

February -
April
2025



Chair's Foreword

I am delighted to introduce the Winter / Spring Programme for Seamus Heaney HomePlace.



Following a lot of hard work behind the scenes, we are delighted to announce that we are starting 2025 with a new seating design in The Helicon, bringing the same quality of programme now with added comfort. We are also looking forward to celebrating the 50th anniversary of Seamus Heaney's fourth collection of poetry, *North*.

It is fitting that the first performance in the newly refurbished theatre will be the legendary American poet, Billy Collins. Don't miss this opportunity to hear one of the world's most celebrated poets read from his work and chat about his career with Paula Meehan.

In February there is a packed weekend of events to celebrate the 50th anniversary of *North* and to explore the world of bog bodies, which greatly informed that collection. We are delighted to welcome Professor Turi King, who did invaluable work on the remains of Richard III and to host a remarkable evening of poetry and music as renowned actor Paul McGann reads selected poems from *North*, accompanied by pianist Charles Owen.

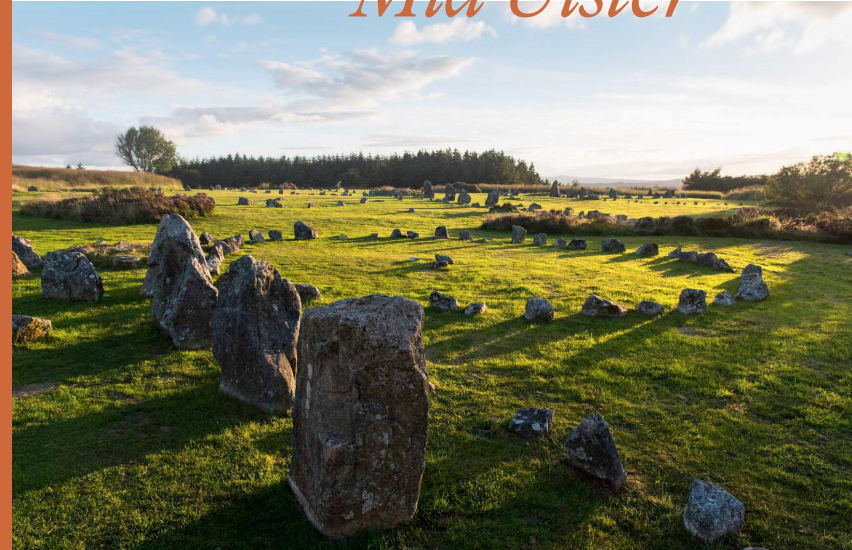
As always, the HomePlace programme promises something for everyone. This season sees visits from some of the best contemporary writers, including Lionel Shriver and David Nicholls. Food writer and TV presenter Jay Rayner will pay a visit in March in the company of Paula McIntyre.

Our music offering continues to entertain as we look forward to welcoming Kieran Goss and Briana Corrigan back to The Helicon and in April, we will be joined by none other than Barbara Dickson, with support from Nick Holland and Anthony Toner.

I hope you can join us at Seamus Heaney HomePlace during 2025 for some of these fantastic events!

Councillor Eugene McConnell
Chair Mid Ulster District Council

Experience more at *Mid Ulster*



Seamus Heaney HomePlace is owned and managed by Mid Ulster District Council.

Why not visit one of the other council-owned attractions, parks or open spaces, such as Dungannon Park or Ballyronan Marina & Caravan Park on the shores of Lough Neagh?

Uncover the stories, artefacts and archaeology of Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House in Dungannon; discover all that OM Dark Sky Park and Observatory has to offer or enjoy a night out at The Burnavon's theatre.



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council



Step into *HomePlace*



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.






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

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 seamusheaneyhome.com

-  Only 45 mins from Belfast & Co.Derry
-  2hr 30mins from Dublin
-  Café on site
-  Free car & coach parking
-  Gift shop



Seamus Heaney HomePlace

45 Main Street, Bellaghy, BT45 8HT
Co. Derry, Northern Ireland

+44 (0)28 7938 7444
seamusheaneyhome@midulstercouncil.org

Opening Hours

Monday – Saturday
10.00am – 5.00pm

Sunday
1.00pm – 5.00pm

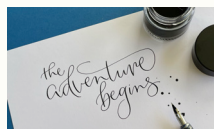
At a Glance

February



Sat 8 February
7:30pm

An Evening With
Billy Collins
£30



Sat 8 February
10.00am – 1.00pm

Workshop: Beginners
Modern Calligraphy
£30



Thurs 13 February
7:30pm

Dave Duggan:
JourneyWork,
A Creative Life
£10



Sat 16 February
2.00pm

Mrs Robinson
£7.50



Thurs 20 February
8.00pm

Hive Choir presents:
'The Bog!'
£10



Fri 21 February
7:30pm

An Evening With
Professor Turi King
£22.50



Sat 22 February
10.00am – 4.00pm

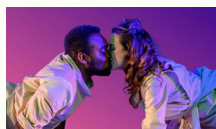
Digging Into The Bog
£5



Sun 23 February
2.00pm

North: A Celebration,
With Paul McGann and
Charles Owen
£25

March



Sat 1 March
2.00pm

Terra Nova presents:
Romeo, Romeo!
£12



Sat 8 March
10.00am – 4.00pm

Workshop: Silver
Stacking Rings
£70



Sat 8 March
2.00pm

Real Women Big Lives
£15



Fri 14 March
7:30pm

Becoming Marvellous
£10



Thurs 20 March
7:30pm

Arthur Smith and
Clare Ferguson-Walker
£18



Sat 22 March
2.00pm – 4.00pm

Poetry Book Club with
Niamb McNally
£5 / £27.50 (incl. books)



Sat 22 March
7:30pm

Jay Rayner In
Conversation
£22.50



Thurs 27 March
7:30pm

Lionel Sbriver In
Conversation
£15

April



Sat 29 March
7:30pm

Kieran Goss and
Annie Kinsella
£25



Thurs 3 April
7:30pm

David Nicholls In
Conversation
£20



Sat 5 April
11.00am – 4.00pm

Workshop:
Garden Obelisks
£60



Sun 6 April
2.00pm

Charlotte Brontë:
The Writer and The Life
£12



Sat 12 April
7:30pm

Barbara Dickson with
Nick Holland and
Anthony Toner
£32.50



Sun 13 April
2.00pm

Seamus Heaney and
Visual Art With
John Brown
£10



Fri 25 April
7:30pm

Briana Corrigan
In Concert
£17.50



Sat 26 April
11.00am – 4.00pm

Workshop: Writing The
World As You Know It
With Malachi O'Doherty
£30



Tickets: £30

An Evening With Billy Collins

Featuring a reading and a conversation with Paula Meehan

Saturday 8 February

7.30pm

Billy Collins is an American phenomenon. No poet since Robert Frost has managed to combine high critical acclaim with such broad popular appeal.

Billy Collins has published 12 collections of poetry, including *Questions About Angels*, *The Art of Drowning*, and *Picnic, Lightning*. Several of his books, including *Aimless Love: New and Selected Poems 2003 – 2013* were *New York Times* bestsellers.

Included among the honours Billy Collins has received are fellowships from the New York Foundation for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation. He has also been awarded the

Oscar Blumenthal Prize, the Frederick Bock Prize and the Levinson Prize. He has also received the Aiken-Taylor Award in Modern American Poetry, The Hall-Kenyon Prize, and the Mailer Prize for Poetry. In June 2001, Billy Collins was appointed United States Poet Laureate from 2001-2003, New York State Poet Laureate from 2004-06 and in 2016 he was elected a member of the American Academy of Arts & Letters.

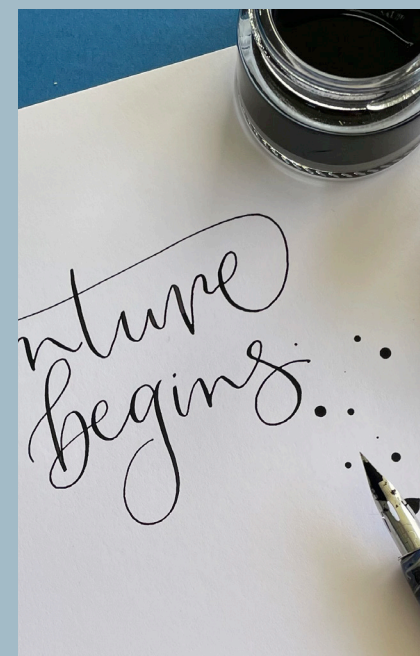
We are honoured to welcome Billy to The Helicon to read from his work and to chat to poet Paula Meehan about his exemplary career.

Workshop

Beginners Modern Calligraphy Workshop

With Script Adventures

Tickets: £30



Saturday 8 February

10.00am – 1.00pm

We are delighted to welcome Script Adventures to host a Beginners Modern Calligraphy Workshop.

This workshop is suitable for complete beginners and provides an introduction to modern calligraphy. You will learn how to use a pointed nib and ink, working through warm-up exercises, practising letterforms and joining up letters. The workshop includes a talk on how to create different modern calligraphy styles and you will finish by making a calligraphy piece with the help of a unique template.

All materials are included in the workshop. Your kit will include a penholder, a pointed nib, black ink, coloured paints and original worksheets and templates.



Tickets: £10

Dave Duggan: JourneyWork, A Creative Life

In conversation with Kathy Donaghy and featuring screenings of *Dance Lexie Dance* and *Tumble Turns*



Thursday 13 February

7.30pm

Dave Duggan is a novelist and dramatist based in Derry, whose career spans the page, the stage and the screen.

His novel *Oak and Stone* was listed among the best international detective novels of the year in 2019 by *The Irish Times* and works, such as *The Greening of Larry Mabon* (2004) and *A Sudden Sun* (2012), reflect his versatile storytelling. His stage dramas, including *Gruagairi* (2007) and *Makaronik* (2014), were produced by Aisling Ghéar Theatre Company and his theatre work has been showcased from New York to Afghanistan.

His film and television contributions include the Oscar-nominated *Dance Lexie Dance* (Raw Nerve Productions, 1996). Duggan has just published *Journeywork, A Creative Life*, a collection of essays which continues to explore his creative themes. Join Dave as he chats with Kathy Donaghy, journalist and author of *Finding My Wild*, about his career to date and enjoy a screening of two of his short films, *Dance, Lexie Dance* and *Tumble Turns*.

Presented in conjunction with the Nerve Centre, Derry.



Tickets: £7.50

Film Screening

Mrs Robinson



Sunday 16 February

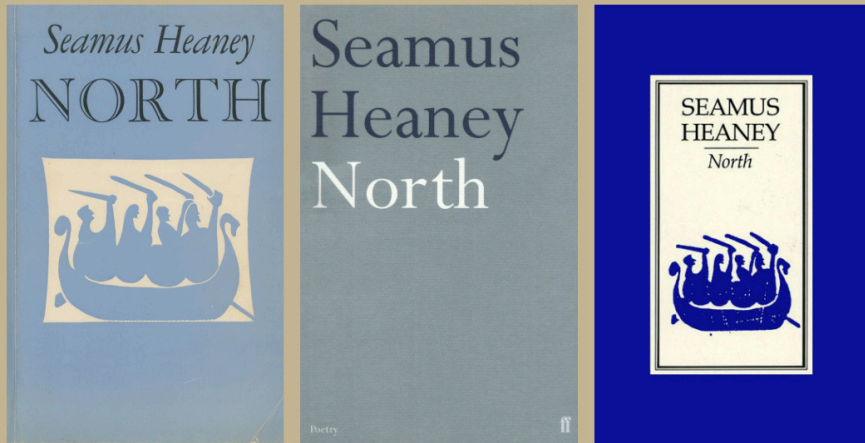
2.00pm

A reforming constitutional lawyer and senator in her early career, Mary Robinson detonated an electoral earthquake by winning the Irish presidential vote in 1990.

Later, as a crusading UN High Commissioner, she built a lasting legacy; fearlessly challenging perpetrators of human rights abuses all over the world. To this day, she exerts power and leadership as the Chair of The Elders; the independent group of global leaders (founded by Nelson Mandela) who work for peace, justice and human rights.

As an influential global voice, Mary Robinson is also spearheading Project Dandelion: a women-led climate justice campaign.

Directed by Aoife Kelleher (*One Million Dubliners*) *Mrs Robinson* allows Mary Robinson, a highly articulate and astute commentator, to tell her story, in her own words, for the first time.



Tickets: £10

North at 50

A series of events to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Seamus Heaney's groundbreaking collection *North*.

2025 marks the 50th anniversary of the publication of Seamus Heaney's fourth collection of poetry, *North*.

It was the first of his works that directly dealt with the Troubles in Northern Ireland, and it looks frequently to the past for images and symbols relevant to the violence and political unrest of that time.

'One of the few unforgettable single volumes published in English since the modernist era' – Helen Vendler

Bog bodies inspire four poems in this volume: 'Bog Queen', 'The Grauballe Man', 'Punishment', and 'Strange Fruit' and in this special weekend of events we will explore Heaney's fascination with 'bog bodies' and discuss and celebrate the discovery of a 'bog body' just outside Bellaghy in early 2024.

Hive Choir presents:

'The Bog!'

**NI
SCIENCE
FESTIVAL**

Thursday 20 February

8.00pm

We are delighted that the HIVE Choir will kick off our special weekend of events with their annual 'HIVEsplaining' concert, where they explain a scientific topic through song.

In previous years, they have 'hivesplained' audiology, ornithology, oceanography, and human growth. This year, fittingly, they take on the bog!

The concert will premiere a slew of new original songs about Irish boglands. Together, we will navigate the morass of historical and mythological interpretations of bogs and peatlands, as well as the latest

scientific findings that reveal the ecological importance of bogs. Featuring a mix of lyrics swamped with archival sources, poetry and other literature, oozing with Irish traditional and improvised melodies, expect slime, slush, sludge, mud, marsh and muck - but not too yuck.

HIVE Choir is an experimental vocal ensemble based at the Sonic Arts Research Centre in Belfast. Under the direction of John D'Arcy, HIVE creates new music from found texts, traditional songs, improvisation, musical games and audio technologies (often inviting the audience to get involved too).



Tickets: £22.50

An Evening with Professor Turi King

**NI
SCIENCE
FESTIVAL**

Friday 21 February

7.30pm

Professor Turi King is a scientist, presenter, speaker and author who is passionate about communicating science to the public.

Turi uses genetics in the fields of forensics, history, genealogy and archaeology, and is known for ‘cracking one of the biggest forensic DNA cases in history’ – the identification of the remains of King Richard III. Her award-winning PhD examined the relationship between the Y chromosome and British surnames, combining forensic DNA techniques with history and genealogy, the first large scale study of its kind.

Named as one of the world’s ‘rockstar genealogists’, her work since has covered not only family history but the use of genetic genealogy in forensics and historical cases. She is currently working on a number of forensic/ancient cold cases including King Richard III, Robert the Bruce and others. She has been conducting genetic genealogical research for over 20 years and is a contributor to the BBC TV show *DNA Family Secrets*.

Turi will talk about her high-profile work, her involvement in past cases in Northern Ireland, the amazing discovery of a ‘bog body’ in Bellaghy and will take audience questions.



Tickets: £5

Digging Into The Bog Archeological Finds and The Work of Seamus Heaney

Saturday 22 February

10.00am – 4.00pm

Following the discovery of the remains of a prehistoric individual in October 2023 in bogland near Bellaghy, National Museums NI (NMNI) were engaged as the organisation responsible for preserving archaeological finds from our past.

Confirmed to have lived during the Iron Age, this represents the first authenticated prehistoric bog preserved human remains found in Northern Ireland. This one-day symposium is a collaboration between NMNI and Seamus Heaney HomePlace which will bring together experts in the field of prehistoric ‘bog bodies’ and the poetry of Seamus Heaney.

This one-day symposium brings together experts in the field of prehistoric bog bodies and the poetry of Seamus Heaney. Speakers will explore Iron Age culture and society on this island and beyond, highlight the importance of bogland in Northern Ireland and its unique preservation qualities for archaeological material culture, and look at the poetry of Heaney inspired by our ancient past. Full details of the day’s schedule will be available for ticket holders early in the new year.



Tickets: £25

North: A Celebration with Paul McGann and Charles Owen

Sunday 23 February

2.00pm

Seamus Heaney HomePlace is delighted to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the publication of *North* in the company of renowned actor Paul McGann alongside one of the UK's finest pianists, Charles Owen.

Paul McGann came to prominence in the television series *The Monocled Mutineer* (1986), before starring in the dark comedy *Withnail and I* (1987), which was a critical success and developed a cult following. McGann later became more widely known for portraying the eighth incarnation of the Doctor in the 1996 television film *Doctor Who*. He has since been seen in *Luther*, *Holby City* and *Ripper Street* and continues to work regularly on stage.

Charles Owen enjoys an extensive international career performing a wide-ranging repertoire to outstanding critical acclaim. He has appeared at many major venues across the world and has recorded piano music by Bach, Poulenc and Faure. Charles is a Professor of Piano at the Guildhall School and we are delighted to welcome him back following his visit with Simon Callow in 2022.

Join Paul and Charles for a magical evening featuring readings of a selection of poems from *North* interspersed with thematic solo piano music.



Tickets: £12

Terra Nova Productions presents:

Romeo! Romeo!

Saturday 1 March

2.00pm

Are you the kind of person who can't resist a peek at the outtakes on a film? Or have you ever wanted to sneak into rehearsal to get a look at what happens? If the answer is yes, then this is night for you!

Join experienced Shakespeare director Andrea Montgomery and two outstanding actors as they share their perspective on *Romeo and Juliet*. You'll enjoy a selection of some of the most romantic scenes in history, and you'll watch them rehearsed in front of your eyes and even get to vote for what happens next.

Perfect for theatre lovers, or for introducing someone to theatre for the first time.

Montgomery is an intercultural director, Artistic Director of Terra Nova Productions, whose giant *Belfast Tempest* was chosen to be part of the global celebration of Shakespeare400 in 2016, and whose *A Midsummer Night's Dream* featured 120 people from across Ards and North Down in 2019.

Workshop

Silver Stacking Rings

With Diane Lyness

Tickets: £70



Saturday 8 March

10.00am – 4.00pm

Following on from her incredibly popular linked bracelet-making workshop last season, silversmith Diane Lyness returns to HomePlace to lead this workshop in silver ring-making.

Each participant will be taught traditional jewellery-making techniques such as piercing, soldering, rolling, annealing and polishing. Diane will guide you as you design and make your own unique piece of silver jewellery to take home.



Tickets: £15

Ursula McHugh in conversation with

Real Women Big Lives



International Women's Day

A Celebration for International Women's Day featuring Sheila Fairon, Dr Anne Tracey, Carol Doey, Liz Weir, Mary McGuiggan and Maura Johnston

Saturday 8 March

2.00pm

Celebrate International Women's Day in style with Ursula McHugh and her host of special guests. 'Real Women Big Lives' is the brainchild of photographer and community activist Sheila Fairon.

Her aim is to raise the profile of women in the arts in the North of Ireland, women whom Sheila describes as brilliant in their own right, but under the radar.

Ursula has been part of the 'Real Women Big Lives' project since its origins. Now she wishes to celebrate and pay homage to these women who have inspired and enhanced her

life as well as her creativity. Now she wishes to pay homage and celebrate these women whom she says have inspired and enhanced her life as well as her creativity! This will be an evening of discussion, music, poetry, storytelling, dance and repartee with musical accompaniment from the talented and versatile pianist, Dee Doherty.

In their own inimitable style these talented women will entertain you as well as giving insights into their own creative lives, what sustains them, what keeps them keeping on, and keeping up with current exciting projects in this fast-changing world.



Tickets: £10

Becoming Marvellous

Written and performed by Cathy Carson

Friday 14 March

7:30pm

Seamus Heaney HomePlace is delighted to welcome Cathy Carson to The Helicon stage with her acclaimed one-woman show *Becoming Marvellous*.

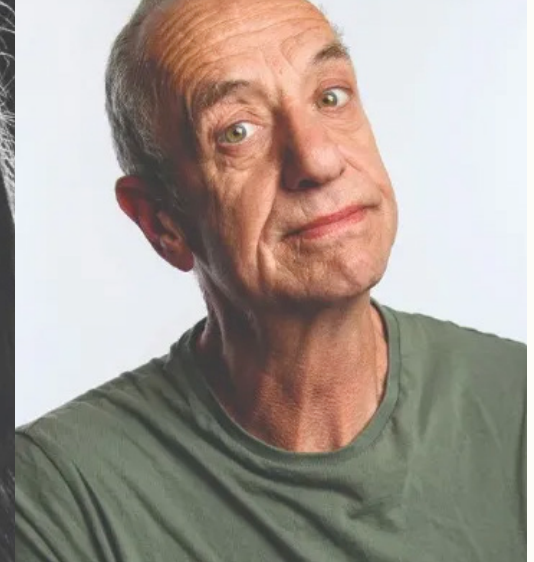
The story begins in Belfast in the 1970s, where life at home is as dangerous for young Danielle as it is on the streets. She feels like she is drowning, but there are lifeboats around her, people who will save her. If only she could trust them enough to take their hands. As performed by Carson, this story of Danielle is full of tears and laughter, of golden moments in a day-long struggle, of rolling with the punches and coming through a winner.

Cathy Carson is a writer and spoken word performer who combines poetry and storytelling to explore human connection and the human condition. She has performed for radio, television, festivals, podcasts and theatre.

In 2022 Cathy was shortlisted for The Saboteur Award for Best Spoken Word Performer and the show won The Saboteur Award for Best Spoken Word Show and has since been published by Flight of the Dragonfly Press.



Tickets: £18



Edge Street Live presents:

Arthur Smith and Clare Ferguson-Walker: Two Poets and A Packet Of Crisps

Thursday 20 March

7:30pm

Two poets from different planets have been crash landing onto stages across the UK and Ireland, making a poetic and comedic show greater than the sum of its parts.

Arthur Smith is a BBC regular, well known for his appearances on TV's *Grumpy Old Men*, *QI*, *Have I Got News For You*, *Radio 4's Loose Ends*, and host of Radio 4 Extra's Comedy Club. He is a 'Spirit of The Fringe' award-winning Edinburgh Festival stalwart and Olivier-nominated playwright for *An Evening With Gary Lineker*.

Clare Ferguson-Walker is an award-winning poet, comedienne, sculptor and singer. Her explosive second collection, *Chrysalis*, lays bare the poet's soul and takes the reader on an intimate journey laced with humour and intelligent humane observation.

Expect poems, puns, laughter and tales from these two brilliant wordsmiths.

Poetry Book Club

With Niamh McNally

Tickets: £5 / £27.50
(including purchase
of both books)



Saturday 22 March

2.00pm – 4.00pm

Are you interested in reading more contemporary Irish poetry but aren't quite sure where to start? Then why not come along to this relaxed session hosted by poet Niamh McNally, who will lead a discussion around two wonderful recent collections from leading poets.

The collections that will be explored are *Devotion* by Belfast-based poet Micheál McCann and *The Solace of Artemis* by Paula Meehan, which won last year's Piggott Prize for Poetry.

Niamh will guide the group through the themes and techniques on display in both collections and will chat about the wider poetry landscape in Ireland.

We will also be selling copies of both collections for participants to purchase in advance of the afternoon.



Tickets: £22.50

Jay Rayner

In conversation with Paula McIntyre

Saturday 22 March

7.30pm

Throughout his 25 years as *The Observer's* restaurant critic, Jay Rayner has been uncovering the very best of the nation's eateries, from the humblest of diners to the grandest of gastro-palaces.

And now, with his first cookbook, *Nights Out at Home*, he's ready to serve up the recipes inspired by the superb dishes that have stolen his heart over the decades.

From a cheat's version of the Ivy's famed crispy duck salad to a DIY Greggs steak bake, he unpicks the tastes and techniques behind the recipes.

Written with warmth, wit and the blessing – and often help – of the chefs themselves, the book is filled with irresistible dishes, seasoned with stories from his life as a restaurant critic.

Join Jay, in conversation with chef, writer and broadcaster Paula McIntyre for a culinary celebration through the stories, not just of the food itself, but of the people, the places and the moments that have shaped his career.



Tickets: £15

Lionel Shriver

In conversation with Carlo Gébler

Thursday 27 March

7.30pm

Lionel Shriver is an award-winning American author and journalist who always has her finger on society's pulse and is never afraid to deal with the big issues of the day through her writing.

Born Margaret Ann, Shriver changed her name to Lionel at the age of 15 and she has lived in Nairobi, Bangkok and Belfast. Her journalistic work includes contributions to the *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Financial Times*, *The New York Times*, *The Economist* and *The Guardian*. Her first novel, *The Female of the Species*, was published in 1987 and it was followed by another six novels before her

rise to the fame with *We Need to Talk About Kevin*, which won the Orange Prize in 2005. It was adapted as a film in 2011, starring Tilda Swinton.

In Shriver's new novel, *Mania*, she turns her piercing gaze on the policing of opinion and intellect and imagines a world in which intellectual meritocracy is heresy. Hilarious, deadpan, scathing and at times frighteningly plausible, *Mania* is a delight for the fans of her fiction and journalism alike.



Tickets: £25

David Hull Promotions presents:

Kieran Goss and Annie Kinsella

Saturday 29 March

7.30pm

Although Kieran Goss has long been considered one of Ireland's leading singer / songwriters, it was the recent collaboration with Annie Kinsella and in particular their joint debut album *Oh, The Starlings* that has led to sold-out shows in some of the most beautiful concert halls around Europe.

The duo are returning home to The Helicon for what promises to be a very special show, presenting many new, and as yet, unreleased songs.

Kieran explains: 'I have always believed that the songwriting process is not complete until the song is played live in front of an audience. So, Annie and I decided that we would love to come home and play in some of our favourite venues where we could present some new songs up close to our audience in an intimate setting. Seamus Heaney HomePlace was at the top of our list! We have played here only once before and it was such a memorable night. We're delighted to have been invited back.'



Tickets: £20

David Nicholls

In conversation with John Self

Thursday 3 April

7.30pm

2024 was the year of David Nicholls, with the smash-hit Netflix adaptation of his bestselling novel *One Day*, the stage adaptation of his novel *Starter For Ten*, and a new novel, *You Are Here*, a love story of first encounters, second chances and finding the way home.

David Nicholls is the bestselling author of *Starter for Ten*, *The Understudy*, *One Day*, *Us* and *Sweet Sorrow*. *One Day* was published in 2009 to extraordinary critical acclaim: translated into 40 languages, it became a global bestseller, selling millions of copies worldwide.

His fourth novel, *Us*, was longlisted for the Booker Prize for Fiction. On screen, David has written adaptations of *Far from the Madding Crowd*, *When Did You Last See Your Father?* and *Great Expectations*, as well as three of his own novels. His adaptation of Edward St Aubyn's *Patrick Melrose*, starring Benedict Cumberbatch, was nominated for an Emmy and won him a BAFTA for best writer. The Netflix adaptation of *One Day* was executive produced by David.

We are delighted to welcome David to The Helicon where he will be in conversation with John Self.

Workshop

Garden Obelisks

With Welig Heritage Crafts

Tickets: £60



Saturday 5 April

11.00am – 4.00pm

Join basket-maker and traditional crafts expert Clive Lytle from Welig Heritage Crafts for this great spring workshop.

All tools and materials will be provided. Places on this course are limited to eight.

Participants will use willow to create their very own traditional garden obelisk, a lovely structure to support climbing flowering plants in the garden, or peas and beans in the allotment.



Tickets: £12



Charlotte Brontë: The Writer and The Life

With Martina Devlin and Claire Harman, featuring readings by Ruby Campbell

Sunday 6 April

2.00pm

Charlotte Brontë, who dazzled the world with some of literature's most vital and richly drawn characters, fell in love with Arthur Bell, a reserved yet passionate Irishman.

After marrying, the pair honeymooned in Ireland – but their joy was destined to be short-lived, as Brontë died just nine months into their marriage. Her genius, and the aura of mystery surrounding her, meant she was mythologised even within her own lifetime – a process which only intensified after her death.

Martina Devlin's enthralling new novel *Charlotte* is a fictionalised account of Charlotte's life, reflecting on the myths built around her by those who knew her, those who thought they knew her, and those who longed to know her. Martina will be joined by Claire Harman, an award-winning writer and critic and author of five major literary biographies, including one on Charlotte Brontë.

To round off the afternoon, acclaimed performer Ruby Campbell will read extracts from some of Charlotte's most famous works.



Tickets: £32.50

David Hull Promotions presents:

Barbara Dickson With Nick Holland and Special Guest Anthony Toner

Saturday 12 April

7.30pm

In this special acoustic performance Barbara Dickson and her pianist Nick Holland explore her catalogue of songs at an intimate level.

The pair let the words and melodies take centre stage as they perform a wonderful range of material drawing on Barbara's folk roots, contemporary greats, and some of her classic hits. Emerging from the Scottish folk scene of the late 1960's Barbara had enjoyed mainstream chart success with hits including 'Answer Me', 'Another Suitcase in Another Hall', 'Caravan' and the million-selling number one single, 'I Know Him So Well'.

As Scotland's best-selling female album artist, she has earned 6 platinum, 11 gold and 7 silver albums and cemented her status as one of the UK's best-loved performers.

Barbara and Nick Holland work as a 'duo' where she plays guitar and piano, and Nick plays keyboards – adding harmonies to Barbara's own wonderful vocals. Special guest will be Anthony Toner, an artist acclaimed as much for his insightful and poetic lyrics as for his mastery of fingerstyle guitar and engaging onstage patter.



Tickets: £10

‘Between The Painted Poles: In Step With What Escaped Me’

Seamus Heaney and Visual Art: A Lecture with John Brown

Sunday 13 April

2.00pm

John Brown is a poet, visual artist and editor from Northern Ireland whose book *WB Yeats, Samuel Beckett, Fine Art* (published by Fenderesky Gallery) explores how and why art inspires writers and looks at the connections between these two art forms.

John worked as Literary Arts Officer for ACNI and organised the Belfast Literary Festival *Between the Lines*. He has published several poetry collections including *As the Crow Flies* (Lagan Press) collaborated on several books with visual artists such as *After Alexandria* (poems/collages), *Islands* (a response to 28 artworks from Ireland,

Europe and the USA), *Snow* and *The Istanbul Alphabet* (featuring James Hughes’ photographs).

Join John for this fascinating exploration of how and why Seamus Heaney used visual art – paintings, sculptures and photographs – in poems and texts to frame what he felt and thought about the world. Brown compares how Heaney used visual art in comparison to other Irish writers. He asks how and why Heaney used art to frame what he thought about landscapes, people, still life, poetry, politics and religion.



Tickets: £17.50

Briana Corrigan In Concert

Friday 25 April

7.30pm

With a voice that ‘could melt icebergs at 50 paces’ (VOX), Briana Corrigan of The Beautiful South is returning to The Helicon stage following her fantastic sell-out show last year.

Belfast-born Corrigan is best known for delivering The Beautiful South’s most successful single, the chart topping, Brit award-winning ‘A Little Time’ where her unique vocal and Heaton’s brilliantly acerbic lyrics and catchy melody combined to create an unforgettable anthem to broken love.

As a songwriter in her own right, Corrigan has released two critically acclaimed solo albums, enjoying accolades from the likes of *Q Magazine*, *Melody Maker* and *Hot Press*.

This is a rare opportunity to hear Corrigan’s beautiful vocals up close and personal as she entertains with an evening of story and song. Expect The Beautiful South classics, nestled among her own perfectly crafted songs and some unique takes on traditional favourites all combining to pack an intimate, heart-warming, emotional and joyous punch of connection.

Workshop

Writing The World As You Know It

With Malachi O'Doherty

Tickets: £40



Saturday 26 April

11.00am – 4.00pm

Malachi O'Doherty hosts a workshop on writing nonfiction. Your resources will be your memory, your curiosity and your camera phone.

You will be given exercises in how to write stories from your life and the lives of others, through reflection on your own experience and interviewing others. This workshop will also look at how to gather detail for your story through photographic note taking and how to read a picture for the fine detail that lifts descriptive writing.

Malachi O'Doherty is the author of 12 published books, most of them non-fiction and memoir led. He writes weekly columns for *The Belfast Telegraph* and *The Irish Post*.



Tickets: £5

The HomePlace Book Club

With Carol O'Doherty and Patricia Broderick

Sunday 2 February & Sunday 6 April

3.00pm – 4.30pm

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 every other month, 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 Winter / Spring season are below.

Sunday 2 February

Apeirogon by Colum McCann

Sunday 6 April

The Seventh Son by Sebastian Faulks

Please Note: Places are limited so early booking is essential.



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.



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.

Discover how each of these places, so much a part of Seamus Heaney's formative years, influenced the rich legacy of his literature. In each location, interpretation panels tell you about the places you're visiting.

Enhance your Experience

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 other authors the poet himself enjoyed reading.

The Library also boasts a brand-new 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.



Educating & 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, examining 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 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 sarah.cullen@midulstercouncil.org





Seamus Heaney

HomePlace

Life, Literature & Inspiration

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