

Hinterland

FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE AND ARTS - KELLS

25 - 28 June 2026

...illuminating words & ideas



SUPPORTED BY



An Roinn Cultúir,
Cumarsáide agus Spóirt
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Hinterland

FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE AND ARTS - KELLS



WELCOME - FÁILTE

Welcome to the 14th chapter of our Festival, a place to listen, learn, debate, share ideas, find inspiration—and enjoy a good laugh along the way!

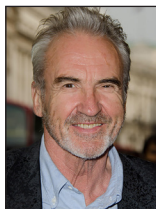
We kick off with *Hindsight* which runs over Thursday and Friday, and will explore 250 years of U.S. history, touching on everything from sport and organised crime to Vietnam, MAGA, the 1960s sexual revolution, and the diverse experiences of African, Native, and Irish Americans.

The main programme weaves together film, fiction, memoir, journalism and popular culture, with a touch of Hollywood glamour from Oscar-winning producer **David Puttnam** and actor **Larry Lamb**. Fiction fans can look forward to an outstanding line-up including **Liz Nugent**, **Edel Coffey**, **Marie Cassidy** and **Patrick Freyne**, while personal stories and lived experience take centre stage with **Miriam O’Callaghan**, **Frank McNally**, **Terry Prone** and **Katriona O’Sullivan**. Insightful conversations on journalism and recent history come from **Kirsty Wark**, **Stephen Walker** on David Trimble, **John Ware** on MI5 in Northern Ireland and **Glenn Patterson** on the Northern Bank robbery. Creativity in all its forms is explored with **Dermot Bannon**, **Michael Harding** and **Tom Dunne**, reflecting on design, faith and fifty years of punk rock, respectively — or maybe not! Alongside the talks, there will be writers’ and print workshops for all ages, a tribute to the poet **Francis Ledwidge**, plenty of laughs with Kells’ own **Fred Cooke**, and music from the incomparable **Mary Coughlan**.

Our younger festival goers will have plenty to engage and entertain, and be inspired by adventure stories 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.

We look forward to another memorable weekend of *illuminating words and ideas...*



HINTERLAND TEAM

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Fintan Hogan, Deirdre Hurley,
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THANKS

Gerardette Bailey, Carina
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and George Murphy at the Kells
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Garda Síochána Ceanannas Mór,
Meath Civil Defence, 5th Meath
Kells Scout Group, Kells Local
Heroes, Anne Cunningham & John
Donohoe at the Meath Chronicle,
Meath Chambers, Anne-Marie
Diffley and Valerie Smith, 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:



BOX OFFICE

The Box Office will be open at the BOOKMARKET Café [A82 R990] for limited hours in the 3 weeks prior to the festival, but we encourage people to book on-line to avoid disappointment.

During the festival, the Box Office will be in Kiernan's Bar on Market Street [A82 FK70].

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

All children must be accompanied by a parent 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 the Parish Hall in front of St. Colmcille's RC Church [A82 YY50]. Books will also be available to purchase at the venues after the author's event, and signing will take place at each venue.

VENUES

Our venues, with [Eircodes] are:

- Church of Ireland - The Jane Barrett Stage [A82 AY20]
- The Courthouse - Meath County Council Stage [A82 RY62]
- Eureka House - Tinnitus Clinic Stage [A82 DX47]
- The Red Chapel - O'Brien's SuperValu Stage [A82 W6TY]
- Kells Printing Works [A82 EK09]
- O'Rorke's Bar, Castle Street [A82 E0X9]
- The Headfort Arms [A82 D2C1]

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 Bar, Castle Street [A82 E0X9]
- McEntee's [A82 K0D7]
- Kells Printing Works [A82 EK09]

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.

MAIN PROGRAMME PREAMBLE

This year we're delighted to share some special events which will take place in advance of the main festival weekend:

Thursday 11th June

7pm CHURCH OF IRELAND FREE EVENT

TypeTrail Launch

The 2026 theme, **Process**, explores the journey behind creativity - highlighting the thinking, experimentation and craftsmanship that underpins design. This theme invites both participants and audiences to look beyond finished works and engage with the stories, methods and evolution of ideas that shape the final outcome.

Join us as we once again transform Kells into our "Canvas of Type".

Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st June

10.30am Painting en plein air at Killyconny Bog €30

To celebrate our rich natural hinterland, we are delighted to host two artist-led workshops on the beautiful Killyconny Bog, located on the border between Meath and Cavan and extending across 191 hectares of raised bog.

Killyconny Bog is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). It forms part of a network of 12 peatlands known as the *Living Bogs*, which have received funding to support re-wetting works, protect and restore the natural environment, and raise public awareness of the vital role bogs play in addressing climate change, supporting biodiversity, and safeguarding our shared heritage.

For more information visit: www.killyconnybog.ie

The workshops will be led by professional local artists. Participants will meet at St. Killian's Heritage Centre, where they will be introduced to the bog before travelling by bus to the workshop location. Attendees are asked to bring a fold-away seat and a packed lunch. Basic art materials will be provided, though participants are welcome to bring their own. The workshops will conclude at approximately 3.00pm, with transport by bus returning attendees to the Heritage Centre.

[P1] Saturday 20th June @ 10.30am

[P2] Sunday 21st June @ 10.30am

Meet at St. Killian's Heritage Centre, Mullagh [A82 HW77]

Supported by the Peatlands and Natura Community Engagement Scheme 2026.



THURSDAY 25 JUNE

HINDSIGHT @ HINTERLAND-AMERICA 250

Supported by Department of Culture, Communications & Sport

All Hindsight @ Hinterland events take place at
The Courthouse - Meath County Council Stage

[1] 10.30am €12

Liam McNiffe: The Real Alexander Hamilton

We all know he didn't actually perform hip hop on his way to the top, but how much has the hit musical *Hamilton* distorted our view of one of the founding fathers of America's (imperilled?) democracy? Be in the room where it happens when Dr. Liam McNiffe offers his own take on the real Alexander Hamilton and, among others, the charismatic Irish-born spy Hercules Mulligan.

[2] 12pm €12

Cecilia Hartsell – Agents of Their Own Liberation: African American Quests for Freedom during the American Founding Era (America 250)

Petitioning the court system and military service in the Revolutionary War were among the liberation strategies used by enslaved individuals to attempt to secure their freedom. This talk will discuss those strategies, as well as leading African American intellectual and political voices during the Founding Era's early years.

[3] 2pm €12

Sandra Scanlon – The Vietnam War and American Patriotism

America's most divisive war of the 20th century led to widespread anti-war demonstrations, violent clashes between protesters and police, and the demonization of peace activists as unpatriotic. With the collapse of the Democratic Party's political dominance, the war contributed to the rise of the Right, reconfigured the meaning of patriotism, and proved the breeding ground for today's political extremism.



[4] 3.30pm €12

Damian Shiels - Ireland and the American Civil War

While Irish involvement in the US War of Independence was significant it paled by comparison with the commitment of the Irish diaspora in the USA to that country's tragic Civil War. The Irish-born cohort in the Union army was at least 180,000 and 20,000 joined the Confederate army. No one knows more about Green, Blue and Grey than Damian Shiels, author of *The Irish in the American Civil War*, *The Forgotten Irish: Irish Emigrant Experiences in America* and *Green and Blue: Irish Americans and the Union Military 1861-1865*.

[5] 5pm €12

Robbyn Swan – Prisoners of Rambo: the Vietnam War and the Rise of MAGA

The POW/MIA flag flies over all US government buildings. It is the emblem of a pernicious myth – the conviction that at the end of the Vietnam War the U.S. abandoned thousands of its own to the enemy. This conspiracy theory, Robbyn Swan (*The Eleventh Day: The Full Story of 9/11 & Osama bin Laden*) will argue, fed a culture war that shapes a suspicious, cynical and divided U.S. today. Trump's MAGA is a direct consequence of a collective failure to rescue history from the grasp of scoundrels.

[6] 8pm COURTHOUSE -

MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL STAGE €12

Forever is Now - Documentary by Nessa Ní Chianáin

This insightful documentary follows Green Party leader, Minister Eamon Ryan during his final 18 months in government as he advocates globally for climate justice while battling public resistance, online abuse and far-right pushback to the Irish Green's ambitious climate plans at home. Interwoven is his tender relationship with his autistic son, Tommy, reflecting his persistence, empathy, and belief that lasting change - whether in politics or family - requires patience and hope. Running Time: 1h 38m, followed by a Q&A with Neasa Ní Chianáin & David Rane.

Sponsored by: Allied Recycling



FRIDAY 26 JUNE

HINDSIGHT @ HINTERLAND-AMERICA 250

All Hindsight @ Hinterland events take place at The Courthouse - Meath County Council Stage

[7] 10.30am €12

Tony Bucher - The American Crime Boss

The American gangster archetype, personified by men like Al Capone, has long captivated the public imagination. The real stories of the voracious gangsters of the vast underworld are often more outrageous than fiction and are also an essential part of the saga of outsider groups in America. Join Hindsight@Hinterland regular Tony Bucher for a lurid journey through the lives of America's great crime bosses.

[8] 12pm €12

Myles Dungan – 'The only good Indian...' - The USA and Native America

In the 19th century the USA came, saw, conquered, and bought — acquiring millions of square miles of north American territory in the process. Hindering this 'manifest destiny' were the inconvenient native American nations who had occupied the land for centuries. Myles Dungan (*How the Irish Won the West*) tells the story of how some of those nations resisted and were crushed.

[9] 1pm KELLS PRINTING WORKS €10

A Talk & Tour of Kells Printing Works

Join Loreto Guinan, Heritage Officer Meath County Council and Mark Smith, KPW Creative Associate/ Print Studio Technician and listen to the fascinating story of the new Kells Printing Works. Find out about the wonderful paper collection & it's painstaking conservation, catch the *Last Dance* poster exhibition & hear the fascinating stories behind the newly restored Victorian printing presses.



[10] 2pm €12

Rus Bradburd - What's My Name, Fool?: Sports, Resistance, and Social Justice in America

Rus Bradburd has authored five books that examine how sports, politics, race, and culture collide. This talk will trace the roots of racial and political resistance sparked by American athletes--and examine some of the sports books and writers that changed the world.

[11] 3.30pm €12

Catherine Flynn - 'Mr. Dooley' and 'Myles'

The idea that journalism should 'comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable' belonged to Irish American writer Finley Peter Dunne (1867-1936), creator of the comic political commentator, the Roscommon barman 'Mr. Dooley'. Barely overlapping with Dunne's career was the life of another great newspaper columnist, 'Myles na Gopaleen' (Brian O'Nolan). In this talk Dr. Catherine Flynn of UC Berkeley brings together these two great Irish humorous voices.

[12] 5pm €12

Glen Gendzel - America's Sexual Revolution of the 1960s

Step back into the sex-soaked years of the 1960s, with Professor Glen Gendzel, when America's prudish culture fell apart, rules were rewritten, and taboos went mainstream. Come meet Albert Kinsey, Hugh Hefner, Helen Gurley Brown, the Hippies, and other sexual revolutionaries. Learn about the Pill, the Double Standard, Free Love, Casual Sex, Gay Liberation, and how American morals and values were permanently transformed in one sultry decade.

[13] 7pm COURTHOUSE -
MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL STAGE €15**Where Angels Listen: A response to Francis Ledwidge - Film, Poetry & live Music event**

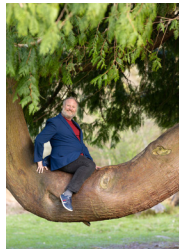
World premiere screening of Where Angels Listen two beautiful short films produced as a creative and affectionate response by some of Ireland's most celebrated contemporary artists to the life and works of Slane poet Francis Ledwidge. Curated by award winning playwright Deirdre Kinahan and featuring Oisín Leech musician (The Lost Brothers); Steve Wickham musician (The Waterboys); Perlee; Lewis Kenny Poet /Spoken Word and Kwaku Fortune Actor. Joining us live on the night for some music, discussion and readings will be acclaimed writers Dermot Bolger & Deirdre Kinahan, County Arts Officer Gerardette Bailey and musicians Steve Wickham & Perlee. Dermot Bolger will read a new work commissioned specially to mark the occasion.

Supported by Meath County Council Arts Office

[14] 8.30pm O'RORKE'S BAR €20

Fred Cooke - Clown to Earth

With his unique gift for musical comedy and joke-infused storytelling, Fred Cooke has returned with his new show *Clown to Earth*. Expect comical chaos from a dad who's just delighted to be out of the house and not at home covered in yoghurt. Sit back and enjoy this award-winning comedian talk marriage, kids, and playing dead on Netflix. As seen on Netflix, RTE's *Tommy Tiernan show*, and *Dancing with the Stars*.

Sponsored by Gormley Pharmacy

SATURDAY 27 JUNE

Children's events are denoted by yellow highlight at event number
The Children's programme is supported by **My Irish Books**.

TREASURE HUNT - The Great Hinterland Adventure

Join our family-friendly treasure hunt around Kells, where clues - inspired by our favourite adventure writers - are hidden in shop windows. Complete the quest anytime over the weekend to earn your official certificate and be entered into a prize draw. 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 the Red Chapel.

[15] **10.30am COURTHOUSE -
MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL STAGE €12**

Matthew Spangler & Patrick Freyne - The Adaptation Session

Continuing the annual process that has already produced two staged plays (*Striking Back*, and *The Bee Keeper of Aleppo*) renowned dramatist Matthew Spangler will outline how he would go about adapting the work of one of our Hinterland guests. This year Matt will be joined onstage by Patrick Freyne to 'adapt' Patrick's debut novel *Experts in a Dying Field*.

[16] **10.30am CHURCH OF IRELAND -
THE JANE BARRETT STAGE €12**

Orlaith McBride and Gregory Walls - The 1926 Census

The digitisation of the 1901 and 1911 censuses has been an astonishing success and has turned us into a nation of amateur genealogists and citizen researchers. We've had to wait a while for the sequel but it's here at last. In April the 1926 Census, the first census of the Irish Free State was publicly released by the National Archives. Its Director, Orlaith McBride (editor) and Gregory Walls (contributor) of *The Story of Us: Independent Ireland and the 1926 Census* will be here to answer all your census questions.

[17] **10.30am EUREKA HOUSE -
TINNITUS CLINIC STAGE €12**

Charleen Hurtubise - Saoirse

Charleen Hurtubise, originally from Michigan and now long settled in Dublin, reflects on personal memory, belonging and the quiet dislocations that shape a life. Author of *The Polite Act of Drowning* and *Saoirse* (2026), she discusses how place, identity and unresolved displacement inform her fiction. Charleen will be in conversation with Sophie Grenham.



[18] 10.30am **THE RED CHAPEL - O'BRIEN'S SUPERVALU STAGE €5**

Niamh Donnellan & Brian Fitzgerald - Little Irish History Heroes [ages 4-8]

Get ready for a new twist on ancient Irish legends. Join author Niamh Donnellan and illustrator Brian Fitzgerald for storytelling and art based on their new book, *Little Irish History Heroes*. Niamh will tell stories of the giant Fionn Mac Cumhaill, pirate queen Grace O'Malley, high king Brian Boru, bold Queen Maeve, kind St Brigid and young hurler Cú Chulainn. Then draw along with Brian as he brings these little heroes to life!

[19] 10.30am **KELLS PRINTING WORKS - UPSTAIRS €15**

Carlo Gébler - Writers Workshop

A masterclass in storytelling and narrative construction from one of Ireland's most renowned writers and a contributor to the creative writing programme at the Trinity Oscar Wilde Centre for many years where he currently teaches the 'Writing for a Living' course.

[Limited to 10 participants]

Supported by Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Trinity College Dublin



[20] 10.30am **KELLS PRINTING WORKS - DOWNSTAIRS €20 [ages 20+]**

Totally Kells Printing Works!

Hear the fascinating story of the newly restored Victorian Printing Presses. Print your own personalised Tote Bag on the Albion Beam Press – the collection's oldest press dating from 1832!

[21] 12pm **COURTHOUSE - MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL STAGE €12**

Mary Costello - A beautiful loan

From the author of *Academy Street*, comes a heart-breaking yet hopeful best-selling novel of love, loss and self-discovery. In 1985 Dublin, nineteen-year-old Anna falls for Peter, an older, worldly man. Her obsessive longing for him leads to marriage and, eventually, a crushing betrayal. Mary will be in conversation with Sophie Grenham.

Sponsored by DNG Royal County

[22] 12pm **CHURCH OF IRELAND - THE JANE BARRETT STAGE €12**

Liz Nugent - The Truth About Ruby Cooper

Bestselling author & festival favourite Liz Nugent returns to Kells with her hotly anticipated new novel, *The Truth About Ruby Cooper*. With her trademark blend of psychological tension and pitch-black humour, Nugent offers an inside look at her creative process and the characters who haunt her pages.

Liz will be in conversation with Gerry Foley.

Sponsored by Hannon Travel

[23] 12pm EUREKA HOUSE -
TINNITUS CLINIC STAGE €12

Myles Dungan - The Mysterious Mrs Christie

It's 50 years since the death of Agatha Christie, who has sold more than 2 BILLION books. It's also 100 years since the great mystery that neither Poirot nor Miss Marple were permitted to investigate, her baffling disappearance for ten days in 1926. Myles Dungan looks at the highlights of Christie's writing career and this lowlight of her personal life.

Sponsored by Kells Traditional Timber Windows & Doors

[24] 12pm THE RED CHAPEL -
O'BRIEN'S SUPERVALU STAGE €12

**Carlo Gébler & Eoin McNamee -
Parents, and how to survive them**

Carlo Gébler is the son of two famous writers, Edna O'Brien and Ernest Gébler. Eoin McNamee's father Brendan was the inspiration his most recent work, *The Bureau*. Both now teach creative writing at the Trinity College Dublin, Oscar Wilde Centre. Here they come together to discuss the formative and/or problematic influence of their respective parents.

Sponsored by Kerrigan Mechanical

[25] 12pm KELLS PRINTING WORKS - UPSTAIRS €5

[ages 9-12]

Brían Dungan - Wintour's Fate

Alex Wintour has only got this far in life by living off her wits. Well, that and an ability to see glimpses of the future – a useful talent when you need to stay one step ahead of the law. Alex first appeared in the Wintour's Game, now she's back in Part 2 of the Wintour saga in Wintour's Fate.



[26] 2pm COURTHOUSE -
MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL STAGE €12

Fintan Drury - Castastrophe II: Nakba

Join journalist Fintan Drury for the Liam Cahill Memorial Lecture as he re-examines the mass displacement of Palestinians between 1947 and 1949. In *Catastrophe II: Nakba*, Fintan maintains that a second Nakba is unfolding today. He explores the long history leading to the October 7th Hamas attacks and critiques Israel's response and the role of Western powers, a theme also taken up in his new book *Genocide: Sponsoring the Destruction of Palestine* which argues that without Western sponsorship, the current Palestinian genocide could not have happened.

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

[27] 2pm CHURCH OF IRELAND -
THE JANE BARRETT STAGE €12

Terry Prone - *I'm Glad You Asked Me That: The Political Years*

For decades, Terry Prone has been the person Irish public figures turned to when they needed to find the right words - or the right way to say them. Her chatty, 'tell-all' memoir, *I'm Glad You Asked Me That*, looks back on a life that brought her into close contact with figures like Charles Haughey, Garret FitzGerald, Pádraig Flynn, Albert Reynolds and many others - a front-row seat to how politics and broadcasting evolved in modern Ireland.

Terry will be in conversation with Myles Dungan.
Sponsored by Murray Ward & Co. Accountants



[28] 2pm EUREKA HOUSE -
TINNITUS CLINIC STAGE €12

Edel Coffey - *In Glass Houses*

After two phenomenal successes Edel Coffey is back with a third twisty thriller to follow up *Breaking Point* (2022) and *In Her Place* (2024). *In Glass Houses* is a mystery featuring a journalist doing what journalists are supposed to do, uncovering secrets, this time the setting is upper crust Manhattan. Edel will be in conversation with Deirdre Hurley.

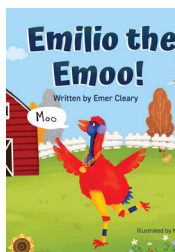
Sponsored by AIB

[29] 2pm THE RED CHAPEL -
O'BRIEN'S SUPERVALU STAGE €5

Emer Cleary - *Emilio the Emoo* [ages 5-8]

Emilio the Emoo! is a heartwarming tale of self-discovery, bravery and embracing what makes us unique. With vibrant illustrations this beautifully crafted story, centred around a neurodivergent Emu, encourages all children to embrace their individuality, and is a joyful reminder that being different is something truly special. Children will meet a life size Emilio puppet at the reading, followed by a fun, sock puppet making workshop. All materials provided.

Sponsored by Emu Ink Publishing



[30] 2pm KELLS PRINTING WORKS - UPSTAIRS
FREE EVENT BUT MUST BE BOOKED [ages 8+]

Cártaí Kells

Children's workshop, an exciting opportunity to print your own postcard at the new Kells Printing Works & send to family & friends from Hinterland.

[31] **3.30pm COURTHOUSE -
MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL STAGE €12**

Patrick Freyne - *Experts in a Dying Field* and the perils of AI

'Nobody listens to me because I'm too handsome.' (Patrick Freyne, *Irish Times*, 22 January).

'They' will be listening to him in 2026 with the publication of his first novel *Experts in a Dying Field* and his incisive and timely takedown of the AI industry in a December 2025 *Irish Times* article, 'From the removal of joy to global destruction, 16 reasons I hate AI.'

He will be discussing novel and AI beefs with Gerry Foley.

Sponsored by Park Rí

[32] **3.30pm CHURCH OF IRELAND -
THE JANE BARRETT STAGE €12**

Katriona O'Sullivan - *Hungry*

Katriona O'Sullivan has been defying the odds her entire life. Raised amid poverty, addiction and abuse, her debut memoir *Poor* became a testament of resilience. She returns with *Hungry*, a raw and courageous exploration of survival and the lifelong search for self-acceptance - examining how trauma, class and gender shape women's sense of their bodies and their worth. Katriona will be in conversation with Deirdre Hurley.

Sponsored by Dunboyne College of Further Education



[33] **3.30pm EUREKA HOUSE -
TINNITUS CLINIC STAGE €12**

Eoin McGee - *How to achieve financial freedom*

Drawing on years of experience as a Certified Financial Planner and Broadcaster, McGee (author of *How to Be Good with Money*) offers a roadmap to building wealth, making smart choices and designing a future that aligns with your values. With practical tools, this book empowers readers to move from surviving to thriving, to creating a life where you can choose to work but need no longer depend on it financially.

Sponsored by St. Colmcille's Credit Union

[34] **3.30pm THE RED CHAPEL -
O'BRIEN'S SUPERVALU STAGE €12**

Eoin O'Malley - *Charlie vs Garret: The Rivalry that shaped Modern Ireland*

A study of Charles Haughey and Garret FitzGerald, which was shortlisted for History Book of the Year at the 2025 Irish Book Awards. With wit, clarity, and a flair for the telling detail, Eoin O'Malley unpacks power, personality, and the high-stakes clashes that defined an era.

Sponsored by Lifetime Financial Planning

[35] 3.30pm KELLS PRINTING WORKS - UPSTAIRS €5
Fiona Sherlock - Mini Detective Academy [ages 7+]

Calling all young detectives. In this fun, hands-on workshop with crime writer Fiona Sherlock, children will learn the secrets of solving a mystery through clues, codes and observation games. Participants will train their detective instincts and work together to crack a case. Expect puzzles, hidden clues and plenty of intrigue.

[Limited to 15 participants]

Sponsored by Woods and partners

**[36] 5pm COURTHOUSE -
 MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL STAGE €12**
Tom Dunne - Half a century of Punk Rock

It's fifty years since rock music raised its middle finger to society, to a flabby self-satisfied music scene, and reinvented itself. *God Save the Queen* took on a whole new meaning in the hands of the Sex Pistols, and punk was born. Tom Dunne loved it all as a teenager but missed the short-lived phenomenon as lead singer of Something Happens.

Sponsored by Cllrs. Sarah Reilly & Sean Drew

**[37] 5pm CHURCH OF IRELAND -
 THE JANE BARRETT STAGE €12**

David Puttnam - A life in filmmaking

From Southgate to Skibbereen, via Hollywood and the House of Lords. David Puttnam, Oscar winner for *Chariots of Fire* (1981) had an extraordinary career as one of foremost independent film producers of his generation (*Midnight Express, The Mission, The Killing Fields*) long before he became head of Columbia Pictures in 1986. He is also a distinguished educationalist, a former Labour peer, recipient of more than fifty honorary degrees and a resident of West Cork.

David will be in conversation with Myles Dungan
Sponsored by StayWell Lappin's Headfort Pharmacy



**[38] 5pm EUREKA HOUSE -
 TINNITUS CLINIC STAGE €12**

Eamon Carr - Pure Gold

Eamon Carr, journalist, author and founding member of the influential band Horslips, winners of the RTE Choice Music Prize Classic Album Award 2026 at this year's Choice Music Awards, returns home to Kells to discuss *Pure Gold*, his vivid collection of remarkable interviews with famous people gathered across a lifetime. A chance to welcome back one of the town's most distinctive cultural voices. Eamon will be in conversation with Gerry Foley.

Sponsored by Alliance Auctioneers



[39] **5pm THE RED CHAPEL - O'BRIEN'S SUPERVALU STAGE €12**

Ronan McGreevy - Sean Lemass: the Lost Memoir

He could be taciturn and enigmatic and, although his time as Taoiseach has been well raked over by others we have not heard much in the way of personal recollections from the man himself. Until now. *Sean Lemass: the Lost Memoir* contains 22 hours of interviews with one of Ireland's few transformative political leaders. Historian and Irish Times journalist McGreevy offers an insight into one of the country's most admired and consequential politicians.

Sponsored by Weldon Opticians

[40] **5pm KELLS PRINTING WORKS - UPSTAIRS €15**

Fiona Sherlock - Murder by Numbers: Plotting the Perfect Crime

How do you build a murder mystery that keeps readers guessing? In this lively and accessible workshop, crime writer Fiona Sherlock reveals the key ingredients of a classic whodunnit, from suspects and motives to planting clues and twists. Participants will try practical exercises and begin constructing their own mystery.

Sponsored by Clonabreany House

[41] **5pm KELLS PRINTING WORKS - DOWNSTAIRS €20 [ages 18+]**

Totally Kells Printing Works!

Hear the fascinating story of the newly restored Victorian Printing Presses. Print your own personalised Tote Bag on the Albion Beam Press – the collection's oldest press dating from 1832!

[42] **6.30pm COURTHOUSE - MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL STAGE €12**

Ciarán Wallace - Meath and the Irish Revolution 1912-23

Part of the Four Courts Press series on the War of Independence and the Civil War in every county in Ireland. The research and the writing of *Meath and the Irish Revolution 1912-23* was entrusted to Ciarán Wallace, Deputy Director of the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland who looks at the upheaval of these revolutionary years in the county, for the activists and volunteers, and the majority who tried to get on with daily life.

Sponsored by Keaveny Walsh & Co.

[43] **6.30pm CHURCH OF IRELAND - THE JANE BARRETT STAGE €12**

Marie Cassidy - Deadly Truth

Former State Pathologist Dr Marie Cassidy reflects on fifteen years at the heart of some of Ireland's most complex murder investigations and the evolution of forensic science. She explores how a lifetime studying real cases, evidence & human stories has provided the narrative fuel for her transition into crime fiction including her latest novel *Deadly Evidence*. Marie will be in conversation with Deirdre Hurley.

Sponsored by Nathaniel Lacy & Partners LLP

[44] **6.30pm** EUREKA HOUSE -
TINNITUS CLINIC STAGE €12

Martin Doyle - Interviews with Irish Writers 1991 - 2025

Martin Doyle, as Books Editor of *The Irish Times*, has interviewed many of the most talented and successful of Irish writers. In *A Hosting: Interviews with Irish Writers 1991-2025* (Lilliput Press, April 2026), he chats with, among others Sally Rooney, Claire Keegan, Roddy Doyle, Colm Tóibín, Claire Kilroy, and Donal Ryan. Martin will be in conversation with Myles Dungan.

Sponsored by Ushers Auctions

[45] **9pm** CHURCH OF IRELAND -
THE JANE BARRETT STAGE €25

Mary Coughlan in Concert

Mary Coughlan is Ireland's greatest jazz and blues singer and, according to Hot Press, 'one of our most openly raw performers'. Her career is fast approaching its 40th year and her legendary performances are as compelling as ever. She is Ireland's *chanteuse par excellence*. Excuse our French!

Supported by Meath County Council Arts Office



SUNDAY 28 JUNE

Children's events are denoted by yellow highlight at event number ●
The Children's programme is supported by My Irish Books.

[46] **10.00am** CHURCH OF IRELAND **FREE EVENT**
TypeTrail Walking Tour

Meet at the Church gates (Market Street end) and join the TypeTrail curator, Mark Smith, as he guides you around Kells to showcase, debate and discuss this year's TypeTrail exhibits. These artistic interpretations of the theme "Process", explore the journey behind creativity - highlighting the thinking, experimentation and craftsmanship that underpins design.



[47] **10.30am** COURTHOUSE -
MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL STAGE €12

John Donohoe - Dot Tubridy and the Kennedys

As a close friend of the Kennedy family, Dot Tubridy became an extended member of the powerful American political dynasty, attending gatherings and celebrations, receiving invitations to all the major events throughout their political careers, and becoming their main contact in their ancestral homeland. Journalist John Donohoe looks at the enduring relationship between the socialite and the Camelot clan.

Sponsored by John Lynch Carpets & Flooring

[48] **10.30am** EUREKA HOUSE -
TINNITUS CLINIC STAGE €12

Alan Bradley

Join the author of 'Unmasking Samantha Cookes: The Many Lives of a Serial Fraudster' for a conversation on the evolution of a remarkable investigation across media. From the RTÉ podcast *The Real Carrie Jade* to the documentary *Bad Nanny*, this event explores the craft of long-form storytelling and the new revelations uncovered while bringing this extraordinary story to the page.

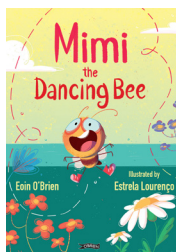
Alan will be in conversation with Cabrina Conaty.

[49] **10.30am** THE RED CHAPEL -
O'BRIEN'S SUPERVALU STAGE €5

Eoin O'Brien - Mimi The Dancing Bee

[ages 3+]

Join author Eoin O'Brien in this un-bee-lievably interactive workshop, where you can explore the buzzing life of Mimi the Dancing Bee. Mimi is a tiny bee with a tiny voice, but she knows just how to make herself be heard by the hive! Sing and dance along to Mimi's groovy beat!



[50] **12pm** COURTHOUSE -
MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL STAGE €10

Louise Nealon - Everything that is beautiful

The number 1 international bestselling, award-winning author of *Snowflake* returns with a luminous portrait of two families riven by one great secret. Told through the perspectives of three very different women, *Everything That Is Beautiful* unfolds the story of one complicated family in startlingly honest and witty prose.

Louise will be in conversation with Gerry Foley.

Sponsored by Lynch's Pharmacy

[51] 12pm **KENLIS SUITE, HEADFORT ARMS HOTEL €12**

Sarah Breen & Emer McLysaght - *Our Deadly Summer*

Bestselling duo Sarah Breen and Emer McLysaght, creators of the beloved Aisling series, join us to discuss their latest novel *Our Deadly Summer*, a sharply funny and heartfelt story of friendship, young women and the secrets that bind them. Drawing on more than twenty years of their own enduring friendship, Breen and McLysaght will talk about writing together, revisiting the early noughties, and crafting a tale that blends nostalgia, humour and a darkly compelling mystery. Sarah and Emer will be in conversation with Deirdre Hurley.

Sponsored by Dunnes the Premier House

[52] 12pm **EUREKA HOUSE -
TINNITUS CLINIC STAGE €12**

Dearbhla Mescal - *Finding Joy*

A poetry lover, a curator of joy, a wise woman with a deep sense of compassion (and mother of a cinema superstar) Dearbhla Mescal encourages her followers online to find the joy in everyday life and celebrate the little things. Now in her first book, *Finding Joy*, Dearbhla shares her own practice of finding joy in a beautiful and uplifting collection of thoughts, recollections and poems.

Dearbhla will be in conversation with Cabrina Conaty.

Sponsored by Maya Grisham



[53] 12pm **THE RED CHAPEL -
O'BRIEN'S SUPERVALU STAGE €5 [ages 4-8 years]**

Gerry Daly - *Puffling and the Stormy Sea*

Join author and illustrator Gerry Daly for an animal adventure of bravery and discovery in the woods from Gerry's new book *What's That Spooky Sound?* Plus even more fun with the wildlife of the Skellig Islands. Help the little puffling get back home in *Puffling and the Stormy Sea*, the latest of the bestselling Puffling picture book series. Children will love this draw-along session with puppets and interactive storytelling.

[54] 12pm **KELLS PRINTING WORKS - UPSTAIRS €5**

Abdallah Ahmad - *Literary reflections by an Arab poet in Ireland*

Exploring the journey between two languages and cultures, from the edges of exile and questions of identity, Abdallah Ahmad reflects on how fear and solitude can transform into possibilities for belonging and meaning. Through poetry and storytelling, everyday challenges become sources of reflection, creativity, and a wider human dialogue between cultures.

Supported by Meath County Council Integration Unit

[55] 12pm **HEADFORT HOUSE €15**

Owen Gilhooly-Miles - The American Songbook

As part of our celebration of America 250 leading operatic baritone Owen Gilhooly-Miles, in the beautiful surroundings of Headfort House, takes us through more than 200 years of the best of American music, from some of the great folksongs and popular melodies, to the Broadway musical and Hollywood theme songs.

Sponsored by Coole Swan

[56] 1pm **THE RED CHAPEL - O'BRIEN'S SUPERVALU STAGE FREE EVENT**

Treasure Hunt - Awarding of Prizes & Certificates

On all weekend, answer sheets in the box-office or festival bookshops. More information on page 11.

Sponsored by Antonia's Bookstore

[57] 2pm **COURTHOUSE - MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL STAGE €12**

Glen Patterson - Behind the Northern Bank Job

Glen Patterson discusses his gripping account of the 2004 Northern Bank robbery, a heist that shook Northern Ireland and remains one of its most audacious unsolved crimes. A leading Belfast novelist, screenwriter and co-writer of *Good Vibrations*, Patterson brings sharp insight, wit and deep local knowledge to a story that still reverberates. Glen will be in conversation with Sophie Grenham.

Sponsored by Hogan's Farm & Coffee Shop

[58] 2pm **CHURCH OF IRELAND - THE JANE BARRETT STAGE €15**

Miriam O'Callaghan - Life, Work, Everything

Life, Work, Everything is the title of Miriam O'Callaghan's Number 1 bestselling biography and you can expect nothing less as she joins us to talk about the experiences that carried her from current affairs reporting to becoming one of RTÉ's most trusted broadcasters. She reflects on the defining interviews, pivotal moments and unexpected turns that shaped her life on and off air. Miriam will be in conversation with Eileen Dunne.

Sponsored by Lydon Farrell Property



[59] 2pm **KENLIS SUITE, HEADFORT ARMS HOTEL €15**
Kirsty Wark

Award-winning journalist Kirsty Wark looks back on a distinguished career spanning frontline reporting, political interviews and three decades on BBC's *Newsnight*. In conversation, she reflects on the stories that shaped her, the craft of asking difficult questions and her more recent move into fiction. A rare chance to hear one of Scotland's most respected broadcasters discuss a life in words. Kirsty will be in conversation with Gerry Foley.

Sponsored by Sarah Thompson & Associates Accountants



[60] 2pm EUREKA HOUSE -
TINNITUS CLINIC STAGE €12

Doireann Ní Ghriofa - *Said the Dead*

Doireann follows up the astounding success of *A Ghost in the Throat* (An Post Book of the Year 2021) with what is bound to be one of the most decorated novels of 2026, *Said the Dead* a story that begins with the sale of a derelict Victorian mental hospital in Cork and that breaks the boundaries between worlds, past and present, imagined and real. Doireann will be in conversation with Deirdre Hurley.

Sponsored by McEntee's Off Licence

[61] 2pm THE RED CHAPEL -
O'BRIEN'S SUPERVALU STAGE €5 [ages 5-8 years]

Sinead O'Hart - *Let's Be Trainee Banshees!*

In this fun and interactive event based on the *Ellora McGee*, Trainee Banshee books, we'll learn about leprechauns, pookas, merrows, bee-fairies, flower fairies, trolls – and banshees! Discover the strange and funny food at Ellora's magical school, practice your banshee wail, and learn how to draw Ellora and her wacky banshee hair. Let's be Trainee Banshees!

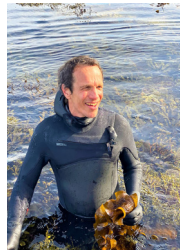
Sponsored by Cabins & Containers

[62] 2pm KELLS PRINTING WORKS - UPSTAIRS €5

Vincent Doumeizel -

Seaweed: An Ocean of Opportunities

'An ocean of opportunities' is how Vincent Doumeizel describes the potential of seaweed and plankton to address many of the urgent issues facing our warming planet. A global leader in sustainable ocean innovation he argues that seaweed can cut carbon, restore marine ecosystems, clean our ocean, feed growing populations and replace polluting materials. Vincent will be in conversation with Tony Bucher.



Sponsored by Cooper Insulation

[63] 3.30pm COURTHOUSE -
MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL STAGE €12

David McCullagh - *From Crown to Harp: How the Anglo-Irish Treaty Was Undone, 1921 to 1949*

The Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921 led to the creation of the Irish Free State. Within sixteen years the divisive treaty link to the British Crown had been almost entirely dismantled. By the time Éamon de Valera introduced the 1937 Constitution, Ireland was effectively a republic in everything but name. In *From Crown to Harp: How the Anglo-Irish Treaty Was Undone, 1921 to 1949*, David McCullagh traces this remarkable, bloodless revolution.



Sponsored by Sheridan Insurances

[64] 3.30pm CHURCH OF IRELAND -
THE JANE BARRETT STAGE €12

Fintan O'Toole & Sam McBride - *For and Against a United Ireland*

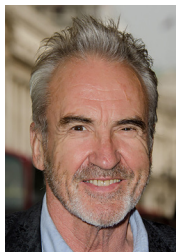
The prospect of Irish unification is now stronger than at any point since partition in 1921. Voters on both sides of the Irish border may soon have to confront for themselves what the answer to a referendum question would mean. Yes or No to a united Ireland. In their book ***For and Against a United Ireland*** distinguished journalists Fintan O'Toole (*Irish Times*) and Sam McBride (*Belfast Telegraph*) examine the arguments and bring fresh thinking to one of Ireland's most intractable questions.

Sponsored by College Proteins

[65] 3.30pm KENLIS SUITE, HEADFORT ARMS HOTEL €15

Larry Lamb- *All Wrapped Up*

Best known as the ever-patient Mick Shipman from Gavin & Stacey, Larry Lamb has built a career far bigger than Barry Island. An acclaimed actor, presenter and storyteller, Larry will take us on a journey through the years with his anecdotes and very personal poems reflecting on his life at different stages, poems that will make you laugh and cry in equal measure. The highs and the lows, the joys and the sorrows - beginning in 1983 and taking us right up to his life as it is now. Larry will be in conversation with Gerry Foley.



Sponsored by Carnaross Mart

[66] 3.30pm EUREKA HOUSE -
TINNITUS CLINIC STAGE €12

John Ware - *Neither Confirm Nor Deny: Lawless Agent Running, the Suppression of Truth, and M15*

In this explosive book award-winning BBC investigative journalist John Ware forensically lays bare intelligence gathering operations in Northern Ireland. *Neither Confirm Nor Deny* brings together all the major official investigations into alleged state misconduct during the Troubles, from shoot-to-kill and collusion inquiries to Operation Kenova and the 'Stakeknife' repercussions. John will be in conversation with Myles Dungan.

Sponsored by Rennick Solicitors

[67] 3.30pm THE RED CHAPEL -
O'BRIEN'S SUPERVALU STAGE €5 [ages 9+]

Alex Dunne - *Small Magics: Finding the Magic in Stories*

Step into a world where the smallest things can have the biggest impact. Through storytelling, imagination games, and plenty of audience participation, this lively event explores how stories work and why they feel like magic. Come ready to imagine, invent, and maybe even discover your own small magic.

[68] 3.30pm **KELLS PRINTING WORKS - UPSTAIRS €15**

Roisín O'Donnell - Fiction Masterclass: The First Page

Magic needs to happen on the first page of your novel or short story. How do you gain your readers' trust, spark their curiosity, and lead them into the world of your story?

Through close reading and carefully crafted writing prompts, participants will explore ways to create a stand-out story opening.

[Limited to 15 participants]

Sponsored by Unilin



[69] 5pm **COURTHOUSE -**

MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL STAGE €12

Frank McNally - Not Making Hay: the Life and Deadlines of a 'Diary' Farmer

For more than 25 years as an *Irish Times* columnist (first with *The Last Straw*, then *An Irishman's Diary*) Frank McNally has been chronicling the foibles of his fellow countrymen and women. In *Not Making Hay*, he looks inwards in a memoir that covers his journey from Carrickmacross farm boy, through the Civil Service, precarious years as a freelancer and the perils of the Dublin newspaper world (including dicing with deadlines and a job interview with the fearsome Vincent Browne). Frank will be in conversation with Eileen Dunne.

Sponsored by Kenny Timmons Developments Ltd.

[70] 5pm **CHURCH OF IRELAND -**

THE JANE BARRETT STAGE €12

Stephen Walker - David Trimble: Peacemaker

Following up on his 2023 biography of John Hume, former BBC journalist Stephen Walker returns to Hinterland with his examination of the political career of Hume's fellow Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Ulster Unionist party leader David Trimble, the shy Belfast academic who helped change the political landscape of Northern Ireland. Stephen will be in conversation with Myles Dungan.

Sponsored by Virginia International Logistics & Warehousing

[71] 5pm **KENLIS SUITE, HEADFORT ARMS HOTEL €15**

Dermot Bannon - Room to Improve

It's strange to think that someone as influential Dermot Bannon made his first TV appearance on ITV's *Blind Date* more than thirty years ago.

Since his RTÉ career began on *Room To Improve* in 2007 he's become one of the country's most influential architects. Dermot will be in conversation with fellow architect Robert Miles.

Sponsored by Cranwood Homes



[72] 5pm EUREKA HOUSE -
TINNITUS CLINIC STAGE €12

Paul Cullen - *Outsider: A Memoir of Survival, Family Secrets and the Search to Belong*

Adopted at age two and a half, journalist Paul Cullen always felt like an outsider. After a near-fatal fall from Germany's highest peak in 2017 left him broken, physically and emotionally, he faced a personal reckoning. He knew that if he survived the fall he could no longer avoid the questions that had haunted him since childhood. What happened in those missing early years? And why was it so hard to find the truth? Paul will be in conversation with Sophie Grenham.

[73] 5pm THE RED CHAPEL -
O'BRIEN'S SUPERVALU STAGE FREE BUT TICKETED

Freddy Farrelly saves the Bog

Meet Freddy Farrelly, a young Nature Hero on a mission to save the bog! Created by imaginative 5th class children of St. Kilian's N.S Mullagh, this delightful book is bursting with creativity, colour and care for nature. Each copy is lovingly handmade, with hand-stitched bog flowers, recycled and handmade pages, and a story that changes every time - because every child has written their own special ending. No two books are the same, just like no two adventures in the bog!

[74] 5pm KELLS PRINTING WORKS - UPSTAIRS €12

Nicola Pierce - *Great Irish Wives*

In *Great Irish Wives: Remarkable Lives from History*, Nicola Pierce brings ten overlooked Irish wives out of the shadows, from Matilda Tone to Sinéad de Valera and George Yeats. Through vivid, accessible biographies she shows how these women powered the lives, work and legends of the men history remembered first. Nicola will be in conversation with Sophie Grenham.

Sponsored by Tom Blake House

[75] 6.30pm CHURCH OF IRELAND -
THE JANE BARRETT STAGE €15

Michael Harding - *On Tuesdays I'm a Buddhist*

Join Michael for a meditation on faith and creativity. Reflections on the in-between world where reason ends and faith begins. Michael Harding is renowned as the best-selling author of a major series of memoirs chronicling ordinary life in Ireland through a time of transformation. He has written 3 award winning novels, and many theatre works including 5 plays for the National Theatre. A member of Aosdana, a newspaper columnist, and a regular guest on television and radio, his storytelling craft is singularly optimistic and visionary. Join him as he reflects once again on the meaning of everything.

Sponsored by Headfort Arms Hotel



LIT·CRAWL

KELLS

SUNDAY 28 JUNE

Supported by Creative Ireland

Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme



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] **6.30pm** COURTHOUSE

Mr. Dooley Comments

Glen Genzdel and Myles Dungan re-enact some of the hilarious columns of the great Irish-American journalist Finley Peter Dunne as he lambastes early 20th century US elites in the voice of the fictional barman 'Mr. Dooley' from Roscommon.

[LC.2] **6.30pm** LIBRARY

Aishleen Harte: *My Voice, My Choice*, A Reading and Craft Workshop Age 7+

A beautifully illustrated story, written in engaging rhyme and rhythm, is a heartfelt plea for adults to truly hear and honour the voices of children, while helping children feel empowered to express themselves in everyday scenarios that often get dismissed. An engaging reading of *My Voice, My Choice* will take place, along with a craft workshop where children will visually and creatively honour their own voice.

[LC.3] **6.30pm** KELLS PRINTING WORKS

Frank Cogan - *A diplomatic life*

Former Irish diplomat Frank Cogan on a long and distinguished career in the foreign service, including a stint in Iran during troubled times.

[LC.4] **6.30pm** McENTEE'S FUNERAL PARLOUR

Kathryn Crowley: *Love, Lycra and Tattoos - A Reading*

Award-winning Irish short-fiction writer Kathryn Crowley will read from her new novella and collection of stories. Kathryn's fiction provides unique insights into domestic dramas and delivers universal truths about seemingly small lives. She navigates the minefield of relationships – both romantic and familial – with a fresh voice laced with humour. Themes of nostalgia, resilience, connection, and the bittersweet humour of life will feature, creating a warm, relatable atmosphere that feels both personal and universal.

The event will feature an audience Q&A.

[LC.5] **6.30pm** O'RORKE'S BAR

Munterconnacht Ukelele Group

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

[LC.6] **7.30pm** COURTHOUSE

Navan Theatre Group – From Eden

Navan Theatre Group present *From Eden*, a tender and witty script written by Stephen Jones. This performance directed by Sharon Carroll won multiple awards on the One Act Circuit of the Amateur Dramatic Council of Ireland. It tells the story of Alan and Eva, who find themselves locked in the toilet of a house party in Dublin on New Year's Eve.

[LC.7] **7.30pm** KELLS PRINTING WORKS

John Fintan McCutcheon - Burning Inwards: A Reading

John Fintan McCutcheon's one-man show presents the short-story *Normal All Along* from his collection of short-stories *Burning Inwards* (Emu Ink Press, 2025). A twenty-year old narrator questions the value and purpose of an early-childhood unspecified diagnosis of special-needs which he is tentatively beginning to understand has not served him well. His story brings the audience through seminal dramatic, sad and comic incidents that describe his journey to this juncture.

[LC.8] **7.30pm** McENTEES FUNERAL PARLOUR

Peter Connell - Fianna Fáil and housing in the 1930s

Peter Connell explores how Fianna Fáil, on coming to power in 1932, approached the national housing crisis with a programme of slum clearance and new frugally built council housing.

[LC.9] **7.30pm** O'RORKE'S BAR

Colette Clinton - Singer Songwriter – Folk, Country & Blues

Colette Clinton reflects on everyday life, love and loss through storytelling songs and poetic lyrics. Her themes are interwoven with references to nature, transition and seasonal changes. She hails from Skryne, Tara and is currently working on material for a new album to follow her debut EP *Love needs time* (2021) and single *Clouds* (2023).

[LC.10] **8.30pm** COURTHOUSE

A Handful of Lentils – Play reading

A reading of a 'work in progress' an exciting new short play from Nesrin Alrefaai and Matthew Spangler, co-authors of the highly successful adaptation of *The Beekeeper of Aleppo*.

LC.11] **8.30pm** LIBRARY

Noel Howard - Terror, Tears and Tragedy - The Mount Cashells and the Notorious Divorce Case of 1876

In what was the most sensational divorce case of the 19th century, Lady Louisa Mount Cashell faces a team of Ireland's leading lawyers and her husband, Captain Richard Spread Morgan, who is seeking a divorce on the grounds of adultery and cruelty.

Available from Buythebook.ie

"The strength of the narrative in this book would lend itself to make a great film." (Patrick Bergin - Actor)

[LC.12] **8.30pm** McENTEE'S FUNERAL PARLOUR

Frank Shouldice - Beneath the Cedar Tree

In a story trailing from Nobber to Montenegro, filmmaker and journalist Frank Shouldice reflects on how war in the Balkans influenced his debut novel *Beneath the Cedar Tree*.

[LC.13] **8.30pm** O'RORKE'S BAR

Ollie Clarke & Friends

Ollie and Friends will do American, Canadian and Irish Folk Music - to wrap up the festival!

OTHER THINGS TO DO

ROSS DILLON 'LANDSCAPES AND CHARACTERS'

TORADH 2 GALLERY

Kells Courthouse Tourism & Cultural Hub, A82 RY62

An exhibition of new work by Ross Dillon, featuring landscapes from County Meath and Imaginative Character Illustrations.

June – July 2026

KELLS ARTS CLUB PRESENTS – 'BREAKFAST WITH ULYSSES'

Tuesday June 16th. Meet at the Parnell Garden at 10.30 for Bloomsday. Period Dress optional, then at 11am in the Bookmarket Café, Market St, Kells for readings from Joyce with traditional breakfast. €15. Booking advised at the Café.

aSPIRED WRITERS

Monday 22nd June, 7pm, the Bookmarket Café. €10

Join aSpired writers for an intimate open mic night and release of their new anthology with proceeds going to Meath Women's Refuge.

KELLS ARTS CLUB ART EXHIBITION

Opening at 7pm, Wednesday June 24th at Eureka House.

Featuring Liz Levey and other artists.

SIMON THOMAS WRITING WORKSHOP

Thursday 25th June 6.30-8.30pm

BOOKMARKet Café, Market Street, Kells.

Taking off from an illustrated historical overview of the field, this workshop will explore and evaluate diary- and journal-keeping as a vital practice of life writing in the age of technology. Participants will be also invited to engage in live writing exercises to share in group discussion. New and experienced writers welcome. Spaces limited. €50/€40 concessions. All handouts included.

For further information or to book a place, contact 089 975 5534 or s.alexander.thomas13@gmail.com

POP-UP WINE BAR

Hosted by McEntee's Off Licence and Platter by Lu in Kiernan's Bar, Market Street, 25 – 28 June from 6pm till late.

REVERVE ARTIST COLLECTIVE ART EXHIBITION

ReVerve Artist Collective presents 'Field Notes', an exhibition of new works at the Blue Chapel, Headfort Place, 25th-28th June, 11.00am-5.00pm. Official opening Thurs. 25th, 6.00pm.

Childrens' Art Workshop: Sun 28th, 11.00-12.00; 8-12 yr olds, max 12, must be accompanied by an adult. Free event, materials provided, booking essential on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/childrens-art-workshop-field-notes-exhibition-tickets-1987864801132>

Artists in Conversation: Sat 27th 1.00-2.00pm; three ReVerve artists will be in conversation with Ruth Hogan, creative producer, curator and writer. Free event, sponsored by Solstice Arts Centre.

VANILLA POD RESTAURANT - TAPAS NIGHT

Friday 26th June Wine & Tapas evening 5pm till late, enjoy lots of a la carte tapas dishes to share & new wines from Spain. Reservations on 0469240063 or book on www.tablepath/vanillapodkells

KELLS WALK ABOUT TOURS

Kells Courthouse Tourism and Cultural Hub, A82 RY62

Friday 26th June 2pm. Saturday 27th June 11am & 3pm.

To book: 046-9247508 or Kellscourthouse@discoverboynevalley.ie

KELLS TYPETRAIL

This unique walking trail, now in its 16th year, is an annual celebration of typography and lettering as a modern art form. The 2026 theme, "Process", explores the journey behind creativity - highlighting the thinking, experimentation and craftsmanship that underpins design. 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.

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.

BREAD MAKING EXPERIENCE AT MARTRY MILL

Saturday July 4th at 3pm. Traditional bread making class, tour of the mill, 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/> for more details.

SAMHAIN FESTIVAL OF FOOD & CULTURE

5th to 8th November 2026. Celebrate Ireland's rich culinary and cultural heritage at this unmissable festival, which brings together the best of Irish food and drink, featuring a packed programme of events, including the renowned Sheridan's Irish Food Fair.

HINTERLAND 2027

Save the Date: 24th - 27th June 2027





WEEKLY SALES SCHEDULE

MONDAY

- Calves – 10:00 am
- Bullocks – 10:00 am

TUESDAY

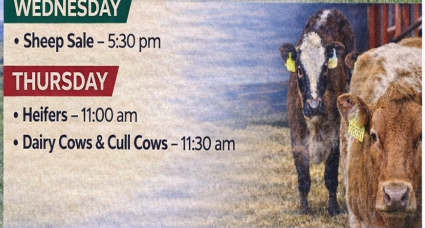
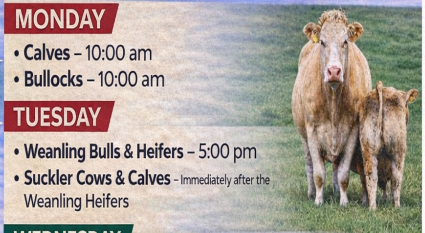
- Weanling Bulls & Heifers – 5:00 pm
- Suckler Cows & Calves – Immediately after the Weanling Heifers

WEDNESDAY

- Sheep Sale – 5:30 pm

THURSDAY

- Heifers – 11:00 am
- Dairy Cows & Cull Cows – 11:30 am



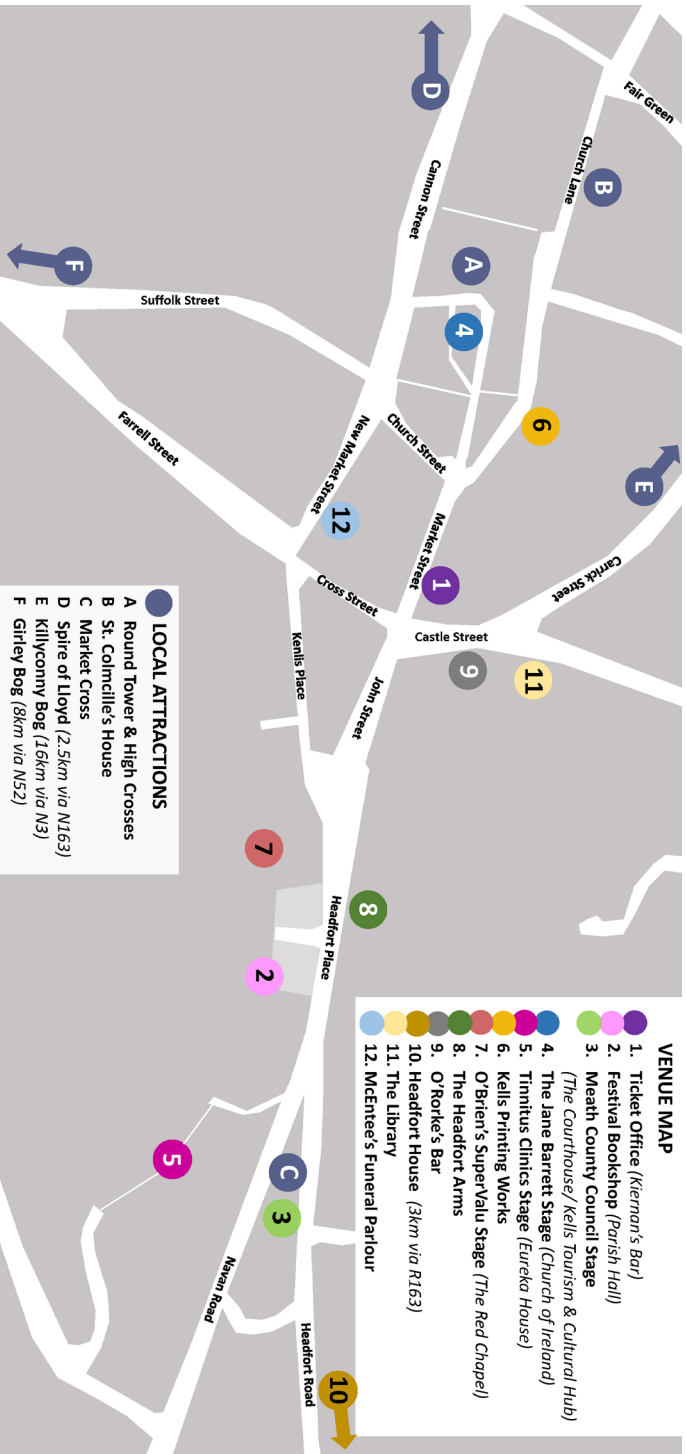
Regular Open Dairy Sales & Taaffe Dairy Sale

For Enquiries: Office: 046 924 0109 • Padraig: 087 709 6611

tinnitus clinic.ie

0818-555-510
www.tinnitusclinic.ie





VENUE MAP

- 1. Ticket Office (Kiernan's Bar)
- 2. Festival Bookshop (Parish Hall)
- 3. Meath County Council Stage
(The Courthouse/ Kells Tourism & Cultural Hub)
- 4. The Jane Barrett Stage (Church of Ireland)
- 5. Tinnitus Clinics Stage (Eureka House)
- 6. Kells Printing Works
- 7. O'Brien's SuperValu Stage (The Red Chapel)
- 8. The Headfort Arms
- 9. O'Rourke's Bar
- 10. Headfort House (3km via R163)
- 11. The Library
- 12. McEntee's Funeral Parlour

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

- A Round Tower & High Crosses
- B St. Colmcille's House
- C Market Cross
- D Spire of Lloyd (2.5km via N163)
- E Killiyconny Bog (1.6km via N3)
- F Girley Bog (8km via N52)



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meath county council

Enhancing the quality of life for the people of Meath



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