

ennis bookclub

6th-8th
March 2015 FESTIVAL

*"good friends, good books and a sleepy conscience
- this is the ideal life"*
Mark Twain

www.ennisbookclubfestival.com

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WELCOME FROM CHAIRPERSON



A warm welcome to all readers and their friends to Ennis on the first weekend in March 2015. If you've been here at the Book Club Festival during the last eight years — you will be anticipating stimulating readings, thought-provoking conversations, lively chats, meeting old and new friends, and much more — you will not be disappointed.

We've a great line-up of old favourites and new rising stars to whet your reading appetite. If this is your first festival, you've a treat in store.

The festival committee and the many volunteers who support the festival are delighted to welcome you to Ennis and will be on hand over the weekend to ensure that a great weekend is enjoyed by all.

Best wishes

Ann Knox
Chairperson

WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR



Welcome to the 2015 Ennis Book Club Festival. Each year we bring together some of the finest writers of our time to read from and to discuss their work with the many thousands of readers who converge on this beautiful corner of Ireland. Above all, we create spaces in which writers and readers are brought together to mingle, to compare notes and to share reading passions. This year, we believe that we're presenting the perfect mix of poetry, politics, fiction and non-fiction. There is nothing that compares to hearing the voice of the person whose work you read and discuss in your homes and libraries. We've got some familiar voices but also some new voices for you to hear and indeed to add to your reading lists. Themes range from family life to polar exploration to the world of crime writing.

For those among us who like to ponder about life in the trenches for our politicians, we've assembled a fascinating cast of political writers, an academic and a veteran, or should we say survivor, of the Irish political system? Expect some anecdotes, analysis of recent and not so recent events, and plenty of lively discussion and debate. Above all we hope that, during your visit to Ennis, you will take a stroll and enjoy one of Ireland's most charming towns.

Thanks to The Arts Council, Clare County Council, Clare County Library and Arts Office, our many sponsors, the people of Ennis, glór and the army of volunteers who have once again made Ennis Book Club Festival possible.

Fáilte is fiche go hInis

Liz Kelly
Director



What Makes Great Writing Great?

VENUE: TEMPLE GATE HOTEL
DATE: FRIDAY 6TH MARCH AT 3.30PM

Cork-born **Billy O'Callaghan** joins us to share with us his thoughts on what makes great writing great. Billy is the author of short story collections - *In Exile* (2008), *In Too Deep* (2009) and *The Things We Lose, the Things We Leave Behind* (2013) which earned him a 2013 Bord Gáis Energy Irish Book Award. His non-fiction book, entitled *Learning from the Greats*, was published in 2014 by Cork City Libraries. It has been broadcast on RTE Radio One's *Book on One*, *Sunday Miscellany* and the Francis McManus Awards series and has been selected as Ireland's representative for the UNESCO Cities of Literature project. Presented by Clare Libraries.

To All The Boys We Loved Before

VENUE: TEMPLE GATE HOTEL
DATE: FRIDAY 6TH MARCH AT 4.00PM

The festival is delighted to welcome **Ying Tai Chang** who is visiting us for the first time. She will read from a selection of her works, including her most recent novel, the intriguingly titled *To All the Boys We Loved Before*. **Ying-Tai Chang** is an award-winning Taiwanese writer and academic. Her writing has garnered numerous awards and has been listed among the Best Taiwanese Fiction at the Frankfurt Book Fair. Her works include the novels, *To All the Boys We Loved Before* (2012), *The Rose with A Thousand Faces* (2011), *The Zither Player from Angkor* (2008) and *The Bear Whispered to Me* (2007); as well as the short-story collections *The Unstoppable Spring* (2009), *Floating Nest* (2004), and *My Tibetan Lover* (2000). Presented by Clare Libraries.

Launch Of The Night Game

VENUE: TEMPLE GATE HOTEL
DATE: FRIDAY 6TH MARCH AT 4.45PM

Join us for the launch of **Frank Golden's** new thriller *The Night Game*. Frank is a Clare-based poet, novelist, and painter. He has published four books of poems, the most recent of which is *In Daily Accord* (Salmon Publications). His first novel, *The Two Women of Aganatz* (Wolfhound Press), was well received, and described by Carol Coulter in the *Irish Times* as "uncomfortable, but compellingly and poetically described by a powerful imagination".

Festival Launch & Exhibition Opening

VENUE: glór
DATE: FRIDAY 6TH MARCH AT 6.30PM

Ennis welcomes RTE presenter and author **Evelyn O'Rourke** to launch this year's festival and exhibition. The exhibition 'To Be Or Naught To Be Is Written In Sand' includes the work of some of Ireland's finest painters: Carmel Doherty, Richard Sharp, Brian McMahon, Will Gillchrist and Mick O'Dea. The paintings were inspired by poems which the artists selected from the work of the Clare based Poetry Collective. Both the paintings and the poems that inspired them will be on show until Monday, 9 March, at glór and The Rowan Tree.





Catalpa

VENUE: glór

DATE: FRIDAY 6TH MARCH AT 8.00PM

Written and performed by **Donal O'Kelly**, *Catalpa* is a classic of modern Irish theatre. It is the story of the daring 1875 whaleship rescue of six Irish prisoners from Fremantle penal colony in Australia - all in a screenwriter's head, the best movie never made! *Catalpa* is about heroes and visionaries, political intrigue and personal loyalty, with hot romance, mixed-up rebels and battles at sea. A subversive epic, a celebration of the power of live theatre "lyrical and passionate, satirical and very funny" (*Irish Times*). *Catalpa* has toured the world to high acclaim, winning a Fringe First in Edinburgh. Featuring live music by Trevor Knight.



Books & Buns

VENUE: ROWAN TREE CAFÉ

DATE: SATURDAY 7TH MARCH AT 9.00AM

Enjoy a Saturday morning book club gathering and test your literary knowledge in the delightful surroundings of the Rowan Tree Café. Refreshments included in the ticket price and lots of fun guaranteed.



Books & Buns

A Migrant Heart

VENUE: TEMPLE GATE HOTEL


DATE: SATURDAY 7TH MARCH AT 10.00AM

Denis Sampson will read from his memoir, *A Migrant Heart*, which he describes as a personal reflection on his journey from early childhood in Clare to Canada where he now lives. Denis grew up in Whitegate, Co. Clare. His *Young John McGahern: Becoming a Novelist* and *Outstaring Nature's Eye*, won widespread critical respect for their appreciation of McGahern's art. He has written features and reviews for Irish and Canadian newspapers, and personal essays for literary journals such as *Dublin Review*, *Irish Pages* (Belfast), *Brick* (Toronto) and the *Threepenny Review* (San Francisco). RTE has broadcast many essays on *Sunday Miscellany*. His *The Found Voice: Writers' Beginnings* is due out from Oxford University Press later this year.

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Sat 23rd Five Counties
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Mon 25th Four Courts

9.30pm – 12.30am
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10 Books You Should Read

VENUE: glór

DATE: SATURDAY 7TH MARCH AT 11.30AM

This year, we have two very special guests who will argue why we should add their suggestions to our reading lists. A treasured friend of the Festival, **Joseph O'Connor**, joins us from the Creative Writing Programme at University of Limerick where last year he was appointed Frank McCourt Professor of Creative Writing. **Evelyn O'Rourke** is back in action on Saturday morning to share her favourite 10 books and her insights into why they should feature on everyone's reading list.

Joseph O'Connor is the author of the novels *Cowboys and Indians* (short-listed for the Whitbread Prize), *Desperadoes*, *The Salesman*, *Inishowen*, *Star of the Sea*, and *Redemption Falls*, as well as a number of bestselling works of non-fiction, film scripts and stage-plays including the award-winning *Red Roses and Petrol*. His novel the multi award winning *Star of the Sea* sold more than a million copies and was published in 38 languages. *Ghost Light* was published in June 2010 to rave reviews internationally and was chosen as Dublin's One City One Book novel for 2011. His latest novel is *The Thrill of it All*, published in May 2014 by Harvill Secker.

Evelyn O'Rourke is a broadcaster and journalist. She has presented and reported on a wide range of radio and TV programmes in both Irish and English for RTE. Evelyn worked as Gerry Ryan's reporter for eight years. She now works on Radio 1 as reporter and stand-in presenter on their daily arts programme, *Arena*. She also co-presented this year's Irish Book Awards on RTÉ TV. Published in 2014, Evelyn's first book *Dear Ross*, gives a moving account of her coping with breast cancer while pregnant with her second child.

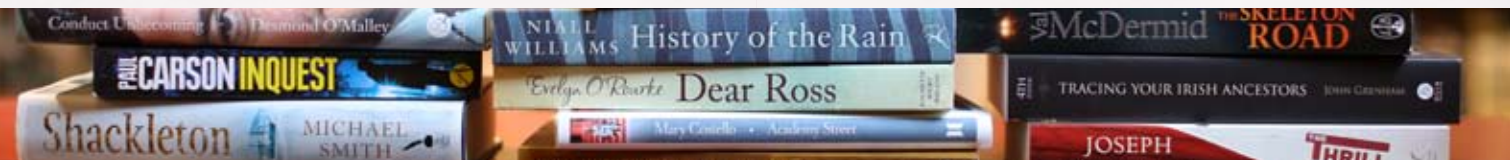
Whatever Happened To Family History?

VENUE: OLD GROUND HOTEL

DATE: SATURDAY 7TH MARCH AT 11.30AM

John Grenham asks 'Whatever happened to family history?' He will introduce us to Irish genealogy by way of looking at what has changed in the past decade. Lots of anecdotes, scabrous gossip and insider low-downs are promised. John, since 1998, has run *The Irish Times* Irish Ancestors website (www.irishtimes.com/ancestor). Among his publications are *Tracing your Irish Ancestors* (Gill & Macmillan, 4th ed. 2012), *Clans and Families of Ireland* (1995), *Generations* (1996), 'The Genealogical Office and its Records' in *The Genealogical Office* (1999) and *Grenham's Irish Surnames* (CD-ROM, 2003). He writes the 'Irish Roots' column in *The Irish Times* and co-presented the RTE television programme 'The Genealogy Roadshow'. This event is presented in association with Clare Roots Society.





Literary Lunch with Peter Fallon, Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin & Michael Coady

VENUE: TEMPLE GATE HOTEL

DATE: SATURDAY 7TH MARCH AT 1.15PM

Three of Ireland's favourite poets join us, courtesy of Gallery Press, for a literary lunch, a new addition to the Ennis Book Club Festival. Light lunch will be provided after which **Peter Fallon**, **Michael Coady** and **Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin** read from their recent work.

Peter Fallon is a prize-winning poet. His books include *The Georgics of Virgil* (a PBS-recommended translation) (Oxford World's Classics), *The Company of Horses* (2007) and *Strong, My Love* (May 2014). He lives in Loughcrew in County Meath where he has farmed for many years.

Michael Coady lives in Carrick-on-Suir, County Tipperary. His prize winning poetry collections include *Two for a Woman*, *Three for A Man* (1980), *Oven Lane*, a Poetry Ireland Choice, *All Souls, One Another*, *Going by Water* and a revised *Oven Lane and Other Poems* (2014).

Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin was born in Cork city. Recent books include *The Girl Who Married the Reindeer*, *Selected Poems* and *The Sun-fish*. *The Boys of Bluehill* will be published in 2015. She has won the Patrick Kavanagh Award, the O'Shaughnessy Award of the Irish-American Cultural Institute and the Griffin International Poetry Prize.

Ones To Watch

VENUE: glór

DATE: SATURDAY 7TH MARCH AT 3.00PM

Evelyn O'Rourke hosts readings by newcomers, **Sara Baume**, **Colin Barrett** and **Nuala Ní Chonchúir**, all of whom are destined for '10 books you should read' lists in the not too distant future.

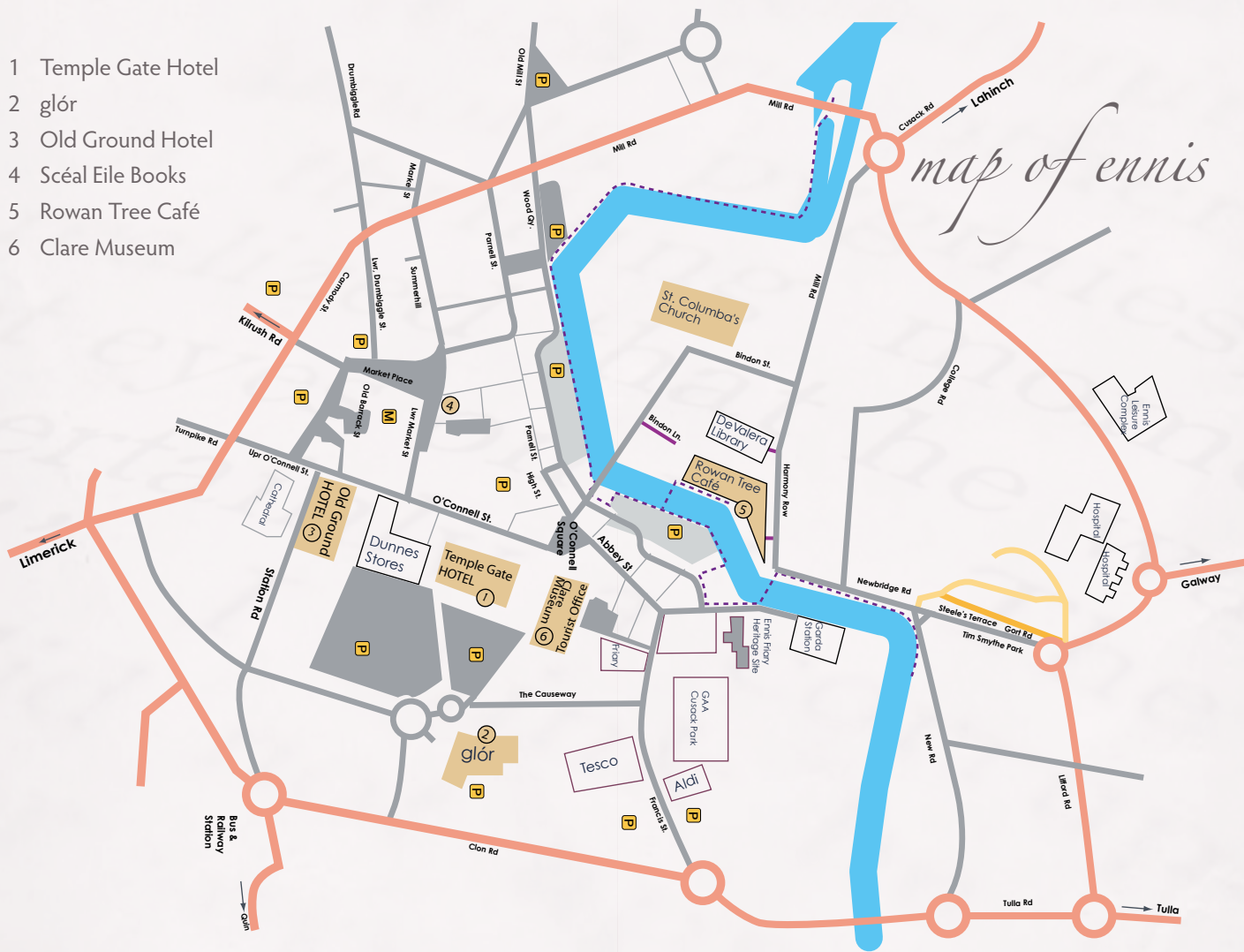
Sara Baume studied fine art at Dun Laoghaire College of Art and Design before completing a Master's in Creative Writing at Trinity College, Dublin. Her short fiction has been published in *The Dublin Review*, *The Moth*, *The Penny Dreadful*, *The Stinging Fly* and the *Irish Independent* as part of the Hennessy New Irish Writing series. In 2014 she won the prestigious Davy Byrnes Award for her short story 'Solesearcher1'. Her debut novel, *Spill Simmer Falter Wither*, will have been launched by the time we meet her in Ennis.

Colin Barrett hails from County Mayo. His debut collection of short stories, *Young Skins*, was originally published by the Stinging Fly Press in Ireland and won the 2014 Frank O'Connor International Short Story Prize, The Guardian First Book Award and the Rooney Prize for Literature. Colin's stories have been published in the *Stinging Fly* magazine, *Five Dials*, *A Public Space* and *The New Yorker*.

Nuala Ní Chonchúir is a novelist, short story writer and poet. Her critically acclaimed second novel *The Closet of Savage Mementos* appeared in April 2014 from New Island publishers. Penguin USA, Penguin Canada and Sandstone (UK) will publish Nuala's third novel, *Miss Emily*, about the poet Emily Dickinson and her Irish maid, in summer 2015.



- 1 Temple Gate Hotel
- 2 glór
- 3 Old Ground Hotel
- 4 Scéal Eile Books
- 5 Rowan Tree Café
- 6 Clare Museum



Booking

To book events contact **glór box office** at
065 - 684 3103 or **www.glor.ie**

Pre-booked tickets can be collected at venues
immediately prior to events. **Festival office**
in glór from **6th - 8th March**.

EVENTS		TIME	VENUE	ADMISSION
FRIDAY 6 TH	Billy O'Callaghan asks 'What makes great writing great?'	15.30 – 16.00	Temple Gate Hotel	FREE
	A reading by Ying Tai Chang	16.00 – 16.30	Temple Gate Hotel	FREE
	Launch of Frank Golden thriller, <i>The Night Game</i>	16.45	Temple Gate Hotel	FREE
	Festival launch and exhibition opening by Evelyn O'Rourke	18.30	glór	FREE
	Catalpa	20.00	glór	€16/€14
SATURDAY 7 TH	Books & Buns – a literary quiz over a cuppa	09.00 – 11.00	Rowan Tree Café	€10/€8
	Denis Sampson reads from <i>A Migrant Heart</i>	10.00 – 11.00	Temple Gate Hotel	€10/€8
	10 Books You Should Read: Joseph O'Connor & Evelyn O'Rourke	11.30 – 13.00	glór	€12/€10
	Walking tour of Ennis with local historian Seán Spellissy	11.30 – 13.00	glór	€8
	John Grenham : 'Whatever happened to family history?'	11.30 – 13.00	Old Ground Hotel	€10/€8
	Literary Lunch with Peter Fallon, Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin & Michael Coady	13.15 – 14.45	Temple Gate Hotel	€15
	Ones to watch: Evelyn O'Rourke hosts Colin Barrett, Sara Baume & Nuala Ní Chonchúir	15.00 – 16.00	glór	€12/€10
	Michael Smith reads <i>Shackleton: By Endurance We Conquer</i>	15.00 – 16.15	Old Ground Hotel	€12/€10
	Clare Youth Theatre Waiting for Godot	16.00 – 16.30	glór studio	€10/€8
	Niall Williams & Mary Costello read & discuss their work	16.30 – 18.00	glór	€12/€10
	Blues & Books	18.00	Scéal Eile Books	FREE
	It's a Crime: Seán Rocks , Presenter of RTE Radio 1's <i>Arena</i> interviews Paul Carson & Val McDermid	20.00	glór	€18/€15
	Festival Club	22.30	Old Ground Hotel	FREE
SUNDAY 8 TH	Sunday Symposium: Politics & Pathology	10.00 – 12.00	glór	€12
	Clare Voices	12.15	Old Ground Hotel	FREE
	Walking tour of Ennis with Jane O'Brien	12.15	glór	€8
	The Daughterhood Literary Lunch	13.15	Old Ground Hotel	€18
	Scéal Eile Books Comórtas Filíochta shortlisted poets (aged 12–15 years) present their work	15.00	Scéal Eile Books	FREE

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Where to Eat & Shop

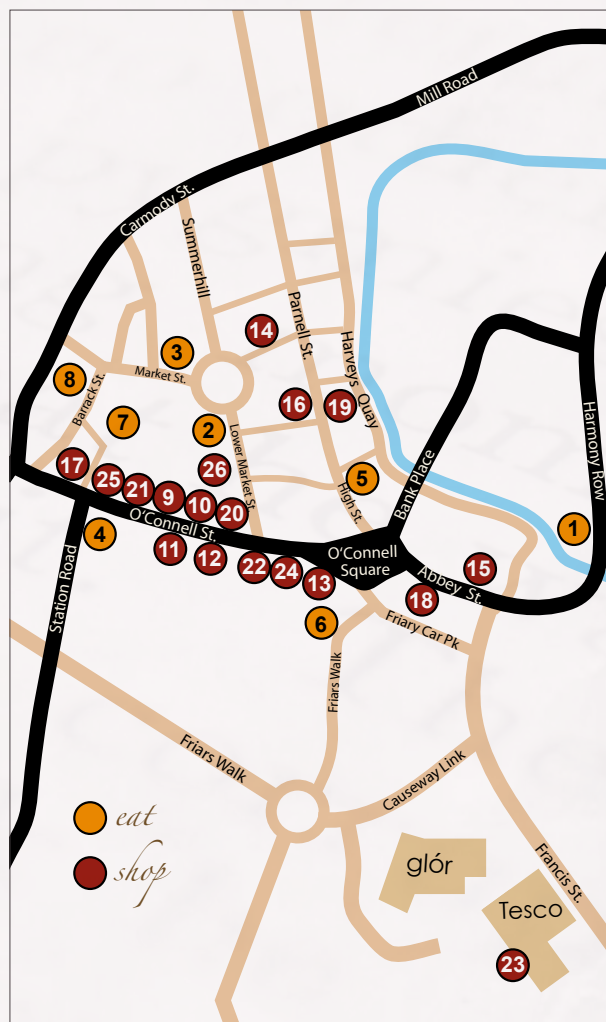
CAFÉS/RESTAURANTS

- 1 Rowan Tree Café Bar, Harmony Row, 065 686 8669
- 2 Zest Café, Market Place, 065 682 1014
- 3 Food Heaven Café & Deli, 21 Market Street, 065 682 2722
- 4 Old Ground Hotel, O'Connell Street, 065 682 8127
- 5 O'Briens Sandwich Café, Salthouse Lane, 065 682 2655
- 6 Temple Gate Hotel, The Square, 065 682 3300
- 7 Ennis Gourmet Store, 1 Barrack Street, 065 684 3314
- 8 Cairde Caife, Barrack Street, 087 708 3894

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- 11 Seoidín, Jewellery & Gifts, 52 O'Connell Street
- 12 Dunnes Stores, O'Connell Street
- 13 Willow, 4 O'Connell Street
- 14 C F Pharmacy, Market Place
- 15 Cartridge Blue, Abbey Street
- 16 O'Mahony's Booksellers, Merchants Square
- 17 Nozomi Shoe Boutique, 71 O'Connell Street
- 18 The Ennis Bookshop, 13 Abbey Street
- 19 Rochford's Pharmacy, 21 Parnell Street & Car Park
- 20 Chez Marie Boutique, 49 O'Connell Street
- 21 Collins Jewellers, 63 O'Connell Street
- 22 Mulqueen's Florists, 32 O'Connell Street
- 23 Mary Jo Duffy's Pharmacy, Ennis Shopping Centre
- 24 Mary Kelly Cards, 28 O'Connell Street
- 25 Shanahan's Gems, Jewellery & Antiques, O'Connell Street
- 26 Patricia Carrigg Shoes, 34 Lower Market Street

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standards and to helping you get the most from them. Whether you are an athlete, walker, skateboarder, team player or individual, young or not so young, Active Ennis has a facility designed with your well-being in mind. If you have a query or comment, please contact us. Most of all, make sure to get out there and enjoy what's on offer.



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Shackleton: By Endurance We Conquer

VENUE: OLD GROUND HOTEL

DATE: SATURDAY 7TH MARCH AT 3.00PM

Michael Smith pays a return visit to Ennis, this time with his biography of Ernest Shackleton. Michael has written nine books, appeared on TV and radio and lectured extensively on polar exploration. His book, *An Unsung Hero: Tom Crean* was responsible for generating widespread popular interest in Irish explorers and getting Crean's life adopted onto the Irish school's curriculum. His new biography of Sir Ernest Shackleton, *Shackleton: By Endurance We Conquer*, has been greeted with acclaim.

Waiting For Godot

VENUE: glór STUDIO

DATE: SATURDAY 7TH MARCH AT 4.00PM

With wit and bowler hats, Clare Youth Theatre brings you extracts from *Waiting For Godot*.



Two teenagers don suits and hats, and bring you the stark Beckettian atmosphere that comes with Vladimir and Estragon's trials and tribulations. Clare Youth Theatre present this iconic piece of theatre, using scenes that fit together to bring you a fresh insight into the relationship between these two tramps.

Niall Williams & Mary Costello

VENUE: glór

DATE: SATURDAY 7TH MARCH AT 4.30PM

These two authors need no introduction to Ennis Book Club Festival visitors. **Niall Williams** who lives in West Clare was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize for his latest novel, *History of The Rain* set on the banks of the river Shannon "where everyone is a long story". Niall will read a selection of pieces from his many novels and short stories. **Mary Costello** grew up in Galway and now lives in Dublin. Her collection of stories, *The China Factory*, was nominated for the 2012 Guardian first book award. Her first novel, *Academy Street*, won the 2014 Eason's Novel of the Year award and was shortlisted for the Costa First Novel Prize.

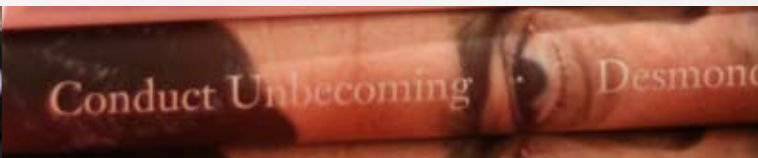


Blues & Books

VENUE: SCÉAL EILE BOOKS

DATE: SATURDAY 7TH MARCH AT 6.00PM

Browse an eclectic array of new and second-hand books accompanied by live music by Paulo Cerato and Trevor Hansbury.



It's A Crime...

VENUE: glór

DATE: SATURDAY 7TH MARCH AT 8.00PM

Seán Rocks, Presenter of Arena on RTÉ Radio 1, in conversation with crime writers, Paul Carson and Val McDermid. Crime writing is a fascinating topic and crime fiction is a popular genre among book clubs everywhere. In this year's Sean Rocks interview, we will hear from **Paul Carson** whose novels are number-one bestsellers and from **Val McDermid** who, when she's not writing a bestseller, can be seen and heard debating and contributing to broad ranging cultural and political discussion.

Paul Carson has published six bestselling thrillers. His first novel, *Scalpel*, was published in 1997 by Heinemann and became an immediate *Irish Times* bestseller, *Cold Steel* followed a year later and in 2000, *Final Duty* hit the bookshelves. Since 2000, he has published *Ambush* (2003) and *Betrayal* (2005). His most recent novel, *Inquest* (2013), which he describes as his most challenging creation, took him into a dark side of medicine in the Coroner's Court.

Val McDermid has written 27 bestselling crime novels; *The Skeleton Road* – her 28th – was published by Little, Brown in 2014 when she also published a retelling of Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey* and an exploration of forensic science, *Forensics: An Anatomy of Crime*. A regular broadcaster with BBC Radio, Val's five-part 'Woman's Hour' drama, *Village SOS*, was broadcast on BBC Radio 4, and in 2011 Val also presented the BBC Radio 4 serial *The Chalet School*, in which she talked about how that series of books inspired her education and career. In 2014, Dundee University has named its new mortuary in her honour.

The Sunday Symposium — Politics & Pathology

VENUE: glór

DATE: SUNDAY 8TH MARCH AT 10.00AM

This year's Sunday Symposium explores what life is like inside the 'tent' for Irish politicians. RTE's recent Haughey series has provided grist to the mill for those of us who like to ponder such matters, but have you ever asked yourself, why — given the old adage that 'all political careers end in failure' — anybody would choose a career in politics? And what really goes on backstage?

This year's panellists include: former government minister and PD leader **Des O'Malley** who in 2014 published his autobiography, DCU's **Dr Gary Murphy** whose academic work focuses on lobbying and who's got a book in the pipeline about Irish politics since 1987, RTE's **Katie Hannon** who wrote *The Naked Politician*, her fascinating account of life in the 'trenches', and **Mick Clifford** who as well as informing and entertaining us with his keenly crafted political columns in the *Irish Examiner*, also authored an account of Bertie Ahern and the 'Drumcondra Mafia' as well as a crime novel or two. As always our own **Caimin Jones** does the honours in the chair.

Clare Voices

VENUE: OLD GROUND HOTEL

DATE: SUNDAY 8TH MARCH AT 12.15

We platform the work of **Inis Creative Writers** Group alongside the **Poetry Collective** in this special event celebrating some unique voices of Co Clare.



The Daughterhood Literary Lunch

VENUE: OLD GROUND HOTEL

DATE: SUNDAY 8TH MARCH AT 1.30PM

Natasha Fennell and **Róisín Ingle** share the funny, poignant and occasionally heart-breaking story of *The Daughterhood*. When Natasha Fennell's mother was diagnosed with a progressive illness, her life came to a standstill. She wondered how she would cope when her mother was gone and whether she had been a good enough daughter. After a call out to daughters in Róisín Ingle's weekly *Irish Times* column, Natasha and Róisín quickly learned that other daughters had similar fears and had never spoken about them before. An impromptu, informal self-help club, *The Daughterhood*, was formed – albeit one that involved good food and wine – as once a month a group of women would come together to help each other navigate the most important and sometimes trickiest relationship of our lives. Natasha is a Director at *Stillwater Communications* and a regular reviewer and contributor on RTE Radio 1's flagship discussion programmes. Róisín is Daily Features Editor and Broadcaster at *The Irish Times*. She writes a column in the paper's *Magazine* every Saturday.

Comórtas Filíochta

VENUE: SCÉAL EILE BOOKS

DATE: SUNDAY 8TH MARCH AT 3PM

Scéal Eile Books together with award-winning bilingual poet **Doireann Ní Ghríofa** host a reading by the 10 Clare poets (aged 12-15 years) who were recently shortlisted in the Scéal Eile Books' Comórtas Filíochta. The event will be streamed live online.

Booking Information

Booking for all festival events is through **glór box office**. To enquire and to book, call **065 6843103** or e-mail **boxoffice@glor.ie**

Special Offers

When you book the following events together a 10% discount will apply to the overall price:

FRIDAY 6TH & SATURDAY 7TH

- **Catalpa plus 10 Books You Should Read**

SATURDAY 7TH

- **Literary Lunch plus Ones to Watch**
- **Niall Williams & Mary Costello plus It's A Crime...**

We recommend early booking to avoid disappointment. Please arrive early for each event. Latecomers will only be admitted if there is a suitable interval.

Main contact: Liz Kelly, Festival Director: **086 352 2227**

Getting To Ennis

Getting here is easy from anywhere in Ireland. You can travel by rail from Dublin, Galway and Limerick. For details check out **www.irishrail.ie** or call Ennis Train Station on **065 684 0444**. There are regular bus services from Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Galway. More details can be found at **www.buseireann.ie** or **www.citylink.ie**. Shannon Airport is about 20 minutes drive from Ennis, with flights from airports in the UK, continental Europe and the US. A regular bus service links the airport with Ennis. **www.shannonairport.com**.



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