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Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme



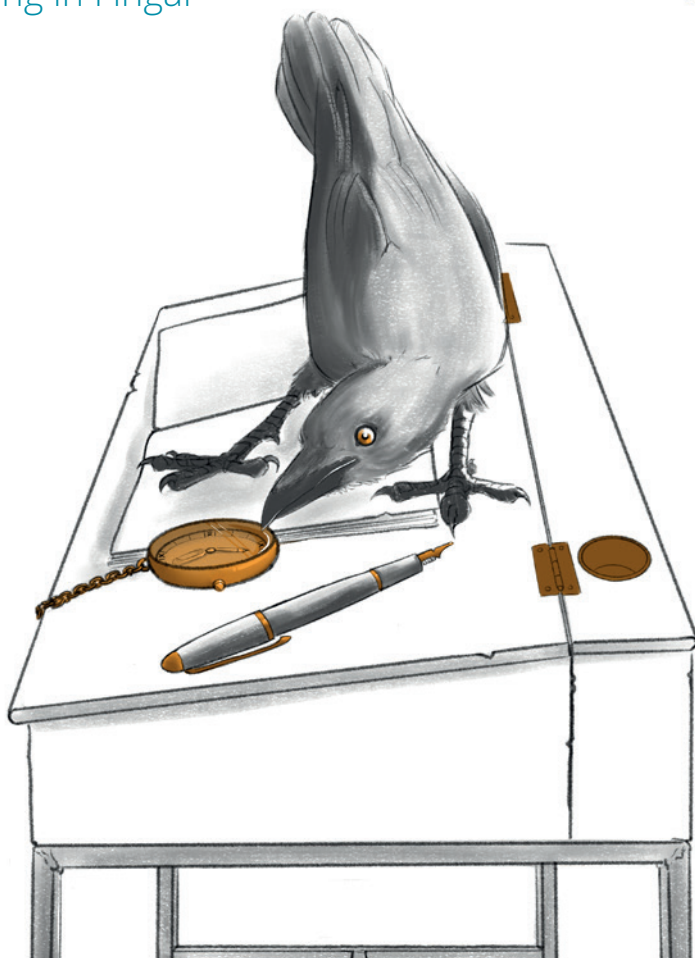
6^ú-16^ú Samhain
6th-16th November

Am Scríbhneoireachta

Ceiliúradh ar Chruthaitheacht
& Scríbhneoireacht i bhFine Gall

The Write Time

A Celebration of Creativity
& Writing in Fingal



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Why is a raven like a writing desk?

When Lewis Carroll first posed this question in Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, he had no answer in mind. It was a nonsense riddle, consistent with Wonderland's loose relationship with reality. Since then, answers have been suggested. Carroll himself stated that "it can produce a few notes, tho they are very flat; and it is nevar put with the wrong end in front" - "nevar" being "raven" backwards. Other suggestions are that "Edgar Allan Poe wrote on both" or "both have quills dipped in ink". We propose another interpretation, as the raven is the symbol of Fingal County Council. Why is a raven like a writing desk? They both support writers.

Welcome to the Write Time Festival, Fingal Libraries' annual celebration of creative writing and literature. This is the 10th year of the festival and once again we will be running a library programme in our branches as well as a showcase in the Carnegie Free Library.

The showcase will take place on Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th November. This weekend will feature conversations with luminaries such as Kevin Barry, Joseph O'Connor, Cecelia Ahern, Lisa McNerney and many more.

In the lead-up to the showcase, we will be holding literary events and expert-led workshops in our library branches. Attendees will learn about the writing process, improving their craft, and how to make a living in the industry. Whether you're a reader or a writer, a poet or a playwright, a novice or a wordsmith, there's something for all book lovers at the Write Time festival.

Fingal Libraries would like to extend our thanks to author Kevin Curran for his hard work in curating the Carnegie programme. We would also like to thank library staff member Freddie Barnes for the beautiful cover illustration and festival logo.

The Write Time Events at a Glance

Write Time in Libraries

EVENT	LOCATION	START TIME
THURSDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER		
Gill Perdue in Conversation	Balbriggan Library	7:00pm
SATURDAY, 8TH NOVEMBER		
Stories for Seasons	Baldoyle Library	10:00am
Rhythms of the Future	Malahide Library	2:00pm
MONDAY, 10TH NOVEMBER		
Making a Story with Metaphors	Rush Library	10:30am
Making a Living as a Writer	Blanchardstown Library	6:00pm
THURSDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER		
Making Poetry with Archives	Swords Library	6:00pm

Write Time in the Carnegie

EVENT	LOCATION	START TIME
SATURDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER		
Roisín O'Donnell in Conversation	Carnegie Free Library, Swords	12:30pm
Joseph O'Connor in Conversation		13.45pm
Wendy Erskine in Conversation		15.00pm
Kevin Barry in Conversation		16.15pm
Colin Barrett in Conversation		17.30pm
SUNDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER		
Debut Writers in Conversation	Carnegie Free Library, Swords	12:30pm
The Art of Editing		13.45pm
Emmet Kirwan in Conversation		15.00pm
Fiona Scarlett in Conversation		16.15pm
Cecelia Ahern in Conversation		17.30pm

Gill Perdue in Conversation

Crime writer Gill Perdue, bestselling author of the *Shaw & Carmody* series, will be in conversation in Balbriggan Library with award-winning author Sam Blake. The series concerns two Garda detectives who are also Specialist Victim Interviewers. The job of the SVI is to prepare video statements for vulnerable witnesses, thereby saving them the trauma of testifying in court. Gill's latest book, *The Night I Killed Him*, has gained great reviews and praise from audiences and authors alike. Join us for a fascinating chat about Gill's work between two hugely successful purveyors of Irish Crime.



To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event.

Balbriggan Library

Thursday, 6th November

7:00pm - 8:00pm

Rhythms of the Future: A Poetry Workshop

with Máighréad Medbh

Rhythm is one of the traditional concerns of poetry. It communicates movement, mode and mood. But traditional metres may not match contemporary experience, and almost certainly do not if we want to imagine the future. This workshop explores how we might rethink rhythm in order to represent the sounds and movements of Now while imagining those that are to come. While the Future might suggest a distant time, it can also be taken to mean the next step, and is really only a moment away . . . Join us for a short introduction to rhythm, accompanied by group discussion, after which participants will be asked to write their own poems based on prompts. The workshop will finish with sharing of work and feedback.



To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event.

Malahide Library

Saturday, 8th November

2:00pm - 4:00pm



Stories for Seasons

with Anne McDonald



Does a particular time of the year inspire you to think about writing?

Have you precious memories of Summer, Autumn, Spring or Winter?

Would you like to connect or reconnect with the joy of creating writing?

Anne McDonald will facilitate a creative writing workshop inspired by the four seasons. Using colour, foliage, landscape and weather, we will explore how we are affected by the seasons and the changes they bring, traditions and customs associated with each season and how we can capture these in poems and stories. The Session is suitable for all levels and is interactive and designed to inspire you to record, remember and most of all, write!

To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event.

Baldoyle Library

Saturday, 8th November

10:00am - 12:00pm

Making a Story with Metaphors

with Anne McDonald

Are you up to your oxters with writing ideas? Are stories and poems music to your ears? Have you been wanting to write for donkey's years? Have you more ideas than you could shake a stick at, but no idea how or where to start??

If you are a night owl, a couch potato, or an eager beaver about writing, join us for a fun-filled workshop using everyday metaphors to find your own voice and craft your own stories or poems. Whether you have a great idea, then it all goes pear-shaped, or wear your heart on your sleeve and want to record memories, ideas, experiences or stories you heard as a child, or on the bus, or in the queue at Tesco's, this workshop will help you begin, edit and craft a piece of writing you will be pleased as punch with! There will be no nitpicking or splitting hairs, just an interactive session(s) to help you get started, keep going and get you over the line with a finished piece of writing.

To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event.

Rush Library

Monday, 10th November

10:30am - 12:30pm



Making a Living as a Writer

Author and illustrator Shane Hegarty will chair this panel of writers discussing what everyone in the arts wants to know, but nobody wants to ask about - getting paid. Panelists from different backgrounds and genres will talk about fair pay, supplementary work and how much of a writing career is actually spent writing. Best-selling author Sam Blake, AKA Vanessa Fox O'Loughlin, is a multi-hyphenate champion of Irish literature and Irish writing careers, founder of The Inkwell Group and Writing.ie. Claire Hennessy is an author, creative writing mentor and YA literature contributor for the Irish Times. Alan Nolan is a children's books writer, illustrator and workshop facilitator. These experienced panelists will offer insights into the business side of a writing career, not to be missed by those interested in writing as a job.



To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event.

Blanchardstown Library

Monday, 10th November

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Making Poetry with Archives: A Talk + Workshop with Christodoulos Makris

How can historical or contemporary documents be used directly, without authorial 'voiceover', to make vibrant, innovative poetry? Join Christodoulos Makris for a talk on the making of his most recent book, *It Reeks of Radio* - one of The Stinging Fly's Irish Poetry books of 2023 - composed entirely with fragments taken from the RTÉ Radio repositories held in UCD Archives, and other documentary poetry work. Participants will then be led to make their own poetry using public or private documents and other pre-existing material. Suitable for all levels of experience, or no experience at all.

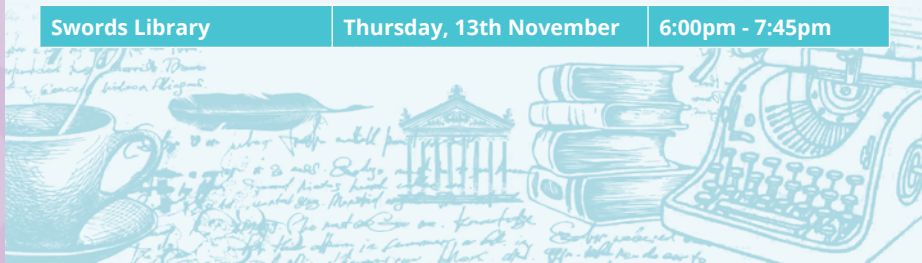


To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event.

Swords Library

Thursday, 13th November

6:00pm - 7:45pm



The Write Time in the Carnegie



North Street, Swords

Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th November

Join us for a showcase of Write Time events over the weekend of Saturday, 15th and Sunday, 16th November in the Carnegie Free Library, North Street, Swords.

**Please book your place for
The Write Time in the Carnegie events via the Fingal
Libraries Eventbrite page. Follow the link.**

<https://eventbrite.ie/o/fingal-county-libraries-19927793883> or follow the QR code.



Saturday 15th November

12.30pm - 13.30pm

Roisín O'Donnell in Conversation

Roisín O'Donnell's debut novel, *Nesting*, has been an instant bestseller and was longlisted for The Women's Prize. It tells the story of Ciara Fay, who finds the courage to leave her husband with her two children in tow, and finds herself at the mercy of Ireland's broken housing system. Roisín will be in conversation with arts and culture journalist and broadcaster Aoife Barry.



Saturday 15th November

13.45pm - 14.45pm

Joseph O'Connor in Conversation

Multi-award-winning author Joseph O'Connor will be in conversation with author and festival curator Kevin Curran. Known for his masterpieces of historical fiction such as the international bestseller, *The Star of the Sea*, he is also a playwright, broadcaster and journalist. Joseph and Kevin will discuss his varied and successful career, including his latest novel, *The Ghosts of Rome*, a historical thriller set in Nazi-occupied Italy.



Saturday 15th November

15.00pm - 16.00pm

Wendy Erskine in Conversation

Wendy Erskine's debut novel, *The Benefactors*, was published this year to vast acclaim. Set in Belfast, this book explores class, wealth and parenthood through a number of different voices. After joining us at last year's festival to talk about her short story collections, Wendy returns this year to discuss *The Benefactors* with Olivia Fitzsimons, author, facilitator and contributing editor of *The Stinging Fly*.



Saturday 15th November

16.15pm - 17.15pm

Kevin Barry in Conversation

Kevin Barry is one of Ireland's most lauded writers, known for his brilliant, incisive work as a novelist, journalist, playwright and screenwriter. He has also established himself as a favourite of literary festivals due to his humour and charm. Kevin will sit down with author and festival curator Kevin Curran to discuss his award-winning body of work, including his most recent novel, *The Heart in Winter*, and play *The Cave*, which recently ran in The Abbey.



Saturday 15th November

17.30pm - 18.30pm

Colin Barrett in Conversation

A story of two outsiders striving to find themselves as their worlds collapse in chaos and violence, Colin Barrett's debut novel, *Wild Houses*, was longlisted for the Booker Prize in 2024. Colin is also the author of two short story collections, and his work has appeared in publications such as *The Stinging Fly* and *The New Yorker*. He will discuss his work, including *Wild Houses*, with writer, critic and editor Niall McMonagle.



Sunday 16th November

12.30pm - 13.30pm

Debut Writers in Conversation

Broadcaster and writer Zainab Boladale's debut novel, *Braids Take a Day*, was nominated for the Teen and Young Adult Book of the Year award at the 2024 An Post Book Awards. Seán Farrell is the submissions editor at Lilliput Press as well as working as a freelance editor. His debut novel, *Frogs for Watchdogs*, was released this year to great acclaim. The two will discuss the challenges and triumphs of releasing a debut with writer and facilitator Seán Farrell.



Sunday 16th November

13.45pm - 14.45pm

The Art of Editing

Lisa McInerney is the author of three books, including *The Glorious Heresies*, winner of the Women's Prize for Fiction in 2016. She is also the editor of *The Stinging Fly*, one of Ireland's most prestigious literary journals. Seán Farrell is the submissions editor at Lilliput Press and also works as a freelance editor. His debut novel, *Frogs for Watchdogs*, was released this year. They will be led in conversation about the art of editing by writer and academic Belinda McKeon. This is sure to be an insightful discussion of what happens between writing a book and seeing it on shelves.



Sunday 16th November

15.00pm - 16.00pm

Emmett Kirwan in Conversation

Emmett Kirwan is an actor, playwright and theatre maker with over 20 years' experience as a performer in British and Irish theatre. He is also an award-winning playwright and scriptwriter. His play *Dublin Old School* was turned into a feature film in 2018 that he wrote and starred in. Emmett will sit down with author and festival curator Kevin Curran to discuss his career in writing and performing, including his most recent work, *Accents*.



Sunday 16th November

16.15pm - 17.15pm

Fiona Scarlett in Conversation

Fiona Scarlett's debut novel, *Boys Don't Cry*, was an instant Irish Times bestseller and she was recently named as one of the An Post Irish Book Awards "New Voices 20 Best New Irish Writers". She will be in conversation with author and editor Olivia Fitzsimons, discussing her latest novel, *May All Your Skies Be Blue*, a heartbreaking story of young love and missed chances. In alternating timelines, it tells the story of childhood sweethearts Shauna and Dean, growing up in the Dublin suburbs.



Sunday 16th November

17.30pm - 18.30pm

Cecelia Ahern in Conversation

Cecelia Ahern has been a star of Irish literature since her sensational debut, *P.S. I Love You*, written when she was only 21 years old. She has published 21 novels, including her most recent, *Paper Heart*, a romance set in rural Ireland. It is the story of Pip, who keeps herself deliberately tucked away in her own small world. When she meets an astronomer, he encourages her to see a bigger world with more possibilities than she imagined. Cecelia will be in conversation with award-winning author and curator Henrietta McKervey.



About the Authors

Cecelia Ahern wrote her debut novel *PS I Love You* at the age of 21 years old, which was published in 2004. It became one of the biggest selling novels of recent years and was made into a hit film starring Hilary Swank, as was her second novel *Love, Rosie* starring Lily Collins. She is published around the world in 47 countries, in over 30 languages and has sold 25 million copies of her novels. She has published 21 novels, including two Young Adult novels and the highly acclaimed collection of stories, *Roar*, which is streaming now on Apple TV+ starring Nicole Kidman. Her most recent novel is *Paper Heart*.



Colin Barrett is the author of the short story collections *Young Skins* and *Homesickness*. His debut novel, *Wild Houses*, was longlisted for the 2024 Booker Prize, and won the 2024 Nero Debut Fiction Prize. His short stories have regularly appeared in *The Stinging Fly* magazine, *Granta*, *Harpers* and *The New Yorker*.



Aoife Barry is a freelance arts journalist, Sunday Times arts columnist and the co-presenter of Irish arts and culture podcast *Get Around To It*. She's the author of the bestselling non-fiction book *Social Capital* (HarperCollins Ireland) and has had bylines across publications including the Irish Times, the Irish Independent, *Tatler*, *The Journal* and *Irish Examiner*. She features regularly on RTÉ Radio One and Today FM and her essays and fiction have been published by *ROPES* journal and *Banshee*, and broadcast on Sunday Miscellany.



Kevin Barry is the author of four novels, most recently *The Heart in Winter*, and three story collections, most recently, *That Old Country Music*. He also works as a screenwriter and playwright. His most recent play credit is *The Cave* which played at the Abbey Theatre and Galway International Arts Festival in summer 2025. His stories and essays regularly appear in the *New Yorker*, *Harpers*, *Granta* and elsewhere. His work has been translated into more than thirty languages. He is a member of Aosdána. Originally from Limerick city, he lives in Co. Sligo.



About the Authors

Sam Blake is an award winning multiple No. 1 bestselling crime writer, whose latest book *The Killing Sense* is out now. Sam has been shortlisted for the Irish Crime Novel of the Year on numerous occasions and her second YA novel *Something's About to Blow Up* won the International Education Services Teen/YA Novel of the Year in 2024. Sam Blake is the pen name of Vanessa Fox O'Loughlin who is the founder of Writing.ie, the Inkwell Group Publishing Consultancy, and the powerhouse behind the Writers Ink online coaching and mentoring community. She has been instrumental in launching the careers of hundreds of writers in Ireland and abroad. Vanessa/Sam is the current chair of the board of the Society of Authors, the largest UK Union for writers that focuses on the business of authorship and assisting writers in their professional careers.



Zainab Boladale is a journalist, TV presenter and public speaker. She was born in Nigeria and raised in Ireland. In 2017, she made her TV debut on RTÉ's children's programme, news2day, as the first Afro-Irish woman on Irish TV news. On news2day, she presented stories from around the world to the young people of Ireland. Zainab now travels around the country as a presenter and reporter for Ireland's long-running factual feature programme, Nationwide. Zainab has also written and directed a first short film, *Worthy*, which debuted on the film festival circuit in 2023.



Kevin Curran's third novel, *Youth*, was published to critical acclaim by The Lilliput Press in 2023. It was an Irish Times, Sunday Independent & RTE Culture Best Book of 2023. It was also a Colm Toibin's Laureate for Fiction's Book Club choice for 2024. The paperback edition was published February 2025. He has published two other novels, *Beatsploitation* (2013) and *Citizens* (2016). As well as writing non-fiction for the Guardian and the Observer, he has also published short stories, most notably in The Stinging Fly Best of 20 years anthology and the *One Dublin, One Book* Best of 21st century Dublin writing anthology. For over fifteen years he has been teaching in his home town in Balbriggan, Co Dublin.



About the Authors

Wendy Erskine's debut novel *The Benefactors* is published by Sceptre and her two short story collections, *Sweet Home* and *Dance Move*, are published by The Stinging Fly Press and Picador. She was chosen by the Observer as a Best Debut Novelist of 2025 and has been listed for the Gordon Burn Prize, the Republic of Consciousness Prize, the Sunday Times Audible Short Story Award and the Edge Hill Prize. She was awarded the Butler Prize for Literature and the Edge Hill Readers' Prize. *Dance Move* was a BBC Radio 4 Book at Bedtime. Her writing on arts of all kinds, from sculpture to body-building, has been published in the Guardian and the Quietus among others, and for PVA Books she edited well I just kind of like it, an anthology about art in the home and the home as art. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, she is a frequent broadcaster, interviewer and willing collaborator on all manner of projects. She is also a secondary school teacher in Belfast.



Seán Farrell was born and brought up in the Irish midlands. He spent fifteen years in France, and now lives in Sligo with his wife, the writer Elske Rahill, and their four children. *Frogs for Watchdogs*, his debut novel, was published by New Island in February this year and is being re-released by John Murray in spring 2026.



Seán Farrelly is a writer based in Dublin. He has had four plays produced and two short stories published in the Irish Times as part of a young writers' supplement. He has worked as a writing mentor and workshop facilitator for young people since 2018. His first book *Tom Burne Has Left the Chat* will be published by Faber May 2026.



About the Authors

Olivia Fitzsimons' debut novel, *The Quiet Whispers Never Stop*, was shortlisted for the Kate O'Brien and Butler Literary Awards and named as one of the Irish Examiner Books of the Year for 2022. She is a contributing editor with The Stinging Fly and commissions/edits the This So-Called Writing Life essay series. Her writing has been awarded Literature Bursaries from the Arts Council of Ireland and Northern Ireland, as well as residencies from Centre Culturel Irlandais Paris and The Dean Art Studios. She has given workshops and masterclasses at universities and festivals across Ireland, and her fiction and essays have appeared in numerous publications, including The Stinging Fly, The Irish Times, Banshee, and broadcast on RTE and BBC Radio 4. She is adapting Donal Ryan's novel, *All We Shall Know*, for the screen and working on her second novel and a short story collection. Olivia is passionate about access to the arts, with a focus on pay and conditions for working-class and diverse writers.



Shane Hegarty is a Skerries-based author of books for children, Series such as *Boot* and *Darkmouth* have been translated into 20 languages and his books has been shortlisted for the Irish Book Awards, Waterstones Children's Book Prize and, most recently, the Laugh Out Loud Awards. He is also the Creative Director of the *Magic of Stories*, *Fingal's Festival of Children's Literature* held in Swords Castle each year.



Claire Hennessy is the author of several YA novels and a short story collection for adults, *In The Movie Of Her Life* (Doire Press, 2025). She reviews YA fiction for the Irish Times and facilitates creative writing workshops for a variety of audiences in Dublin and online. She has worked in publishing, arts administration, and education.



About the Authors

Emmet Kirwan is a playwright, actor and theatre maker from Tallaght in Dublin. He studied at the Samuel Beckett Centre Trinity College Dublin. For over 20 years Emmet has worked in Irish and British Theatre, performing on many stages including Project Arts, The Abbey, The Gate, Donmar warehouse, The National Theatre and The Soho, as well as working with leading Irish theatre companies such as Landmark, Rough Magic, Fishamble, This is Pop Baby, Guna Nua, Pan Pan, Corn Exchange and Barabas. His most recent work as a writer and performer is *Accents*. A spoken word verse play in a musical collaboration with Eoin French and directed by Claire O'Reilly. *Emmet's play Dublin Oldschool* directed by Phillip McMahon won the Stewart Parker award for playwriting it has toured internationally and transferred to The Dorfman in The National Theatre for a sell out run. It was adapted into a feature film with Element pictures. Emmet's poem *Heartbreak* from *This is Pop Baby's* show *RIOT* was adapted into a short film that won an Irish Film and Television Award for Best Short Film. He is also known for writing and starring in the RTE 2 comedy series *Sarah and Steve* for Accomplix television.



Niall MacMonagle, writer and critic, has edited several anthologies including the *Lifelines* series, the *Poetry Now* Textbooks, *TEXT A Transition Year English Reader*, *Windharp Poems of Ireland since 1916* and *Paul Durcan 80 at 80*. He writes a weekly art column for the Sunday Independent and in 2017 was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by UCD for services to literature.



Christodoulos Makris has published five books of poetry, as well as several limited edition pamphlets, artists' books, digital projects, audiovisual works and other poetry objects. His work has appeared in *Granta*, *The Stinging Fly*, *The Guardian*, *The Irish Times*, *Poetry Ireland Review*, and elsewhere. He was Writer in Residence at Maynooth University in 2018-19, with some other recent awards including a Curatorial Commission from Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI) in 2024; an Artist Residency at Irish Arts Center, New York, in 2024-25; and a Public Poetry Commission from Cúirt International Festival of Literature, Galway, in 2025. He has given numerous talks, lectures and workshops, most recently at Seamus Heaney Centre, Belfast; New York University (NYU); The University of Stuttgart; and for Poetry Ireland's 'Insights' Masterclass Series.



About the Authors

Anne McDonald is an award-winning poet, playwright and artist. She has recently won the 12th Annual Bangor Poetry Competition (2025) and the Keshkerrigan Short Story competition (2025). Her first play *“Crystal Belles in Bettystown”* has been read in her hometown of Bettystown, Co. Meath, and in Dublin City, directed by Claire Galligan. Her poetry collection *“Crow’s Books”* was published in 2020. She has had many short stories and poems published widely in print and online journals, and her work has been reviewed and broadcast on RTE Radio. She is a creative writing facilitator working with adults and is a firm believer in the power of creativity to heal, inspire and connect people. Anne was awarded the Cill Rialag Writing Residency and the John Hewitt Summer School Residency, and her work is supported by the Meath Arts Office.



Lisa McInerney is the author of three novels: *The Glorious Heresies*, *The Blood Miracles* and *The Rules of Revelation*. She has won the Women’s Prize for Fiction, the Desmond Elliott Prize, the RSL Encore Award and the Premio Edoardo Kihlgren for European literature. She is published in 12 languages. In 2022, she was appointed editor of *The Stinging Fly*.



Henrietta McKervey’s fifth novel *The Woman in the Water*, inspired by a ‘lost’ character in Daphne du Maurier’s suspense classic *Rebecca*, will be published in spring 2026. She has a Hennessy First Fiction Award and won the inaugural Maeve Binchy Travel Award while studying for an MFA in Creative Writing at UCD. Her Travel Award project, an exploration of the 31 sea areas of the Shipping Forecast, featured on RTÉ and BBC. She curates the ECHOES Maeve Binchy literary festival, programmed International Literature Festival Dublin 2025, and contributes on arts, culture and entertainment to the Irish Times, Irish Independent and the Brendan O’Connor show on RTÉ Radio 1.



About the Authors

Máighréad Medbh is a poet, essayist and performer with nine published books and another two forthcoming from Arlen House and Macha Press. She is interested in the rhythms of experience and in long-form, exploratory works. Her verse fantasy, *Parvit of Agelast*, was shortlisted for the 2017 Pigott Prize. Dedalus Press published her prose work, *Savage Solitude*, in 2013. Máighréad has been published in many Irish and international journals and anthologies, most recently *The Hong Kong Review*, and holds a PhD in creative writing from DCU. She was 2025 recipient of the Aodh Rua Ó Domhnaill Poetry Exchange residency in Galicia.



Alan Nolan is the author and illustrator of *Fintan's Fifteen*, *Conor's Caveman* and the *Sam Hannigan* series, and he is the illustrator of the popular *Gordon's Game* books written by Gordon D'Arcy and Paul Howard, as well as *Animal Crackers* by Sarah Webb. He is the recipient of the Children's Books Ireland 2024 Award for Outstanding Contribution to Children's Books. His book *Molly Malone & Bram Stoker* in the Riddle of the Disappearing Dickens was shortlisted for An Post Children's Book of the Year 2024 (Senior), and his new book, *The Grand Central Cinema Club*, is out now. Alan runs illustration and writing workshops for children, and you may see him lugging his drawing board and pencils around various schools and libraries.



Joseph O'Connor's 22 books include the million-selling *Star of the Sea*, *Ghost Light*, *Shadowplay* (Costa Award shortlist), *My Father's House* and *The Ghosts of Rome*. His work has been translated into 40 languages and has won many awards including the Prix Madeleine Zepter for European Novel of the Year, an American Library Association Gold Medal, Italy's Premio Acerbi, France's Prix Millepages, and the Irish PEN Award for outstanding achievement in literature. He is Chair of Creative Writing at the University of Limerick.



Roisín O'Donnell is an award-winning Irish writer. Her short story collection *Wild Quiet* was shortlisted for the Kate O'Brien Award and longlisted for the Edge Hill Prize, and she won the An Post Irish Book Award for Short Story of the Year in 2018. Her first novel *Nesting* was published in January 2025; it became an instant Sunday Times Bestseller and was long listed for the Women's Prize for Fiction. Roisín was listed as one of the Observer's Ten Best New Novelists of 2025. Donal Ryan described *Nesting* as 'one of the best and most important novels of our time,' while the Irish Independent declared it 'A novel that truly matters.'



About the Authors

Belinda McKeon is the author of the novels *Solace* (Picador, 2011) and *Tender* (Picador, 2015). She is the director of the MA in Creative Writing at Maynooth University.



Gill Perdue is the author of bestselling crime novel *If I Tell* which was nominated for Crime Novel of the Year in the An Post Book Awards 2022. *If I Tell* is the first in the Shaw and Darmody series of crime thrillers published by Penguin, set in the fictional Dublin suburb of Clonchapel. A second Shaw and Darmody, *When They See Me*, was published in 2023 to excellent reviews – described as ‘a thrilling read,’ (The Independent) and ‘an impressive follow up.’ (Belfast Telegraph.) It was published in paperback in May 2025. In July 2025 her hotly-anticipated third novel, *The Night I Killed Him*, a cold-case murder set in Corrig Point, an exclusive South Dublin yacht club, launched in Dun Laoghaire – where else? This book received rave reviews – with Marian Keys declaring it: ‘Utterly magnificent!’ *The Night I Killed Him* went straight into the bestseller lists and gained excellent reviews. Her first standalone thriller will appear in 2026.



Fiona Scarlett is from Dublin but now living in Co. Kildare, with her husband and two children. Her debut novel *Boys Don't Cry* was published by Faber & Faber in April 2021 and was an instant Irish Times Bestseller. It was shortlisted for Newcomer of the Year in the Irish Book Awards, and the Kate O'Brien first novel award. She was recently named as one of An Post Irish Book Awards 'New Voices 20 Best New Irish Writers' and her second novel *May All Your Skies Be Blue* was published in February of this year. She is currently adapting *Boys Don't Cry* for screen as well as working on her third novel.





Swords

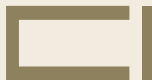
Carnegie Free Library

Andrew Carnegie, a Scottish philanthropist, provided funding between 1897 and 1913 to pay for the building of about 80 libraries in Ireland. Swords Carnegie Library on North Street is one of the remaining 62 which have survived.

Built in 1908 for Balrothery Rural District Council, it was designed by architect Andrew Scott. The Carnegie Library continued to provide a library service to the people of Swords until a new, larger library was opened at Rathbeale Shopping Centre in early 1983. In 2023 the library underwent extensive renovation, transforming it into a beautiful new Fingal venue aimed at fostering creativity in the community and laying foundations for cultural programming in the Swords Cultural Quarter and the new County Library and Arts Centre, Culture House.



Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme



Creative Ireland in Fingal Libraries

The Creative Ireland Programme is supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media. Its ambition is to inspire and transform people, places, and communities through creativity. Creative Ireland is committed to the vision that every person in Ireland should have the opportunity to realise their full creative potential. Fingal Libraries play a key role in delivering the Creative Ireland programme within our library network through free, local, and interactive events, projects and showcases.

To learn more about the Creative Ireland Fingal Programme please visit www.fingal.ie/creative-ireland.



Cá bhfuil mo leabharlann is cóngaraí?

Where is my nearest library?

Balbriggan	01 870 4401	balbrigganlibrary@fingal.ie
Baldoye	01 890 6793	baldoylelibrary@fingal.ie
Blanchardstown	01 890 5560	blanchlibrary@fingal.ie
Donabate	01 890 5609	donabate.library@fingal.ie
Garristown	01 835 5020	garristownlibrary@fingal.ie
Howth	01 890 5026	howth.library@fingal.ie
Malahide	01 870 4430	malahidelibrary@fingal.ie
Rush	01 870 8414	rushlibrary@fingal.ie
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Swords	01 890 5582	swordslibrary@fingal.ie
Mobile Library Service	01 890 6719	mobile.libraries@fingal.ie
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