

Kildare Readers Festival 2014

Programme of Events



Welcome to Kildare Readers' Festival 2014

It gives us great pleasure at Kildare Library & Arts Service to welcome you to **Kildare Readers' Festival 2014**. This weekend represents one of the highlights of our annual 'Reader Development' programme. Whether you are a library borrower, a book club member, an eBook downloader, an audio-book listener, a first-time or a seasoned festival visitor, we are delighted to be in your company this weekend and to introduce you to our wonderful line-up of guests.

This year, we were delighted to introduce free library membership for all in Kildare Libraries, so if you are not already a member, now is the perfect time to check out one of our 15 libraries throughout the county to see what is on offer. A full list of all our libraries and our events programme are available on our website, www.kildare.ie/library. All of our fantastic festival events are also free of charge, so come along, enjoy and allow us to inspire you on your reading journey for the year ahead!



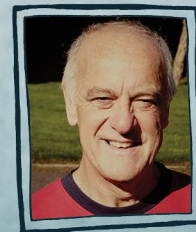
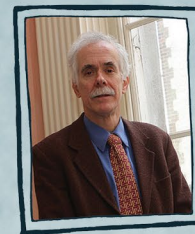
Main Events

New Perspectives

Writing and Publishing in 21st Century Ireland. Panel discussion, hosted by Anthony Glavin with John MacKenna, Martin Malone and Mary O'Donnell

Fri Oct 17th | 17.30 - 19.30 | Newbridge Library

Author and editor, **Anthony Glavin** will facilitate this discussion. Joining Anthony are authors **John MacKenna**, **Martin Malone** and **Mary O'Donnell**, each with a particular attachment to Kildare and all having works published by Ireland's most progressive publishing house, New Island. This discussion is a must for aspiring writers of all genres and for people interested in the current publishing climate within Ireland. Challenges confronting the author, the publisher and indeed, the reader, will be examined, including the evolving world of digital publishing. A question and answer session will follow.



It's the Little Things

Francis Brennan's Guide to Life with Susan Boyle



Fri Oct 17th | 20.00 | Riverbank Arts Centre

Francis Brennan is the co-owner of the five-star Park Hotel Kenmare, Co. Kerry. Together with his brother John he has, since 2008, been showing hospitality businesses how to thrive as part of the RTÉ television series *At Your Service*. Francis is instantly recognisable for his distinctive style, attention to detail, and upbeat, energetic way of going about his business. *At Your Service*, consistently ranked as one of the most watched shows on Irish television, has catapulted him to the status of 'national treasure'. Francis believes it's the little things in life that count the most, and by following this philosophy, he has built an extremely successful business and a very happy life. With his signature charm and wit, he will share his personal code for living, full of fun and personal memories, and will motivate you to pay attention to the small things that make a big difference.

Susan Boyle is a performer, playwright, arts facilitator and arts project manager. She tours the country with her critically acclaimed one woman wine show *A Wine Goose Chase*. As well as facilitating arts workshops in libraries and schools, Susan teaches art from her studio in Kildare town. She manages to combine her love of the arts with a passion for all things food, drink and hospitality related. She can be found regularly hanging out, tasting delicious drinks on TV3's *Late Lunch*, has made ice-cream from beer and dry-ice at the *Electric Picnic Theatre of Food* and is a judge for the 'Blas na hÉireann, Irish Food Awards'.



10 Books You Should Read

With Róisín Ingle and Peter Murphy

Sat Oct 18th | 11.00-12.30 | Riverbank Arts Centre

Róisín Ingle was born in Dublin where she still lives. She is a journalist for *The Irish Times* contributing features, news and a weekly column in the Saturday magazine. In 2005 she published *Pieces of Me*, a collection of her *Regarding Ireland* columns, which are enjoyed by thousands of readers throughout the country. Disarmingly open, always humorous, often deeply affecting, she muses on life, love and everything in between.

Peter Murphy's first novel *John the Revelator* was nominated for the 2011 'IMPAC literary award', shortlisted for the '2009 Costa Book Awards' and the 'Kerry Group Fiction' prize. His second novel is *Shall We Gather at the River* (2013). He is a founder member of the spoken word/music ensemble *The Revelator Orchestra*. Their second album *The Brotherhood of the Flood* will be released in November of this year. Peter's work has been published in *Rolling Stone*, *The Irish Times*, *The Sunday Business Post*, *The Guardian* and *Hot Press Magazine*, and for many years, he was a regular guest on RTE's arts review show *The View*. His short story *The Blacklight Ballroom* featured in the Faber anthology *New Irish Short Stories*, edited by Joseph O'Connor. Another story, *The Gloamen Man*, featured in the New Island anthology *Silver Threads of Hope*. More recently he contributed his 'cover version' of James Joyce's *The Dead* for Tramp Press's *Dubliners 100*.



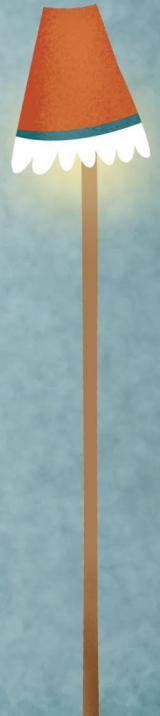
Queens of Crime, Irish Style!

With Niamh O'Connor and Louise Phillips

Sat Oct 18th | 14.00-15.00 | Riverbank Arts Centre

Niamh O'Connor is one of Ireland's best known crime authors. She is the true crime editor for the *Sunday World*, Ireland's biggest selling Sunday newspaper. Her job, in which she interviews both high profile criminals and their victims, means she really knows the world she is writing about. Her debut novel, *If I Never See You Again*, went to number one in the Nielsen Heatseekers chart when it was released in the UK in January 2011 and was nominated in the 'Best Newcomers' category of the 'Irish Book Awards' in November 2010. Her second novel, *Taken*, was a number two bestseller in Ireland in June 2011. *Blink*, her latest novel, published by Transworld Ireland, is out now.

Louise Phillips is the bestselling author of *Red Ribbons*, nominated for the Ireland AM Crime 'Fiction Book of the Year' award at the 'BGE Irish Book Awards' in 2012. Louise won the award in 2013 for her second novel *The Doll's House*. Her work has been published as part of various anthologies and literary journals. She has also won the 'Jonathan Swift Award', and was a winner in the Irish Writers' Centre 'Lonely Voice Platform'. Her writing has been shortlisted for prizes such as the 'Molly Keane Memorial Award' and 'Bridport UK'. *Last Kiss*, her third novel, was published in August this year and Louise is currently working on her fourth.



Mental Health Issues

How are they represented through film and literature?

Sat Oct 18th | 15.30 - 17.30 | Riverbank Arts Centre

Professor Jim Lucey, author of *In My Room*, is medical director of St Patrick's Mental Health Services, and Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, Trinity College Dublin. With more than 25 years experience in psychiatry, he maintains his clinical practice at St Patrick's, gives public lectures, and is a regular broadcaster on mental health matters on RTE Radio, featuring on *Today with Sean O'Rourke*.

Author Carol Coffey is also a teacher by profession. She is currently undertaking her PhD at Trinity College Dublin, researching best practice in supporting adolescents with emotional disturbance in Irish post primary schools. With four published novels, Carol brings the world of special needs to the wider population through her writing. Her latest, *The Incredible Life of Jonathan Doe* focuses on the life of an emotionally vulnerable man whose past is a mystery to all but himself.

Mary McEvoy, Glenroe's indomitable 'Biddy Byrne', has been working in stage and screen productions for over 30 years. She was a regular contributor to TV3's *Midday* panel and Newstalk Radio's *The Tom Dunne Show*. Mary is a regular spokesperson on matters related to mental health, and has written about her own struggle with depression in her memoir *How the Light Gets In*.

Cathal Black's sustained visionary film-making is central to the canon of Irish cinema. His latest feature documentary *Learning Gravity*, on American poet and undertaker, Thomas Lynch, won awards at The New York Television Festival, The Michael Moore/Travers City Festival and was nominated for an 'IFTA Award'. The film has been screened on RTE and BBC and at festivals at Telluride, Mill Valley, and Cologne. He has worked with actor Daniel Craig (*James Bond*) and with cameraman Slawomir Idziak (*Three Colours Blue, Black Hawk Down, Harry Potter*). Cathal's films also include *Wheels, Our Boys, Pigs, The Invisible World* and *Love and Rage*. He also produced *Irish Folk Furniture* and his latest film *Butterfly*, written by Neil Donnelly, stars Denis Conway and Antonia Campbell-Hughes. Cathal Black is a member of Aosdana.



In A Time of War

World War I and Its Influences on Ireland, Kildare & Literature

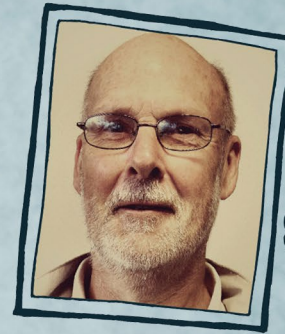
Sat Oct 18th | 20.00-21.30 | Riverbank Arts Centre

Padraig Yeates is the author of *Lockout: Dublin 1913*. He is former Industry and Employment Correspondent of The Irish Times. Other books include: *A City in Wartime: Dublin 1914-1918* and *A City in Turmoil: Dublin 1919-1921*. The third book in the series, *A City in Revolution*, is due for publication in 2014.

James Durney, from Naas, is an award winning Irish author, local and military historian and historical consultant. He is a prolific writer with a large number of works published under his name and with Mercier Press. Additionally, James has worked with Irish language national broadcaster, TG4 on the development of their documentary series *Mobs Mheiriceá*. He was also consultant and chief researcher on *War Stories* from Irish national broadcaster, RTE. James was the 2011 winner of 'The Lord Walter Fitzgerald Prize' for Original Research and serves as the Chairman of the Kildare Federation of History Groups and the Chairman of Naas Local History Group. His most recent book, *In A Time of War: Kildare 1914-1918* was published this year by Merrion.

Mary P. Corcoran is a Professor of Sociology at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth, where she is also a research associate at the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis, and a member of the University's Governing Authority. Author of numerous scholarly articles and reports, Mary was a Taoiseach's nominee to the National Economic and Social Forum. She occasionally appears as a commentator on radio and television.

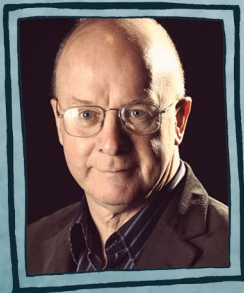
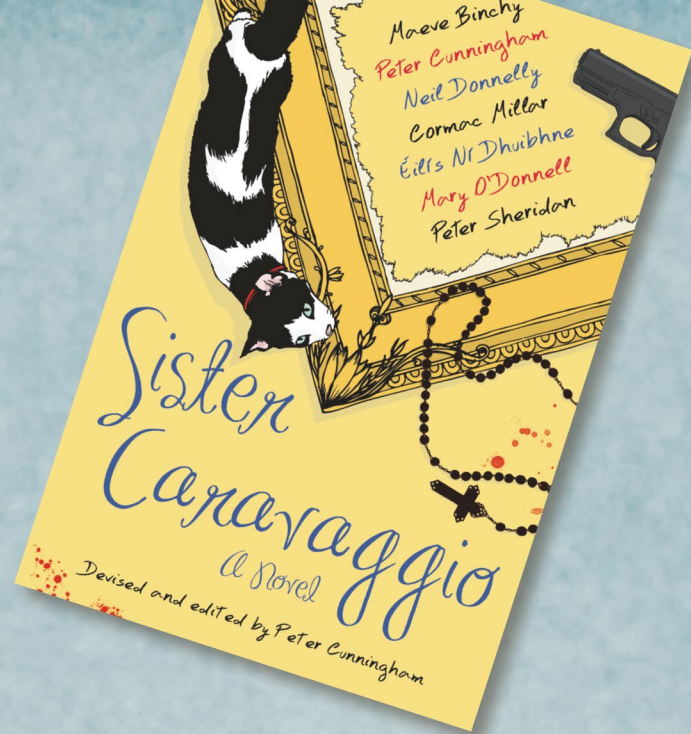
Philip Scott hails from Kildare Town and has been involved in music all his life. He trained with Mary Brennan of The Royal Academy, Dublin and has appeared in Minotti's opera *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and The Lyric Opera Company's performance of *Aida* in the Gaiety Theatre. He has also performed for Queen Elizabeth II at The National Convention Centre and for President Higgins at The Irish National Stud, where he sang Tenor lead in their production of *The Mikado*.



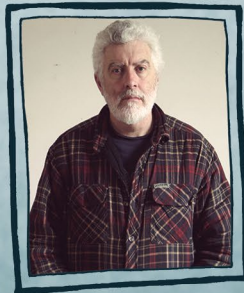
Sister Caravaggio

Sun Oct 19th | 11.00-12.00 | Riverbank Arts Centre

Sister Caravaggio is a page-turning 'whodunnit' set in an abbey in Co. Kildare. The premise of this entertaining crime caper is highly unusual, in that the seven parts were written by seven different authors, with the reader left guessing which author may have written which section. The illustrious team of authors include the late Maeve Binchy, Peter Cunningham, Neil Donnelly, Cormac Millar, Éilís Ní Dhuibhne, Mary O'Donnell and Peter Sheridan. **Neil Donnelly** will chair an entertaining discussion on the process of writing this intriguing novel. Guests on the panel include **Mary O'Donnell** and **Peter Sheridan**.



Peter Sheridan is an acclaimed novelist, playwright, screenwriter and director. His memoir *44: A Dublin Memoir* was nominated for an 'Irish Times Literature Prize'.



Neil Donnelly is an award-winning playwright. He has written plays for the theatre, including the Abbey Theatre and the Gaiety Theatre, for radio, including for RTÉ and the BBC, and for the screen.



Mary O'Donnell is the author of 11 books, both poetry and fiction, including *The Light-Makers*, *Virgin* and *The Boy* and *The Elysium Treatment*.

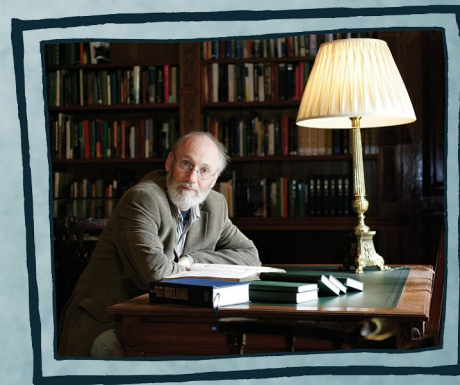
Jennifer Johnston in conversation with Dermot Bolger

Sun Oct 19th | 12.30-14.00 | Riverbank Arts Centre

Dermot Bolger's intimate and relaxed Sunday morning interviews with leading Irish authors have become an integral part of the final day of the Kildare Readers' Festival. This year he will be in conversation with **Jennifer Johnston**

One of the foremost Irish writers of her, or any generation, **Jennifer Johnston** has won the 'Whitbread Prize', the Evening Standard 'Best First Novel Award', the 'Yorkshire Post Award', and 'Best Book of the Year' on two occasions. She has also been shortlisted for the 'Booker Prize' with *Shadows on our Skin*. Her other novels include *Truth or Fiction*, *Foolish Mortals*, *The Gingerbread Woman*, *Two Moons* and *Shadow Story*. Rich in dialogue – as befits someone who is also a gifted playwright – Johnston's novels deal with political and cultural tensions in Ireland and often focus on family relationships and the difficult transition from childhood to adulthood.

Dermot Bolger is one of Ireland's best known writers. His eleven novels include *The Journey Home*, *The Family on Paradise Pier*, *A Second Life: A Renewed Novel*, *New Town Soul*, (now an option on the Irish Leaving Cert) and most recently, the novella, *The Fall of Ireland*. His first play, *The Lament for Arthur Cleary*, received the 'Samuel Beckett Award' and numerous other plays have been staged around the world. A poet, his ninth collection of poems, *The Venice Suite: A Voyage Through Loss*, was published in 2012. Bolger writes for most of Ireland's leading newspapers and in 2012 was named 'Commentator of the Year' at the 'Irish Newspaper Awards'.



Fringe Events

Walking Out

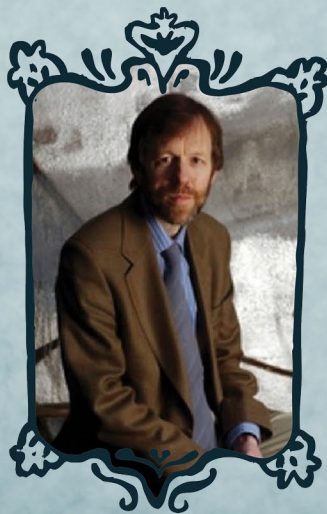
An evening celebrating the work of Dennis O'Driscoll

Thu Oct 09th | 20.00 | Alice's Restaurant, Naas

Alice's Restaurant welcomes you to a celebration, through music and readings, of the work of Dennis O'Driscoll with a specific interpretation of his writings about the town of Naas.

Although born in Thurles, Co. Tipperary, this renowned poet, essayist and critic, lived in Naas until his untimely death in December 2012. He published nine books of poetry, including *Kist*, *Long Story Short*, *Quality Time*, *Weather Permitting*, *Reality Check*, *Dear Life*, three chapbooks and a collection of essays and reviews. He edited and compiled contemporary quotations about poets and poetry, and published *Stepping Stones* based on his interviews with Seamus Heaney.

Classical Guitarist, Conor Mahony and special guests will lead this very special commemorative evening.



All About Eva

The drama of making a movie

Wed Oct 15th | 20.00 | Riverbank Arts Centre

A conversation on an original, old school revenge drama that brings the audience on a roller-coaster ride through wickedness, money, love, death and horses. It was produced by Kildare County Council Arts Service and filmed in Athy in May 2014. The film was developed to provide hands-on experience for local writers, actors and technical crew, led by Director, Ferdia Mac Anna. Excerpts from the film will be screened on the night along with a discussion between cast and crew members.



This event will be facilitated by Tracy Piggot. A former Jockey, she is best known for her sports broadcasting on RTÉ over the last 24 years. Covering all the major race meetings in Ireland, she has also been the main pre and post-match reporter for the past eight seasons on Rugby's 6 Nations, Autumn Internationals and Heineken Cups. She hosts the live coverage of the annual RDS Horse Show in Dublin and has presented a sports quiz series and a chat show. Tracy presented RTÉ's Sports Stadium for a number of years in the 1990's and has anchored five Olympic Games for RTÉ Sport, Atlanta, Sydney, Athens, Beijing and London.

Blogging for Pros

Blogging workshop with Jennie McGinn

Fri Oct 17th | 14.00-17.00 | Riverbank Arts Centre

Are you lost in a minefield of Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, Wordpress and Blogger? Would you like to get your writing online but don't know the best social media sites to use or how to use them?

If the answer is YES, then join social media experts TEAM OPSH – a four-woman team of award winning bloggers who will help you navigate the tricky realm of online blogging and social media

Covering all aspects of blogging from choosing the right online platform and writing killer content, to marketing and how to monetize your work, this 3-hour introductory session will cover everything you need to know to get your work out there and be noticed.

Booking essential, as places are limited. Participants must bring their own laptop.



KRF Notebook Launch

Sat Oct 18th | 18.30-19.00 | Riverbank Arts Centre

If you only ever see one exhibition in your lifetime, this is the one to see! The KRF Notebook Project now extends to over 200 moleskin notebooks made by writers, film-makers and visual artists from all over the world. By open invitation, artists were invited to write, draw, paint, paste, construct/deconstruct a standard A5 moleskin notebook in a creative way. Each notebook has been kindly donated by participating artists to Kildare County Council to become part of a permanent touring collection.

In April of this year, the Kildare Artist Notebook Project website was launched showcasing excerpts from the notebooks donated to date. You can visit the collection at <http://www.kildarenotebookproject.com/> An exhibition of the notebooks will be on display in Riverbank Arts Centre as part of Kildare Readers Festival 2014.



TIME	EVENT	VENUE	PRICE
Thursday, October 9th			
20:00	<i>Fringe Event:</i> Walking Out: A Tribute to Dennis O'Driscoll	Alice's Restaurant, Naas	FREE
Wednesday, October 15th			
20.00	<i>Fringe Event:</i> All About Eva: The Drama of Making a Movie, facilitated by Tracy Piggot	Riverbank Arts Centre	FREE
Friday, October 17th			
14.00-17.00	<i>Fringe Event:</i> Blogging for Pros with Jennie McGinn	Riverbank Arts Centre	FREE
17.30-19.30	New Perspectives: Writing and Publishing in the 21st Century Ireland with Anthony Glavin and guests	Riverbank Arts Centre	FREE
20.00	It's the Little Things: Francis Brennan & Susan Boyle	Riverbank Arts Centre	FREE
Saturday, October 18th			
11.00-12.30	10 Books You Should Read with Róisín Ingle and Peter Murphy	Riverbank Arts Centre	FREE
14.00-15.00	Queens of Crime, Irish Style!: Niamh O'Connor & Louise Phillips	Riverbank Arts Centre	FREE
15.30-17.30	Mental Health Issues: how are they represented through film and Literature? With Professor Jim Lucey and guests	Riverbank Arts Centre	FREE
18.30-19.00	<i>Fringe Event:</i> KRF Notebook Launch	Riverbank Arts Centre	FREE
20.00-21.30	In a Time of War: WWI and it's influences on Ireland, Kildare & Literature with Padraig Yeates, Dr. Mary Corcoran, James Durney & local tenor, Phillip Scott	Riverbank Arts Centre	FREE
Sunday October 19th			
11.00-12.00	Sister Caravaggio with Neil Donnelly & Mary O'Donnell and Peter Sheridan	Riverbank Arts Centre	FREE
12.30-14.00	Dermot Bolger in Conversation with Jennifer Johnston	Riverbank Arts Centre	FREE
Book tickets online on www.riverbank.ie or call box office on 045 448327			

