

Focail Chósta



Literary Weekend In Áras Inis Gluaire



12ú—15ú Meitheamh / 12th-15th June

Fáilte - Welcome

A chairde,

Fáilte chuig Focail Chósta

Tá áthas orainn fáilte mhór a chur romhat chuig Focail Chósta – féile litríochta uathúil atá fréamhaithe i gcoilár Iorrais. Tugann an fhéile seo ardán do scríbhneoirí, filí, agus lucht léinn teacht le chéile chun ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar chumhacht na bhfocal agus ar shaibhreas ár gcultúir Ghaelaigh.



Le meascán d'imeachtaí idir léamh filíochta, ceardlanna scríbhneoireachta, caint agus comhrá, tugtar cuireadh do chuairteoirí iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar áilleacht na foclaíochta agus ar an bhfís chruthaitheach atá i gcoilár na n-ealaíon.

Bain sult as na guthanna nua agus sean, as an idirphlé bríomhar, agus as an atmaisféar cairdiúil atá lárnach inár bpobal liteartha.

Fáilte romhat – bí linn le haghaidh eachtra liteartha ar imeall na tíre.

We are delighted to welcome you to *Focail Chósta* – a unique literary festival rooted in the heart of Erris. This festival brings together writers, poets, and lovers of language to celebrate the power of words and the richness of our Gaelic heritage.

With a blend of poetry readings, writing workshops, talks and conversations, visitors are invited to explore the beauty of expression and the creative spirit at the heart of the arts.

Enjoy the voices – both new and established – the lively dialogue, and the warm, welcoming atmosphere of our literary community.

You are most welcome – join us for a literary journey on the edge of the world.



Bígí Linn

Oscailt Oifigiúil

Déardaoin 12ú Meitheamh 6 i.n.

Thursday 12th June 6pm

Oscailt Oifigiúil agus Fáilte

Official Opening and Welcome

Beidh an fhéile litríochta Focail Chósta á hoscailt go hoifigiúil le hoíche speisialta lán le litríocht, ceol agus comhrá. Bíg linn chun éisteacht le raon guthanna atá ag obair i réimse na n-ealaíon agus na litríochta i Mhaigh Eo, in éineacht leis na daoine a thug an fhéile seo chun beatha.

The *Focail Chósta* literary festival will be officially launched with a special evening of literature, music and conversation. Join us as we hear from a range of voices working in the arts and literature scene in Mayo, alongside the people who brought the festival to life. Join us at Áras Inis Gluaire for the official launch of Focail Chósta on Thursday 12th June 6pm .

Hear from the festival organisers, meet our writers and guests, and enjoy refreshments as we begin our literary journey.

Deirbhle Healy, Artistic Director, Áras Inis Gluaire

Fr Kevin Hegarty, Chairperson, Áras Inis Gluaire

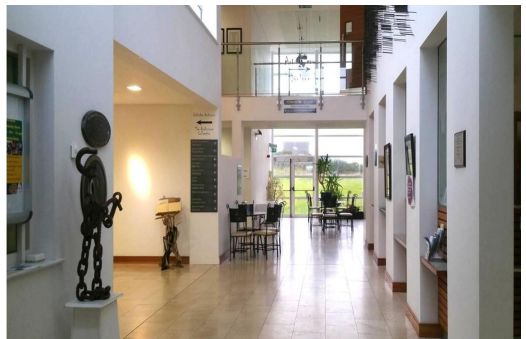
Ann Marie McGing, Arts Officer, Mayo County Council

Austin Vaughan, Mayo Library Service, Mayo County Council

Cllr Sean Carey

Author Brian Gallagher

Hosted by Ed Smith from Today FM.



Oscailt Oifigiúil

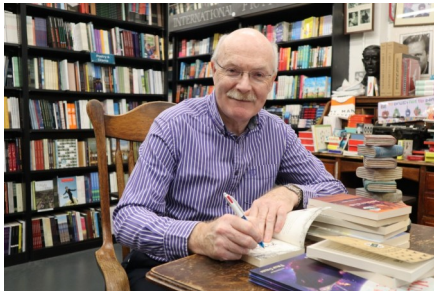
Ed Smith

Ed Smith is a renowned Irish radio presenter and podcaster, best known for his 25-year tenure at Today FM, where he became a beloved figure in Irish broadcasting.



Brian Gallagher

Brian Gallagher is an Irish writer and playwright based in Dublin. He is a full-time author whose works encompass children's and young adult historical fiction, crime novels, and radio dramas. His plays and short stories have been produced in Ireland, Britain, and Canada, and he has an extensive background in writing dramas and documentaries for radio and television.



Clár –Events

Déardaoin 12ú Meitheamh

Thursday 12th June

11:00 AM – Shane Hegarty

Seó Scoileanna in Áras Inis Gluaire

Is údar Éireannach agus iar-iriseoir é Shane Hegarty, is fearr aithne air mar gheall ar a shraith fantaisíochta do pháistí a bhfuil an-tóir uirthi ‘Darkmouth’. Tá cáil ar a shaothar mar gheall ar a ghreann, a chroíúlacht, agus a chumhacht samhlaíochta i dtógáil domhan.

Shane Hegarty is an Irish author and former journalist, best known for his bestselling children’s fantasy series *Darkmouth*. A former arts editor for *The Irish Times*, he turned to fiction with his debut novel in 2015. *Darkmouth* follows the adventures of a reluctant young monster hunter and has been published internationally. Hegarty’s work is known for its humour, heart, and imaginative world-building. He lives in Ireland with his family and continues to write for young readers.



Clár –Events

Dé hAoine 13ú Meitheamh

Friday 13th June

10:00 AM – Creative Writing Workshop: Fiction – Ruth O Leary

Limited Spaces Booking Required €10

Ruth O'Leary is a bestselling author from Dublin. Her debut novel *The Weekend Break* was published by Poolbeg Books in March 2024. Ruth's second novel *A Week To Remember* was published in March 2025 and is set on the Camino de Santiago's famous walking trail in Northern Spain, where three strangers meet on the first night of a journey that changes all their lives. Ruth's other passion is travel and she writes a Travel Blog called *Rambling Ruth*. Ruth also writes short stories that have been published in Irish national publications and online. She is currently writing her next novel set in Belmullet and Blacksod Co Mayo.



10:00 AM – Ceardlanna do Scoileanna with Erika McGann

Ag spreagadh scoileanna chun cruthaitheacht a chothú i measc intinn óg agus chun fuinneamh an fhéile a sheoladh. Engaging schools to spark creativity in young minds and launch the festival's energy. Children from local National Schools will join award-winning children's author, Erika McGann, as she reads a few of her most popular picture books, including her latest, *What is a Peachick?* Travel to some amazing spots around Ireland with stories, games and fun facts about herons, otters, sharks and other fascinating animals.



11:00 AM – The Art of Wonder—Creative Writing and Photography with Orla Bakeberg
Limited Spaces Booking Required €10

Orla Bakeberg is an Irish born photographer, poet and entrepreneur. Her debut book *Life Threads*, published in 2023, is a collection of photography, affirmations and poems that reflect her experiences and observations.



Clár –Events

Dé hAoine 13ú Meitheamh

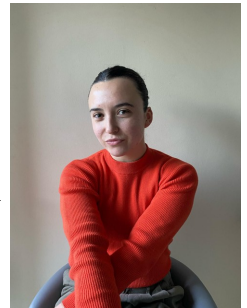
Friday 13th June

1:00 PM – Literary Lunch with Aloise Scherer Limited Spaces Booking Required €10

Join us for a relaxed and social afternoon where you'll enjoy lunch in the company of fellow book lovers, with a few light and playful writing activities sprinkled throughout to keep the inspiration flowing. Whether you're a seasoned scribbler or just curious to give it a go, this is the perfect way to feed both your body and your imagination!



Aloise Scherer is an Irish-French creative producer based in Galway and a recent graduate of the University of Galway's MA in Drama and Theatre Studies. With a passion for slow living and intentional creative practice, her multidisciplinary work spans producing for Arts in Action, stone carving and upcoming film projects on dying crafts in the West of Ireland. Rooted in collaboration, particularly with women and queer-identifying individuals, Aloise draws inspiration from overlooked stories and embraces the long gestation of artistic processes.



3.00 PM Talk with Ruth O'Leary and Faith Hogan

Join bestselling authors Faith Hogan and Ruth O'Leary for an inspiring interview session about their lives and works.

Faith Hogan holds an Honours Degree in English Literature and Psychology and a Postgraduate Degree. She has worked as a fashion model, an event organizer and in the intellectual disability and mental health sector. She was the winner in 2014 of the Irish Writers Centre Novel Fair – an international competition for emerging writers. Her fiction has achieved top ten best seller status across the US, UK, Australia and Canada. Her books are regular top ten sellers in Ireland. *The Ladies* *Midnight Swimming Club* – reached the overall No 1 position in the Amazon UK charts. In 2024 *The Bookshop Ladies*, her latest novel, was shortlisted for An Post Book Award.



Clár – Events

Dé hAoine 13ú Meitheamh

Friday 13th June 4pm

Painéal Scríbhneoirí Béal an Mhuirthead: Guthanna ón Imeall

Glac páirt i bpainéal de scríbhneoirí áitiúla agus iad ag machnamh ar an inspioráid uathúil a fhaigheann siad ó Bhéal an Mhuirthead – a thírdhreach, a theanga agus a phobal – agus an tionchar a gcuireann sé sin ar an obair. Trí léamh agus plé oscailte, scrúdóidh an painéal scríbhneoireacht ón ré atá caite agus ón lá atá inniu ann atá fréamhaithe sa réigiún, agus roinnfidh siad smaointe agus mianta faoi leabhair amach anseo. Ceiliúradh ar áit, ar chruthaitheacht, agus ar na scéalta fós le hinsint.

Tá fáilte roimh chách – bíg linn le héisteacht, le roinnt agus le spreagadh a fháil.

Belmullet Writers' Panel: Voices from the Edge

Join a panel of local writers as they reflect on the unique inspiration of Belmullet – its landscape, language, and community – and how it shapes their work. Through readings and open discussion, the panel will explore past and current writings rooted in the region, while sharing ideas and aspirations for future books. A celebration of place, creativity, and the stories yet to be told.

Katherine Mangan— An Bhumbóg Mhór Bhuí ar Strae, Beannachtaí ó Iorras

Cllr Gerry Coyle— Henry Coyle a Forgotten Freedom Fighter

Caitlín bean Uí Oireachtaigh - Abair Arís é and Gráinne Giorria

Other local writers will join this discussion

All are welcome – come listen, share, and be inspired

Clár –Events

Dé hAoine 13ú Meitheamh

Friday 13th June 6pm

6.00 PM Books That Shaped My Life and Career

Featuring Rose Conway-Walsh, Elizabeth Reapy and Lorraine Burnell

In this intimate and thought-provoking event, Mayo TD Rose Conway-Walsh shares the books that influenced her life, values, and path into public service. From childhood favourites to powerful political works, Rose reflects on the stories that shaped her thinking, inspired action, and continue to guide her today. A celebration of literature's power to inform, transform and lead.



Elizabeth Reapy is an acclaimed Irish writer from Claremorris, County Mayo, known for her compelling explorations of contemporary Irish experiences through fiction. Reapy's debut novel, *Red Dirt* (2016), delves into the lives of young Irish emigrants in Australia, capturing their struggles and choices amidst the backdrop of economic collapse at home. Newcomer of the Year at the 2016 Irish Book Awards and the prestigious Rooney Prize for Irish Literature in 2017 Her second novel, *Skin* (2019), continues her exploration of personal and societal themes, further establishing her voice in Irish literature.



Lorraine Walker Burnell is a prominent business consultant and leadership mentor. She is the founder of Burnell Consultancy and currently serves as the Managing Director of Dynamite Lifestyle Ltd. In 2025, she was elected President of Network Ireland Mayo, a professional organization supporting women in business.



Expect conversation, insight, and a few surprises.

Clár –Events

Dé hAoine 13ú Meitheamh

Friday 13th June

8.00 PM An Evening with Owen Colgan

Limited Spaces Booking Required €10

Join Irish comedy legend Owen Colgan for a night of laughs, stories and sharp wit as he lifts the curtain on life behind the laughs. From *Hardy Bucks* to stand-up stages across the country, Owen shares insights into his writing process, his colourful journey through Irish comedy, and the madness in between. Expect belly laughs, honest reflections, and plenty of unexpected turns.



Clár –Events

Dé Sathairn 14ú Meitheamh

Saturday 14th June

11.00 AM Writing Memoir with Gerry Boland

Limited Spaces Booking Required €10

Explore the art of personal storytelling with poet and writer Gerry Boland in this reflective and inspiring memoir session. Drawing on his own experience of turning memory into narrative, Gerry will guide participants through the process of capturing life's moments with honesty, heart and craft. Learn how to shape your story, find your voice and bring the past to life on the page. This workshop is suitable for anyone interested in writing from their own experiences– no prior writing experience needed.



11:30 AM – Book Club for Children

Following the recent launch of the '*Childrens Books of Mayo Map*', Mayo library service are hoping to inspire young writers to develop their storytelling creativity in a free writing and illustration workshop with Kayleigh Murphy, Youth Libraries Librarian, Mayo Library Service & Melanie Whelan illustrator.



A fun, interactive session for young readers featuring stories, readings, activities, illustration and book chat.

Booking essential places are limited – Age 7- 12 approx. 12noon to 2.30

Book via Fionnuala Belmullet library 097-82555 or

fmeginty@mayococo.ie



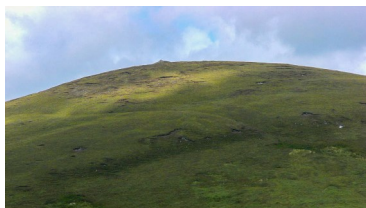
Clár –Events

Dé Sathairn 14ú Meitheamh

Saturday 14th June

11:30 AM – Comhrá faoi Litríocht na Gaeilge

Féach ar litríocht na Gaeilge, an béaloideas, agus na traidisiúin scéalaíochta a mhúnláionn ár gcultúr. Táin Bó Flidhais, ar a dtugtar freisin Táin Mhaigh Eo. Insíonn sí scéal faoi tháin bó (Táin Bó) a tharla i gContae Mhaigh Eo, i gceantar Bhéal an Mhuirthead, in aice le Loch Cheathrú Móir.



11.30 PM— Creative Writing Workshop with Elizabeth Reapy

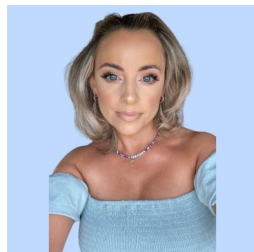
Limited Spaces Booking Required

1.00 PM— Finding my way Workshop with Dee Ruddy for Teenagers

Limited Spaces Booking Required

As the author of Finding My Way: A Motivational Workbook of Clarity, Confidence and Career Choice, Dee Ruddy provides practical tools and inspiring guidance for anyone feeling stuck or uncertain about their professional path. Through workshops and one-on-one coaching, Dee Ruddy has empowered countless individuals to break through barriers and create fulfilling careers.

With a warm, encouraging style, Dee Ruddy is committed to helping you take the next step toward a brighter, more purposeful future.



Clár –Events

Dé Sathairn 14ú Meitheamh

Saturday 14th June

**2:00 PM – Leathanaigh agus Áiteanna—Pages and Places
A Literary Tour of Erris**

Limited Spaces, Booking Required €10

Bígí linn ar Thuras ar Cheantar Iorrais go háiteanna fíor álainn a thug spreagadh do chuid d'ár scéalta is cáiliúla.

Hop on board for a scenic tour of the landscapes that inspired some of our favourite stories.



Clár –Events

Dé Sathairn 14ú Meitheamh

Satharn 14th June

2:30 PM – Pitching Session

Writers and readers gather to browse books, meet authors and pitch new ideas!

If you have an idea you would like to pitch please contact us on info@arasinisgluaire.ie

SESSION



4:00PM – Caitríona Lane - Reading, talk and discussion about her career change from National School Principal to a writer and overcoming challenges.

File de chuid Éigse Éireann Sraith Céadlínte is ea Caitríona le neart duaiseanna ina seilbh aici. An gradam is déanaí atá bronnta uirthi ná Duais Forasna Gaeilge 2025 Listowel Writers Week.

Scríobhann sí go dátheangach agus tá a cuid—filíochta ráite aici os comhair an phobail ar fud na hÉireann agus i Madison, Wisconsin, áit a cuireadh fáilte mhór roimpi ar stáitse.

She is a former Irish language teacher and príomhoide and moved west to Connemara upon her recovery from cancer where she established her creative process. She is influenced by the language of landscape surrounding her cottage and myth and magic often weave their way into her writing.



Clár –Events

Dé Sathairn 14ú Meitheamh

Satharn 14th June

6:00 PM – Between The Lines with Alice Kinsella

Limited Spaces Booking Required €10

Join one of Ireland's most exciting contemporary poets for a powerful reading and discussion of her work.

Alice Kinsella is a poet and writer from Mayo. Her debut, *Milk: on motherhood and madness* was published by Picador in 2023 to critical acclaim. She co-authored *Wake of the Whale* (Mayo Books Press, 2024) a hybrid docu-poetry nonfiction book on the Mullet peninsula whaling stations. *Wake of the Whale* was selected as a Sunday Independent Book of the Year 2024 and won the Mayo County Council Cathaoirleach Best Publication Award.

Dedicated to climate conscious art, Alice co-edited *Empty House: poetry and prose on the climate crisis* (Doire Press, 2021); she also writes about the mammalian experience and creating through emergency on her substack (mam)mal. Her debut full-length poetry collection, *The Ethics of Cats*, will be published in June 2025. She is an Arts Council of Ireland Next Generation Artist.



Clár –Events

Dé Sathairn 14ú Meitheamh

Satharn 14th June 8pm

8:00PM – Echoes of the West with Ger Reidy and Diarmaid Moynihan

Ger Reidy and Diarmaid Moynihan come together for an entertaining evening where poetry and music intertwine. The audience will be brought on a journey through landscape, memory and emotion. This unique collaboration captures the rhythm of the west.

Ger Reidy's first collection of poetry, *Pictures from a Reservation*, was published in 1998. He has been published in many literary journals, both at home and abroad, and has read at numerous festivals, including the Cuirt Festival in Galway in 2016 and in 2010, where his second collection, *Drifting under the Moon*, was launched. He has received bursaries from the arts council and from Mayo County Council.

His third collection *Before Rain* was shortlisted for the Piggot Prize and his collection of short stories *Jobs for a Wet Day* was nominated for the Edge Hill Prize. He has been translated into Turkish and Russian and has won several poetry prizes. His latest poetry collection *Clay*, was published in April 2024.



Clár –Events

Diarmaid Moynihan is regarded as one of Ireland's most creative uilleann pipers and composers. He was tutored initially by the late Tomás O' Canainn at the Cork School of Music before developing his own very distinctive style. After founding the groundbreaking band Calico, who released two award winning albums, Diarmaid has gone on to work with many cutting edge folk musicians including Donal Lunny, Alain Stivell, Liam O' Maonlaí, Guidewires, John Spillane, British jazz pioneers Carmina and many others.

He has long been admired as one of the most lyrical composers working today in Irish Traditional Music and his pieces have been recorded by some of traditional music's greatest musicians including Lunasa, Flook, Michael McGoldrick, Anxo Lorenzo and Cherish the Ladies. He has appeared on many TV and radio shows and has written the theme music for a number of documentaries on TG4. His most recent contributions to the screen have been to provide music for two Des Kilbane productions, An Croí Trodach and Fists of Bronze based on the extraordinary life of Achill's own Johnny Kilbane. Diarmaid was a recipient of The Henrich Boll Residency during April 2022, which is awarded to composers across the Arts disciplines to work on new creative pieces at the North Mayo base. He hosts his own world music radio show, The Wandering Minstrel, every Saturday between 5-6 p.m. on www.crcfm.ie



Clár –Events

Domhnach 15ú Meitheamh

Sunday 15th June 12pm

12 noon: Louise Nealon



Louise Nealon is an Irish author from County Kildare, best known for her acclaimed debut novel, *Snowflake*. She studied English literature at Trinity College Dublin and completed a master's degree in creative writing at Queen's University Belfast in 2016. In 2017, she won the Seán Ó Faoláin International Short Story Competition and received the Francis Ledwidge Creative Writing Award. Her short stories have been published in *The Irish Times*, *Southword*, and *The Open Ear*. Nealon currently lives on her family's dairy farm, where she divides her time between writing and farming .

Snowflake, published in 2021, is a coming-of-age novel that follows Debbie White, an 18-year-old from a rural dairy farm in Kildare, as she navigates the challenges of transitioning to university life at Trinity College Dublin. The novel explores themes of mental health, family dynamics, and the complexities of growing up. It received critical acclaim and won the Sunday Independent Newcomer of the Year award at the An Post Irish Book Awards in 2021. In 2024, *Snowflake* was selected as the One Dublin One Book choice, further cementing its impact on contemporary Irish literature .

Nealon's work has been praised for its emotional depth, wit, and honest portrayal of young adulthood. Her unique voice and storytelling continue to resonate with readers, establishing her as a significant figure in modern Irish fiction.



Ár mbuíochas le



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council



Mayo Arts
Service

Clár Éire Ildánach
*Creative Ireland
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2017–2022



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EALÁIN NA GAELTACHTA TEORANTA
FORBAIRT NA HEALAIÓN DUCHASACHA AGUS COMHAIMESEARTHA



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

Focail Chósta at a glance.....

Déardaoin 12ú Meitheamh / Thursday 12th June

11am: Workshop with Shane Hegarty

6pm: Oscailt Oifigiúil / Official Opening

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Dé hAoine 13ú Meitheamh / Friday 13th June

10am: Schools Workshop with Erika McGann

10am: Workshop with Ruth O'Leary 11am: Workshop with Orla Bakeberg

1pm: Literary Lunch with Aloise Scherer

3pm: Ruth O'Leary and Faith Hogan

4pm: Belmullet Writers Panel 6pm: Books That Shaped My Life & Career

8.00pm: Comedy with Owen Colgan

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Dé Sathairn 14ú Meitheamh / Saturday 14th June

11 am: Workshop with Gerry Boland 11.30 am: Workshop with Elizabeth Reape

11.30am: Book Club for Children

11.30am: Irish Literature Talk: An Táin Bó Flidhais

2pm: Pages and Places Bus Tour 2.30pm: Pitching Session

4pm: Caitríona Lane 6pm: Alice Kinsella

8pm: Ger Reidy and Diarmaid Moynihan

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Dé Domhnaigh 15ú Meitheamh / Sunday 15th June

12 noon: Louise Nealon

Slán Abhaile

Áras Inis Gluaire, Béal an Mhuirthead, Co. Mhaigh Eo. F26 W5H0

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