

Winter 2021

Meath Arts Office Newsletter



Welcome to the Meath County Council Arts Office winter newsletter.

We have had a very busy few months with the return of live music to the Royal County with a series of live, in-person and recorded events gratefully funded under the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media's Local Live Performance Programming Scheme.

This saw the production of two separate short performance films: *Until the Dew Falls*, a musical celebration of the autumn equinox and *All Rise*, featuring live sessions at Kells Courthouse. It also supported a one-day live music festival at Dunderry Park entitled *Until the Harvest Comes* which featured a sterling line up of Meath live musical acts.

The scheme also supported live circus performances, theatrical rehearsals and live readings, and a contemporary dance event.

We have been very fortunate to work with event management company SoFFt Productions on the development and presentation of some of these events, which has ensured they have been executed to the highest standard and remained in line with government advised Covid19 restrictions.

We were thrilled and excited to learn that a second phase of the Local Live Performance Programming Scheme was announced in late October and we are delighted to announce that we will be supporting Christmas themed live performances throughout Meath in December.

This will include live events hosted by both Meath Beo in Slane and SoFFt Productions in Kells, as well as in nursing homes throughout the county via our Tea, Chats and Tunes programme with Kids Classics.

After a long and hard period of struggle for the live performance industry, we are truly happy to see musicians, performers, production crews and audiences resume their positions!

In addition to this flurry of live performance activity, we also made the final awards through the arts office grants of 2021. The Professional Artists Development Scheme Round 2 awardees were ratified at the November meeting of Meath County Council which saw the total number of supported artists, arts organisations and groups total 106, a record amount for County Meath in a single year. Congratulations to all awardees. We look forward to launching the 2022 awards in the new year which will feature some new and exciting schemes.

We would like to extend our congratulations to our colleagues in Meath Library Service who recently scooped the prize of best library service at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2021 for their laptops for loan scheme. Very deserving winners indeed.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the artists, arts sector workers, organisations and groups we have worked with throughout 2021. It was another challenging year for the arts but we are thrilled with all the quality programming, projects and practices we have been able to support.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and safe Christmas and a creative and inspiring New Year.

Beannachtaí na Feile libh go léir.

Gerardette Bailey, County Arts Officer

SPOTLIGHT ON PUBLIC ART : Winter Trees by Leo Higgins



Winter Trees by Leo Higgins is a sculpture installation composed of white patinated bronze trees on black granite situated in Navan town.

Leo Higgins was born in Dublin in 1951. He is a founder member of the Sculptors' Society of Ireland and he is the director of Cast Foundry in Dublin, he also is a part time lecturer at the National College of Art and Design in Dublin.

A self-taught sculptor, Leo Higgins won the Oireachtas prize for Sculpture in 1984 and again in 1985. Specialising in bronze sculpture, Leo has exhibited in many solo and group exhibitions across Ireland since 1978. These include the Oireachtas, Aer Rianta "Gateway to Art" at Dublin Airport and the RHA.

Over the years Leo has won a number of awards for his sculptures and his work is included in many collections such as Bank of Ireland, AIB, Irish Life and Institute of Chartered Accountants.

Meath County Council Arts Office Award PADF Round II



The final round of funding for 2021 was announced following the November full council meeting.

A total of 14 professional artists working in film, visual art, performance and music received support through the Professional Artists Development Fund Round 2.

This was the final Arts Office funding cycle of 2021. These latest awards brought the total number of supported artists, arts groups and arts organisations funded through Meath Arts Office in 2021 to 106.

Congratulations to all successful awardees. The 2022 grants awards and bursaries will be launched in the 1st quarter of next year.



Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017-2022



A Celebration of Local Music Welcomed Artists back to the Stage



Live music was welcomed back to County Meath in the beautiful setting of Dunderry Park in September with *Until the Harvest Comes*, where a fantastic line up of Meath artists was presented to mark the Autumn Equinox.

Showcasing the homegrown musical talents of *Those Nervous Animals*, *Hamsandwich*, *Oliver Cole*, *Paddy Smith Band*, *Joy Booth* and *Bernadette Nic Gabhann*, the intimate event was set amongst the tranquil surrounds of historic Dunderry Park.

With beautiful lighting displays illuminating the grounds and striking sculptural installations dotted throughout, the setting provided a charming

backdrop for the return of live performance to the Royal County.

The socially distanced outdoor event welcomed back performers to stage and audiences to seats in a much-anticipated return of live entertainment following a devastating period of stagnancy owing to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The six Meath based artists performed on the main stage across four hours to a contented crowd that tangibly buzzed with excitement. The weather remained clement and spirits high as the evening drew in on what was the first outdoor festival in County Meath for some time.

Along with musical performances, there was poetry readings by Dunshaughlin Poet Laureate Orla Fay and a screening of a cinematic concept short film entitled 'Until the Dew Falls' which was a homage to the Autumnal Equinox, shot at Loughcrew. The short film was based around the local community, drawing influence from the artists and directors engaging conversations and experiences with locals about their cultural environment.

The event was produced by SoFFT Productions and presented by Meath County Council Arts Office, supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports & Media under the Local Live Performance Programming Scheme.





HARK! A Kells Christmas Carol presented by SoFFt Productions is a night of festive fun for the community featuring music, film, comedy, circus, storytelling and more!

Including musical performances by Paddy Keenan, Eleanor Shanley, the Paddy Smith Band and Jeanne McGovern; Robert J Ardiff, Matthew Gilshan and Deirdre Shannon. With further performances by award winning playwright Deirdre Kinahan; Ireland's Family Circus - Gerbola Circus, Kells Silver Band and more to be announced! Featuring MC, comedian Fred Cooke, and for film lovers; a special 15-minute film premier of *All Rise*: a musical short film shot on location at Kells historic courthouse showcasing music acts from County Meath funded under the Local Live Performance Programming Scheme.

HARK! A Kells Christmas Carol is produced by SoFFt Productions with the support of Meath County Council Arts Office and is presented under the DTCAGSM Local Live Performance Programming Scheme Phase 2.

Venue: Kells Theatre (St Vincent de Paul Hall), Kells, Co. Meath

Date: Saturday, 18th December 2021

Door time: 8pm

Tickets available here: <https://secure.tickets.ie/Listing/EventInformation/43942/hark-a-kells-christmas-carol-st-vincent-de-paul-theatre-18-December-2021>

MEATH BEO ARÍS



LIVE MUSIC
SLANE CASTLE, CO. MEATH
Meath Beo
SATURDAY 4TH, 4-6PM
SUNDAY 5TH, 10AM-6PM

Thanks to...

meath county council
ARTS office
comhairle chontae na meath county council

An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

FREE CHRISTMAS EVENT

Meath Beo Arís returns with a showcase of many of the finest Traditional Irish musicians and singers from Co. Meath.

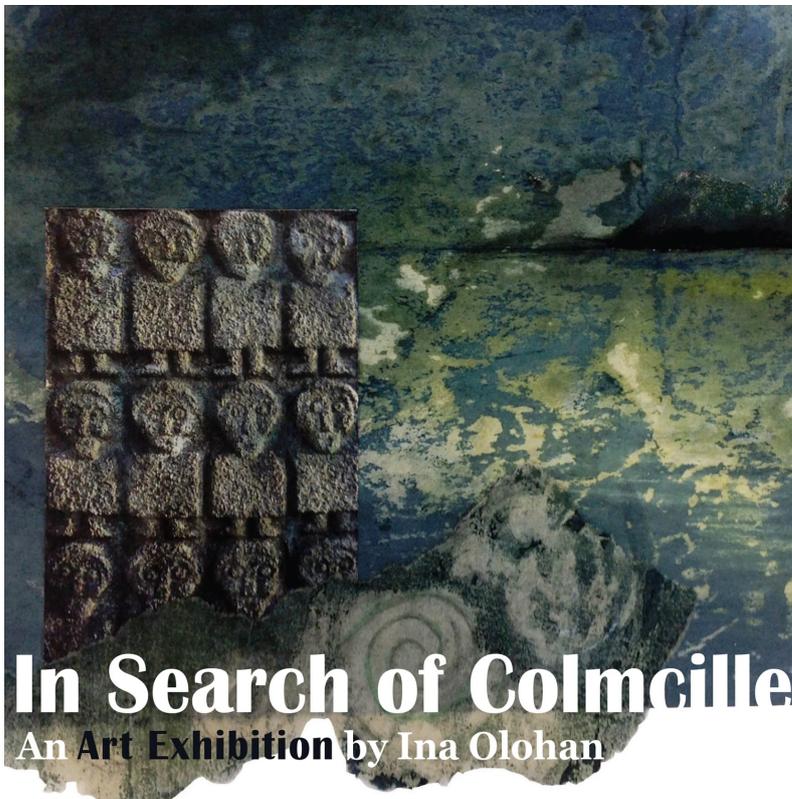
This Meath Beo Christmas special takes place at Slane Castle Courtyard Saturday December 4th, 4pm – 6pm and Sunday December 5th from 10am – 6pm where there will also be a festive market and tree lighting taking place.

Celebrate this series of live music performances by top class artists this Christmas.

This is a free event.

Presented by Meath Beo under the Meath County Council Arts Office Local Live Performance Programming Scheme Phase 2.

IN SEARCH OF COLMCILLE, an exhibition by Ina Olohan



In Search of Colmcille
An Art Exhibition by Ina Olohan

This art exhibition is the penultimate event in the national year of celebration for Colmcille 1500, the anniversary year of the birth of St. Colmcille.

The exhibition represents the artist's journey, learning about Saint Colmcille. Born in 521, the life of Colmcille has blended with the mists of time to generate a wealth of stories of miraculous power and humble spirituality, in his various guises of prince, poet, priest and exile.

Colmcille is one of Ireland's national saints and this anniversary year is being celebrated nationally and throughout Scotland.

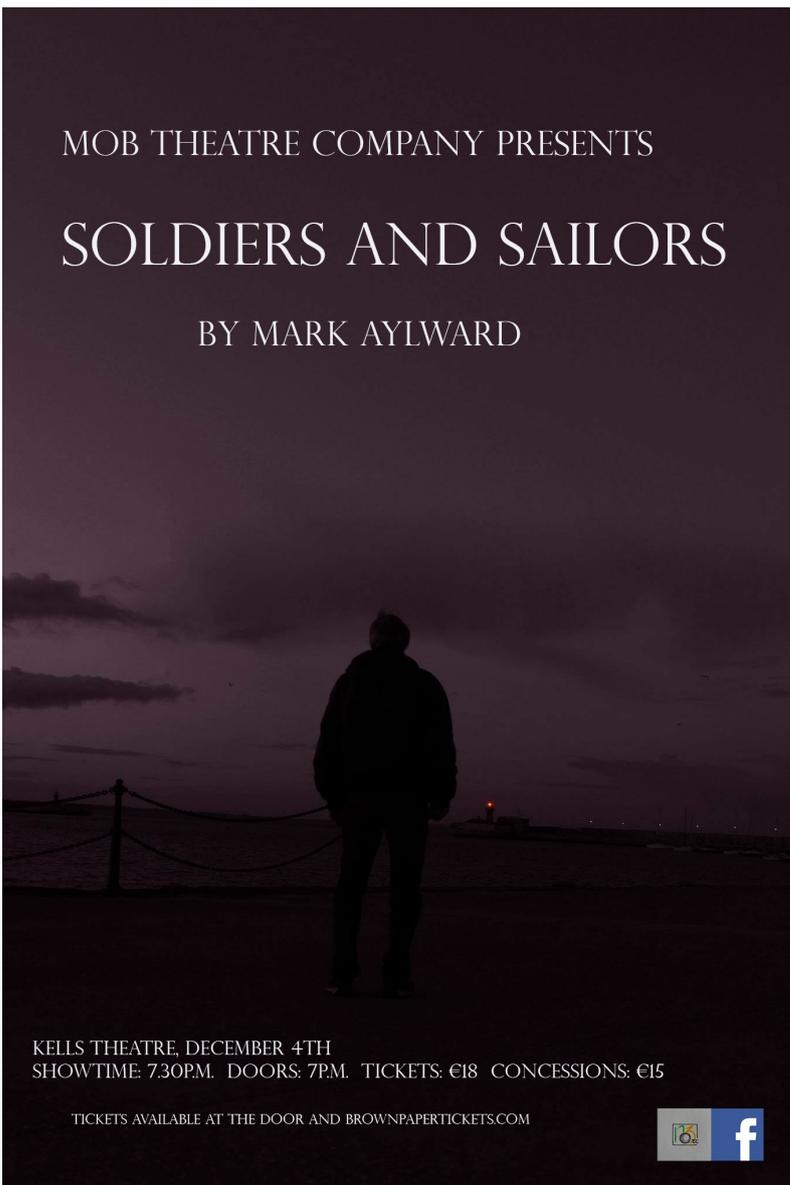
Venue: Eureka House, Kells, Co Meath

Date: 19 Nov—18 Dec

Time: 10.00—17.00

This is a free event.

MOB Theatre Company Presents *Soldiers And Sailors* by Mark Aylward — Kells Theatre December 4th



MOB Theatre Company Presents, *Soldiers And Sailors* by Mark Aylward in Kells Theatre December 4th at 7.30pm (doors 7pm).

Spinning Yarns and guzzling pints in the seaside bar they have adopted as home, Johnny Comerford and Mucker

Kinsella have carved out for themselves a haven in retirement.

They were once men of the sea and when the sea didn't have anything for them they turned to that other staple of the seaman, the drink.

But the demons remain. As young Peter Kinsella knows firsthand. And then there's mysterious Virginia, a young woman in search of heritage, a romanticised country she read about in books or admired in movies.

Wrestling with hopes, dreams, demons, and regret all in the confines of Dicky Moore's modest establishment, pints of plain aren't the only things spilling on the floor as a storm brews outside.

A dance with death, and worse, their own painful pasts, await.

WRITTEN + DIRECTED BY Mark Aylward

CAST: Martin Brennan, Gerry Cannon, Elizabeth Ann Doyle, Michael Fogarty, Alan Grant

TICKETS €18 | €15 (STUDENT/OAP)

RUNNING TIME: 120 MINS PLUS AN INTERVAL

CONTAINS STRONG LANGUAGE

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT [Soldiers and Sailors \(Kells Theatre\) \(brownpapertickets.com\)](https://www.brownpapertickets.com)

Local Writers selected for Words Ireland's National Mentoring Programme



Meath County Council Arts Office is delighted to announce that two local writers have been selected by Words Ireland to receive professional literary mentoring

Ross Kelly and Katie McDermott will both receive professional mentoring over the next eight months from an acclaimed Irish writer of their choosing. These young literary talents were two of forty selected applicants from a total of 339 national submissions, and represent not only the quality of young writers in the county, but also an investment in the long-term literary reputation of the

region.

Ross Kelly studies English with Creative Writing in UCD his writing focusses on young adult fiction and stories with a strong character voice. Katie McDermott is a writer and English teacher with a Master's Degree in Creative Writing from Trinity College. Her stories have been published in 'Banshee', 'Autonomy' and 'Literary Orphans'. She is currently pursuing publication for her first novel, *Micronation*.

Meath County Council Arts Office funded the literary mentorship along with the Arts Council of Ireland to guarantee the best applicants from the region would be selected. This support will also ensure the chosen mentees receive this potentially life-changing support free of charge.

The mentoring process involves a series of meetings between the selected mentee and their chosen professional writer. The mentor reads the awardees' writing in advance and shares critical feedback and advice. This form of peer to peer teaching is increasingly popular in literature and formalises the process of master/student exchange. The hope is that the chosen mentees will progress to write works of literature that surpasses the quality of their mentors' work.

Meath County Council Arts Office wish both Ross and Katie the very best of luck with their literary mentorships.

'Postcards From The Past' A Community Arts Project with Artist Fiona Murphy

As part of a Community Arts project supported by Meath County Council Arts office and Creative Ireland, local Meath Artist Fiona Murphy launched a project: 'Postcards from the Past', creating a series of postcards from old local school photographs.

'Postcards from the Past' rolled out during the pandemic lockdowns during 2020/2021. Fiona felt it was a project which could reach out and connect with the young and older members in the Community, especially during a time where social isolation was a factor. Essentially, the project was about promoting conversation and reviving memories. Many connections were made by the older cohort in the Community by phone and made to their younger relatives through social media and finally through these postcards.

What arose from these conversations was a rich resource of old school photographs from the early to mid 1900's. From these, Fiona identified all the children (now grandparents) in the photographs and made contact with their current family members both here and abroad. They in turn made connections with each other. Fiona also invited younger generations of the wider community (some grandchildren of those in the photographs in early 1900's) to get involved by recreating images of their children at play in the early 1900's. There was a great response to this and old school yard games were celebrated through their photographs.

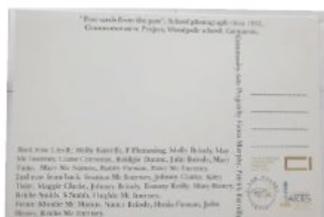
Final postcards were created from this collation of both current and historic photographs and were printed, distributed and made available to the whole community. In addition to nationwide circulation the postcards with names and dates reached far and wide. A wider circulation reached as far as parts of Europe and America to the Irish Diaspora.



Historic school photographs from 1914 to 1960's



Current families celebrating traditional games



Printed postcards

Title : Postcard from the past

Community Arts Project : Supported by Meath County Council and the Creative Ireland Programme.

Collaborative work and reasearch with local commnuity groups.



Centre Culturel Irlandais Paris & Meath County Council Arts Office 2022 Residency Bursary



Meath County Council Arts Office, in partnership with the Centre Culturel Irlandais Paris, is pleased to announce: the 2022 artist's residency bursary.

Continuing their partnership for a fourth year, Centre Culturel Irlandais and Meath County Council Arts Office will work together to support an individual artist from Meath to spend a month in Paris. Open to practising professional artists of all disciplines living in County Meath, the bursary will provide: a month-long residency at the prestigious Parisian centre, and include travel from Ireland, accommodation, and a stipend of €750.00 towards expenses.

During the residency, the successful artist will have the opportunity to develop their creative practice and ideas and gain inspiration from being immersed in a new city and culture. Theatre makers, composers, dancers, visual artists, writers, choreographers, researchers and film makers have all benefitted from time spent in Ireland's flagship cultural centre in Europe, leading to a vibrant and creative community.

Previous recipients of the Meath Arts Office sponsored residency include; composer Michael Galen, traditional musician Brenda Castles and composer and musician Christy Leech.

The Centre Culturel Irlandais' annual residency programme offers great opportunities for artists of all disciplines to tap into the resources of the CCI and the city of Paris, as well as being an important means of showcasing Ireland's dynamic contemporary culture on an international stage.

Applications must be made on-line by Wednesday 12 January 2022, 5pm GMT.

All applications must be made directly to CCI, full terms and conditions are available [here](#):

The SPACE Programme 2022 - Call for Participants



The SPACE Programme 2022 is now open for applications. This latest edition of The Performance Corporation's collaborative artists residency will focus on the crossover between Arts and Immersive Technology, such as Virtual Reality and Mixed Reality.

SPACE offers artists and immersive tech creatives, from a wide variety of backgrounds, the opportunity to work collaboratively and experiment with new forms and ideas.

The residency gives participants space to connect and collaborate with a wide range of creatives from different backgrounds, challenge and develop their personal artistic practice, experiment with new ideas and forms, explore the potential of new technology in artistic creation.

Applications are sought from artists in any practice who have some experience in working with immersive technology.

Residency Programme Dates:

February 10th - 17th 2022

Location:

[The Tyrone Guthrie Centre](#) at Annaghmakerrig in County Monaghan.

Application submission deadline: Friday 3rd December 2021 at 5pm.

Queries: space@theperformancecorporation.com

Full details available at [The Space Programme 2022 - The Performance Corporation](#)

the arts
council
an chomhairle
ealaíon

The Arts Council are currently accepting applications for funding under the below scheme.

Writers in Schools Scheme

Operated by Poetry Ireland this scheme is co-funded by the Arts Council but administered by Poetry Ireland.

The Writers in Schools Scheme part-funds visits by writers and storytellers to schools throughout the island of Ireland. For more information, please refer to the education section of the Poetry Ireland website, www.poetryireland.ie or <https://www.artscouncil.ie/funds/Writers-in-schools-scheme/>

Further information on all Arts Council funding opportunities available at: <http://www.artscouncil.ie/available-funding/>

Open Call | 2021 To Be Irish @ Christmas from the Department of Foreign Affairs



To Be Irish @ Christmas was launched in 2020 by the Department of Foreign Affairs to create meaningful connections with the Irish diaspora and those who have a grá or are interested in Ireland and Irish culture around the world. Last year, with the invaluable input from Local Authorities, venues, organisations and shops across Ireland and internationally, along with Irish Embassies across the globe, *To Be Irish @ Christmas* was able to host a programme of over 200 events as well 100 personal stories shared by our diaspora community.

The initiative itself generated 3.3 million impressions and 700K engagement across the To Be Irish platforms. This achievement within very challenging times would not have been possible without your support and contribution to the *To Be Irish* programme.

This year's initiative will run from 8 – 23 December 2021 presenting a festive programme of online and offline events. The *To be Irish* platform is an opportunity for you to showcase events globally that celebrate Irish culture around Christmas featuring crafts, community initiatives, seasonal traditions and more.

With the expectation of there not being any travel restrictions over the Christmas period their remit this year is twofold in that they wish to present and promote:

- online content aimed at the Irish Diaspora and a global audience interested in Ireland who are overseas and will not be travelling to Ireland.
- in-person events aimed at the Irish Diaspora or visitors travelling to Ireland over the Christmas period.

Should you be interested in registering an event to feature on the *To Be Irish* platform and for further information please visit <https://tobeirish.ie/>

SUBMIT A LISTING



- Are you an arts professional?
- Do you have an upcoming exhibition, show or event?
- Are you delivering online talks or workshops?

If you would like to submit a listing for inclusion in our newsletter, please send details and an image for consideration to: artsoffice@meathcoco.ie with **LISTING** in the subject bar.