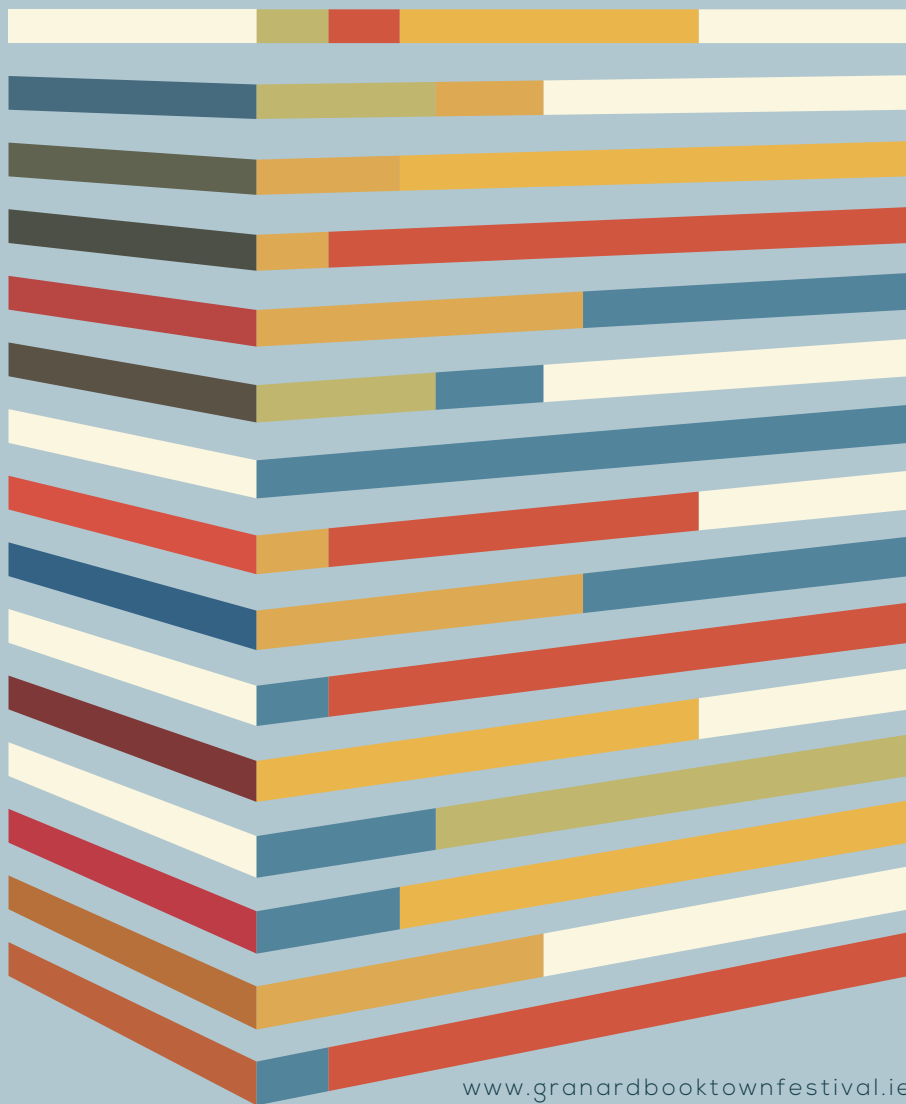


# granard booktown

april 11 - 13, 2025



[www.granardbooktownfestival.ie](http://www.granardbooktownfestival.ie)  
granard, co. longford



**H**ello and welcome to Granard Booktown Festival 2025!

On behalf of my co-director, Ronan O Toole, and the festival board, I welcome you to this, the festival's third year.

It seems like just yesterday, we were putting last year's festival to bed, and in no time, this year has come into being. We are thrilled that you will be joining us for what we feel is a wonderful year of books, ideas and shared experiences.

This year, we welcome some of the biggest names in global literature, from Claire Keegan to John Banville. But it's not just books. Global journalism leaders are joining us, including Carole Cadwalladr, Longford's own Peter Geoghegan, Conor Gearty, and the excellent Bryan Dobson!

We feel we have programmed something for all tastes this year, from local heroes such as Seamus O Rourke to international thinkers like Nelofer Pazira Fisk to crime writer superstar Liz Nugent. There's also a host of poets and new emerging writers.

As an accessible festival, we are proud once again to offer sign language at our events and provide fully accessible venues. We strive to improve our inclusiveness each year.

It's been a lot of work, but we hope you enjoy the weekend as much as we have enjoyed programming it.

I want to thank all our private sponsors who made the festival possible, the various arts bodies, the county council, the arts council, the tourism board, and, of course, our wonderful venue partners, without whom none of this would be possible. There are so many people to thank, but most of all, you, the audience who keep coming each year.

Enjoy the weekend.

Go raibh mile mhaith agat

John Connell  
Co-director Granard Booktown Festival

# Granard Booktown Festival

My earliest poems belong to Granard.

Places and people come alive

Oxeye daisies open their eyes, summer looks down

From the Moat, school children's sunlit syllables

Murmur of prayer in the rain

Music in the gullies on Water Lane.

Mugs of tea talk, whisper ... roads and byways dream ...

Granard takes shape in my head.

I cross a bridge in time.

Granard Booktown Festival awakens:

White as first light, new ideas, new people ...

A whirlwind of purpose, throbbing with energy,

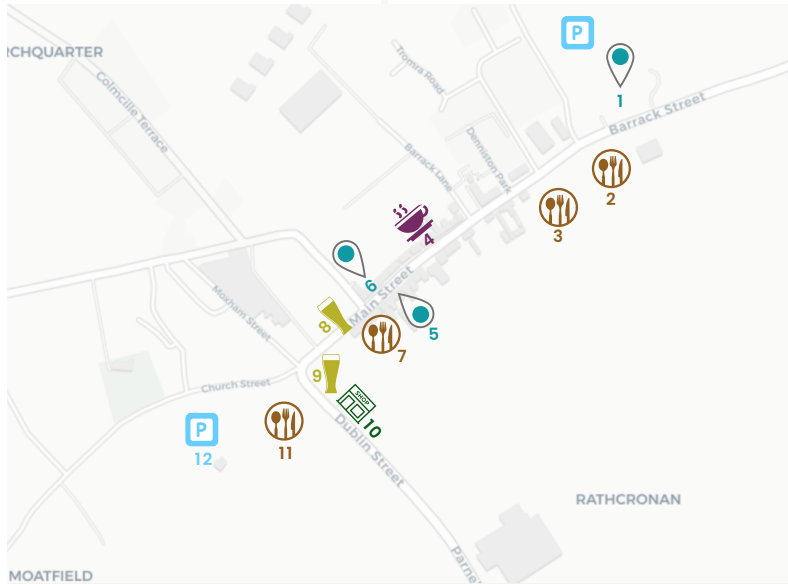
Inner voices, union of opposites

Doors and windows open to new life in the soul.

Noel Monahan

Poet

# Festival Map



- 1. Venue: Sacred Heart School
- 2. Food: Granard Inn Chinese
- 3. Food: Belle's Kitchen
- 4. Cafe: Bean & Bread
- 5. Venue: Fay's Bar
- 6. Venue: Granard Library

- 7. Food: Nikki's Restaurant
- 8. Bar: Clancy's Bar
- 9. Bar: John V Donohoes
- 10. Second hand Book Store
- 11. Food - The Bailey Cafe
- 12. Free Parking



## Event Tickets

Tickets for all events can be purchased through our website or by scanning the QR code provided. Please note tickets are also needed to attend free events.



We are delighted to announce the return of our second-hand bookstore open at John V. Donohoe's outdoor area, accessible via the side gate on Dublin Street. The bookstore offers a great selection of affordable books, ranging from classic novels to the latest bestsellers. If you're looking for bargain books during the festival weekend, come by and say hello. The store will be open from April 12th to the 13th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**All books are €2. Please note that we accept cash only.**



**Granard Library** is located in the old Market House building in the centre of the town. It offers a wide range of services, including books for adults and children.

A special meeting of the local Granard writer's group will be held on April 20th at 10 a.m. Please do join us for this wonderful local celebration of literature.



**Sacred Heart School** is located on Barrack Street in Granard. The Principal is Mr Francis Gray, and the Deputy Principal is Ms Carmel Shaughnessy.

The School Hall Venue is located at the rear of the school, and parking is available on-site. The family events will take place inside the school.



**Fay's Bar** is a friendly, atmospheric bar in the heart of Granard. Call in and watch the live sport of your choice on their big screens. They cater for all occasions, large and small. They also have a picturesque beer garden and BBQ area.

Sponsor - Ciaran Mullooly MEP

Sponsored by  
**Ciaran Mullooly MEP**

### Contacts:

**Office: Ballyleague, Lnaesborough,  
N39E297**

**Phone: 0433321734**

**Email:  
ciaran.mullooly@europarl.europaeu**



[jcm.mep](https://www.jcm.mep) [f Ciaran Mullooly \(Midlands North-West\)](https://www.facebook.com/CiaranMullooly) [x ciaranmullooly](https://www.x.com/ciaranmullooly)

Wishing everyone at Granard Booktown 2025 every success for yet another fantastic festival.

Find out more at [www.independentireland.ie/ciaranmullooly](http://www.independentireland.ie/ciaranmullooly)

### The Arts Council Of Ireland



The Arts Council acknowledges the rich variety of artform practice areas presented by festivals and their critical role in broadening public access to the arts. Festivals are often central to communities exploring and expressing their local identity, providing access to the arts and creating opportunities for artists to develop their practice.

**For more information please visit [www.artscouncil.ie](http://www.artscouncil.ie)**

### Longford County Council & Longford Arts Office



The Longford Arts Office collaborates with artists, organizations and agencies to support and promote the arts in the County. Its core activities include providing information and advice, initiating and developing projects, administering grants, and drafting plans and strategies.

**For more information please visit [www.longfordlibrary.ie/arts/](http://www.longfordlibrary.ie/arts/)**

### Creative Ireland Longford



Creative Ireland is a programme that connects people, creativity, and wellbeing. We are an all-of-government culture and wellbeing programme that inspires and transforms people, places and communities through creativity. We are committed to the vision that every person in Ireland should have the opportunity to realise their full creative potential.

**For more information please visit [www.creativeireland.gov.ie](http://www.creativeireland.gov.ie)**

### Longford Tourism



Longford Tourism beckons you to visit Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and discover the beauty of County Longford. You can go boating and fishing in the lakes, the Royal Canal, and the River Shannon. This county is rich in history, literature, and culture and offers fine food and dining options. You can also be active and enjoy the walking and cycling trails in the Woodland, bogland and alongside the water's edge. Come and uncover the many treasures of Longford.



# Irish Deaf Society

At Granard Booktown Festival, we are working towards making the festival as accessible as possible.

Irish Sign Language interpreters will be available at every event for people from the deaf community.

For more information please visit [www.irishdeafsociety.ie/about](http://www.irishdeafsociety.ie/about)

A quiet space is also available at Granard Library for anyone who needs it over the weekend.

Minding Creative Minds



Free mental health services for people within the creative industry in Ireland. Access to experienced trained counsellors and psychotherapists who can offer short-term intervention and advice covering practical, day-to-day issues that cause anxiety and stress.

24/7 Dedicated Phone Line:

ROI: 1800 814 244 | NI/UK: 0800 0903677

Find out more at [www.mindingcreativeminds.ie](http://www.mindingcreativeminds.ie)



### SHAUNAGH CONNAIRE

Shaunagh Connaire is an award-winning journalist and filmmaker and was previously the Director of Communications and Media at the Clooney Foundation. She has reported on LGBTQ rights and conversion therapy, covered the refugee crisis in the Middle East, reported on women's rights in Ireland, and investigated the role of Wall Street in the opioid crisis in the US.



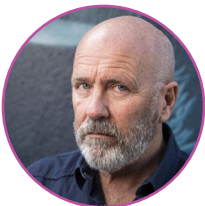
### RICK O' SHEA

Rick O'Shea is an experienced radio presenter with RTE since 2001. He began his career on RTE 2FM before moving to RTE Gold, where he presents weekday mornings and The Gold Lounge jazz show. He is also a former presenter of The Book Show and The Poetry Programme on RTE Radio 1. Rick is a prominent figure in the Irish literary scene. He is the founder of The Rick O'Shea Book Club, which is the largest book club in Ireland with almost 40,000 members.



### MARY REYNOLDS

Mary Carleton Reynolds is the former Longford County Librarian and former Head of Creative Ireland Longford. She has a long history of supporting arts and literature across the county.



### RICHARD FLANAGAN

Richard Flanagan is an acclaimed novelist, born in Longford, Tasmania in 1961. He is the author of many remarkable books, including Death of a River Guide, The Sound of One Hand Clapping, Gould's Book of Fish, The Unknown Terrorist, Wanting, and The Narrow Road to the Deep North, which Flanagan was awarded the prestigious Booker Prize for in 2014.





**John Columb Property Sales** based in Granard Co. Longford our services extend to neighbouring areas in Leitrim, Cavan, Roscommon and Westmeath. Our business is mainly residential, commercial and land sales but we also offer professional management services to landlords who may wish to have their properties leased and managed.

Find out more at [www.johncolumb.ie](http://www.johncolumb.ie)



**Granard Credit Union** has been part of your community for more than 40 years. We offer a large number of savings and loan products and are owned and controlled by our members. We are run by a voluntary board of directors, elected by the members at the annual general meeting.

Find out more at [www.granardcu.ie](http://www.granardcu.ie)



**Cunningham Design & Planning**, we are a multi-disciplinary team of engineers, architects and architectural technologists who, together with our team of quantity surveyors and health & safety professionals, offer a complete service ranging from initial assessment and conceptual drawings, through planning applications, to construction monitoring and final certification.

Find out more at [www.cunninghamdp.ie](http://www.cunninghamdp.ie)

Sponsor - Cllr Pat O' Toole

**Cllr.  
Pat O'Toole**  


Tel 087 2333998  
 Email: [potoole@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:potoole@longfordcoco.ie)



Best wishes to the organising committee and everyone associated with the Granard Booktown Festival 2025.

Cllr Pat O' Toole

# Schedule

## Friday | April 11

5pm	Conor Gearty	The Library
6pm	Rebecca Tallon de Havilland	Fay's Bar
7pm	Seamus O' Rourke	The Library
8pm	Claire Keegan	The School Hall

## Saturday | April 12

11am	Sinéad O' Hart	The Library
12pm	Amy Jane Beer	Fay's Bar
1pm	Emma Tracey	The Library
2pm	Emerging Writer's Panel	Fay's Bar
3pm	Poetry & Pints	Fay's Bar
4pm	Nelofer Pazira-Fisk	The Library
5pm	Miguel Delaney	Fay's Bar
6pm	Peter Geoghegan	The Library
8pm	Carole Cadwalladr	The School Hall

## Sunday | April 13

10am	Granard Writer's Group	The Library
12pm	Luke Casserly	The Library
1pm	Bridget Hourican	Sacred Heart Primary
2pm	Conor Niland & Gavin Cooney	Fay's Bar
3pm	Karen Campbell	Sacred Heart Primary
4pm	Cauvery Madhavan	The Library
5pm	Liz Nugent	The Library
6:30pm	John Banville	The School Hall

friday

april

11

**“Why were the  
things that were  
closest so often the  
hardest to see?”**

Claire Keegan,  
Small Things Like These

**Conor Gearty & Peter Geoghegan | 5pm | Doors 4:30pm | The Library | Free**



Conor Gearty is professor of human rights law at LSE, and an honorary King's Counsel as well as a Fellow of the British Academy and an Honorary Bencher of the King's Inn. He has written numerous books on human rights, terrorism and civil liberties, most recently *Homeland Insecurity*. *The Rise and Rise of Global Anti-terrorism Law*. Conor grew up in Ballinacross and attended the Covent School in Granard and Abbeylara national school.

Peter Geoghegan is an Irish writer and journalist whose work has appeared in publications like the *New York Times* and the *Guardian*. He served as openDemocracy's UK investigations editor from 2018 to 2021 and was editor-in-chief and CEO from 2021 to 2023. Geoghegan co-founded the Scottish investigative website the *Ferret* and was nominated for several British Journalism awards. His book *Democracy for Sale: Dark Money and Dirty Politics* was released in 2020.

**Rebecca Tallon de Havilland & Dani Gill | 6pm | Doors 5:30pm | Fay's | €8.50**



Since writing her biography 'His Name is Rebecca' Rebecca is now a sought-after public speaker with the Terrence Higgins Trust. Rebecca has roles with the HSE and 56 Dean Street as a Peer Support Worker, HIV Awareness campaigner and Project Bootcamp founder. She spent the early part of her childhood in Granard, Co Longford, the middle child of three.

Dani Gill is a writer, poet, educator and curator based in western Ireland. Her first poetry book, *After Love*, was published in 2017 and her second, *Lessons in Kindness*, will be published in April 2023. Dani is currently the Performing Arts Curator for the Bealtaine Festival, Director of The Lighthouse Project and Co-Director of *Match in the Dark*.

**Seamus O'Rourke & John Connell | 7pm | Doors 6:30pm | Library | €10**

**Sponsored by John Columb**



Seamus O'Rourke is a writer, director, and actor. Seamus's stories and sketches have received over two million views on social media. He released *A Lock of Poems*, *Recitations*, and *Good Ones* and, in 2020, published his memoir *Standing in Gaps*. In September 2024, he launched his sequel, *Leaning on Gates*, published by Gill Books.

John Connell is a journalist, author, playwright, documentary maker, producer and the festival's co-founder and director. He has earned a reputation for his exceptional work in creating insightful and impactful human rights documentaries that have been screened worldwide, drawing attention to important issues and inspiring meaningful change.



€18.50

8pm

## The School Hall special guest

Claire Keegan was shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 2022. She is a novelist and short story writer, whose work has won numerous awards and been translated into 30 languages. Keegan was brought up on a farm in Ireland. At the age of 17, she travelled to New Orleans, where she studied English and Political Science at Loyola University. She returned to Ireland in 1992, and her highly acclaimed first volume of short stories – *Antarctica* – was published in 1999.

Her stories are translated into 30 languages and have won numerous accolades. *Antarctica* won the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature. *Walk the Blue Fields* won the Edge Hill Prize, awarded to the finest collection of stories published in the British Isles. *Foster* won the Davy Byrnes Award and was last year chosen by *The Times* as one of the top 50 works of fiction to be published in the 21st century. *Small Things Like These* was shortlisted for the 2022 Rathbones Folio Prize. It won the Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year Award and the Orwell Prize for Political Fiction and was shortlisted for the Booker Prize 2022.



Sinéad Gleeson is a critically acclaimed writer and editor who has received numerous accolades for her contributions to the literary world.

Her collection of personal essays, *Constellations: Reflections from Life*, has been recognized with the prestigious Non-Fiction Book of the Year Award at the Irish Book Awards and the Dalkey Literary Award for Emerging Writer.

In addition to her award-winning work, Sinéad has edited several anthologies and collaborated with artists and musicians on groundbreaking projects.



saturday

april

12

**“In the outside world, you  
will find more people who  
are kind than people who  
are not. Seek them out.”**

Liz Nugent

Strange Sally Diamond

**Family Event | 11am | Doors 10:30am | The Library | Free**

**Sponsored by Granard Credit Union**



Come join Sinéad O'Hart for a fun-filled family event for all ages!

Sinéad is a writer and avid reader of children's books, having authored six novels for readers aged 8 and up, including *The Eye of the North* and its prequel, *Skyborn*.

**Amy-Jane Beer & Mark Wormald | 12pm | Doors 11:30am | Fay's | €8.50**

**Sponsored by Cunningham Design & Planning**



Dr Amy-Jane Beer is a biologist turned naturalist and writer. She has worked for more than 20 years as a science writer and editor, contributing to more than 40 books on natural history.

Mark Wormald has been fishing since the age of four. He is an award-winning poet, winning the Newdigate Prize at Oxford in 1988 and an E. C. Gregory Award from the Society of Authors in 1995.

**Emma Tracey & Síona Cahill | 1pm | Doors 12:30pm | The Library | Free**



Emma Tracey, originally from Ireland and now living in Scotland, is a BBC journalist and mother of two young boys. She presents a disability and mental health podcast called *Access All*.

Síona is a regular media contributor across radio and television and is a public affairs commentator with RTÉ Radio One's Brendan O'Connor Show, Gavan Reilly's *On The Record* and Kieran Cuddihy's *The Hard Shoulder*, as well

as Virgin Media's Ireland AM. She is also an occasional columnist with the *Irish Examiner*.

**Emerging Writer's Panel | 2pm | Doors 1:30pm | Fay's | €10**



Stinging Fly editor and writer Lisa McInerney chats with three debut novelists: James Roseman is an American writer based in Dublin. His first novel, *Placeholders*, was shortlisted for the First Novel Award.

Louise Hegarty's (*Fair Play*) stories have appeared in *Banshee*, *The Tangerine*, *The Stinging Fly* and *The Dublin Review* and have been featured on BBC Radio 4.

Elaine Garvey (*The Wardrobe Department*) is from County Sligo, Ireland. Her short stories have been published in *The Dublin Review* and *Winter Papers*.

Poetry & Pints | 3pm | Doors 2:30pm | Fay's Bar | Free



Join us as three local poets, Mary Melvin Geoghegan, Darragh Coady, and Louise G Cole, recite their work and allow us into their creative world.

Nelofer Pazira-Fisk & Shaunagh Connaire | 4pm | Doors 3:30pm | The Library | €10



Renowned war correspondent Robert Fisk was known for his incisive critiques of Western interference in the turbulent landscape of the Middle East. He never shied from expressing his discontent with the Western media's portrayal of these significant events. His widow, Nelofer Pazira-Fisk, has brought forth his final work in a poignant continuation of his legacy.

Shaunagh Connaire is an award-winning journalist and filmmaker and was previously the Director of Communications and Media at the Clooney Foundation.

Miguel Delaney & Gavin Cooney | 5pm | Doors 4:30pm | Fay's Bar | €8.50



Miguel Delaney is the Chief Football Writer for The Independent. He has covered four World Cups, four European Championships, and 15 Champions League finals. He addresses major issues in the sport, including sports washing. His book States of Play offers a gripping and unsettling examination of the modern football landscape.

Gavin Cooney is a Longford native and senior sports writer and broadcaster with The42.ie, primarily covering soccer, golf, and other major sports events, including the 2024 Paris Olympics. He is the Ghost-writer of SBOTY The Racket.

Peter Geoghegan & Shaunagh Connaire | 6pm | Doors 5:30pm | Library | €10

Sponsored by Ciaran Mulloly MEP



Peter Geoghegan is an Irish writer and journalist whose work has appeared in publications like the New York Times and the Guardian. He served as openDemocracy's UK investigations editor from 2018 to 2021 and was editor-in-chief and CEO from 2021 to 2023. His book Democracy for Sale: Dark Money and Dirty Politics was released in 2020.

Shaunagh Connaire is an award-winning journalist and filmmaker and was previously the Director of Communications and Media at the Clooney Foundation.





€18.50

8pm

## The School Hall special guest

Carole Cadwalladr is a renowned Pulitzer-nominated journalist for the Guardian, feature writer for the Observer, and Cambridge Analytica investigator. She was a Pulitzer Prize finalist for National Reporting in 2019, receiving praise upon her investigation and coverage into Cambridge Analytica and its role in Brexit. Cadwalladr's sheer dedication in exposing a nexus of corruption that resulted in Mark Zuckerberg being called before Congress, and exposing Cambridge Analytica's role in mass-harvesting data to influence elections (Brexit and Trump), goes far beyond the question of Remain or Leave. Her investigation also interrogates the role we have been puppeteered to play in a 2017 Britain that took its first step into an undemocratic world.

In April 2019, Cadwalladr gave a TED talk, "Facebook's role in Brexit – and the threats to democracy", regarding her the links found between Facebook and the Brexit election. This talk led to worldwide acclaim but it also sparked a three year long lawsuit which was won by Carole in June 2022.



Bryan Dobson is a renowned Irish journalist, now retired, newscaster and presenter who worked for RTÉ. He presented the RTÉ News at One on RTÉ Radio One, RTÉ News: Six One, RTÉ News: Nine O'Clock,

Before joining RTÉ in 1987, he worked for BBC Northern Ireland. Dobson joined RTÉ News and Current Affairs as a reporter in 1992. Before being the main RTÉ News: Nine O'Clock presenter, he was the RTÉ Business Correspondent.

sunday

april

13

**“Shame leads to secrets, the source of every unhappiness. Better to wear your story on the outside like an armour.”**

Cauvery Madhavan,  
The Inheritance

**Granard Writer's Group | 10am | Doors 9:45am | The Library | Free**



Granard Writers' Group will present, Granard Miscellany original musings consisting of memories, history, travel, and more. Local musicians will enhance the hour long performance. We hope you'll join us for an art filled morning.

**Luke Casserly & Dani Gill | 12pm | Doors 11:30am | The Library | Free**



Hailing from Lanesborough in Co. Longford, Luke is a multidisciplinary performance maker whose work weaves together environmental research, documentary, sound art, and site to carve out space for new possibilities to emerge between live performance and physical landscape.

Dani Gill is a writer, poet, educator and curator based in western Ireland. Dani is currently the Performing Arts Curator for the Bealtaine Festival, Director of The Lighthouse Project and Co-Director of Match in the Dark.

**Bridget Hourican & Aoife Barry | 1pm | Doors 12:30pm | Sacred Heart Primary | €8.50**



Bridget Hourican is of mixed Irish-Palestinian heritage, born in Belfast, grew up in Brussels, spent a few years living in Budapest, and is now based in Dublin. Her book Finding Mangan resurrects Ireland's most enigmatic literary figure, James Clarence Mangan, restoring his rightful place in the national consciousness.

Aoife Barry is a journalist, writer, and author of the non-fiction book Social Capital.

**Gavin Cooney, Conor Niland & Mark Tighe | 2pm | Doors 1:30pm | Fay's | €8.50**  
**Sponsored by Cllr Pat O' Toole**



Conor Niland is the author of *The Racket*, the William Hill Sports Book of the Year, Irish Times SBOTY and Second Captains SBOTY 2024. Co-written with the 42.ie's Gavin Cooney, *The Racket* is the story of pro tennis's 99%: the players who roam the globe in hope of climbing the rankings and squeaking into the Grand Slam tournaments.

Mark Tighe is the co-author of *Champagne Football*, which won the Irish Sports Book of the Year in 2020. Along with Marie Crowe, Mark was named Investigative Journalist of the Year and overall Journalist of the Year at the 2024 Journalism Awards for their exposé on abuse suffered by Irish women footballers in the 1990s.

**Karen Campbell & Anne Griffin | 3pm | Doors 2:30pm | Sacred Heart Primary | €8.50**



Scottish writer Karen Campbell is the author of nine novels. Her latest book *This Bright Life* is published by Canongate. Previous novels include *Paper Cup*, *The Sound of the Hours*, *Rise and This Is Where I Am*, all Bloomsbury, and *The Twilight Time*, *After the Fire*, *Shadowplay* and *Proof of Life*, all Hodder.

Anne Griffin is the Irish author of the bestselling novels *THE ISLAND OF LONGING*, *LISTENING STILL* and *WHEN ALL IS SAID*.

Anne was awarded the Irish Book Awards Newcomer of the Year Award, 2019.

---

**Cauvery Madhavan & Aoife Barry | 4pm | Doors 3:30pm | The Library | €10**



Cauvery Madhavan was born in India and moved to Ireland thirty-three years ago, arriving on Valentines Day and, despite the Irish weather, has been in love with the country ever since. Her latest book *The Inheritance* was released in 2024.

Aoife Barry is a journalist, writer, and author of the non-fiction book *Social Capital*.

---

**Liz Nugent & Emma Tracey | 5pm | Doors 4:30pm | The Library | €10**



Liz Nugent is an award-winning, bestselling Irish crime writer. In 2024, *Strange Sally Diamond* was named 'Book of the Moment' by WH Smiths in the UK and 'Thriller of the Month' by Waterstones.

Emma Tracey, originally from Ireland and now living in Scotland, is a BBC journalist and mother of two young boys. She presents a disability and mental health podcast called *Access All*.



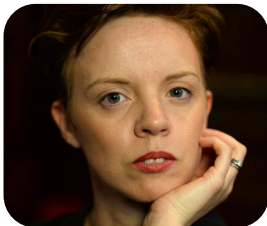
€18.50

6:30pm

## The School Hall special guest

John Banville was born in Wexford in 1945 and now lives in Dublin. His first book, *Long Lankin*, was published in 1970 (revised edition, Gallery Books, 1984). He has published fourteen novels: *Nightspawn*, *Birchwood*, *Doctor Copernicus*, *Kepler*, *The Newton Letter*, *Mefisto*, *The Book of Evidence*, which was shortlisted for the 1989 Booker Prize and which won the 1989 GPA Award, *Ghosts*, *Athena*, *The Untouchable*, *Eclipse*, *Shroud*, *The Sea* (winner of the 2005 Booker Prize) and *The Infinities*. In 2016 he published *Time Pieces: A Dublin Memoir*. He also publishes crime novels under the pseudonym Benjamin Black.

Awards include a Lannan Literary Award, the Man Booker Prize (2005), the Franz Kafka Prize in 2011 and the 2013 Irish PEN Award for Outstanding Achievement in Irish Literature. Other awards include the Allied Irish Banks Prize, the Macauley Fellowship, the American-Irish Foundation Literary Award, the James Tait Black Memorial Prize, the Guardian Prize and the Guinness Peat Aviation Award.



Belinda McKeon is a novelist, short story writer and playwright. She is the author of the novels *Solace* (2011) and *Tender* (2015), and has had short fiction and non-fiction published in *The Paris Review*, *Granta*, *Winter Papers*, *A Public Space*, *The Stinging Fly* and elsewhere. Her plays have been produced in Dublin and New York, most recently at the 2017 Dublin Theatre Festival, with *Nora* (Corn Exchange).

After almost two decades in the US, where she taught at Rutgers University, she is now an Associate Professor in the English Department at Maynooth University, where she directs the MA in Creative Writing



**John Connell** is a bestselling author and farmer. He is also the co-founder and director of Granard Booktown Festival.



**Ronan O'Toole** is the co-founder and director of the Granard Booktown Festival. He also works for Screen Ireland's National Talent Academy for Animation.



**Belinda McKeon** is the author of the novels *Solace* and *Tender*, which won and were nominated for awards including the Irish Book of the Year 2011 and the Encore Prize 2016. She is the head of Maynooth University's MA in Creative Writing.



**Vivian Huynh** is a Social and Content Director.



**James Cawley Jr.** is the Business Development Executive with the Irish Centre for Diversity. He was the Policy Officer with a national Disabled Persons Organisation, a teacher and lectured on the Disability studies course at Maynooth University.



**Turlough McGovern** is a Granard native and local councillor. He was also the former Longford Cathaoirleach.



**Uruemu Adejinmi** is a Fianna Fail Councillor in Co. Longford. She was also the first female African Cathaoirleach in the country.



**Sinéad Flannery** has over ten years of experience working on festivals and live events.

The festival would not be possible without the contribution and support of so many. Thank you to all who have helped make Granard Booktown 2025 a reality.



Arts Council Ireland | Creative Ireland | Longford County Council

Longford Arts Office | Longford Tourism

Ciaran Mullooly | Pat O' Toole | John Columb | Paul Rowley

Mark Cunningham | Granard Credit Union | Co:worx Edgeworthstown

Rosemary Gaynor | David Cassidy | Martina Needham | Gary Murtagh

Martin Morris | Shane Crossan | Denise Canavan | Mary Reynolds

Shaunagh Connaire | Rick O' Shea | Richard Flanagan | Francis Gray

Sinéad Fay | Sean Donohoe | David Maguire | Martina Keane | Gerard Doyle

Piker's Lodge | Castle Varagh Hotel | John V Donohues | Fay's Bar

Sacred Heart Primary School

*And, of course, a sincere thank you to all our volunteers, guests,*

*attendees, writers, friends and everyone who visited*

*Granard Booktown 2025.*



Find Us Online

[www.granardbooktownfestival.ie](http://www.granardbooktownfestival.ie) | Instagram: [@granardbooktown](https://www.instagram.com/granardbooktown)