



Artwork by Iro Tsavala

Featured Artists 2018

John Banville
John Connell
Maurice Devitt
Sinead Gleeson
Julian Gough
Sophie Gorman
Lisa Harding

Jessica J. Lee
Sue Leonard
Roisin Meaney
Geraldine Mitchell
Rick O'Shea
Ruth Padel
Nigel Quinlan

Liz Quirke
Ronan Ryan
James Scully
John W. Sexton
Eileen Sheehan

Fáilte romhaibh go léir

A Chairde,

Is mór an onóir domsa (mar Chathaoirleach ar Choiste na Féile seo) fáilte a chur romhaibh go Féile Litríochta Dhrom Inbhir 2018. Feicfidh sibh go bhfuil clár taitneamhach, cruthaitheach is spreaigúil os bhur gcomhair.

In my first year as Chairperson, it gives me great pleasure to announce our exciting and innovative programme for the 15th Dromineer Literary Festival.

Last October saw the retirement of our wonderful poet Chairperson, Eleanor Hooker, who had been with the festival from its inception. Eleanor had worked tirelessly and with such energy and enthusiasm to help build the festival to its highly esteemed position today, as one of the highlights of the Irish literary calendar. The new committee aims to maintain the standards of our great festival and have worked very hard in the past year to ensure our participants and audience enjoy this year's programme. A huge thank you to everyone for their dedication and support.

This year sees the introduction of some new elements. We have two wonderful poets from Kerry, Eileen Sheehan and John Sexton, who will read and entertain in Cinnamon Alley and Country Choice on Saturday morning. Novelist, Roisin Meaney, will chat and read in Steeples on Sunday morning.

We have also decided to have a writer in residence this year. The residency will support a writer to develop a piece of work and contribute to the festival also.

As usual, we are eagerly looking forward to seeing all the entries from the many Primary School children. Their poems will be judged by Geraldine Mitchell who has been a great friend of the festival for the past few years. We are always so impressed with the standard of the children's poems and really appreciate the work and dedication of the teachers and schools who participate.

This year we have an exciting free event at Nenagh Library on Saturday morning for our 8 to 11-year-old friends when Nigel Quinlan will enthral them with his story writing workshop.

Thanks to the support of director Eva Birdthistle and the staff of Nenagh Arts Centre through whom we have a great venue to host our writers. To open our festival this year, we are delighted to welcome, one of our own, Julian Gough who will read from his well-received new novel 'Connect'. Sharing the bill will be Lisa Harding who won the Kate O'Brien award for her debut novel 'Harvesting'. On Friday evening we have the very interesting pairing of, internationally acclaimed poet/novelist, Ruth Padel (great, great granddaughter of Charles Darwin) and publishing sensation of the year John Connell, author of 'The Cow Book'. This event will be chaired by Sinead Gleeson. We are very grateful to local company, ABP, who have partnered us to sponsor John Connell's participation. On Saturday

night we are honoured to welcome, Man Booker prize winner, John Banville who will be interviewed by Sophie Gorman.

We are privileged to live in one of the most beautiful places in the country. Our guests and visitors love our festival for its range of venues and inspiring locations. On Sunday morning we highlight again our beautiful Dromineer and Lough Derg when we welcome Jessica Lee to join us on Teddy Knight's Ku-Ee-Tu for our 'Afloat' event. We will sail from Dromineer harbour and Jessica will read from her novel 'Turning' in which she describes swimming in all the lakes around Berlin during the course of a year.

Our final event takes place in our atmospheric and beautifully restored Nenagh Castle on Sunday afternoon when James Scully, historian and storyteller will enthral us with the story of Emily Brontë's honeymoon in Banagher, Co. Offaly. (She married local man Arthur Bell Nicholls.) Come and hear Emily's description of meeting her Irish in-laws for the first time. Members of The Nenagh Players will join James to dramatize these events. We also have two incredibly talented singer/songwriters, Claire Watts and Shona Blake, providing music and song for what promises to be a memorable event.

Our visual artists for this year also have strong local links. In 2016 Nenagh writer Henry Martin and illustrator Iro Tsavala published a picture book called Yappo which was supported by a Tipperary Artist Award. Prints from the book can be viewed upstairs in Lough Derg Yacht Club and in Country Choice, Kenyon Street, Nenagh.

On a sombre note I would like to pay tribute to local poet/translator, Toomevara man Seamus Hogan, who sadly passed away recently.

I would like to thank volunteers who come on board at the festival time to make sure things run smoothly! We express our deepest gratitude to our local accommodation providers, cafés, pubs, shops, and restaurants who look after our guests and visitors. We also greatly appreciate Noreen Cavanagh and her staff at The Thatched Cottage, Ballycommon who provide us with a venue for our meetings. A special word of thanks goes to Melanie Scott, Tipperary Co. Council Arts Officer and her staff for their steadfast support. I would also like to thank you, our audience, for supporting the events and buying the books! Finally, a huge thank you to all our generous, and I'm delighted to say, growing number of sponsors, whose support makes all this possible.

I look forward to welcoming you to this year's festival and hope you will go away inspired!

Geraldine McNulty
Chairperson
Dromineer Literary Festival Committee

EVENTS

“YAPPO”, SAID THE MAN - Festival Exhibition

Can be viewed at
Lough Derg Yacht Club
and Country Choice,
Kenyon Street, Nenagh
Entry: Free

Recipient of a Tipperary Artist Award, YAPPO is an elegant and poetic picture book featuring a wanderer, mermaid, milliner and dog. Suitable for adults and children, and beautifully produced, YAPPO will take readers on a short journey into the imagination.

“YAPPO,” SAID THE MAN is an exhibition of prints from Yappo and is a collaboration between the Dromineer Literary Festival and the creators of Yappo: Iro Tsavala and Henry Martin.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 4

Flying Start: Opening Night

8.00pm
Nenagh Arts Centre,
Banba Square, Nenagh
Entry: €12/€10
[See Bookings for details](#)

Lisa Harding and *Julian Gough* discuss their recently published novels, both dealing with contemporary issues. This event will be chaired by *Rick O'Shea*.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 5

Secondary Schools' Transition Year Workshops

9.00am - 3.00pm
Lough Derg Yacht Club
[Pre-booked groups](#)

Poets *Eileen Sheehan* and *John W. Sexton* are experienced creative writing workshop facilitators and will introduce our young writers to fresh approaches in their work.

Friday Forum

8.00pm
Nenagh Arts Centre,
Banba Square, Nenagh
Entry: €12/€10
[See Bookings for details](#)

Sinead Gleeson chats with prize winning poet, novelist and conservationist, *Ruth Padel*, and *John Connell*, journalist, film maker, writer and farmer. An exciting combination of voices and disparate experiences.

With thanks to ABP for their generous support for John Connell's appearance.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 6

CAFÉ TRAIL

10.30am - 11.15am
Country Choice, Kenyon Street
11.30am - 12.15pm
Cinnamon Alley, Hanly's Place

Eileen Sheehan and *John W. Sexton* will read and chat at Country Choice and Cinnamon Alley.

Children's Event

10.30am - 12.30pm
Nenagh Library, O'Rahilly St,
Nenagh
Entry: Free
[Booking is essential**](#)
[Maximum 20 participants](#)

Nigel Quinlan will conduct a workshop for children 8yrs - 11yrs in Nenagh Library. Nigel will give a talk which will blend into a workshop, based on his book 'The Cloak of Feathers'. The children will get the opportunity to write their own story. "Wild/High energy/Raucous" are just some of the words used to describe this experience!

Masterclass Poetry Workshop

9.30am - 12.30pm
Lough Derg Yacht Club
Entry: €40 (inc. delicious
home-made lunch)
[Booking is essential*](#)
[Maximum 15 participants](#)

We are honoured to have *Ruth Padel*, an award-winning poet, novelist, and conservationist, teaching our poetry masterclass. Ruth was Chair of Judges for the 2016 T.S. Eliot Prize and Judge for the 2016 International Man Booker Prize. She is a great-great-granddaughter of Charles Darwin.

Fiction Workshop

9.30am - 12.30pm
Lough Derg Yacht Club
Entry: €40 (inc. delicious
home-made lunch)
[Booking is essential*](#)
[Maximum 15 participants](#)

Julian Gough, award winning author, and experienced tutor will lead this workshop.

Competition Results, Judge's Citations & Readings

2.30 - 3.30pm
Lough Derg Yacht Club
Entry: Free

Judge, *Geraldine Mitchell* will announce the winners of the Children's Poetry Competition.

The Launching Party

3.45 - 4.45pm
Lough Derg Yacht Club
Entry: €5

In keeping with our tradition of introducing new writing, this year we are featuring poets *Liz Quirke* and *Maurice Devitt*, whose work will be introduced by *Ruth Padel*.

First time novelist, *Ronan Ryan*, will be introduced by *Julian Gough*.

Saturday Night Special Guest

8.00pm
Nenagh Arts Centre,
Banba Square, Nenagh
Entry: €15/€13
[See Bookings for details](#)

Meet *John Banville*, one of Ireland's most highly acclaimed writers, and Man Booker Prize Winner will be in conversation with *Sophie Gorman*.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 7

CAFÉ TRAIL

10.45am - 11.15am
Steeple's Cafe,
O'Rahilly Street, Nenagh

Roisin Meaney will read and chat at Steeple's cafe.

Sunday Afternoon Afloat

12.00pm - 2.00pm
On board The Ku-Ee-Tu
Dromineer Harbour
Entry: €12/€10
[Places are limited](#)
[- BOOKING AT THE HARBOUR](#)

Hear *Jessica J. Lee's* fascinating description of swimming in 52 lakes around Berlin through all four seasons. Jessica tells of her recovery from heartbreak and loneliness through the healing power of water. This event will be chaired by *Sue Leonard*.

With thanks to Waterways Ireland for their support for this event.

Brontë Event - Local Links

4.00pm - 5.15pm
The Castle, 24 Pearse St, Nenagh
Entry: €12/€10
[Dress warmly & even bring a cushion!](#)
[This event is not wheelchair accessible.](#)
[See bookings for details.](#)

Historian, *James Scully*, in association with The Nenagh Players, will recall the moment when Charlotte Brontë met her Irish in-laws on arrival for her honeymoon with her husband, native man, Arthur Bell Nicholls, in Banagher, Co. Offaly. Singers/songwriters, *Claire Watts* and *Shona Blake* will enhance the evening with their unique and inimitable voices.

Thanks to The OPW and Tipperary Heritage Office for their support for this event.

WRITERS & ARTISTS



John Banville was born in Wexford, Ireland, in 1945. He is the author of sixteen novels

including *The Sea*, which won the 2005 Man Booker Prize. In 2011 he was awarded the Franz Kafka Prize, in 2013 he was awarded the Irish PEN Award for Outstanding Achievement in Irish Literature, and in 2014 he won the Prince of Asturias Award, Spain's most important literary prize. His most recent novel is *Mrs Osmond*. He lives in Dublin.



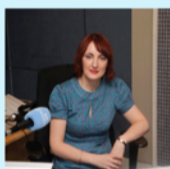
John Connell is a journalist, a film maker, writer and a farmer. He lives on his family farm in

Birchview, Co. Longford. *The Cow Book* is his first book.



Maurice Devitt is from Dublin. His work has appeared in numerous publications.

He won the 2015 Trocaire/Poetry Ireland Competition. Maurice's debut poetry collection, *Growing Up in Colour* has just been published.



Sinéad Gleeson is a writer, editor and freelance broadcaster and journalist. Her debut

essay collection, *Constellations*, will be published by Picador in spring 2019. She is the editor of three short story anthologies.



Julian Gough was born in London to Irish parents, grew up in Tipperary, and now lives in

Berlin. As a youth, he sang on four albums with his band, *Toasted Heretic*. Since then, he has published four novels for adults, and three award-winning books for children (illustrated by Jim Field) about the exciting adventures of *Rabbit & Bear*. He also wrote the ending to the world's most popular computer game, *Minecraft*. He has won the BBC National Short Story Award.



Sophie Gorman is an arts journalist, broadcaster, critic and columnist who

works in print, radio and television.



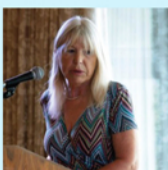
Lisa Harding is an actor, playwright and writer. Her short stories have been widely

published and anthologised. She graduated from the MPhil in creative writing from Trinity college Dublin in 2014. *Harvesting* is her first critically acclaimed novel, inspired by her involvement in a campaign fronted by the Children's Rights Alliance in 2012 called *Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People*. It won the Kate O'Brien award, was nominated for best newcomer at the Irish Book Awards 2017.



Jessica J. Lee was born in Canada in 1986. She holds a doctorate in environmental

history and aesthetics. Jessica now lives in Berlin. *Turning - Lessons from Swimming Berlin's Lakes* is her first book.



Sue Leonard is a ghost writer and journalist. She has interviewed countless

authors including eleven winners of The Man Booker Prize.



Roisin Meaney (Kerry born, Limerick based) is the author of fifteen adult novels

(thirteen with Hachette Books) and two children's books, and her works have been translated into several languages. She is a fan of cats, chocolate, baking and kindness.



Geraldine Mitchell is Dublin-born but now lives on the Co. Mayo coast, not far from

Louisburgh. She is a Patrick Kavanagh Award winner and her most recent collection of poems, *Mountains for Breakfast*, was published in 2017.



Rick O'Shea is a broadcaster with RTÉ, runs Ireland's largest book club with over 20,000

members and is a literary festival curator. He's also Book Ambassador for Eason and one of the judges for the 2018 UK Costa Book Awards.



Ruth Padel is an award-winning poet, Professor of Poetry at King's College

London. Her ten collections include *Darwin - A Life in Poems*, a verse biography of her great-great-grandfather Charles Darwin; *The Mara Crossing* on human and animal migration; *Learning to Make an Oud in Nazareth* on the Middle East; and *Tidings*, a narrative poem on homelessness and Christmas. She is deeply involved in nature conservation. She is the only writer to be Fellow of the Zoological Society of London as well as the Royal Society of Literature. She was Chair of Judges for the 2016 T. S. Eliot Prize, Judge for the 2016 International Man Booker Prize.



Nigel Quinlan is a children's author who lives in Cloughjordan Co Tipperary with his wife

and two children and their pet dog, Rook. His latest book is *The Cloak Of Feathers*, and his previous book was *The Maloneys' Magical Weatherbox*. He looks just like his photo, only with more hair. Nigel spends all his time trying to write and not post silly things on twitter @Nigellicus.



Liz Quirke is originally from Tralee, Co. Kerry, now living in Spiddal, Co. Galway. She

was the winner of the 2017 Listowel Writers' Week Originals Short Poem Competition, the 2016 Dromineer Literary Festival Flash Fiction Competition. She holds degrees from UCC, Dublin City University and NUI Galway. She is a PhD researcher at NUI Galway and a member of the Interface Inagh Artist Residency Programme.



Ronan Ryan is an Irish writer, based in Dublin but originally from Clonmel. He has an MSc in

Creative Writing from the University of Edinburgh and a PhD in English Literature from Victoria University of Wellington. He has won an Arts Bursary Award in Literature from Dublin City Council. His debut novel, *The Fractured Life of Jimmy Dice*, was named by the Irish Independent Review as one of their 'Books of the Year'.



James Scully is from Tullamore and has resided in Banagher, County Offaly and Meelick,

Eyrecourt, County Galway for some time. Among his many local history interests are the many literary associations with Banagher, especially those with Charlotte Brontë, Anthony Trollope, Sir Mathew De Renzy and a host of others.

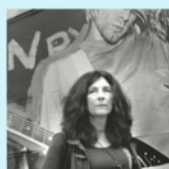


John W. Sexton was born in 1958 and lives in South Kerry. He is the author of six

poetry collections, the most recent of which is *Futures Pass* (Salmon Poetry 2018).

Under the ironic pseudonym of Sex W. Johnston he has recorded an album with legendary Stranglers frontman, Hugh Cornwell, entitled *Sons of Shiva*, which has been released on Track Records.

He is a past nominee for The Hennessy Literary Award and his poem 'The Green Owl' won the Listowel Poetry Prize 2007. Also in 2007 he was awarded a Patrick and Katherine Kavanagh Fellowship in Poetry.



Eileen Sheehan is from Scartaglen, now living in Killarney, County Kerry.

Eileen's poetry has appeared in many anthologies. Her work features on Poetry International Web. Her collections are *Song of the Midnight Fox* and *Down the Sunlit Hall* (Doghouse Books). Her third collection, *The Narrow Way of Souls*, was published in 2018 by Salmon Poetry. A poem from this collection features on the Leaving Cert English syllabus 2019 - 2022.

Writer In Residence.

Poet and playwright Paul McNamara will be writer in residence during the festival. His show *Quarter Life Crisis* won the Galway Fringe Spoken Word Award 2018. Special thanks to Nenagh Arts Centre for hosting the writer.

Time	Event	Venue	Fee
	“YAPPO”, SAID THE MAN - Festival Exhibition	Lough Derg Yacht Club & Country Choice, Kenyon Street, Nenagh	Free Entry
THURSDAY OCTOBER 4			
8.00pm	Flying Start: Opening Night <i>Lisa Harding and Julian Gough</i>	Nenagh Arts Centre	€12/€10
FRIDAY OCTOBER 5			
9.00am - 3.00pm	Secondary Schools' Transition Year Workshops with poets <i>Eileen Sheehan</i> and <i>John W. Sexton</i>	Lough Derg Yacht Club	Pre-booked groups
8.00pm	Friday Forum <i>Ruth Padel and John Connell with Sinead Gleeson</i>	Nenagh Arts Centre	€12/€10
SATURDAY OCTOBER 6			
10.30am - 11.15am 11.30am - 12.15pm	Café Trail <i>Eileen Sheehan and John W. Sexton</i>	Country Choice, Kenyon Street Cinnamon Alley, Hanly's Place	Free Entry
10.30am - 12.30pm	Children's Event Workshop for children 8yrs - 11yrs with <i>Nigel Quinlan</i>	Nenagh Library, O'Rahilly St	Free Entry
9.30am - 12.30pm	Masterclass Poetry Workshop with <i>Ruth Padel</i>	Lough Derg Yacht Club	€40 (inc. lunch)
9.30am - 12.30pm	Fiction Workshop with <i>Julian Gough</i>	Lough Derg Yacht Club	€40 (inc. lunch)
2.30pm - 3.30pm	Competition Results, Judge's Citations & Readings with <i>Geraldine Mitchell</i>	Lough Derg Yacht Club	Free Entry
3.45pm - 4.45pm	The Launching Party <i>Liz Quirke and Maurice Devitt</i> introduced by <i>Ruth Padel</i> and <i>Ronan Ryan</i> introduced by <i>Julian Gough</i>	Lough Derg Yacht Club	€5
8.00pm	Saturday Night Special Guest <i>John Banville</i>	Nenagh Arts Centre	€15/€13
SUNDAY OCTOBER 7			
10.45am - 11.15am	Café Trail <i>Roisin Meaney</i>	Steeple's Cafe, O'Rahilly Street	Free Entry
12.00pm - 2.00pm	Sunday Afternoon Afloat <i>Jessica J. Lee</i>	on board The Ku-Ee-Tu Dromineer Harbour	€12/€10
4.00pm - 5.15pm	Brontë Event - Local Links	Nenagh Castle	€12/€10

BOOKINGS

To book contact:

Online booking: www.nenagharts.com/index.php/tickets

Email: info@dromineerliteraryfestival.ie

Programme details: www.dromineerliteraryfestival.ie

For further information:

www.dromineerliteraryfestival.ie

F: facebook.com/DromineerLitFestival

T: twitter.com/DromineerLit

***Booking is strongly recommended** for writing workshops and the event at Nenagh Castle as places are strictly limited.

****Booking is essential** for the *Children's Event* on Saturday October 6 as places are strictly limited. To book contact Nenagh Library on 067 34404

Don't forget to like and follow us to stay up to date with our latest events.

Festival Team

Geraldine McNulty, *Chairperson*
David McAvinchy, *Vice Chairperson*
Margaret Kennedy, *Secretary*
Geraldine Cronin, *Treasurer*

Virginia O'Dowd
Margaret Folan
Marcella Dillon
Niamh Herriot
Eileen Brannigan
Deborah Powell
Leisa Gray and her predecessor,
Liz Powell, *Tipperary County Council
Festivals Coordinator*

The programme was curated by Geraldine McNulty and committee members in conjunction with Eimear O'Herlihy, Director of West Cork Literary Festival.

A SPECIAL THANKS



Clár Éire Ildánach
*Creative Ireland
Programme*
2017-2022



Bank Of Ireland
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Cronin Architects
Patrick F.Treacy and Co.
David Peters
James O'Brien and Co.
Jacques Lumbroso
James and Margaret Dodd
Dr Paul O'Farrell
Colm and Dearbhla Chadwick
Dr Christine O'Malley
Donal and Marie Whelan

Charles Stanley Smith
Elizabeth McGrath
Peter and Margaret Kennedy
Steeple's Cafe
Country Choice
Cinnamon Alley
Slattery's of Nenagh
Richard and Betty Gough
Lyon's Garage Nenagh
Eddie Guerin
Alan Kelly T.D.
Maurice and Maire Foley
Expert Electrical
John and Fidelma Tierney
Quigleys Bakery

The Bookshop
Denis Finnerty
P.J. and Sally Slattery
The Thatched Cottage,
Ballycommon
O'Connors Kenyon Street Market
Ger Gavins House of Gifts
Florrie Purcell, The Scullery
The Peppermill
Derg Cheese
Hanly Tweeds
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The Lake Cafe, Dromineer
The Whiskey Still, Dromineer
Abbey Machinery