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**25 August 2020**

**So you want to write …? Call for budding novelists, scriptwriters and podcasters to join in free creative writing sessions**

Meath Writer-in-Residence for 2020 Nicola Cassidy and Meath County Council Library Service have launched an online creative writing series for September. The free webinar series entitled ‘So you want to write…’ is open to all local budding writers and features a host of creative writing speakers. The webinars are free to attend and will feature sessions on the short story, novel, screenplay and podcast.

Nicola said Covid-19 restrictions mean the series is now taking place online; something which may allow for even more people to take part. “The great thing about webinars is you can view the event live from your laptop or phone from the comfort of your own home and I hope this will encourage as many people as possible to log on and hear what our speakers have to say. As a writer, I’ve always loved to hear how other people achieve their goals and in these sessions we have a line-up of fantastic speakers, who have their own unique take on their chosen field.”

The first webinar takes place on Thursday 3 September with multi-award-winning short story writer Michelle Coyne. She will discuss her creative process and give advice on what competitions up and coming writers should look to. On Saturday 12 September award-winning writer and story consultant Mary Kate O’Flanagan will discuss the screenplay and offer advice on what new script writers should keep in mind while developing their stories for screen.

On Thursday 17 September, Irish Times best seller Andrea Mara will look at the novel and discuss her methods for plotting her intricate crime books. Both she and Nicola will offer their tips for getting to the end of a first draft and advice on getting published. The final session takes place on Saturday 26 September with Ronan McQuillan who is an audio technology expert and podcast producer. He will discuss the technical aspects of producing a quality podcast, while Nicola will offer tips on content and researching material for broadcast.

“I am encouraging aspiring writers and avid readers to sign up for this free series of webinars but please remember to register ahead of the events” says Senior Executive Librarian Maedhbh Rogan-McGann.

To register for any of the events visit www.nicolacassidy.com/events or email meathlibrariessocial@meathcoco.ie

“The sessions will be fun, full of tips and advice and most of all, encouraging for everyone who has ever wanted to put a story onto the page,” says Nicola. “Part of my drive for applying to be the writer-in-residence in Meath was to help support those who would love to start writing but are not sure how. I also believe in experimenting in various forms of writing to broaden your knowledge and skill – you might have written short stories but not a novel, or vice versa, so I’m hoping there’ll be something in the sessions for all.”

The writer-in-residence programme is funded by Creative Ireland and is part of Meath County Council’s Creative Programme.