

Celebrating the Literary Arts in Laois

Friday 8th November

Workshops, Talks and Readings

Workshops in Schools

- St Josephs Girls NS, Mountmellick will benefit from a visit by renowned children's author Grace Wells who will facilitate a workshop with students from 6th Class.
- Students from Mountrath Community College are delighted to have a visit from author Donal Ryan who will give a workshop and reading on "The Spinning Heart" his new novel - long listed for the 2013 Man Booker Prize.

Donal Ryan is from Nenagh, Co. Tipperary. His debut novel, *The Spinning Heart*, won overall Book of the Year at the 2012 Irish Book Awards, was selected for the UK 2013 Waterstones Eleven and was longlisted for the 2013 Man Booker Prize.



Library Reading

Laois County Library Service will host a reading by award winning poet and children's author **Grace Wells** in Mountmellick Library. **Time: 2pm Free Event**

Grace Wells is an award-winning poet and children's author. Her debut poetry collection, „When God Has Been Called Away to Greater Things (Dedalus Press), won the 2011 Rupert and Eithne Strong Best First Collection Award and was short-listed for the London Fringe Festival New Poetry Award.



Saturday 9th November

Workshops, Talks and Readings

Adult Creative Writing Workshops

'Getting started in Writing' with Rita Kelly. A workshop for writers of all abilities who are interested in taking up writing.

Venue: The Board Room (beside gallery) Dunamais Arts Centre **Time:** 11am-4pm

Fee: €30 (lunch not provided) booking essential

Booking Box Office: The Dunamais Arts Centre, T: 057 8663355 www.dunamais.ie

Talk by Dr Arthur Broomfield on Beckett

Dr Arthur Broomfield will introducing his book on the works of Samuel Beckett *The Empty Too: language and philosophy in the works of Samuel Beckett.*, published by Cambridge Scholar's Press.

Venue: The Dunamais Arts Centre **Time:** 4pm **Free Entry**



Thanks and acknowledgements

Festival Team: Muireann Ni Chonail, Arts Officer, Bridie Keenan, Assistant Arts Officer, Nuala Kelly, Laois School of Music co-ordinator, Rosa Flannery, Music Generation Laois co-ordinator, Maureen Culliton, Clerical Officer. Special thanks to the management and staff of Laois Library Services and the management and staff of the Dunamais Arts Centre. The Arts Office acknowledge the financial support of the Arts Council and the continued support of the member, staff and management of Laois County Council in the running of the Arts Programme.

For more information on the Arts Programme contact: The Arts Office, Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co Laois. 057 8664033/13 or email artsoff@laoiscoco.ie or visit the website www.laois.ie



Laois County Council

Arts Office

PRESENTS

LEAVES LITERARY FESTIVAL 2013

**Celebrating the
Literary Arts in Laois
8th/9th November, 2013**

Booking Box Office:

Tel: 057 8663355

Online booking: www.dunamais.ie



Leaves Literary Festival 2013

Ba mhaith liom fáilte a chuir roimh gach éinne go dtí an Féile Litríochta 2013, i Chontae Laoise. The Arts Office, Laois County Council celebrate the literary arts in County Laois.

We have a wonderful selection of opportunities to listen to the best of writing from established and emerging writers in Ireland.

Muireann Ní Chonaill
Arts Officer

PROGRAMME

Friday 8th November Leaves Literary and Music Evening

A wonderful evening of readings and music, featuring Michael Harding and Rita Kelly, chaired by Mary O'Donnell. Musical interlude with young violinist Lily Kettle.

Venue: The Arthouse, Library Building, Stradbally Co Laois
Time: 8pm **Fee:** €12/ €10 concessions
Booking Box Office: The Dunamais Arts Centre,
T: 057 8663355 www.dunamais.ie



Michael Harding, the Irish Times Columnist, playwright and novelist, has written a memoir that has gone to the top of the bestsellers list. Staring at Lakes is a beautifully written book in which he talks with openness and honesty about his journey through life, leaving the priesthood, falling in love, being overwhelmed by depression and ultimately how he found a way out of the dark by accepting the fragility of love and the importance of now. He tells his remarkable story with great wit and has enthralled and entertained audiences with his unique take on life in Ireland.



Rita Kelly writes in Irish & English, poetry, fiction, drama and criticism. Her publications include: Terms of Biology Schools & Colleges, Dublin 1974, Dialann sa Díseart (le hEoghan Ó Tuairisc) Coiscéim, Dublin 1981 (poetry), An Bealach Éadóigh Coiscéim, Dublin 1984 (poetry), The Whispering Arch & Other Stories Arlen House, Dublin 1986 Farewell/Beir Beannacht Attic Press, Dublin 1990 (poetry), Travelling West Arlen House, Dublin 2000 (poetry), Kelly reads Bewick Arlen House, Dublin 2001 (prose), The Pig is Unclean (excerpt) Limited edition, California 2006 (prose)



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Mary O'Donnell has published three novels, The Light-Makers, Virgin and the Boy and The Elysium Testament (Trident Press UK, 1999), as well as two collections of short fiction, Strong Pagans and in 2008 Storm Over Belfast (New Island Books). Her selected poems were published in a Hungarian edition in 2011 in Budapest and she was co-winner of the Irodalmi Jelen Prize for Poetry in Translation. She is an experienced creative writing mentor/facilitator and works on Carlow Univ. Pittsburgh's MFA in Creative Writing Program. An elected member of the Irish artists' organization Aosdana, she also teaches poetry at NUI Maynooth. www.maryodonnell.com

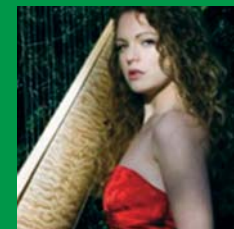


Saturday 9th November Reading by Paul Durcan in Preston House

Don't miss this great opportunity to hear Paul Durcan give a solo reading from his new book and selected poems. Musical interlude with harpist Claire O'Donnell.

Venue: Preston House, Abbeyleix
Time: 8pm **Fee:** €12/ €10 concessions
Booking Box Office: The Dunamais Arts Centre
T: 057 8663355 www.dunamais.ie

Make an evening of it by booking for a wonderful special early bird pre-concert dinner available from 6pm: contact Preston House on 057 8731432 or email info@prestonhouse.ie – for dinner reservations only.



Paul Durcan is one of Ireland's foremost poets. He was born in Dublin in 1944. His first book, Endsville (1967), has been followed by more than twenty others, including The Berlin Wall Café (a Poetry Book Society Choice in 1985), Daddy, Daddy (winner of the Whitbread Award for Poetry in 1990), A Snail in My Prime: New and Selected Poems (1993), Cries of an Irish Caveman: New Poems (2001), The Art of Life (2004) and The Laughter of Mothers (2008). In 2009 he published a selection of his work from the previous forty years in one volume, Life is a Dream. His most recent book Praise in Which I Live and Move and Have my Being was published to critical acclaim in 2012. In 2001 Paul Durcan received a Cholmondeley Award. He was the Ireland Professor of Poetry 2004-2007. He is a member of Aosdána.

