

## Meath County Council Arts Grants, Awards & Bursaries Schemes 2020 Update

Welcome to the July edition of the Meath Arts Office Newsletter. As many of you are aware we had to postpone the closing date for all our Arts Grants, Awards & Bursaries Schemes due to Covid19.

We are now happy to announce a new closing date of **Thursday August 20<sup>th</sup> 2020 at 1pm** for the following schemes;

- Annual Arts Grants Scheme
- Community Arts Award
- Festival Grant Scheme
- Professional Artists Development Fund
- Tyrone Guthrie Centre Regional Bursary Award

And **Thursday September 24<sup>th</sup> 2020 at 1pm** for the School Musical Instrument Purchase Scheme.

Unfortunately there will be no Drama League of Ireland Bursary awards this year as the DLI Summer School has been cancelled due to Covid19.

Full details and application forms are available from [artsoffice@meathcoco.ie](mailto:artsoffice@meathcoco.ie) or <https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/arts/meath-county-council-arts-funding>

As many circumstances have changed, individuals or organisations who have already submitted an application are now required to email the Arts Office confirming the event, festival or project for which funding was sought is still going ahead in 2020. If we do not hear from you we will assume you no longer wish to pursue your application.

If however you have had to postpone your project or event in 2020 and now wish to apply for a revised project taking place in 2020 you should email the Arts Office at [artsoffice@meathcoco.ie](mailto:artsoffice@meathcoco.ie) to advise us of same.

Please note you must make a new application for any revised project.

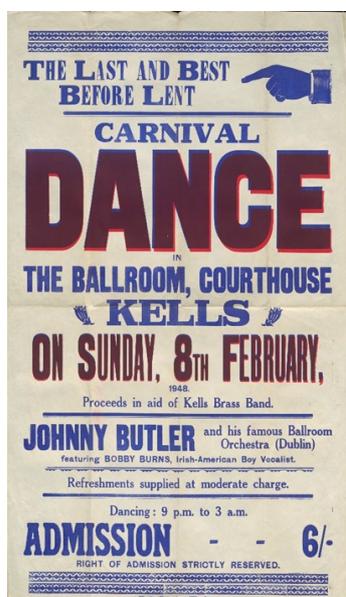
**Gerardette Bailey, County Arts Officer**





## KELLS PRINTING PRESS

In 2016 an intact Victorian printing works of national significance, consisting of 5 printing presses, type trays, galleys, woodblock and extensive paper archive was discovered in the town of Kells. Through a voluntary community effort led by Mark Smith and the Sawmills Studio this important Kells Printing Press collection has been gifted by its benefactor to the people of Kells. Since that time the MCC Arts & Heritage Offices have been working with them to conserve and restore this valuable collection with the objective of establishing Kells Printing Press Studios and Ireland's first centre for Typography. Pictured here is one of the first restored presses on which the poem *Home* by Francis Ledwidge was the first test print.



## BALLROOM OF ROMANCE

Included in the collection are hundreds of posters for events - concerts, raffles, auctions, sports days and Ballroom Dances in the Courthouse Kells. We intend to hold an exhibition of a selection of these posters in the Toradh Gallery 2 in 2021 and to host a **Tea Dance in The Ballroom, Courthouse, Kells**. We would love to hear *your stories* of those Ballroom days – did you/your parents or grandparents attend any of those dances?.... Was love lost or found? What was the fashion like? How did you get there? Who was your favourite dance band? Do you have any photographs you'd like to share with us? Please send your memories to MCC Arts Office, Innovation House, Railway Street, Navan, Co Meath or [artsoffice@meathcoco.ie](mailto:artsoffice@meathcoco.ie) and we will include them as part of our exhibition. Keep an eye out too for our **Tea Dance** in 2021 & let us know any favourite songs you would like to hear/dance along to again.



## MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL WRITER IN RESIDENCE 2020

Meath County Council is pleased to announce that author Nicola Cassidy has been appointed as Writer in Residence for 2020. The residency runs from June-December and will be managed by Meath County Council Library Service.

Nicola Cassidy writes historical fiction and has published three novels. She is also a script writer, blogger and spoken word poet. Her first novel *December Girl*, set in Meath's Boyne Valley was published in 2017 by Bombshell Books. Her second novel *The Nanny at Number 43*, published by Poolbeg Press, was set in Drogheda and featured scenery and characters from Meath. Her third novel *Adele*, is a bio-fictional account of stage star Adele Astaire. Her forthcoming fourth novel is due for publication in November.

Nicola will focus on researching and writing her fourth novel over the summer months. She has also been granted a week's residential stay in the Tyrone Guthrie Centre as part of the residency. In the autumn, Nicola will work with book clubs, schools and emerging writers. She will also host a series of workshops on blogging, podcasting and YouTube.

# OPPORTUNITIES



## **Arts Council announces expanded Bursary Award across all art forms**

The Arts Council has welcomed increased government funding of €20m that brings its annual budget to €100m.

The additional €20 million was announced on June 16th by Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Josepha Madigan TD.

The announcement recognises the significant challenges facing the art sector arising from the COVID-19 emergency.

Recent analysis from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform identified 'arts & entertainment' as one of the sectors most affected by the COVID-19 shutdown.

Arts Council Director, Maureen Kennelly said, 'Our painters, poets, dancers, musicians, actors and filmmakers show us who we are. We know that this has been an extremely worrying time for people across the industry but today's news will come as a major reassurance to the public, and to people within the arts sector, that the central place of stories, images, music in Irish life is clearly understood and cherished. We look forward to continuing to work with the government to realise the extraordinary ambition of this rich seam of Irish life'.

The Arts Council's Music, Opera, and Traditional Arts Bursary Awards are now open for applications. Other awards that are now also open for application include the Festivals Investment Scheme, and bursary awards in the fields of arts participation, architecture, dance, film, literature, circus, theatre, and more. For further information on how to apply and application closing dates visit <http://www.artscouncil.ie/available-funding/>

## *In case you missed it.....*

The Arts Office introduced a number of new artist support initiatives in response to Covid19, these included our lovely new Ceol Comfort music Series, Toradh Gallery online and our Theatre Tuesday events with award winning playwright Deirdre Kinnahan. 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

#### **Meath Musical Mystery Tour with Kids' Classics!**

Join Gráinne Hope with David & Eoin from the Kids Classics team on a Meath Musical Mystery Tour.

First up Rattlin (or is it Girley?) Bog.....Sing along, Play along, even Dance along and enjoy the magic!!



Especially for early years but all the family can join in along the way. This was part of our Cruinniú na nÓg celebrations, Ireland's national day of free creative activities for children and young people which took place Saturday June 13th.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dkq6cDt2moc&feature=youtu.be>

Leanaigí ar aghaidh lenár Meath Musical Mystery Tour leis an Kids Classic Team atá mar bhall dár ceiliúradh Meath Cruinniú na nÓg. Bígí páirteach le Grainne agus Eoin sa leagan álainn seo de Dilín Ó Deamhas- canaigí leis, bíodh spraoi agaibh leis, nó bígí mar Birdy, agus damhsa leis!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLo8tTizj5o&t=1s>

Lastly a lovely piece for our younger audience - Row Row Row Your Boat - devised by the wonderful Kids Classics team and signed by ISL performer Mary Kiely.

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

### Toradh online



We are delighted to include in our Toradh online series *Following Contours*, a solo exhibition by Cork based ceramicist Bernadette Tuite. Taking inspiration from the wild Atlantic coastline, *Following Contours* is an exhibition of new and recent sculptural ceramics presented alongside process-based mixed media artworks. Navan native Bernadette Tuite was the 2019 recipient of the Meath County Council Arts Office **Going Solo Graduate Award**.

<https://www.facebook.com/MeathCountyCouncil/videos/269984431039095/>

We were sad to bid farewell to Jane Hughes evocative exhibition *Places Histories & Other Matters* which was on exhibit at both the Toradh Gallery Ashbourne & Toradh 2 Kells.

It now travels for exhibition in Helsinki and is all packed up and making its journey in style thanks to the TypeTrail team who made this wonderful travelling crate. This year's TypeTrail word is Journey ..... and so the Trail begins!



## Hinterland Virtual Festival

# Hinterland

FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE AND ARTS - KELLS



The Hinterland Festival Kells is a key event on the Cultural calendar and should have taken place on the weekend of June 25th—28th . Having to cancel due to Covid19, the wonderful team at Hinterland instead extended an invitation to some really great online events.

Hinterland is a celebration of literature, arts and great writing from poets and scientists, lyricists and comedians, novelists and environmentalists. Presenting a blend of literature, history, politics, sport, music, magic and all round fun, the Festival has something for the whole family.

Enjoy interviews with writers, playwrights, online exhibitions, a children's play & perhaps a bit of Litcrawl! <http://www.hinterland.ie/>

*Highlights include:*

**Emer Martin** (The Cruelty Men) the Irish novelist based in the Bay Area, San Francisco in conversation with Tony Bucher (director of Hinterland: West in San Francisco).

<https://www.hinterland.ie/p-292-emer-martin-talks-to-tony-bucher.aspx>

**Liz Nugent** (Our Little Cruelties), Ireland's foremost crime writer, in conversation with Deirdre Hurley of Hinterland, and LMFM.

<https://www.hinterland.ie/p-289-liz-nugent-in-conversation-with-deirdre-hurley.aspx>

*In The Middle of the Fields* written and performed by award winning playwright **Deirdre Kinahan**. Commissioned by Meath County Council Arts Office in tribute to the Mary Lavin short story book of the same name as part of the Mary Lavin Season 2020.

<https://www.hinterland.ie/p-296-in-the-middle-of-the-fields.aspx>



**Me & Molly & Moo** by **Deirdre Kinahan**

Sedgwick Alexander the Third is the forgotten imaginary friend of a Croatian girl who came to live in Ireland 21 years ago. When he is discovered by her daughter Molly and best friend Moo (of Market Square Navan), a magical adventure ensues. Join award winning playwright Deirdre Kinahan as she reads this newly adapted version of her play.

<https://www.hinterland.ie/p-288-me-molly-moo-by-deirdre-kinahan.aspx>

