

June 5, 2020

MEATH ARTS OFFICE NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the June edition of the Meath Arts Office Newsletter. This edition includes updates on some of our initiatives, opportunities and details of a bumper packed Meath Cruinniú na nÓg 2020. There is also a chance to catch up on the work of some of our wonderful artists in the *In Case You Missed It.....* section.

We continue to reach out to our creative and artistic communities and in response to develop a series of initiatives to support, highlight and celebrate creativity in Meath.

Please stay in contact, let us know how you are getting on and how your work has been affected by the current crisis. We will continue to support artists and creatives and look forward to meeting you all again on the other side.

Gerardette Bailey, County Arts Officer



Cruinniú na nÓg Meath 2020

Saturday June 13th

Cruinniú na nÓg is fast approaching and **Meath County Council Arts & Library Services** have a jam-packed programme for children and young people ages 2-18 to enjoy and get involved with! Launching Cruinniú na nÓg 2020 Josepha Madigan TD, Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht said:

“Creativity and culture are powerful means through which children and young people can explore communication and collaboration, stimulate their imaginations to be inventive and harness their innate curiosity. Creativity also helps to encourage social responsibility and personal qualities related to wellbeing such as resilience, empathy, and a capacity for connection and friendship. Over the past 2 years Cruinniú na nÓg has been a key point in the calendar for children and young people to try something creative, develop an appetite for discovery and acquire new skills – and 2020 will be no different.”

In light of the public health restrictions currently in force, the Creative Ireland Programme and its partners have developed a number of creative, cultural and engaging **“calls to action”** which children, young people – indeed entire families – can create in their own homes and gardens on Saturday 13th June. National programme highlights include:

Céilí in the Kitchen – A collective call to action for children, young people and their families to create a Céilí in their kitchen for Cruinniú, with Áirc Damhsa.

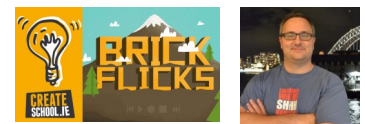
Let’s Go Fly a Kite – A collective call to action for children, young people and their families to make and fly a kite for Cruinniú, in your county colours.

Create a Video Game App – If you could click your fingers and create a video game app, what would it be? Let Whizz Kids Training know, and they will help bring young people into the world of software design in 4 easy tutorials. Full details of the above available on <https://cruinniu.creativeireland.gov.ie/>



Cruinniú na nÓg Meath

The Cruinniú na nÓg Meath team have put together an exciting range of activities for children, young people and their families to get involved in.



Online workshop highlights include – Brickflicks; Creative Writing with Oisín McGann; Little Pack O’ Tailors & Turas Scoile Traditional Song with Aileen Lambert; Make a Floral headdress with Saraden Designs; Everyone is a Translator with Juliette Saumande; Michael Brunnock song writing workshops with Act Out Youth Theatre; Code with Ciara and Illustration with Tarsila Krüse!! Some of these workshops take place in the run up to June 13th so get clicking!

Online events include Meath Musical Mystery Tour with Kids Classics, Me & Molly & Moo read by Deirdre Kinahan; STEM messy fun with Toodlelouw: A series of short science experiments videos with Dr Brain of Funbelievable Science; Stories and crafts as Gaeilge with Sadhbh Devlin: Screening of two short films and filmmakers Q&A with Act Out Youth Theatre; Irish History Live with Michael Moylan and screening of #WeAreAllinThisTogether short film by Act Out Youth Theatre members!!

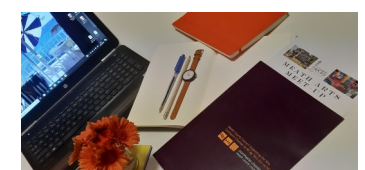
Full details available on MCC Facebook & Twitter, at

www.meath.ie/events

<https://cruinniu.creativeireland.gov.ie/>

and a dedicated Meath Cruinniú na nÓg YouTube channel.

#CreativeIreland

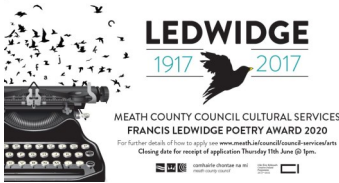


Meath Arts Meet Up—MAMU

The first **Meath Arts Meet-Up** gathered on 27th February with a view to continuing them once a month. We hoped that these meetings would be a good opportunity for professional artists in the county to meet and chat with fellow artists in an informal setting over a cuppa with a view to combat the isolation sometimes felt by the independent artistic sector; to develop new networks and to explore possible areas for collaboration, training, mentorship etc. Unfortunately due to the unexpected circumstances of the COVID-19 crisis, we had to postpone these meetings until further notice.

But, we were so delighted with the initial meetings both in person and virtually, that we thought it would be a pity to lose that connection and we want to create ways to build on it, if you are a professional artist in the county wanting to learn more, please contact artsoffice@meathcoco.ie and title the subject MAMU.

OPPORTUNITIES



To celebrate national Poetry Day on 30th April, Meath County Council Cultural Services announced the launch of the **Meath County Council Francis Ledwidge Poetry Award 2020**.

This award, supported by Creative Ireland, is aimed at poets, and is designed to help support and nurture the rich poetry culture alive in Ireland today.

Named in honour of the famous Irish war poet and soldier: Francis Ledwidge '*Poet of the Blackbirds*'; The Francis Ledwidge Poetry Award seeks to support Irish poets both financially and creatively.

The awardee will receive a week- long residential stay at one of Ireland's finest artists' retreats: the prestigious Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Annaghmakerrig, Co Monaghan, and a cash prize of €1,500.00.

Helping to promote development in the craft of poetry, the artist's residency at Annaghmakerrig will afford the winning writer escape from the everyday to focus on creative work. Nestled amongst the beautiful, tranquil lakes and drumlins of County think and work in a community of like- minded people.

The **Meath County Council Francis Ledwidge Poetry Award 2020** promotes the conception of new works, the completion of ongoing projects and the regeneration of creative thinking through the provision of a creative residency and financial reward.

To enter, applicants must submit a biography, writing samples and a creative residency work proposal. Full details at <https://www.meath.ie/council/news/meath-county-council-cultural-services-francis-ledwidge-poetry-award-2020>

The closing date for receipt of submissions is June 11th at 1pm.

And huge congratulations to the 2017 Francis Ledwidge Award winner **Louise Nealon** whose debut novel 'Snowflake' and follow up has just been acquired by Bonnier Books in a six-figure deal !



ARTS COUNCIL

Provision of Project Lead Services – Creative Schools

Monday, 29 June 2020, 12.00pm

The Arts Council is seeking a Project Lead to develop and support the Creative Schools programme. The Project Lead must demonstrate capability and experience in managing the delivery and development of programmes related to arts and culture for and with children and young people. The Project Lead will draw on the plans that have been developed for the Creative Schools programme and will be responsible for further developing and refining these plans, and for ensuring successful delivery.

Reporting to a Senior Manager at the Arts Council, the Project Lead will work closely with and be supported by three managers, one executive officer and two administration officers. The Arts Council have already a contract in place related to the management of celebratory events showcasing outputs of the programme, and this resource will further support the project lead.

Further details at <https://irl.eu-supply.com/ctm/Supplier/PublicPurchase/167751/0/0?returnUrl>



Create is happy to invite artists and other interested socially engaged practitioners based in Ireland to become members of our virtual Reading Group. The Reading Group is coordinated by Create's Cultural Diversity Researcher Evgeny Shtorn, and will have its first meeting on the 9th of June, from 1 to 2pm.

The group will meet twice a month to read and discuss articles, films, and online exhibitions related to different aspects of collaborative, socially engaged arts practice and other relevant social issues. This Reading Group has developed from the 2018 and 2019 Summer Schools on Cultural Diversity and Collaborative Practice, an Arts Council Artist in the Community Scheme initiative, devised and offered by Create and Counterpoints Arts. Summer School Alumni and other participants are invited to become part of our meetings not only as attendees, but also as discussants, or moderators. Participants are welcome to propose materials that will inform the discussions. We would like to touch on a number of different nonetheless interconnected topics such as cultural diversity, social citizenship, identities, the role of art and artists in the society, practices of resilience, meaningful collaborations, ethics, and aesthetics in collaborative arts.

Further details and how to join available at;
<https://www.create-ireland.ie/create-discussion-group-on-socially-engaged-collaborative-art/>

<https://twitter.com/CreateIreland/status/1265556911279280135>

In case you missed it.....

The Arts Office has introduced a number of new artist support initiatives in response to Covid19, these include our lovely new Ceol Comfort music Series, Toradh Gallery online and our Theatre Tuesday events with award winning playwright Deirdre Kinahan. These can be found on the Meath County Council Twitter and Facebook pages or meath.ie. Below are some of the most recent artists featured.

Ceol Comfort

Michael Brunnock – *The Landing*

Meath Arts Office Associate Artist the singer songwriter Michael Brunnock, gained international recognition on winning the Italian Donatello Film Award for his work (in collaboration with Talking Heads David Byrne) on the soundtrack to the Sean Penn movie 'This Must be the Place'. Returning to his native Meath he recorded *The Landing* - part of a larger body of work on the life and times of Roger Casement. Filmed in Meath by Meath film maker Mark Smyth, sit back and enjoy Michaels wonderful voice and the beauty of the Meath landscape.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLycdveAgu4>



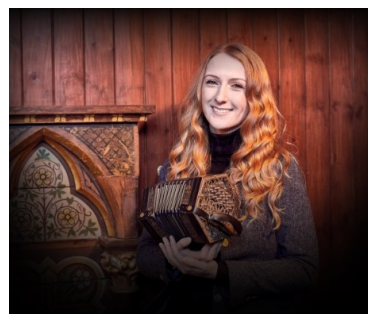
Caitlín Nic Gabhann

Three-time All-Ireland champion on concertina, Caitlín is a regular performer at festivals and in concert halls from North America all the way to Asia. Writing tunes since the age of ten, her compositions have been performed in the Cork Opera House and The National Concert Hall, Dublin and recorded by renowned musicians in Ireland and

abroad. 'I wanted to play something cheerful and happy in this time - so here's a set of reels. I chose three reels that I learned in Meath - the first I associate with the playing of Mícheál Ó Raghallaigh and the last two I learned from my dad.' Caitlín.

What a treat! these will get definitely the feet tapping!!

<https://www.facebook.com/MeathCountyCouncil/videos/3412280482120493/>



Brenda Castles

Brenda Castles is from a rich tradition of music in Co. Meath having learned concertina from Rena Traynor (née Crotty) and Mícheál Ó'Raghallaigh. She has a series of All Ireland Fleadh titles to her name both in solo and group competitions and her Radio & TV appearances include TG4's Glaoch an Cheoil, Gay Byrne's Late Late Show as a finalist in the Young Traditional Musician of the Year competition, TG4's Hup!, RTE's Céilí House and RTE's Late Date. Having played all over Asia, Australia, Europe, Africa, and North America she recently released her solo debut album "Indeedin You Needn't Bother." Brenda is also the winner of the Meath County Council/ Centre Cultural Irlandais Residency Award 2020/21. Sit back and enjoy some of Brenda's wonderful playing!



<https://www.facebook.com/MeathCountyCouncil/videos/640680296790468/>

Bernadette Nic Gabhann

Born into a musical family in Ashbourne, Co. Meath Ireland, **Bernadette Nic Gabhann** learned to play fiddle from her father Antóin, and recently released her debut album **Here to Play** to great acclaim. Bernadette participated in Fleadhanna Cheoil throughout her youth as a member of Trim Comhaltas which provided the foundation to a life in music that has brought her across the globe promoting Irish Arts. As Fiddle player with **Michael Flatley's** Lord of the Dance, Bernadette toured through North America and Canada, and performed in Alaska and South Korea. She was also fiddle player with **Gaelforce Dance** touring Eastern Europe and Taiwan, and with **Irish Thunder**, a dance show based in Williamsburg, Virginia USA. For **Ceol Comfort** Bernadette delights us with 2 Traditional Irish Reels - *Miss Lyons Fancy* and *The Red Haired Lass*.



<https://www.facebook.com/MeathCountyCouncil/videos/596021081266254/>

Perlee – *Conditions to Thrive*

We are treated to another song by Perlee (Meath musicians Saramai Leech & Cormac O Keefe)!. *Conditions to Thrive* is taken from their highly acclaimed debut EP *Slow Creatures*. Sit back, relax and enjoy Saramai's beautiful voice and their wonderful music in this lovely video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=994wszplHvg>



Toradh online



Borderline Kieran McNulty

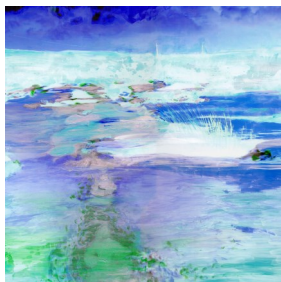
Borderline is a solo exhibition by artist and production designer Kieran McNulty. Taking inspiration from his hometown of Mornington, Co Meath and the River Boyne, *Borderline* is a collection of new and recent mixed media artworks created over a two-year period. Reflective of the River Boyne in particular, the body of artworks feature a combination of aluminium plates, drawings and prints, and combine to present a collection of deeply intriguing, mysterious abstract images.



<https://www.facebook.com/MeathCountyCouncil/videos/276631273502307/>

***SILENT:LISTEN* Mary Clarke**

SILENT:LISTEN is a solo exhibition by Navan based visual artist Mary Clarke. Originally presented in the Toradh Gallery Ashbourne as part of our Bealtine 2019 programme we are delighted to include in our Toradh online series as part of Bealtine - Ireland's national celebration of the arts and creativity as we age -2020.



SILENT:LISTEN is a collection of new abstract painted works and prints on photographic paper inspired by global climate change and the travesty of melting glaciers. Silent is an anagram of listen and through her abstracted images, Mary explores the necessity to be still, observe and pay heed. Interspersed throughout is some of Mary's Haku poetry.

<https://www.facebook.com/MeathCountyCouncil/videos/377227899861553/>

Theatre Tuesday

Dolly Snow from *The Unmanageable Sisters*

Award winning playwright Deirdre Kinahan charms us with a monologue by **Dolly Snow** from **The Unmanageable Sisters**. This play, a new version of Michel Tremblay's *Les Belle Soeurs* by Deirdre Kinahan, completed two sell out runs at The Abbey Theatre in 2018 and 2019 playing to 26,000 people! Sit back and enjoy this poignant yet gently funny insight into the world of Dolly Snow.



<https://www.facebook.com/MeathCountyCouncil/videos/263901174790123/>

Josie from *WILD SKY* by Deirdre Kinahan

WILD SKY by Deirdre Kinahan was the Meath County Council Arts Office 1916 commemorations theatre commission.

Having completed sell out runs in Meath and Dublin, **WILD SKY**, supported by Culture Ireland, travelled to the Irish Arts Centre New York, as part of the national commemorations programme and was subsequently produced by Solas Nua Theatre Company, Washington. Written from a uniquely rural perspective, **WILD SKY** is a very rich, powerful and moving theatre experience that seeks to explore the extraordinary energy and complexity of events in Ireland in the lead up to Easter 1916. The play takes the form of a blighted love story between two young friends from Slane County Meath, Tom Farrell and Josie Dunne. Here Deirdre reads a monologue by our fabulously feisty heroine Josie.



<https://www.facebook.com/MeathCountyCouncil/videos/3102267073168918/>