



# Autumn Events Programme

September – December 2023



Seamus Heaney  
HomePlace

Life, Literature & Inspiration

[seamusheaneyhome.com](http://seamusheaneyhome.com)

# Welcome to Seamus Heaney

**Front Cover Image:**

'Church Island'

Ink and Collage artwork by Louise Mullan

## Chair's Foreword

*Moving towards the end of the year I am delighted that the new programme at Seamus Heaney HomePlace has so much for you to look forward to.*

I was delighted to see that one of the opening events is a fantastic film screening of *Wolfwalkers* to raise money for Magherafelt Foodbank. Come along on the 9th September and instead of paying for a film ticket donate an essential item that will go towards helping our local community. What a wonderful effort!

Moving forward into the programme the strength of the musical contribution really shines through from cover to cover. Welcoming back the absolutely phenomenal singer Seán Keane to the Helicon is a sheer delight as his previous performance stunned the sold out audience in 2020. Singer-songwriters from John Spillane to Brigid O'Neill to Jane Cassidy and Maurice Leyen further add to this impressive programme of events that any music lover would love.

A special mention has to go to the Bill Whelen show. A composer, he won Best Musical Show album at the 1997 Grammy Awards for Riverdance. I am sure we have all seen that iconic Eurovision performance... how fascinating it will be to hear about it from the man himself. One event to particularly highlight is the Mary Robinson in Conversation afternoon

in November. Former Irish President, Professor for Climate Justice in Trinity College, she has served as UN high Commissioner for Human Rights and has received such awards as the Presidential Medal of Freedom from the US former President, Barack Obama. These are just some of Mary Robinson's outstanding achievements and getting the chance to hear of all her experiences is certainly an opportunity not to miss!

This programme always reflects the best of the best when it comes to literature whether it be rising stars or the most awarded writers and this autumn/winter is no different. Joining us in The Helicon is names such as Christopher Reid, Mick Herron, Louis de Bernières Stephen Sexton, Colm Tóibín and so many more! Closing this year is one the years most anticipated shows, Christmas At The HomePlace Hearth. The love for this show grows every year as this event fills the audience with Christmas cheer and laughter.

We hope to see you there.

**Councillor Dominic Molloy**  
Chair, Mid Ulster District Council

## Seamus Heaney HomePlace

45 Main Street  
Bellaghy BT45 8HT  
Co Derry  
Northern Ireland  
T: +44 (0)28 7938 7444  
E: [SeamusHeaneyHome@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:SeamusHeaneyHome@midulstercouncil.org)

Monday-Saturday, 10am-5pm  
Sunday, 1pm-5pm



Only 45mins from  
Belfast and Derry,  
2hr 30mins from Dublin  
54.8077° N, 6.5213° W  
Free car and coach parking.  
Café serving delicious,  
locally sourced food.  
Gift shop.



# Step into HomePlace

Immerse yourself in the extraordinary world of Seamus Heaney's poetry, and explore through his words and imagination the people and place that so inspired him.

Described by Michael Longley as 'an echo chamber for the poet's beautiful lines', Seamus Heaney HomePlace features an interactive exhibition over two floors, filled with personal stories, images and the voice of the poet himself. An interpretation of his Dublin study will transport you back to 1995, when Seamus Heaney was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Previously unseen artefacts, transcripts and books kindly donated by the Heaney family are also on display, ensuring a truly unique and illuminating experience for all.

You can also explore our gift shop, featuring bespoke ranges by local craft-makers influenced by the surrounding landscape and, of course, the work of Seamus Heaney.

Items from our gift shop are now available to order online from our website.

For more information and to book tickets contact the Box Office on **028 7938 7444** or visit **[www.SeamusHeaneyHome.com](http://www.SeamusHeaneyHome.com)**



# ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE

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## The HomePlace Café

During your visit to Seamus Heaney HomePlace, why not drop into the HomePlace Café? The HomePlace Café serves breakfast, lunch and afternoon treats, using locally sourced ingredients, making it the perfect spot to begin or end your visit.

The Café is open for 30 minutes before and after our events in the Helicon, so why not enjoy a coffee or a glass of wine in relaxed surroundings before taking your seat.



## The Library & Digital Archive

Our digital archive and book collection opened in May 2021 after a substantial renovation. The Library also houses a handpicked selection of more than 800 titles, ranging from books by friends and contemporaries of Seamus Heaney, to those authors the poet himself enjoyed reading.

The Library also boasts a Seamus Heaney digital archive, bringing together for the first time radio and television broadcasts presented by, or featuring the poet. Visitors can also access a selection of the online performances which HomePlace staged during the pandemic.

# Open Ground

Explore locations linking the landscape and the literature of Seamus Heaney. Venture out to Open Ground, a series of five locations which held great significance for Seamus Heaney.

Discover the places that shaped his life and literature — Toomebridge, Magherafelt, Moyola River, Lough Beg and Bellaghy Bawn — and discover the smells, sights and sounds that make his poetry so uniquely of this place.



## Educating and Exploring



Our primary education programme uses Seamus Heaney's work as a catalyst for pupils to explore key 'World Around Us' topics, while enhancing and extending the Language and Literacy Curriculum. Pupils use poems such as 'Blackberry Picking', 'Churning Day' and 'A Kite for Aibhín' to examine cross-curricular themes in a fun and interactive manner.

At secondary level, we deliver programmes that are closely tied to both CCEA and WJEC examination objectives. Our popular GCSE and AS Level lectures are presented by visiting professors, while pupils in Key Stages 3 and 5 also get the chance to work with PhD poetry students.

Schools undertaking Shared Education find Seamus Heaney HomePlace the perfect location to foster group work, as pupils come together in an environment which promotes imagination, participation and communication.

**For more information, email our Education Officer at [brid.mcguinness@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:brid.mcguinness@midulstercouncil.org)**



## DREAMSCAPES, LANDSCAPES, ESCAPES

Featuring Catherine Graham, Kate Newmann,  
Kathleen McCracken and John T Davies

Saturday 2 September at 7.30pm | Tickets: £12

Confluences and collaborations feature prominently as award winning poets Catherine Graham, Kate Newmann and Kathleen McCracken are joined by internationally acclaimed filmmaker and musician John T. Davis for an evening of poetry readings and original music hosted by poet Mel McMahon, author of the collections *Out of Breath* and *Beneath Our Feet*.

Catherine Graham is a Toronto-based writer, podcaster and creative writing instructor. The author of two novels and seven poetry collections, *Æther: An Out-of-Body Lyric*, was a finalist for the Trillium Book Award, Toronto Book Award, and won the Fred Kerner Book Award. Author of five collections of poetry, among them *The Blind Woman in the Blue* and *I am a Horse*, Kate Newmann has been the recipient of the James Prize, the Roundhouse Prize, the Allingham Prize and the Listowel Poetry Prize.

Kathleen McCracken is the author of eight collections of poetry including *Blue Light* and *College*, and has been a finalist for the Montreal International Prize for Poetry, the Walrus Poetry Prize, and the CBC Poetry Prize. In 2019, she won the Seamus Heaney Award for New Writing. John T. Davis is internationally recognized as one of Ireland's leading independent documentary filmmakers. Among his directorial credits are the award-winning cult classics *Shellshock Rock*, *Route 66* and *Hobo*. John is also an accomplished singer songwriter, and as well as performing a selection of his songs, John will accompany Kathleen's reading of her innovative new work *Mustangs*, or *The Ballad of Gideon Light*.





## FILM SCREENING: WOLFWALKERS

A Film Screening in association with Cinemagic and Magherafelt Foodbank

Saturday 9 September at 11am | Tickets: FREE but must be booked in advance and ticket holders must bring an item for the food bank

Seamus Heaney HomePlace is delighted to collaborate once again with Cinemagic to screen the beautiful family film *Wolfwalkers* as part of Cinemagic's 'Young Audiences Supporting Foodbanks' initiative.

In a time of superstition and magic, a young apprentice hunter, Robyn Goodfellowe, journeys to Ireland with her father to wipe out the last wolf pack. While exploring the forbidden lands outside the city walls, Robyn befriends a free-spirited girl, Mebh, a member of a mysterious tribe rumoured to have the ability to transform into wolves by night. As they search for Mebh's missing mother, Robyn uncovers a secret that draws her further into the enchanted world of the *Wolfwalkers* and risks turning into the very thing her father is tasked to destroy.

Rather than paying for a regular ticket to gain entry to the film screening, audience members are asked to donate an essential item / food item on the day needed by the Foodbank to support the local community. Magherafelt Foodbank is part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.

Suggested items include tinned fruit, vegetables or meat; nappies and toiletries or long-life juice or milk. Please check the date on the food donated and ensure that it has an expiry of 1 to 3 months.

**Running Time: 103m, Certificate: PG**

**Supported by Film Hub NI through the BFI FAN Film Exhibition Fund, awarding funds from National Lottery.**

Credit Aleksandra Modrzejewska



Credit Lee Pelligrini

## KARL GEARY AND PAUL MURRAY

In Conversation with Jan Carson

Saturday 16 September at 2pm | £12

Karl Geary and Paul Murray are two of Ireland's brightest literary talents and both have published much-anticipated novels this year.

Karl Geary was born in Dublin and moved to New York at the age of 16. He co-founded two East Village institutions, the music venue Sin-e, and later the Scratcher. He has worked as a scriptwriter (*Coney Island Baby*) and an actor (Michael Almereyda's *Hamlet* and Ken Loach's *Jimmy's Hall*) and he recently adapted and directed Dorothy Parker's *You Were Perfectly Fine* for the screen. His widely acclaimed debut *Montpelier Parade* was shortlisted for the Costa First Novel Award and for Newcomer of the Year at the Irish Book Awards. His second novel *Juno Loves Legs* has just been published to great critical acclaim.

Paul Murray was born in 1975 and raised in south Dublin. He finished his first novel, *An Evening of Long Goodbyes*, while doing a creative writing MA at the University of East Anglia. He followed this with the blackly comic *Skippy Dies*, longlisted for the Booker Prize in 2010, and *The Mark and the Void* five years later. His latest novel, *The Bee Sting*, tracks the unravelling of a family in Ireland's Midlands.

We are delighted to welcome Karl and Paul who will talk about their work in the company of novelist and short story writer Jan Carson.



## TRUTH, LOVE AND PROMISE

Written and performed by Nuala McKeever

Sunday 24 September at 2pm | Tickets: £12

Internationally acclaimed writer and actor Nuala McKeever is back with a new one-woman drama about identity, love and the power of friendship.

Set in a creative writing class in Belfast, this poignant dark comedy looks at what happens when things don't go the way we want in life.

We meet Brenda, Maureen and Joanna, who each week get to know each other through their stories. However, it is clear that it's the things they are leaving out, that really tell the tale.

And when the truth turns out to be shocking, they have to decide what really matters most – Truth, Love or Promise.

We are delighted to welcome Nuala back to The Helicon stage following the sell-out success of her previous show *In The Window*.



## SO SING ON WITH SEÁN KEANE

Thursday 28 September at 7.30pm | Tickets: £25

Seán Keane from County Galway has been described as one of the greatest musical finds of the last few decades. Traditional Irish, folk and even country and blues songs all lend themselves to his unique style and unforgettable voice. Growing up among singers and musicians, Seán learned the sean nós style of singing in the heart of his family. His career began as part of Reel Union, a group that also featured his sister Dolores and accordion player Máirtín O'Connor. Later, he was part of Arcady, with such well-known names as Johnny 'Ringo' McDonagh, Sharon Shannon and Frances Black.

Since embarking on a solo career in 1993, all of his solo albums have been platinum sellers and he remains in constant demand. Today, Seán Keane continues to delight audiences all over the world with his live performances and innate vocal artistry. We are delighted to welcome him back to The Helicon following his previous sell-out performance in 2020.





Credit Fionn Hennessy-Hayes

## JOHN SPILLANE

Saturday 7 October at 7.30pm | Tickets: £17.50

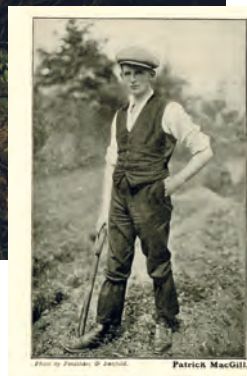
*'John's songs are the heart and soul of our island and they'll be sung around the world for as long as there is song.'*  
Damien Dempsey

John Spillane is a musician, songwriter, performer, recording artist, storyteller, poet and dreamer. Rooted in people, place and story, his music transports the listener and his live performances captivate audiences around the world. As an artist, his music appeals to listeners across many genres and generations. His vocal style has a unique, almost sean-nós-like quality and his performances shimmer with the magic realism that permeates many of his songs as he effortlessly flits between beautiful poetry tinged with melancholy and roguish, irreverent humour. John has the ability to charm, mesmerise and entertain in equal measure.

A two-time Meteor Award winner for Best Folk/Trad act, John is one of the most accomplished songwriters in Ireland. With an extensive back catalogue beginning with the 1997 album *The Wells of the World*, his songs have been covered by Christy Moore, Sharon Shannon, Sean Keane and many others.

Twelve albums later, in April 2021, John released his first independent album in 20 years, *100 Snow White Horses* and in October 2022 he released *In Another Light*, a career-spanning album recorded live at the Right Here Right Now Festival at Cork Opera House in November 2021.

We are delighted to welcome John to The Helicon stage, where his performance is sure to captivate and delight.



'By kind permission of Donegal County Archives'

## THE BALLAD OF PATRICK MACGILL: AN EVENING OF WORDS AND MUSIC

With Jane Cassidy, Maurice Leyden and Derek Williamson

Thursday 12 October at 7.30pm | Tickets £12

Born in 1890 on a poor farm in Glenties, Patrick MacGill was hired out to work at the age of 12. Despite years of hardship, this young Irish migrant worker managed to educate himself and become famous as 'The Navvy Poet'.

Belfast folk-singers Jane Cassidy and Maurice Leyden draw on Patrick MacGill's poetry and autobiographical novels, in which he brings to life the soul-destroying struggles of the migrant worker. MacGill's words are counter-pointed with folk songs from Ulster and Scotland on the themes of love, emigration, navvying and the lives of migrant workers. Maurice and Jane will be joined on stage by Scottish singer Derek Williamson who now lives in Donegal.

Together these talented performers bring to life the work of Patrick MacGill who was so inspired by place and what it means to call somewhere home.



## THE ROAD TO RIVERDANCE: BILL WHELAN IN CONVERSATION WITH JOHN TOAL

Featuring Zoë Conway and John McIntyre

Saturday 14 October at 7.30pm | Tickets: £20

Composer Bill Whelan's memoir *The Road to Riverdance* (Lilliput Press) is not only a chronicle of a hugely successful musical career, from childhood through to that Eurovision performance that changed everything, but also a deeply human reflection on the personal journey experienced by the composer of Riverdance and the personal and professional relationships forged along the way.

Bill Whelan has composed music extensively for theatre, film and orchestra. He won Best Musical Show album at the 1997 Grammy Awards for Riverdance. His music for film includes scores for *Dancing At Lughansa*, *Some Mother's Son* and *Lamb* with Liam Neeson.

His orchestral works include *The Seville Suite* – specially commissioned for Ireland's participation in Expo '92 – *The Spirit Of Mayo*, *The Connemara Suite* and *Linen & Lace* and as a studio producer he has worked with U2, Van Morrison and Kate Bush. Join us for an engaging evening of discussion and music as the man who put an indelible mark on Irish music and dance talks about his life with broadcaster John Toal.

To close the show Bill (piano) will be joined by well-known traditional Irish musicians Zoë Conway (fiddle, vocals) and John McIntyre (guitar), who so captivated the audience in The Helicon when they performed here last year.

Credit: Mikael Buck



## AN EVENING WITH MICK HERRON

### In Conversation with David Torrans

Thursday 19 October at 7.30pm | Tickets: £12

*'The best in a generation, by some estimations, and irrefutably the funniest.'*

**The New Yorker**

Mick Herron is the Number One Sunday Times bestselling author of the Slough House thrillers, which catapulted him to the top rank of spy novelists at work today. Featuring an unlikely band of disgraced MI5 agents who have been sent to Slough House – a grotty MI5 outpost – to work under the irascible Jackson Lamb, the books have won the Theakston Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year award, two CWA Daggers and have been published in 20 languages. The novels are the basis of the award-winning television series *Slow Horses*, starring Gary Oldman as Jackson Lamb. Herron is also the author of the Zoë Boehm series, and the standalone novels *Reconstruction* and *This is What Happened*.

Join Mick as he chats to David Torrans of No Alibis Book Store about his writing and career.



Credit Ivon Bartholemew



## LOUIS DE BERNIÈRES

### In Conversation with Martina Devlin

Friday 20 October at 7.30pm | Tickets: £12

*'...a single, cherishable voice'*

The Mail on Sunday

Following on from his visit to HomePlace during our opening year, we are delighted to welcome back Louis de Bernières, the bestselling author of the literary global phenomenon *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*, which won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize Best Book in 1995. It was also shortlisted for the Sunday Express Book of the Year, has become a worldwide bestseller and has now been translated into over 30 languages.

Louis de Bernières is the author of eight critically acclaimed novels, including *A Partisan's Daughter*, which was shortlisted for the Costa Novel Award, and the historical trilogy that began with *The Dust That Falls From Dreams* and concluded with *The Autumn of the Ace*. He returns this year with a new novel *Light Over Liskeard*, an entertaining and heart-warming work that pokes fun at modern mores, and makes us reconsider what is really precious in our short and precarious lives.

Join Louis as he discusses his work, career and new novel with writer Martina Devlin.



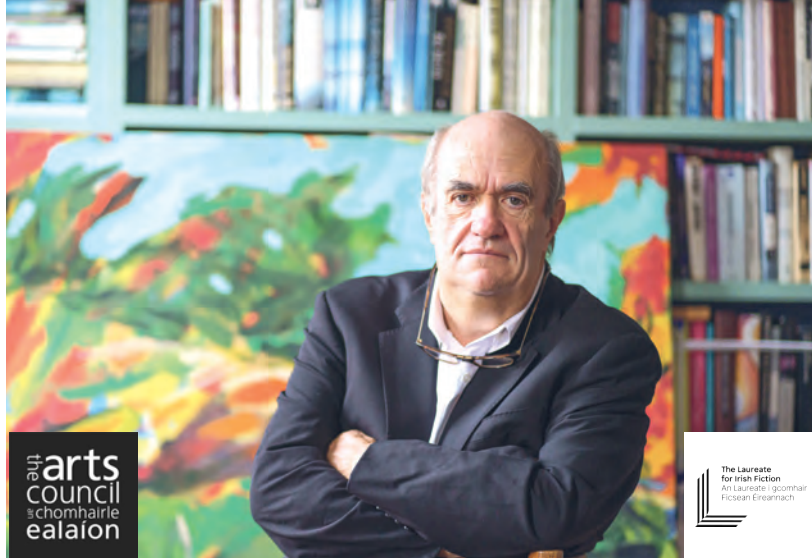
## AN AFTERNOON OF POETRY WITH FIONA BENSON, MARY JEAN CHAN & STEPHEN SEXTON

Saturday 21 October at 2pm | Tickets: £15

Seamus Heaney HomePlace is delighted to play host to three of the UK's most exciting voices in contemporary poetry.

The prestigious Forward Prize for Poetry was won by Fiona Benson in 2020, for her second collection *Vertigo & Ghost*. Stephen Sexton also won in 2020 for *When All the World and Love Were Young* (Best First Collection) while Mary Jean Chan was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best Single Poem in 2017, becoming the youngest shortlistee in the history of the prize. Mary Jean's first collection, *Flèche* won the Costa Book Award for Poetry and their forthcoming collection *Bright Fear* has recently been shortlisted for the Forward Best Collection Prize. We are delighted to welcome them all to The Helicon to read from their award-winning work.

Fiona Benson was the recipient of an Eric Gregory Award in 2006 and her first collection, *Bright Travellers*, won the Seamus Heaney Prize. Stephen won an Eric Gregory Award in 2018. He lives in Belfast, where he teaches at the Seamus Heaney Centre at Queen's University. Mary Jean Chan was shortlisted for the International Dylan Thomas Prize, the Seamus Heaney Centre First Collection Poetry Prize and a Lambda Literary Award. A judge for the 2023 Booker Prize, Chan currently serves as a Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing (Poetry) at Oxford Brookes University.



The Laureate  
for Irish Fiction  
An Laureate i gcomhair  
Ficseán Éireannach

## THE LAUREATE FOR IRISH FICTION ANNUAL LECTURE 2023

WITH COLM TÓIBÍN

Friday 3 November at 7.30pm | Tickets: Free but pre-booking is essential

Seamus Heaney HomePlace is honoured to welcome the Laureate for Irish Fiction, Colm Tóibín, who will present his second Annual Laureate Lecture in The Helicon.

The Laureate for Irish Fiction is an initiative of the Arts Council. The role seeks to acknowledge the contribution of fiction writers to Irish artistic and cultural life by honouring an established Irish writer of fiction, encouraging a new generation of writers, promoting Irish literature nationally and internationally and encouraging the public to engage with high-quality Irish fiction.

Colm Tóibín is the author of ten novels, including *The Magician*, winner of the Rathbones Folio Prize; *The Master*, winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize; *Brooklyn*, winner of the Costa Book Award; and *Nora Webster*, as well as two story collections, a poetry collection and several books of criticism. His plays include *The Testament of Mary*, nominated for a Tony Award for Best Play. In 1993 he was elected to Aosdána and in 2020 became a vice-president of the Royal Society of Literature. He is a member of both the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has won the EM Forster Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the Kenyon Review Award for Literary Achievement, the Richard C Holbrooke Distinguished Award from the Dayton Literary Peace Prize and the David Cohen Prize. He was awarded the Bodley Medal in 2023 for his sustained contribution to the world of literature and his eleventh novel, *Long Island*, will be published in May 2024.



## Edge Street Live presents **BRIAN BILSTON**

Wednesday 8 & Thursday 9 November at 7.30pm | Tickets: £15

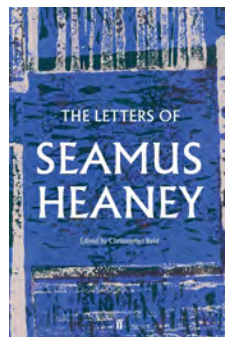
Brian Bilston has been described as the Banksy of poetry and Twitter's unofficial Poet Laureate. With over 200,000 followers on social media, Brian has become truly beloved by the online and the literary community.

His first collection of poetry, *You Took the Last Bus Home*, was published by Unbound. *Diary of a Somebody* (Picador) was shortlisted for the Costa First Novel Award and the McKitterick Prize. *Alexa, What Is There To Know About Love?*, his last collection, was described by one reviewer as 'the funniest collection of humorous verse I have seen in a long time'. His poem 'Refugees' was set to music by Mark-Anthony Turnage for his 2019 song cycle of the same name, and *Fifty Ways to Score a Goal*, a collection of poems about football for children, was published in 2021.

*Days Like These: An Alternative Guide to the Year in 366 Poems* is his latest book and is out now in hardback, a brilliant collection of poems that will take the blues out of Monday, flatten the Wednesday hump and amplify that Friday feeling, from January through to December.

We are delighted to welcome Brian Bilston to Seamus Heaney HomePlace.





## THE LETTERS OF SEAMUS HEANEY: CHRISTOPHER REID IN CONVERSATION

Sunday 12 November at 2pm | Tickets: £12.50

To coincide with the publication of *The Letters of Seamus Heaney* by Faber & Faber, HomePlace is delighted to welcome the collection's editor, poet Christopher Reid. For all his public eminence, Seamus Heaney seems never to have lost the compelling need to write personal letters. In this ample but discriminating selection from 50 years of his correspondence, we are given access as never before to the life and poetic development of a literary titan – from his early days in Belfast, through his decision to settle in the Republic, to the gradual broadening of horizons that culminated in the award of a Nobel Prize and the years of international acclaim that kept him heroically busy until his death.

Editor Christopher Reid draws from both public and private archives to reveal this story in the poet's own words. Generous, funny, exuberant, confiding, irreverent, empathetic and deeply thoughtful, the letters encompass decades-long relationships with friends and colleagues, as well as showing an unstinted responsiveness to passing acquaintances. Moreover, Heaney's joyous mastery of language is as evident here as it is in any of his writing for a literary readership.

Christopher Reid will be in conversation about the process of collating this edition and the evening will feature dramatic readings from a selection of the letters.



## MARY ROBINSON

In Conversation with Mark Carruthers

Saturday 18 November at 2pm | Tickets: £20

Seamus Heaney HomePlace is delighted to welcome former Irish President Mary Robinson to The Helicon to discuss her distinguished career, her humanitarian work and her writing.

Mary Robinson is Adjunct Professor for Climate Justice in Trinity College Dublin and Chair of The Elders. She served as President of Ireland from 1990 to 1997 and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights from 1997 to 2002. She is a member of the Club of Madrid and the recipient of numerous honours and awards including the Presidential Medal of Freedom from the President of the United States Barack Obama. Between 2013 and 2016 Mary served as the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy in three roles and her Foundation, the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice, established in 2010, came to a planned end in April 2019.

Mary Robinson currently serves as Patron of the International Science Council and Patron of the Board of the Institute of Human Rights and Business. Recently she became joint Honorary President of the Africa Europe Foundation.

Mary's memoir, *Everybody Matters* was published in September 2012 and her book, *Climate Justice - Hope, Resilience and the Fight for a Sustainable Future* was published in September 2018. A visionary leader and inspiring humanitarian, Mary Robinson will be in conversation with journalist and presenter Mark Carruthers.



## ECOPOETICS

With Kate Simpson, Emma Must and Linda France

Thursday 23 November at 7.30pm | Tickets: £10

What role can, and should, poetry play in the climate crisis? Is reading and writing poetry an inherently ecological act and if so how do we define 'ecopoetry'? Join Editor Kate Simpson and poets Linda France and Emma Must as they discuss the poetics of climate – charting deep geologic time through to current anthropocentric behaviours whilst utilising language as a witness to our time on Earth. In this discussion and reading, we speak to, and of, the human and more-than-human, exploring words and worlds in tandem.

*Out of Time: Poetry from the Climate Emergency*, edited by Kate Simpson was selected as a Guardian Book of the Year and was awarded a Poetry Book Society Special Commendation, lauded as the 'definitive anthology for this decisive decade.' Published in tandem with Friends of the Earth's 50th anniversary, *Out of Time* includes poems from Caroline Bird, Mary Jean Chan, Seán Hewitt, Raymond Antrobus, Linda France and Emma Must, amongst others.

Linda France's latest collection *Startling*, is the tenth collection from Laurel Prize-winning poet and comprises poems written from, and into, the fabric of the sixth mass extinction, practising a concept of 'radical kindness.

Emma Must's *The Ballad of Yellow Wednesday* commemorates 30 years since the Twyford Down protests against major road-building in the 1990s. This collection includes powerful, moving and honest depictions of the campaign, in which Emma played an integral role.



## BRIGID O'NEILL

Friday 1 December at 7.30pm | Tickets: £12

*'An immensely gifted story-teller whose songs soar to new heights in the live environment'*

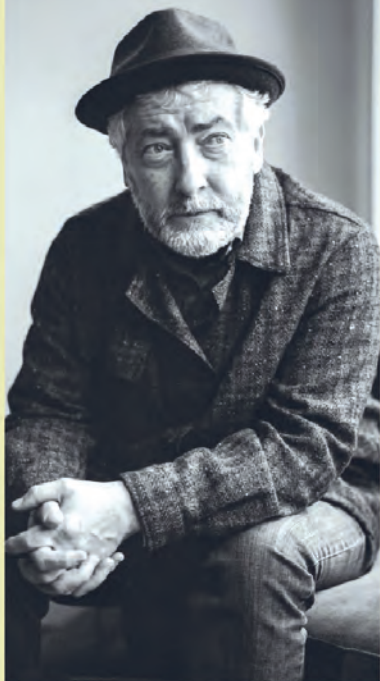
**Hot Press**

Recent years have seen Brigid O'Neill gaining a deserved reputation as one of Ireland's finest songwriters. Reviews of her critically acclaimed latest releases, have reaffirmed that the gifted artist is one of the most versatile, unique and fearless storytellers on the island. She is currently celebrating the launch of her new, highly acclaimed album *The Truth and Other Stories*, recorded in Nashville with Grammy-nominated producer Neilson Hubbard (Mary Gauthier, The Orphan Brigade).

Described by Ralph McLean of BBC Radio Ulster as 'a great songwriter with a voice that can break your heart at 30 paces', Brigid effortlessly weaves elements of folk, country and jazz into relatable tales of happiness, heartbreak and the human condition. Whilst echoes of artists such as Emmylou Harris, Alison Krauss and Mary Black come to mind, O'Neill's voice and sound is very much her own.

With four critically acclaimed previous album releases, she has performed worldwide, is a recipient of numerous Arts Council awards and was recently long listed for the NI Music Prize.





## CHRISTMAS AT THE HOMEPLACE HEARTH

With Anthony Toner, Neil Martin and Glenn Patterson

Saturday 16 December at 7.30pm | Tickets: £15

Reunited for another performance of words and music at the HomePlace Hearth for 2023 are composer Neil Martin (pipes, whistle and cello), songwriter Anthony Toner (guitar and vocals) and author Glenn Patterson. These warm-hearted evenings of poems, music, readings and songs have become a popular fixture on the festive calendar at the HomePlace, performances filled with heart and humour. As always, there's a gentle festive theme to the occasion, and a collection of airs, songs and recitations to send you out into the night with a seasonal glow.



## THE HOMEPLACE BOOK CLUB

With Carol O'Doherty & Patricia Broderick

Time: 3pm - 4.30pm   Tickets: £3
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A story is always better if you have someone to share it with and what better spot to meet and share stories than HomePlace? Join Carol and Patricia for this relaxed and friendly book club. Meeting monthly, the club chooses accessible and entertaining books relating to themes found in Seamus Heaney's work.

Come along for some entertaining conversation and the shared love of a good book!

Dates and books for the summer season are:

Sunday 3 September – *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead

Sunday 1 October – *The Nurse* by Claire Allen

Sunday 5 November – *The Plague* by Albert Camus

Sunday 3 December – *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison



Credit: Joanna Eldredge

## ONLINE POETRY MASTERCLASSES with Jodie Hollander

Thursday 28 September and Thursday 5 October at 7pm |

Zoom link will be sent in advance of masterclass date |

Cost for both workshops: £40

HomePlace is delighted to host two Zoom masterclasses with American poet Jodie Hollander.

Jodie Hollander is a poet, originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin and her poems have appeared in journals such as *The Poetry Review*, *The Yale Review*, *The Harvard Review*, *Verse Daily*, *The Best Australian Poems of 2011*, and *The Best Australian Poems of 2015*.

She is the recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship in South Africa, a National Endowment for the Humanities Grant in Italy, and a Hawthornden Fellowship in Scotland. Her debut full-length collection, *My Dark Horses*, was published with Liverpool University Press (Pavilion Poetry) in 2017. Her second collection, *Nocturne*, was published with Liverpool University Press in the spring of 2023.

Each masterclass will be 180 minutes long. The first will work to the theme of 'Poetry, Memory and Childhood', and the other will explore Nature Poetry. Both classes will have a focus on building sound in poetry, and making ear-pleasing poems as well as generating drafts of new work and are open to beginners and more experienced poets.



### SMALL WILLOW PROJECTS With Clive Lyttle of Welig Crafts

All materials are provided.  
Saturday 16 September  
Time: 10am – 5pm  
Cost: £45

In this new class for 2023, Clive Lyttle from Welig Crafts introduces an informative and introductory class in small willow projects. Come along and learn how to make small decorative items including rattles, birdfeeders and dragonflies.



### GEL PLATE PRINTING With Ruth Osborne

Saturday 7 October  
10am – 3.30pm  
Cost: £45

In this workshop you will explore a range of mark-making and print-making processes when printing by hand and using a gel plate. Using natural materials, stencils and some found objects patterns you will create a range of printed papers and fabrics that will then be used to create a series of unique collage works.

This workshop will introduce a range of processes and will encourage participants to explore their own creativity in transforming these into collage artworks. Collages can be inspired by places, viewpoints and memories. A frame will be provided as part of the workshop materials so that participants may take home their own unique artwork





## 'BETWEEN THE LIGHTS' WRITING WORKSHOP

With Bernie McGill

Saturday 25 November  
10.30am – 1.30pm  
£40

The Celtic festival of Samhain traditionally marks the end of the lighter half and the beginning of the darker half of the year. It was believed that at this time, the division between this world and the otherworld was at its thinnest, allowing spirits to pass through. As we head into the darker weeks of the year you are invited to join us for a half-day writing workshop around the theme of passing between the lights.

This will be a practical workshop on the everyday craft of writing with the aim of sparking ideas for new work. Open to all from experienced writers to first-timers, poets and prosers alike. Come with writing materials, prepared to write.

Bernie McGill's latest publication is the short story collection *This Train is For* published by No Alibis Press.



## CHRISTMAS WREATH-MAKING WORKSHOP

With Welig Crafts

Saturday 9 December  
Time: 10am and 2pm  
Cost: £35

Join Clive Lyttle from Welig Heritage Crafts at this special time of year to construct your own Christmas wreath from his home-grown willow, spruce, pine and holly.

You can bring your own ribbons and bows to decorate the wreath or keep it all natural depending on your own personal taste.

All tools and materials are provided.

## SEPTEMBER

Saturday 2 September | 7.30pm | £12

**Dreamscapes, Landscapes, Escapes**

Saturday 9 September | 11am | Free, with foodbank item

**Cinemagic Film Screening: Wolfwalkers**

Saturday 16 September | 10am – 5pm | £45

**Small Willow Projects with Welig Crafts**

Saturday 16 September | 2pm | £12

**Karl Geary and Paul Murray in Conversation**

Sunday 24 September | 2pm | £12

**Truth, Love and Promise with Nuala McKeever**

Thursday 28 September | 7.30pm | £25

**So Sing On with Seán Keane**

## OCTOBER

Saturday 7 October | 10am – 3.30pm | £45

**Gel Plate Printing with Ruth Osborne**

Saturday 7 October | 7.30pm | £17.50

**John Spillane**

Thursday 12 October | 7.30pm | £12

**The Ballad of Patrick MacGill**

Saturday 14 October | 7.30pm | £20

**The Road to Riverdance: Bill Whelan in Conversation**

Thursday 19 October | 7.30pm | £12

**An Evening with Mick Herron**

Friday 20 October | 7.30pm | £12

**Louis de Bernières in Conversation**

Saturday 21 October | 2pm | £15

**An Afternoon of Poetry with Fiona Benson, Mary Jean Chan and Stephen Sexton**

## NOVEMBER

Friday 3 November | 7.30pm | FREE: Advanced Booking Essential

**The Laureate for Irish Fiction Annual Lecture 2023 with Colm Tóibín**

Wednesday 8 & Thursday 9 November | 7.30pm | £15

**Brian Bilston**

Sunday 12 November | 7.30pm | £12.50

**The Letters of Seamus Heaney: Christopher Reid in Conversation**

Saturday 18 November | 2pm | £20

**Mary Robinson in Conversation with Mark Carruthers**

Thursday 23 November | 7.30pm | £10

**Ecopoetics with Kate Simpson, Emma Must and Linda France**

Saturday 25 November | 10.30am – 1.30pm | £40

**'Between the Lights' Writing Workshop with Bernie McGill**

## DECEMBER

Friday 1 December | 7.30pm | £12


**Brigid O'Neill**

Saturday 9 December | 10am and 2pm | £35

**Christmas Wreath-Making with Welig Crafts**

Saturday 16 December | 7.30pm | £15

**Christmas at the HomePlace Hearth**



Seamus Heaney HomePlace  
45 Main Street  
Bellaghy BT45 8HT  
T: +44 (0)28 7938 7444  
E: [SeamusHeaneyHome@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:SeamusHeaneyHome@midulstercouncil.org)



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Comhairle Ceantair  
**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council