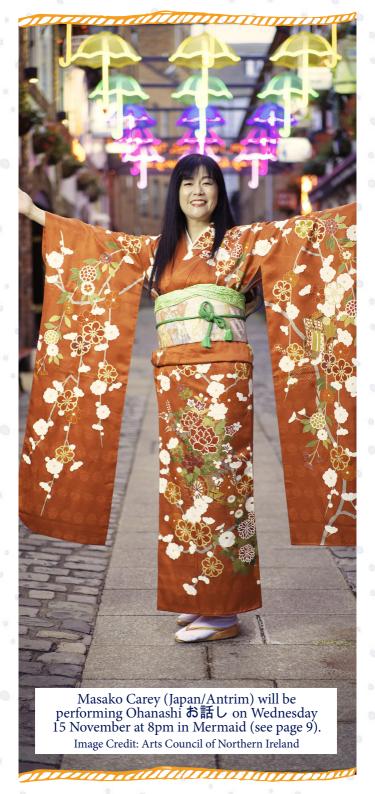


COUNTY WICKLOW ARTS CENTRE

Box Office: 01 272 4030

www.mermaidartscentre.ie





11 - 23 November 2023

Welcome to YARN Storytelling Festival 2023, brought to you by Mermaid Arts Centre.

Now celebrating our 14th year, YARN is a community based non-profit making festival that stives to bring the art-form of oral storytelling to as many people of all ages in the community as possible.

This year's programme is once again brimming with some of Ireland's finest storytellers and we are thrilled to welcome our international guest Monique Burg from France. We are delighted to have Storyteller and Bray local Philip Byrne as our 2023 Storyteller in Residence.

Thanks to the partnership and support of Wicklow Arts Office and Wicklow Libraries we are once again extending YARN right across the county.

With the kind support of Dlr Libraries, Liz Weir has been running a series of storytelling workshops in St. Kieran's School for Travelling Children in Bray, harnessing the children's storytelling skills and exploring their rich storytelling heritage.

Many thanks to the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for helping us to bring an Irish language strand to this year's festival. Máirín Mhic Lochlainn and Pádraig Ó Briain will be performing bilingually in Mermaid and as Gaeilge in some local Gaelscoileanna, connecting children of all ages to this ancient traditional art.

This brochure details the public events. Behind the scenes events are taking place in schools, community groups and nursing homes. Many thanks to all who support the festival and make this possible.

Come and join us and let a story weave its magic on you! Looking forward to meeting you all along the story road.

Let the magic begin!



Storyteller in Residence 2023 Philip Byrne

Mermaid Arts Centre is delighted to have Philip Byrne as Storyteller in Residence 2023.

Philip has spent the year sharing and gathering stories across the county.

Tea & Tales Series

Thanks to the kind support of Wicklow Arts Office and the partnerhship of Wicklow Libraries, Philip has been hosting a Tea & Tales series of events throughout the autumn. These have taken place in Blessington, Baltinglass, Dunlavin, Arklow and Carnew.

Our final YARN Tea & Tales event will take place on **Saturday 18th November at 3pm in Ballywaltrim Library**. Admission is free of charge. Please note this event is for adults.

Story Gathering

Philip is continuing to collect stories from across the county. Everyone has memories of times past, the way we lived, worked and played. Times may have been harder but the memories linger on. These are the memories of ordinary people who have lived ordinary lives. Sadly, these memories will be lost unless we keep them alive. Philip wants to hear from people to chat about how where you have lived has changed, the work that people did, school, sport, entertainment and anything else that comes to mind about past times.

Contact Philip on 087 262 7806 or through the Mermaid Arts Centre Box Office on 01 272 4030



YARN Library Series

Mermaid Arts Centre is thrilled to have partnered with Wicklow Arts Office and Wicklow Libraries to bring YARN storytelling events to libraries across County Wicklow. Admission is free.

Bray Library, Eglinton Road, Bray

Saturday 11 November | 11am — 12pm Storyteller: Maria Gillen (Family Storytelling ages 5+)

Baltinglass Library

Tuesday 14 November | 6.30pm — 7.30pm Storyteller: Jack Lynch (*Tales for adults 14+*)

Tinahely Library

Tuesday 14 November | 6.30pm — 7.30pm Storyteller: Joe Brennan

Enniskerry Library

Wednesday 15 November | 6.30pm — 7.30pm Storyteller: Nuala Hayes (Family Storytelling ages 5+)

Ballywaltrim Library, Bray

Saturday 18 November | 11am — 12pm Storyteller: Senem Donatan Mohan (Family Storytelling ages 5+)

Greystones Library

Tuesday 21 November | 6.30pm — 7.30pm Storyteller: Simone Schuemmelfeder (Family Storytelling ages 5+)

Rathdrum Library

Wednesday 22 November | 6.30pm — 7.30pm Storyteller: Francis McCarron

Wicklow Town Library

Thursday 23 November | 6.30pm — 7.30pm Storyteller: Francis McCarron

Kindly supported by Wicklow Arts Office Art Festival Award Scheme.





Family Storytelling With Maria Gillen Grumpy Gobs

Date: Saturday 11 November

Time: 11am

Venue: Bray Library, Eglinton Road

Age Suitability: 5+ years

Tickets: Free Admission, No Booking Required

Join Cork storyteller Maria Gillen for a fun-filled event in Bray Library, Eglinton Road.

Kindly supported by Wicklow Arts Office.



Family Storytelling With Monique Burg The Dance of the Fox, Wolf & Hare

Date: Saturday 11 November

Time: 2pm

Venue: Shoot Room, Killruddery Farm Market

Age Suitability: 5+ years

Tickets: Free Admission, No Booking Required

Did things really happen this way? Yes, children can be born out of snow, turn into fish, spend the day asking everyone for food, and yes, fox, wolf and hare can dance together. Join French storyteller Monique Burg in Killruddery for some family tales. *Kindly supported by Killruddery*.



Monique Burg & Maria Gillen Southern Weave

Date: Saturday 11 November

Time: 8pm

Venue: Town Hall (Upstairs)

Age Suitability: Adults

Tickets: €12/10

Join us for an evening of tales from the south of France and Ireland in the wonderful surrounds of Bray Town Hall chambers. Entrance is through the door opposite Bray Credit Union.



Little Bray Writers Group Presents Readings From Inside Out

Date: Sunday 12 November

Time: 2pm

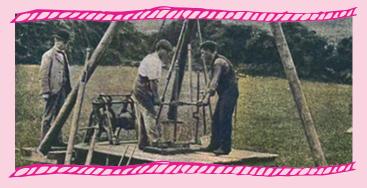
Venue: Mermaid Arts Centre

Age Suitability: Adults

Tickets: Free Admission, Booking Essential

The not to be missed Little Bray Writers Group take to the stage once again with memorable readings of their work. This poetry and prose collection comes from their new anthology Inside Out, a book that represents past and present writers of the group, collected to celebrate twenty years of the group's existence.

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Bray Cualann Historical Society Presents Bray Elements - Earth, Wind, Fire & Water

Date: Sunday 12 November

Time: 7pm

Venue: Mermaid Arts Centre

Age Suitability: Adults

Tickets: €7/5

Join local historian Brian White as he takes us on a journey through time with a focus on the Bray elements! Stories of Earth, Wind, Fire and Water will abound!



Monday Night Film **Tarrac** (Cert: TBC)

Date: Monday 13 November

Time: 8pm

Venue: Mermaid Arts Centre

Duration: 96mins

Language: Irish with English Subtitles

Tickets: €9/7

Aoife, a workaholic based in Dublin, reluctantly returns home to Kerry to care for her father after his heart attack. Slowly, she begins to reconnect with her home, old friends, & by getting involved with local Naomhóg racing, confronts her unresolved grief.



Simone Schuemmelfeder, Fiona Dowling & Senem Donatan Mohan
Wisdom Fair

Date: Tuesday 14 November

Time: 8pm

Venue: Mermaid Arts Centre

Age Suitability: Adults

Tickets: €12/10

Beyond their great power to entertain, stories can also help us with the business of living. They can deliver little gems of wisdom offering the listener a new way of looking at a situation. An enchanting evening awaits!



Masako Carey Presents Ohanashi お話し - An Evening of Japanese Folktales

Date: Wednesday 15 November

Time: 8pm

Venue: Mermaid Arts Centre Age Suitability: 12+ years

Tickets: €12/10

"Ohanashi お話し" means "Story" in Japanese, and in this premiere for YARN, Masako Carey invites her listeners to enter another world and explore Japanese culture. Japanese-born Storyteller Masako Carey has lived in rural Co Antrim for the past 20 years.



Mr. Sands Youth Theatre Presents A Yarn of Sand

Date: Thursday 16 November

Time: 8pm

Venue: Mermaid Arts Centre Age Suitability: 12+ years

Tickets: €5

Over the last six months, Mr Sands Youth Theatre has been exploring the art of storytelling with Órla Mc Govern, Aron & Sorcha Hegarty, and Llion Parry. We'd love to show you what we've explored! Their talented team of young artists will share the stories that matter to them with you -folk tales, family myths, (mostly) true stories, and more.



Irish Traveller, Singer and Storyteller Thomas McCarthy

Date: Friday 17 November

Time: 8pm

Venue: Mermaid Arts Centre

Age Suitability: Adults

Tickets: €12/10

Irish Traveller, Singer and Storyteller Thomas McCarthy is passionate about his heritage and keeping stories of his ancestors alive. Join him as he shares both songs and stories he has learned from his family which have been passed down through the generations.



YARN Library Series **Ballywaltrim Library**

Date: Saturday 18 November

Time: 11am - 12pm

Venue: Ballywaltrim Library Age Suitability: 5+ years

Tickets: Free Admission, No Booking Required

Join us in Ballywaltrim library as storyteller Senem Donatan Mohan brings us some exciting family tales!



Killruddery Family Storytelling with Moth

& Butterfly Tellers Tales & Tunes of Magic & Mischief

Date: Saturday 18 November

Time: 2pm

Venue: Shoot Room, Killruddery Farm Market

Age Suitability: 5+ years

Tickets: Free Admission, No Booking Required

YARN Storytelling Festival and Killruddery House & Gardens are thrilled to welcome Moth & Butterfly tellers Órla Mc Govern and Niceol Blue for some tales and tunes of mischief and magic!



Philip Byrne Presents **Tea & Tales**

Date: Saturday 18 November

Time: 3pm

Venue: **Ballywaltrim Library**

Age Suitability: Adults

Tickets: Free Admission, No Booking Required

Join Philip Byrne for the final of this Tea & Tales event as he welcomes people to come together and share stories and memories. *Kindly supported by Wicklow Arts Office.*



Liz Weir & the Children from St. Kieran's NS: Tales Along the Road

Date: Saturday 18 November

Time: 3pm

Venue: Mermaid Arts Centre

Age Suitability: 5+ years

Tickets: Free Admission, Booking Essential

Join Liz Weir and the talented kids from St. Kieran's NS for Travelling Children as they showcase their storytelling skills following a series of workshops throughout the autumn. *Kindly supported by DLR Libraries*.

Comhairle Contae County Council



Colum Sands & Anne Harper Present Knowing The Ground On Which We Stand

Date: Saturday 18 November

Time: 8pm

Venue: Mermaid Arts Centre

Age Suitability: Adults

Tickets: €12/10

Armed with guitar, harp, clarinets and whistle, singersongwriter Colum Sands and classical musician Anne Harper share stories, songs and tunes inspired by the language that connects us to the places where we live.



Colum Sands & Anne Harper Present Sounds Like Medicine Workshop - The Healing Potential of Music & Stories

Date: Sunday 19 November

Time: 11am - 12pm

Venue: Mermaid Arts Centre

Age Suitability: Adults

Tickets: €15

Classical musician Anne Harper and folksinger/songwriter Colum Sands combine tunes and musical tales from their own world-wide travels and invite participants to share their experiences of the songs and stories that have changed their lives.



Máirín Mhic Lochlainn & Pádraig Ó Briain Present Bilingual Stories (Gaeilge/English) Scéal i mBarr Bata / A Tall Story

Date: Sunday 19 November

Time: 2pm

Venue: Mermaid Arts Centre Age Suitability: 13+ years

Tickets: Free Admission, Booking Essential

Join well known storytellers Máirín Mhic Lochlainn (Connemara, Galway) and Pádraig Ó Briain (Cork) as they take to the stage in Mermaid to share some traditional stories in both Irish and English. Seo deis iontach do dhaoine fàsta beirt do na Scèalaithe Gaeilge is fearr sa tír a chloisteàil i mbun a gceirde. This afternoon event for adults, is a unique chance to see two of Ireland's finest Irish language storytellers share their craft.







Yarn Story Circle in aid of the RNLI Yarn Festival Story Swap

Date: Sunday 19 November

Time: 3.30pm - 5pm

Venue: The Harbour Bar (Upstairs)

Age Suitability: Adults

Tickets: Free Admission, Donations Welcome in

Aid of the RNLI Wicklow.

Join us for a relaxed story swap upstairs in The Harbour Bar, Bray. Admission is free. Donations welcome in aid of the RNLI Wicklow. Our Bean an Tí (MC) for the Story Swap will be Órla Mc Govern.

Kindly supported by The Harbour Bar.

(Image: Candlelit Tales performing in The Harbour Bar in

YARN 2022)



THE HARBOUR BAR 

Wicklow Arts Office & Mermaid Arts Centre Present at Glenmalure Lodge & Lynham's of Laragh After Autumn Almanac -

Storytelling with Colum Sands, Eimear Burke & Jack Lynch

Date: Wednesday 22 November

Time: 8pm

Venue: **Glenmalure Lodge**

&

Date: Thursday 23 November

Time: 8pm

Venue: **Lynham's of Laragh** Age Suitability: **Adults**

Tickets: Free Admission, No Booking Required

Mermaid Arts Centre, with the support of Wicklow Arts Office, is delighted to bring an evening of storytelling and song to the beautiful setting of the Glenmalure Lodge on Wednesday 22nd and Lynham's of Laragh on Thursday 23rd November. Draw close to the fire and join us. Storytellers on the night are Colum Sands, Eimear Burke, and Jack Lynch.



Monthly Yarn Story Circle

Date: First Wednesday of the month

Time: 8pm

Venue: Town Hall, Bray (Upstairs)

Age Suitability: Adults

Tickets: € Pay What You Can - From €3

Love storytelling? Why not come along to our monthly YARN Story Circle on the first Wednesday of the month upstairs in Bray Town Hall.

This informal gathering takes place in February, March, April, May and June. We then break for the summer and return for September and October, before culminating in the Story Swap at the YARN Storytelling Festival in November.

The evening begins with an invited professional storyteller sharing stories for about half and hour. We then open to the floor for contributions, before rounding off the evening with our guest teller again.

There is no pressure to tell. Listeners very welcome! Tea, coffee and biscuits are served and tickets are Pay What You Can.

For more information please visit: mermaidartscentre.ie or call Box Office on 01-2724030



11 - 23 November 2023

Thank You! Go raibh míle maith agaibh!

Arts Council of Ireland
Bray Cualann Historical Society
Bray School Project
Department of Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
DLR Libraries
Gaelscoil Ui Cheadaigh
Killruddery House & Gardens
Kinvara House Nursing Home
Lynham's of Laragh

Municipal District of Bray

Poetry Ireland

Scoil Chualann

St. Cronan's N.S.

St. Kieran's N.S.

St. Patrick's N.S.

St. Peter's N.S.

The Glenmalure Lodge

The Harbour Bar

Wicklow Arts Office

Wicklow County Council

Wicklow Libraries





(mermaid)

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