



# Town of Books Festival

## Graiguenamanagh, Co. Kilkenny

### 23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> August 2019



During the Town of Books Festival, the medieval riverside town of Graiguenamanagh, Co. Kilkenny will be filled with over 30 independent booksellers from 23rd to 25th August 2019.

It is the best place in Ireland to pick up a bargain in new, second-hand, antiquarian, children's and specialist books. The Town of Books Festival will feature many other events, including readings, creative workshops for young and old, music galore and a host of tempting foods, crafts and entertainment.

Graiguenamanagh is the heart of the Barrow Valley and is constantly alive with hillwalkers, cyclists, canoeists, boating enthusiasts, artists and fishermen.

# Festival Programme

## Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August

### 6.30pm: Festival launch event, Graiguenamanagh Library

Join us for our festival launch with whiskey tasting and entertainment by the Graiguenamanagh Men's Shed Choir and TV chef, actor and local author, Edward Hayden. Edward will perform a short snippet celebrating the best of John B. Keane from his recent sell-out show at the Watergate Theatre, Kilkenny. For his performance, Edward will introduce you to matchmaker Dicky Mick Dicky O'Connor and lifelong spinster Miss Fionnula Crust and regale you with six of their hilarious letters from Keane's *The Matchmaker*.

*Edward will be taking the full show back to the Watergate Theatre in Kilkenny on Saturday 21st September at 8pm.*

*Kindly sponsored by Kilkenny County Library Services and Walsh Whiskey, Carlow. Free event.*

## Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August

### 2pm – 6pm: Bookshops open at Barrow Valley Activities Hub and venues along the streets of Graiguenamanagh

### 6.00pm: Graiguenamanagh Library

Join us for a meet-and-greet with Kilkenny author Niamh Boyce while also enjoying a gin tasting courtesy of Ballykeefe Distillery. Niamh will take us back in time to 14th-century Kilkenny with her latest novel, *Her Kind*. In 1324, Kilkenny heiress Alice Kyteler was accused of witchcraft and her maid-servant Petronelle was burned at the stake. Niamh will read from her acclaimed novel and explore what inspired her to write about the Kilkenny Witch Trials. An instant success in its genre, Niamh Boyce's first novel, *The Herbalist*, is regarded as 'the most entertaining yet substantial historical novel since Joseph O'Connor's Star of the Sea' by *The Irish Times*. Boyce was the recipient of the 2012 Hennessy XO New Irish Writer of the Year accolade and picked up Newcomer of the Year at the Irish Book Awards in 2013. She was also short-listed for the 2011 Francis McManus Short Story competition, as well as the Molly Keane Creative Writing Award in 2010. Niamh's fiction is featured in such anthologies as Sinéad Gleeson's *The Long Gaze Back* and *The Hennessy Book of Irish Fiction 2005-2015*. *Join us for a gin tasting and cheese and wine reception. Kindly sponsored by Kilkenny County Library Services and Ballykeefe Distillery. Free event.*

*If you are visiting the festival and have a library card from another library, you are welcome to take books out at the local library.*

### 8pm: The Best Night, Barrows Keep

A night with inspiring women in the elegant setting of Barrows Keep restaurant. Join us for a drinks reception on arrival, canapés, spot prizes, goody bags and inspiration from our invited panel which includes Nicki Hoyne of My Shining Armour; Ciara Conlon, author and leadership coach; Naomi Fitzgibbon of Vintage Finds You; Joanne Browne of Jo Browne cosmetics; and Christina Foley of Yellow Polka Dot Bikini. **Ticketed event: €30.**

## **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August**

**10am – 6pm:** All bookshops, food and craft stalls open, Barrow Valley Activities Hub, Abbey Hall and venues along the streets of Graiguenamanagh

### **11am: Graiguenamanagh Library**

Join bee keeper Ailbhe Gerrard from Brookfield Farm to hear about the story of bees and see how beeswax candles are made. *Kindly sponsored by Kilkenny County Library Services. Lemonade and biscuits for all. Free Event. All welcome.*

### **11am and 3pm: Cushendale Woollen Mills Experience**

Visit one of Ireland's oldest working woollen mills where you will learn about Graignamanagh's link with wool since 1204, a six-generation family of weavers and the provenance of our Irish wool fabric which can be traced 'from fleece to fabric.' (Complimentary free event for Book Festival weekend only) *Booking required: 086 353 1082. Spaces limited, available on a first-come first-served basis.*

### **12.30pm – 4pm: Storytelling for Children with Princess Sarah Tully**

To add to the overall magic of her shows, she will perform in unique costumes that she has created, adding different characters to her shows from fairies to Disney princesses etc. During her storytelling, she welcomes audience interaction and asks the children to help create their own stories, encouraging imagination and creativity, taking children on a journey where fairies, dragons and unicorns are there to meet them. She loves to spread the joy of books to children. ([www.kidspartiesireland.com](http://www.kidspartiesireland.com)) *Timetable: Sarah will have four sessions: 12.30pm – 1pm / 2pm – 2.30pm / 3pm – 3.30pm / 3.30pm – 4pm. Free event.*

### **2pm: Literary fancy dress competition and parade from Daisy Chain (great prizes to be won!)**

To enter our fancy dress competition, simply dress up as your favourite character from any book that has inspired you, bring a copy of the book with you as we assemble at Daisy Chain at 2pm where we will then parade down the main street. Judging will take place at the Outdoor Activities Hub. Design and up-style old material to create your own costume or wear a costume you already have. It's all about imagination and innovation. Here are some literary inspirations to get you started: *Wind and the Willows, Winnie the Pooh, The Famous Five, James and the Giant Peach, Robin Hood, Alice in Wonderland.* A small prize for all the children that take part. *Kindly sponsored by Aldi.*

### **3pm: Cushendale Woollen Mills Experience** Details above, booking required.

### **7pm – 9pm: Literary Lounge and Whiskey Tasting, The Duiske Inn**

Hosted by MC Dara O'Brien. Open mic session. Authors, storytellers, fiction/non-fiction writers, playwrights, poets and drama enthusiasts are invited to take the mic on the night and entertain us as we enjoy a whiskey tasting.

*Kindly sponsored by Muldoons Whiskey, 33 The Mall, Waterford. Free Event.*

## Sunday 25th August

**10am – 6pm: All bookshops food and craft stalls open, Barrow Valley Activities Hub, Abbey Hall and venues along the streets of Graiguenamanagh**

**12pm: Local history/heritage trail** A fascinating look at the rich history and stories of Graiguenamanagh and its environs. A huge hit every year, don't miss it! Delivered by the Local Historical Society. Tour starts from outside the Medieval Duiske Abbey.

**2pm: Entertainment from Graiguenamanagh Brass Band, Barrow Valley Activities Hub**

**2:30pm – 4pm: Take a walk on the wild side, Éanna on the Barrow** Join Éanna Ní Lamhna as she takes a stroll along the beautiful River Barrow as it flows majestically through the medieval town of Graiguenamanagh. See the abundant wild life on the River Duiske and become wild life detectives as Éanna leads the walk and entertains in her own unique way. Tour starts at the Barrow Valley Activities Hub *Kindly sponsored by the Waters and Communities Office*.

**3pm: Cushendale Woollen Mills Experience** Visit one of Ireland's oldest working woollen mills where you will learn about Graiguenamanagh's link with wool since 1204, a six-generation family of weavers and the provenance of our Irish wool fabric which can be traced 'from fleece to fabric.' (Complimentary free event for Book Festival weekend only) *Booking required: 086 353 1082. Spaces limited, available on a first-come first-served basis.*

**4pm: Ancient Wisdom for Modern Times** A philosophical talk from The Irish School of Philosophy speaker Brian McGeough at The Haven, High Street, Graiguenamanagh. Brian is a lecturer from the school of philosophy and a learning and development specialist, mediator and programme facilitator specialising in the dialectic Socratic method. The Socratic method respects in-built capacity of an individual to overcome their limits by means of their own intellect.

## 23rd to 25th August: 'Gin Austin Lounge', Mick Doyle's Pub

Keeping the literary spirit alive, Mick Doyle's Pub hosts a Jane-Austen-inspired 'Gin Austen Lounge' and photo booth with a specially selected gin menu for the weekend. All visitors to the 'Gin Austen Lounge' can enter our Facebook/Instagram competition. To enter, visit our photo booth in Doyle's and use the hashtags #townofbooks #ginaustin #mickdoyles #thingin. Best photo wins a bottle of Thin Gin. *Kindly sponsored by Anchor Spirits, 33 The Mall, Waterford.*

Free Children's activities: Barrow Valley Activities Hub *Kindly sponsored by Creative Ireland*

Main Venues: Barrow Valley Activities Hub, Abbey Hall, Graiguenamanagh Library, The Haven, The Duiske Inn and premises on the main streets of Graiguenamanagh.

**Sponsors and partners:** Kilkenny County Council, Kilkenny County Library Service, Duiske Glass, Failte Ireland, Waters and Communities Office, Creative Ireland, Aldi, Ballykeefe Distillery, Walsh's Distillery, SuperValu, Goatsbridge Trout Farm, Dinners For Winners, Kilkenny Shop, Tilted Anchor Jewellery, Barrows Keep, Georgina's Hair Salon, Tom Walsh, Wines Direct, Cushendale Woollen Mills, The Haven, Muldoon Whiskey Liqueur, Daisy Chain, Barrons, Stellar, Ciara Conlon, Vintage Finds You, Yellow Polka Dot Bikini, Jo Browne, My Shining Armour, Adrian Wasson Interiors, Belle in the Butterslip and Royal Oak Distillery.

*Thanks most sincerely to all the local publicans, restaurants and businesses for their support and to all the owners of the shops and premises made available to us for the booksellers.*