundrels like Chicago May and Mad Dog Coll as we revisit the bad old days of Irish crime in America.

[5] 5pm €10

Gina Clifford Holmes – Rosie Boote—from Gaiety Girl to Marchioness

Rose, Marchioness of Headfort, was the wife of the 4th Marquis. They first met in 1900, when Rosie was rising to fame as a singer at The Gaiety Theatre in London. Their romance encountered disapproval from King Edward VII, the ire of Geoffrey's military Commander-in-Chief, and the displeasure of his mother. Despite their differing social standings and religious backgrounds, they married in 1901 and lived at Headfort until Geoffrey's death in 1943.

[6] 7pm **CHURCH OF IRELAND -
THE JANE BARRETT STAGE** **FREE ENTRY**

The TypeTrail Launch

This unique walking trail, now celebrating its 16th year, is an annual celebration of typography and lettering as a modern art form. As we were given two ears and one mouth for good reason, this year's word is Listen. The TypeTrail map is available to view online at: www.kellstypetrail.com or is available to pick up in many local shops and cafés. Exhibits in place and available to view until 24th August.

[7] 8pm **KELLS THEATRE** €10**Blue Road: The Edna O'Brien Story**

This is a candid portrait of one of the world's greatest and most charismatic writers, Irish author Edna O'Brien. Her books were banned and burned in her native Ireland. In London and New York, she had illicit love affairs, hosted star-studded parties, and made and lost a fortune. In her final year, aged 93, she shares her diaries and gives one last interview to filmmaker Sinéad O'Shea about her extraordinary life. Her diaries are read aloud by Oscar nominated actress Jessie Buckley. (*Running time: 1h 39m*)

Sponsored by Kelly Bros. (Roadlines) Ltd.

[8] 8pm **ROCKFIELD HOUSE** €10**Jeeves at Rockfield** [ages 13+]

Enjoy a fun evening of readings, rhymes, fun and games based on characters from PG Wodehouse's *Inimitable Jeeves*, in the beautiful surroundings of Rockfield House. Refreshments on arrival, period dress greatly encouraged!

FRIDAY 27 JUNE

HINDSIGHT @ HINTERLAND

COURTHOUSE - MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL STAGE

[9] 10.30am €10

Paul Maher – 1975: Irish Policing

1975 was a bleak year for security on this island. The troubles in Northern Ireland were heating up and An Garda Síochána had to respond to unprecedented challenges. As the threat to peace and community safety increased, the state's response became more urgent. How would Ireland manage at this time of political and social upheaval? How would An Garda Síochána adapt and how would policing change? Superintendent Paul Maher is a member of the Garda Síochána Historical Society.

[10] 12pm €10

Myles Dungan – P.G. Wodehouse and the Nazis.

As part of our 1975 strand and of our celebration of the work of the great comic novelist Pelham Grenville Wodehouse, who died fifty years ago, historian Myles Dungan looks back at the truth and the fiction behind his controversial wartime broadcasts recorded in Nazi Germany.

[11] 2pm €10

Gray Brechin – Imperial San Francisco

San Francisco is a very Irish city; as Irish as Boston. One of the West's great hydraulic engineers, Michael O'Shaughnessy, was born in County Limerick but became simply "The Chief" of San Francisco. Some of the greatest American union leaders were San Francisco Irish, but the Irish were also among the West's greatest bigots and racists. No one is as well versed in the dramatic history of this great city as the distinguished historian Gray Brechin.

[12] 3.30pm €10

Jane Ohlmeyer – Ireland and Making Empire

In her most recent book *Making Empire: Ireland, Imperialism and the Early Modern World* Professor Jane Ohlmeyer of Trinity College Dublin examines 'empire as process' and Ireland's role in the creation of the British empire in the two hundred years between the mid-sixteenth to mid-eighteenth centuries, an imperialism in which Ireland played an integral part.



[13] 5pm €10

Kevin Rafter – The Remarkable Emile Dillon

Emile Joseph Dillon, from the slum streets of Victorian Dublin, witnessed some of the most dramatic events the world has ever seen including, the assassination of a Russian Tsar, the Dreyfus court martial and bloody massacres in Armenia. But Dillon was more than a newspaper journalist – he was a university professor, author of books on theology, and an adviser to statesmen; he reported on wars but also helped broker international peace treaties.

The Liam Cahill Memorial Lecture sponsored by Meath Council of Trade Unions

[14] 6.30pm €10

Des Lee – My Saxophone Saved My Life

Few 'Troubles' atrocities made as much impact as the senseless murder of three members of the Miami showband, one of the few southern groups that continued to play in the North in the 1970s. Their reward was to be attacked by a loyalist paramilitary gang in July 1975. Three members of the band were killed, Des Lee and Stephen Travers survived. Des will be in conversation with his biographer Ken Murray.

[15] 6.30pm **KELLS THEATRE** €10**Simon Price - Curepedia: an A-Z of The Cure**

Formed in 1978 The Cure still inspire a fervent brand of fandom in Ireland. Acclaimed music journalist Simon Price has crafted *Curepedia: An A-Z of The Cure* as an in depth biography of Robert Smith and other band members, providing rich cultural context for the inspirations behind the band's ever-evolving discography. Simon will be in conversation with Deirdre Hurley.

Sponsored by The Central Bar & Restaurant, Navan

[16] 8pm **THE RED CHAPEL** €10**Schola Hybernicae**

Consisting of eight female voices, Schola Hybernicae is Ireland's specialist chant and early music female vocal ensemble. The group has a particular interest in music derived from rare manuscripts and in connecting people, place, and heritage through ancient song. Schola Hybernicae performs nationally and internationally at symposia, conferences, festivals, liturgies, and recitals. Schola Hybernicae was founded and is directed by Dr Giovanna Feeley.

Sponsored by O'Connell Family Practice

[17] 9.30pm **LIV NIGHT CLUB -****THE HEADFORT ARMS HOTEL** €10**Simon Price - Spellbound Alternative 80s Disco**

Since 2017 Simon Price has run one of Brighton's best loved club nights, an alternative 80s night called SPELLBOUND. Tonight SPELLBOUND comes to Kells as Simon DJs a heady mix of Goth, New Wave, Post-Punk, New Romantic. Come along and re-live your youth or just dance to what you missed because you were too young first time around. Expect to hear Siouxsie & The Banshees, Orange Juice, Julian Cope, Talking Heads, Virgin Prunes and many more gems.

Sponsored by The Headfort Arms Hotel

SATURDAY 28 JUNE

Children's events are denoted by yellow highlight at event number ●

[18] 11am MYTHS & LEGENDS - TREASURE HUNT Free Entry

Step into a world of magic and mystery! Join our family-friendly treasure hunt through Kells, where mythical clues are hidden in shop windows. Complete the quest anytime over the weekend to earn your official certificate, and be entered into a prize draw fit for heroes. Fun, free, and full of wonder – this is the perfect adventure for curious kids (and grown-ups too)! **On all weekend, collect your answer sheet in the box-office or festival bookshops and embark on your hunt!**

Certificates & prizes will be awarded on Sunday at 1pm at Eureka House.

Sponsored by Allied Waste

[19] 10.30am COURTHOUSE - MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL STAGE €10

**Matthew Spangler -
The Adaptation Session - Faith Hogan,
The Bookshop Ladies**

Our annual get together between award-winning American playwright Matthew Spangler (*The Kite Runner*) and one of our distinguished guests to discover how Matt would go about adapting their work to the stage. So far these sessions have produced two completed plays, *Striking Back* and *The Beekeeper of Aleppo*. This year Matt will be 'adapting' Faith Hogan's *The Bookshop Ladies*.



[20] 10.30am CHURCH OF IRELAND - THE JANE BARRETT STAGE €10

Penelope Shales-Slyne - Confession of a Soap Tart

Penelope Shales-Slyne is a veteran (survivor) of the world of the TV soap opera. She has a long and distinguished pedigree at the helm of some of the most iconic British and Irish TV shows. In her long career she has directed, among others, *Eastenders* for the BBC, *Coronation Street* for ITV, *Pobol Y Cym* for S4C (she is a fluent Welsh speaker) and RTÉ's *Fair City*. She recently began her first ever stint on *Emmerdale*. Penny will be in conversation with *Fair City* writer Ross Dungan.

Sponsored by Euronics - Rooneys Home & Hardware

[21] 10.30am KELLS THEATRE €10

Diarmaid Ferriter - The Revelation of Ireland 1995 - 2020

In his latest work Diarmaid Ferriter looks at the years of the Celtic Tiger, including the economic 'bust' and the gradual restoration of our financial independence. He also explores the collapse of the authority of the Catholic church, the end of civil war politics, immigration, ever closer European involvement, the peace process, and the Anglo-Irish highs that were followed by Brexit lows and increasing talk of Irish unity. As we enter our second century of independence Diarmaid Ferriter makes historical sense of post-1990s Ireland, its social, political and cultural hinterlands, and what lies in the darkest corners of its archives.

Sponsored by St Colmcille's Credit Union

[22] 10.30am EUREKA HOUSE -
O'BRIEN'S SUPER VALU STAGE €5

Erika McGann - It's Too Dark, Puffling [ages 3+]

With the help of puffling and her friends on Skellig Michael, can they convince puffling's little friend to no longer be afraid of the dark? Join author Erika McGann for an interactive session and some storytelling from the latest instalment in the Puffling series, *It's Too Dark, Puffling*.

[23] 12pm COURTHOUSE -
MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL STAGE €10

Gráinne Hurley - Gratefully and Affectionately: Mary Lavin and The New Yorker

This is the first book to examine Mary Lavin's 16-year working relationship with *The New Yorker* magazine. It is also a fascinating insight into the lives of two brilliant 20th-century literary women, Meath writer Mary Lavin and the *New Yorker* editor Rachel McKenzie. More than 400 letters passed between them, both business and highly personal. Gráinne will be in conversation with Kevin Rafter.

Sponsored by Tom Blake House

[24] 12pm CHURCH OF IRELAND -
THE JANE BARRETT STAGE €10

Bryan Dobson in conversation with Eileen Dunne

Known affectionately to one and all as 'Dobbo', Bryan Dobson stepped down last year from an illustrious shift as a broadcast journalist. Presenter of the *Six One* TV news and *News at One* on RTÉ Radio, he also served his time as an early riser to front *Morning Ireland*. In conversation with former colleague Eileen Dunne (aka 'Dunner') he recalls the highlights of a memorable career.

Sponsored by Lifetime Financial Planning-The Certified Financial Planning Professionals

[25] 12pm KELLS THEATRE €10

Martina Devlin - The real Charlotte?

Did you know that Charlott Brontë married an Irishman, Arthur Bell Nicholls? Martina Devlin's enthralling new novel *Charlotte* weaves back and forth through Charlotte's life, reflecting on the myths built around her by those who knew her, those who thought they knew her, and those who longed to know her. Above all, this is a story of fiction: who creates it, who lives it, who owns it. Martina will be in conversation with Sophie Grenham.

Sponsored by DNG Royal County

[26] 12pm EUREKA HOUSE -
O'BRIEN'S SUPER VALU STAGE €5

Síne Quinn - The Faerie Isle: Tales & Traditions of Ireland's Forgotten Folklore [ages 8+]

The folklore of Ireland is beloved by children across the world, but the lesser-known heroes and villains of Irish legends are the faerie folk. From trickster spirits to slippery shape-shifters, from the tiny leprechaun to the enormous giant, Síne will host a workshop with drawing, writing and facts about Irish faeries.

Sponsored by Farrelly Bros.

[27] **2pm COURTHOUSE -
MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL STAGE €10**

Faith Hogan - *The Bookshop Ladies*

In her latest work, *The Bookshop Ladies*, shortlisted for an An Post Irish Book Award last year, bestselling Irish writer, Faith Hogan, has created another gripping saga of friendship, betrayal and secrets. This is the story of a widow in search of answers to a shocking confession by her dying husband. ('I LOVED it', Cathy Kelly). Faith will be in conversation with Sophie Grenham.

Sponsored by Hogan's Farm Shop & Café

[28] **2pm CHURCH OF IRELAND -
THE JANE BARRETT STAGE €10**

Kevin Barry - *The Heart in Winter*

From one of Ireland's most garlanded writers (winner of the 2013 International Dublin Literary Award) comes a new novel set in 1891 in the American west. Butte, Montana has become rich on copper and Tom Rourke has fled into the Montana badlands with the newly married Polly Gillespie. A posse of angry Cornish gunmen are in pursuit ... Kevin Barry will be in conversation with Kevin Rafter.

Sponsored by Kenny Timmons Developments Ltd.

[29] **2pm KELLS THEATRE €10**

Patsy McGarry - *Well Holy God*

In *Well, Holy God*, Patsy McGarry, former Religious Affairs Correspondent for *The Irish Times*, who has covered most of the Catholic church scandals of the last three decades, gives a personal account of growing up in the Catholic Church and of a faith lost long before the stark realities of that Church became apparent to him. Patsy will be in conversation with Gerry Foley.

Sponsored by Keaveny Walsh & Co Solicitors



[30] **2pm EUREKA HOUSE -
O'BRIEN'S SUPER VALU STAGE €5**

Winnie Clarke - *The Friendship Cup* [ages 9+]

This moving novel (based on a true story of a Palestine-Ireland soccer exchange) follows a group of Irish children whose lives change dramatically after hosting Palestinian boys for a summer football programme in 2023. As cross-cultural friendships form, the Irish youngsters gain insight into life in Palestine.

Sponsored by Woods & Partners Chartered Accountants

[31] **3.30pm COURTHOUSE -
MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL STAGE €10**

Philip Boucher Hayes - *Climate Change: what matters and what doesn't matter so much*

RTÉ presenter Philip Boucher Hayes (*Hot Mess*) poses the question, will it be the weakening Jet Stream or the slowdown of the Gulf Stream that is going to pose the greater climate threat to Ireland. Join Philip and an inflatable globe to find out.

Sponsored by Cooper Insulation

[32] **3.30pm CHURCH OF IRELAND -
THE JANE BARRETT STAGE €10**

John Boyne - The Elements

In 2023, the multi award-winning writer John Boyne launched what was, even for him, the highly ambitious project of publishing a four-novella sequence. It began with *Water* in November 2023. This was followed by *Earth and Fire* in 2024. *Air* was published in May 2025. The full sequence will be collected in September 2025 in a single volume, titled *The Elements*. He will be in conversation with Gerry Foley.

Sponsored by Murray Ward & Co. Accountants

[33] **3.30pm KELLS THEATRE €10**

John Banville - Crime Fiction

Long known and celebrated as a writer of literary fiction (Booker Prize winner in 2005) John Banville branched out into detective fiction the following year, under the pseudonym Benjamin Black. Since then he has published fourteen crime novels either as Benjamin Black or under his own name. His latest crime novel *The Drowning* (2024) is the tenth in the Quirke series. He will be in conversation with Myles Dungan.

Sponsored by Lappin's Headfort Pharmacy



[34] **3.30pm EUREKA HOUSE -
O'BRIEN'S SUPER VALU STAGE €5**

Kevin Moran - The Doomsday Club [ages 9+]

In *The Doomsday Club*, four 6th class boys witness a monstrous beast step out of a portal outside their school. When it wanders into the crumbling mansion across the road, they have to investigate, right? Join Kevin Moran to find out all about becoming an author of children's books and how he came up with the idea for his debut novel, followed by a fun reading from the book.

Sponsored by Park Rí

[35] **5pm COURTHOUSE -
MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL STAGE €10**

Oisín Fagan - Eden's Shore

Oisín Fagan burst onto the writing scene in 2016 with his debut collection of short stories, *Hostages*. Three years later he built on that early promise with a critically acclaimed novel named after a town not a million miles from Kells, *Nobber*. His latest novel, *Eden's Shore* is 'a story of greed, revenge and love' set in South America at the end of the 18th century. Oisín will be in conversation with Sophie Grenham.

Sponsored by European Industrial Coatings

[36] **5pm CHURCH OF IRELAND -
THE JANE BARRETT STAGE €10**

Sarah Moss - Fact and fiction.

Ripeness and My Good Bright Wolf

With the release of two books in a nine-month span, plus a weekly *Irish Times* column, Sarah Moss is having a busy year. Her latest novel *Ripeness* (2025) is about family, home and the decisions that define our lives and comes on the heels of *My Good Bright Wolf* published last year, a memoir about the relationships that form us, and the long tentacles of childhood. Sarah Moss will be in conversation with Gerry Foley.

Sponsored by Harte Electrical

[37] **5pm KELLS THEATRE €10**

George Hamilton - Hamilton's Notes

The incomparable George Hamilton, sports commentator and music aficionado supreme, returns to Hinterland with a superb offering of anecdotes and travel stories spanning his five decades on our airwaves and on our screens, always at the heart of Irish culture and sport.

Sponsored by Gormley Pharmacy



[38] **5pm EUREKA HOUSE -
O'BRIEN'S SUPER VALU STAGE €5**

Paul Nugent - Spring Chicken [ages 3+]

Amelia Egghart is a chicken with a dream, who has been preparing, and training for the day she would finally achieve breaking the world record for the longest chicken flight. Join author/illustrator, Paul Nugent, for an egg-citing reading from his debut picture book, *Spring Chicken*, followed by an illustration demo and drawing activity.

Sponsored by Lynch's Totalhealth Pharmacy

[39] **6.30pm CHURCH OF IRELAND -
THE JANE BARRETT STAGE €10**

Michael Harding -

I loved him from the day he died

To mark his 70th birthday Michael Harding travelled to Spain and walked the Camino de Santiago. Yet, as he set off on his pilgrimage, he found he wasn't alone. Accompanying him was the ghost of his long-dead father, a distant and aloof figure whom he lost when he was only twenty-two years old. In his latest work Michael Harding examines how this man, who had died almost half a century ago, could have had such a profound effect on the writer's life.

Sponsored by Lydon Farrell Property



[40] 6.30pm **KELLS THEATRE €10**

Andrew Pierce - Finding Margaret

Popular British journalist, broadcaster and political commentator Andrew Pierce will discuss his first book *Finding Margaret*, a Sunday Times bestseller – a heart-warming, page turner that takes us on his extraordinary life journey. Full of amusing and eye-catching anecdotes, Andrew was adopted from an orphanage at 3 years old and at its heart lies the inspirational story of his long search for his birth mother, who was from Co. Mayo. Then after he finally found her, how it all left him feeling.

Sponsored by Kells Traditional Timber Windows & Doors



[41] 9pm **THE HEADFORT ARMS HOTEL €20**

Jack Lukeman - Unbroken Songs 2025

Join Jack Lukeman for an unforgettable evening celebrating resilience, hope, love, and dreams through his extraordinary musical journey. *Unbroken Songs* draw from Jack's 30-year opus. This show features a thoughtfully curated collection of songs, from the bold energy of tracks like 'Georgie Boy' and 'Keep Dancing' to the reflective depth of 'Open Your Borders' and the life-affirming 'Wicked Way'. "These songs have grown with me," Jack says. "Playing them now feels like coming full circle."

Sponsored by Meath County Council Arts Office



SUNDAY 29 JUNE

Children's events are denoted by yellow highlight at event number ●

[42] **10.30am** COURTHOUSE -
MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL STAGE €10

Roisín O'Donnell - Nesting

On a bright spring afternoon in Dublin, Ciara Fay makes a decision that will change everything. Ciara straps her two young daughters into her car and drives away. Head spinning, all she knows for certain is that home is no longer safe. *Nesting*, Roisín's debut novel, featured as the inaugural pick for Ryan Tubridy's Bookshelf book club and has spent several months in the Irish Times bestseller list. She will be in conversation with Gerry Foley.

Sponsored by Dunnes The Premier House



[43] **10.30am** KELLS THEATRE €10

Darryl Jones - The life and work of P.G. Wodehouse

As part of our celebration of the great comic writer ('English literature's performing flea' – Seán O'Casey) Pelham Grenville Wodehouse, who died 50 years ago this year, Professor Darryl Jones of TCD will look at the life and work of the creator of Jeeves, Bertie Wooster, Lord Emsworth, the Empress of Blandings, Psmith and so many more beloved characters.

Sponsored by Usher Auctions

[44] **10.30am** EUREKA HOUSE -
O'BRIEN'S SUPER VALU STAGE **FREE EVENT**

Richard Leray

Richard Leray has been practicing stencil illumination since 1991. He is a recognized master in this 14th century coloring and multiplication technique, listed in the inventory of Artistic Crafts in France. All the works presented, creations or copies of old documents, are multiplied by this technique as delicate as it is rare. Other documents illustrate the history of this know-how.

Sponsored by Kells Arts Club

[45] **12pm** COURTHOUSE -
MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL STAGE €10

**T.J. McIntyre - The X-rated Tangerine dream: Europe, US
Social Media giants and Trumpism**

In 2021 Donald Trump was suspended from Facebook for "using our platform to incite violent insurrection" In January Mark Zuckerberg apologised for "too much censorship" and announced that he wanted to "work with President Trump to push back against foreign governments going after American companies to censor more". Where does this leave Europe? How will GDPR and the Digital Rights Act fare against a Truskerberg onslaught? Dr TJ McIntyre, associate professor in the UCD Sutherland School of Law will be in conversation with Myles Dungan.

Sponsored by Nathaniel Lacy & Partners LLP

[46] 12pm **KELLS THEATRE €10****John Creedon - This Boy's Heart: Scenes from an Irish Childhood**

John Creedon's *This Boy's Heart* is set in a Cork household of a dozen children and another dozen adults, including beloved aunts, an American writer, an African doctor and a Scottish bookie. The streets outside are teeming with brewery horses, Christian Brothers, dance halls, a Turkish Delight shop, and a pub where a child can smoke his cigarette in peace. John will be in conversation with Gerry Foley.

Sponsored by Ellab

[47] 12pm **EUREKA HOUSE - O'BRIEN'S SUPER VALU STAGE €10****Tim O'Grady - An American in Ireland**

American novelist and historian Tim O'Grady first became fascinated with Ireland when he collaborated on the multimedia project *Curious Journey; An Oral History of Ireland's Unfinished Revolution*. Monaghan, his latest novel is based on the extraordinary story of Frank 'Lucas' Quigley a legendary republican activist and artist from West Belfast. Tim is also the author of the photographic novel *I Could Read the Sky*, made into a film in 1999. He will be in conversation with Rus Bradburd.

Sponsored by McEntee's Off Licence

[48] 1pm **EUREKA HOUSE - O'BRIEN'S SUPER VALU STAGE FREE EVENT****Treasure Hunt - Awarding of Prizes & Certificates**

On all weekend, answer sheets in the box-office or festival bookshops. Prizes courtesy of Antonia's Bookstore. More information on page 10.

Sponsored by Allied Waste

[49] 2pm **COURTHOUSE - MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL STAGE €10****Darryl Jones - 250 Years of Jane Austen**

To mark the 250th anniversary of the birth of Jane Austen, Professor Darryl Jones of TCD will look at the life and the work of this iconic literary figure, the author of popular classics such as *Pride and Prejudice* and *Emma*, whose work is still read (and endlessly adapted for stage and screen) a quarter of a millennium after her birth.

Sponsored by Karen's Boutique

[50] 2pm **CHURCH OF IRELAND - THE JANE BARRETT STAGE €10****Fintan O'Toole - Shakespeare is hard, but so is life**

The works of Shakespeare are everywhere, from our early schooling to the lecture rooms of academia, from classic theatre to modern adaptations on stage and screen. But how well do we really know his plays? In this witty, iconoclastic book Fintan O'Toole examines four of Shakespeare's most enduring tragedies: *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Othello* and *King Lear* and shows how their tragic heroes have been over-simplified and moulded to fit restrictive, conservative values. He restores the true heart and spirit of these classics.

Sponsored by Tinnitus Care Clinics by Cloosa and Micro Acoustics

[51] 2pm **KELLS THEATRE €10**

Lollie Mancey - Futureville

Lollie takes us on a journey into the future—one that feels closer than we think. Drawing from *Futureville*, her exploration of Ireland in 2050, she will look at how technology is reshaping our world, not just in the ways we expect, but in ways that challenge what it means to be human. AI is already writing, creating, and making decisions that affect our lives—but where does human agency fit in? Lollie will be in conversation with Deirdre Hurley.

Sponsored by Dunboyne College of Further Education



[52] 2pm **EUREKA HOUSE - O'BRIEN'S SUPER VALU STAGE €5**

Dave Rudden - Conn of the Dead [ages 9+]

An award-winning author, performer and time-displaced Viking, Dave Rudden will show children how to craft their very own collection of catastrophic creatures, from inspiration to characterisation to bringing it to life on the page with stomach-turning descriptions. Conn of the Dead is his love letter to Goosebumps, Spooksville and all the other series he reckons he probably should not have been reading unsupervised at the age of eight!

Sponsored by Paddy Duff Footwear

[53] 3.30pm **COURTHOUSE - MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL STAGE €10**

Tom Dunne - How Irish Music Conquered the World (mostly thanks to Horslips)

In 1972 there were thousands of showbands in Ireland (or that's how it seemed) cranking out covers. The 60s had bypassed Irish music, bar Van, Rory, Gilbert and Phil. But by 1977 the Rats and Lizzy were top of the British charts and we'd got our own rock festivals. Tom Dunne credits Horslips, who introduced us to rock and roll one ballroom at a time, wiped out the showbands, invented U2, and had great hair.

Sponsored by Clonabreany House

[54] 3.30pm **CHURCH OF IRELAND - THE JANE BARRETT STAGE €10**

Jacqueline Connolly - Deadly Silence

On 29 August 2016 an entire family was found dead in a rural community. For Jacqueline Connolly, this was a life-shattering tragedy, as her sister Clodagh, a teacher in Oristown, Co. Meath, along with her nephews Liam, Niall and Ryan, were killed by their husband and father Alan Hawe. Here, Jacqueline discloses the circumstances leading up to the tragic events, including Hawe's coercive control of her unsuspecting sister. Jacqueline will be in conversation with Sophie Grenham.

Sponsored by Sarah Thompson & Associates Meath



[55] 3.30pm **KELLS THEATRE** €10**Martin Sixsmith -****Putin and the Return of History**

Martin Sixsmith is probably best known in Ireland for his book *The Lost Child of Philomena Lee*, which was the basis for the 2013 film *Philomena* in which Sixsmith was played by Steve Coogan. In recent years he has become a close observer of Vladimir Putin. *Putin and the Return of History* records the doings of the Russian dictator while the West was making other plans. Martin will be in conversation with Deirdre Hurley.

*Sponsored by College Proteins*[56] 3.30pm **EUREKA HOUSE -****O'BRIEN'S SUPER VALU STAGE** €5**Brian Fitzgerald - Bunny's Most Fabulous Holiday Ever!** [ages 3+]

Bunny begins her holiday by the sea and is ready for some quality alone time. But Bob the Monster isn't taking the hint and sets his tent up right next to her caravan! Is he doing this to annoy her or is he just a big friendly Monster. Bunny thinks he's a bit of a show off. Is her holiday ruined? Brian will do some drawing and read his fabulous picture book so we can find out what happens to Bunny and Bob. Plus..everyone gets to draw their favourite holiday memory.

Sponsored by Headfort Golf Club[57] 3.30pm **COURTHOUSE -****MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL STAGE** €10**Cauvery Madhavan - The Inheritance**

It's 1986 and Londoner Marlo O'Sullivan has just found out that his sister is his mother. He moves to Glengarriff, to a cottage he has inherited, in the stunning Beara Peninsula. When a neighbour dies unexpectedly, Marlo takes over his minibus service to Cork. Over the course of Cauvery Madhavan's most accomplished novel to date we move from the 1980s to the 1600s and back as a 400-hundred-year-old tragedy reveals itself. Cauvery will be in conversation with Sukanya Chakrabarti.

Sponsored by Weldon Opticians[58] 5pm **CHURCH OF IRELAND -****THE JANE BARRETT STAGE** €10**Lara Marlowe - 'How Good It Is I Have No Fear of Dying', Lieutenant Yulia Mykytenko's fight for Ukraine**

Drawing from a series of interviews with 28-year-old woman army officer Yulia Mykytenko, Lara Marlowe paints a searing portrait of life on the frontline and offers insights into Ukraine's past and possible future. *How Good It Is I have No Fear of Dying* (2024) is a compelling story of a fearless woman fighting for the survival of Ukraine. Lara will be in conversation with Eileen Dunne.

Sponsored by Sheridan's Insurances

[59] 5pm **KELLS THEATRE** €10**Eugene Reavey - The Reavey Killings: British Murder and Cover Up in Northern Ireland**

On January 4th 1976, a UVF gang burst into the home of the Reavey Family in Whitecross South Armagh and shot dead two brothers.

The Reavey Killings: British Murder and Cover-Up in Northern Ireland recounts how an Armagh Catholic family had their lives turned upside down. It also reveals the sinister tactics of British security agents in prolonging the Troubles while the IRA were on ceasefire! Eugene Reavey is in conversation with author Ken Murray.

[60] 5pm **EUREKA HOUSE - O'BRIEN'S SUPER VALU STAGE** €5**Bex Sheridan - Wild Eyes** [ages 4-11]

Children's nature-themed creative session. Participants will learn to draw their own imagined wild worlds made up of plants and trees before creating their very own seed bombs to take home to create the real thing.



SUNDAY 29 JUNE

Supported By Creative Ireland



FREE - ALL WELCOME

Lit Crawl was first organised as part of the huge Litquake Literary Festival in San Francisco in 2004. Since then, it has spread to several other cities in the USA and Europe, including New York, Seattle, Los Angeles, Helsinki and London. Over the past few years, Lit Crawl has firmly established itself as a most special way of closing our Hinterland weekend.

[LC.1] 6pm **LIBRARY UPSTAIRS****Simon Thomas: 'The Nine Lives of Life Writing'**

In this shamelessly partisan racetrack-cum-ghost train ride through the field, with pit stops via a multi-genre cast from Samuel Beckett to Anne Frank and Mark Strand to Seamus O'Rourke, the speaker will propose nine feline theses on 'staying alive' as a (death-in-) life writer.'

[LC.2] **6pm** LIBRARY DOWNSTAIRS

Monica McGuinness: Crowfield House: A Reading

Monica McGuinness, local author and winner of the Maria Edgeworth Short Story Competition, 2024 will read from her debut novel, “Crowfield House” published by Poolbeg Fiction in June 25. She is a member of the aSpired Writers Group in Kells, Co Meath. She also hosts a podcast of her short stories, Fearfold and co-hosts another podcast, about writing, aSpired Writers

[LC.3] **6pm** MCENTEE’S FUNERAL PARLOUR

Mick Jordan: Letter to my 16 -Year-Old Self “A message from the present to the past, warning of the future”: Film & Talk

What started out as a comic monologue quickly developed into something more cathartic, a remembrance of a battle with depression, and of coming out the other side. Mick Jordan, a writer and film maker living in Kells, presents **Letter to my 16-Year-Old Self**. Mick explains the how and why of its making and tells of the lived experience behind it. It premiered at last year’s Meath Film Festival in the Solstice Arts Centre - where it had in fact been filmed six months earlier.

[LC.4] **6pm** O’RORKES PUB

Kells Heritage Theatre

They’re back! Having got through the evils of Covid, Kells Heritage Theatre return with a determination to offer theatre that entertains and will maybe make you think about the human condition in these challenging times in ways you haven’t before. Perhaps, Samuel Beckett may fit the bill...

[LC.5] **7pm** KELLS COURTHOUSE

The Hinterland Players: Play in a day

They get together on Sunday morning. They rehearse. They’re ready to perform on Sunday afternoon. To mark her 250th anniversary our troupe of actors will perform two ten-minute versions of Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* this year. One has been adapted by a human being, one by AI. See if you can figure out which is which.

[LC.6] **7pm** MCENTEE’S FUNERAL PARLOUR

“Tales from an Irish Thatch” - Storytelling & Poetry

Áine McGarry will share stories, poems and photographs from her book ‘Tales from an Irish Thatch’~Trohanny Cottage. Trohanny Cottage is a 1800’s listed thatched cottage near Moynalty, Kells with a fascinating history and restoration story and one of few remaining examples of an intact vernacular Irish cottage left in the country today.

[LC.7] **7pm** O’RORKES PUB

Munterconnaught Ukelele Group

All welcome to this fun and uplifting Ukelele get together. They started out in 2019, still going strong, and always on the lookout for new members.

[.8] **7.30pm** O'RORKES PUB

Rhythm and Poetry with XCALIBER

Rhythm and Poetry are the fundamental building blocks of music.

Rap intricately fuses these two qualities to deliver honest, unfiltered storytelling and social commentary. Joining XCALIBER will be fellow artists J.F.O. and objectsnwo.

[LC.9] **8pm** KELLS COURTHOUSE

Myles Dungan et al 'The Purity of the Turf'

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of P.G.

Wodehouse we present a rehearsed reading of the consummate Jeeves and Wooster short story, 'The Purity of the Turf'. There's a lot of money gone down on the local sports day at Twing Hall. But there are murky shenanigans afoot. Will Bertie (with the assistance of Jeeves, obvs) come out on top?

[LC.10] **8pm** LIBRARY UPSTAIRS

Áine McHugh: Mental Health Through The Movies: A Talk

This presentation is an exploration of how mental illness has been portrayed through movies and will delve into a selection of movies and how some of them have positively and negatively impacted on how the public perceive what mental disorder means

[LC.11] **8pm** LIBRARY DOWNSTAIRS

Maggie Smith: James Tevlin's 19th Century Ireland. Love, Life & Liberation through Poetry: A Reading

Maggie Smith takes us on a journey with this reading from her book, a collection of James Tevlin's surviving poems combined with the history of a turbulent time. These poems and rhymes provide an insight into the thoughts, feelings, and passions of the man who became known as The Billywood Poet. Rediscover the political players of the time, how the great famine shaped the landscape and just what did happen to the almost mythical Tenison's Boar...

[LC.12] **8pm** McENTEE'S FUNERAL PARLOUR

The Selection Box present Drama & Comedy

'*Sweet Bird of Youth*' performed by Joan Powell & directed by Mick Roban. A monologue, about a woman in her sixties who is talking to her neighbour who is unseen, who has come to borrow some Birthday Candles.

'*Another Prick in the Wall*' looks at a President trying to find the right people to build a wall for him. Performed by Paula Brady, Raymond Cullen, Patricia Ronayne & Pat Farrell.

Written and directed by Mick Roban.

[LC.13] **8pm** O'RORKES PUB

A Musical Treat

'Songs in the Round' session with Ollie Cole, Carl Gillic, Podge Sandwich, Cathal McCabe, Michael Brunnock, and special guests from the Studio 109 songwriting group of 2025, to wrap the 2025 Hinterland Festival.

OTHER THINGS TO DO

ANN MELDON HUGH 'FRAGILE WORLD' EXHIBITION

TORADH 2 GALLERY,

Kells Courthouse Tourism & Cultural Hub, A82 RY62

25th June – 16th July 2025

An exhibition of new work by award winning sculptor Ann Meldon Hugh - a personal response to her environment and experience, the exhibition features stunning new works in ceramic and bronze capturing the beauty and fragility of our world.

Opening Hours: Mon- Fri: 9 am – 5 pm. Saturday: 9 am – 4 pm
(closed for lunch 1:30-2 pm)

CELEBRATING BLOOMSDAY - HINTERLAND MEETS JOYCE

Monday 16th June. Join Kells Arts Club for traditional Bloomsday Breakfast. Meet at Parnell Garden Kells 10.30am, and then to the BOOKMARKet Cafe at 11am. Poetry, readings, celebrations. Period Dress encouraged. €18. Booking at cafe recommended.

aSPIRED WRITERS

Join the aSpired writers for their first ever open mic night in the BOOK MARKet café. Come along to an intimate setting to hear some short stories and poetry from Kells and Meath writers with special guest Natalya O'Flaherty.

Monday 23rd June 7.30pm, €5 cover charge.

RICHARD LERAY - EXHIBITION LAUNCH

Wednesday 25th June 7.30pm Eureka House

Join Kells Arts Club and Mark Smith who will launch an Exhibition of work by acclaimed French Artist Richard Leray. Refreshments served.

DÚISIGÍ - AN ART EXHIBITION FROM REVERSE ARTIST COLLECTION

In this exhibition, ReVerve artists celebrate nature and research its strengths and vulnerabilities. We embrace mindful art making, sustainable processes and close engagement with the natural world.

Dúisigí is a call to consciousness of the environmental crisis facing our Earth. *Dúisigí*. Wake up! Blue Chapel, Headfort Place June 26-29th 11 am – 7 pm. Official opening Thursday 26th 6-9pm.

POP-UP ART EXHIBITION

Eileen Ferguson ARUA

Red Chapel - Friday, Saturday & Sunday 12-5pm

Paintings, prints and sculpture focusing on isolation, occupation, land, borders and barriers. Research was undertaken and imagery collected during the artist's visit to the Occupied Territories in 2019 when she took part in the Olive Tree Campaign organised by the Joint Advocacy Initiative.

POP-UP CRUINNÍÚ

Thursday 26th June 8pm Jack's Bar and Restaurant

Buail isteach anocht ag an Cioral Cómhara-seans iontach le leas a bhaint as do chuid Gaeilge-craic agus spraoi le Gaeilgeoirí eile!

KELLS WALK ABOUT TOURS

Kells Courthouse Tourism and Cultural Hub, Headfort Place,
A82 RY62

Friday 27th June 2pm. Saturday 28th June 11am & 2pm.

For bookings 046-9247508

kellscourthouse@discoverboynevalley.ie

BACK TO THE 80S NIGHT - VANILLA POD RESTAURANT

Friday June 27th 7.30 pm

To celebrate Hinterland Festival Kells... don your leather jackets and heavy eye liner for a night that oozes all things 80's at the Pod. Kick off with a Bucks Fizz with cheese on sticks before enjoying a night of all the favourites with a twist - think Prawn Cocktail, Chicken Kiev or will it be Maryland, peach Melba and Baked Alaska.

Tickets €50.00 pp includes Drinks Reception

WINE TASTING MCENTEE'S OFF LICENCE

Enjoy tastings from some of McEntee's Off Licence wonderful selection. Friday 27th June, 7pm. Check out social media or pop in for more details.

BREAD MAKING EXPERIENCE AT MARTRY MILL

Saturday 28th 3pm June, and every Saturday until the end of August. Traditional bread making class, tour, and learn the story of grain in Ireland from our first farmers at Loughcrew to the first mill at Lismullen (beside Tara), to the present day.

Visit <https://martrymill.ie/tours/summer-bread-baking-experience/> for more details.

STUDIO 109 SONGWRITING OPEN MIC NIGHT

Saturday, June 28th | 5pm-Midnight | Jack's Bar & Restaurant
[Free Event]

A memorable evening showcasing the talents of Studio 109's Songwriting 101 class. After weeks of workshops, mentoring, and creative development with local musicians Michael Brunnock, Ollie Cole, Podge McNamee, and Carl Gillic, with these emerging songwriters, will perform and present their original work in this unique open mic event.

TWELVE POINTS RESTAURANT

Saturday June 28th at 7pm - Enjoy a special literary themed festival menu showcasing the very best local produce reared or grown within the estate. Booking essential www.killuacastle.com or +353 87 486 8151. Killua, Clonmellon, Co. Westmeath, C15 EWF2.

KELLS TYPETRAIL

Exhibits In place and available to view until 24th August.

See Event no 6 for details.

THE BOOK OF MEMORIES CAFÉ

The first Thursday of every month, Eureka House Café Navan Road, A82 DX47 12pm to 2pm. a warm welcoming place for people living with dementia, their families and friends. Meet, talk and share a cup of tea.

GIRLEY BOG

This looped walk covers a combination of forest and bogland – and has been developed as an eco-walk, with a wonderful variety of birdlife, plants and animals. A site map can be downloaded on: www.coillte.ie/site/girley-bog/



SAMHAIN FESTIVAL

Celebrate Ireland's rich culinary and cultural heritage at Samhain Festival of Food & Culture, running from 6th to 9th November. <https://foodcultureireland.ie/samhain/>

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[EirGrid.ie](https://eirgrid.ie)



VENUE MAP

1. Kells Theatre / Festival Bookshop
(Ticket Office during Festival)
2. The Jane Barrett Stage - Church of Ireland
3. Meath County Council Stage - The Courthouse/
Kells Tourism & Cultural Hub
4. O'Brien's SuperValu Stage - Eureka House/
Children's Bookshop
5. The Headfort Arms
6. Rockfield House (3km via R164)
7. The Red Chapel
8. BOOK MARKET café (Ticket Office pre-Festival)

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

- A Round Tower & High Crosses
- B St. Colmcille's House
- C Market Cross
- D Spire of Lloyd (2.5km via N163)
- E Girley Bog (8km via N52)



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