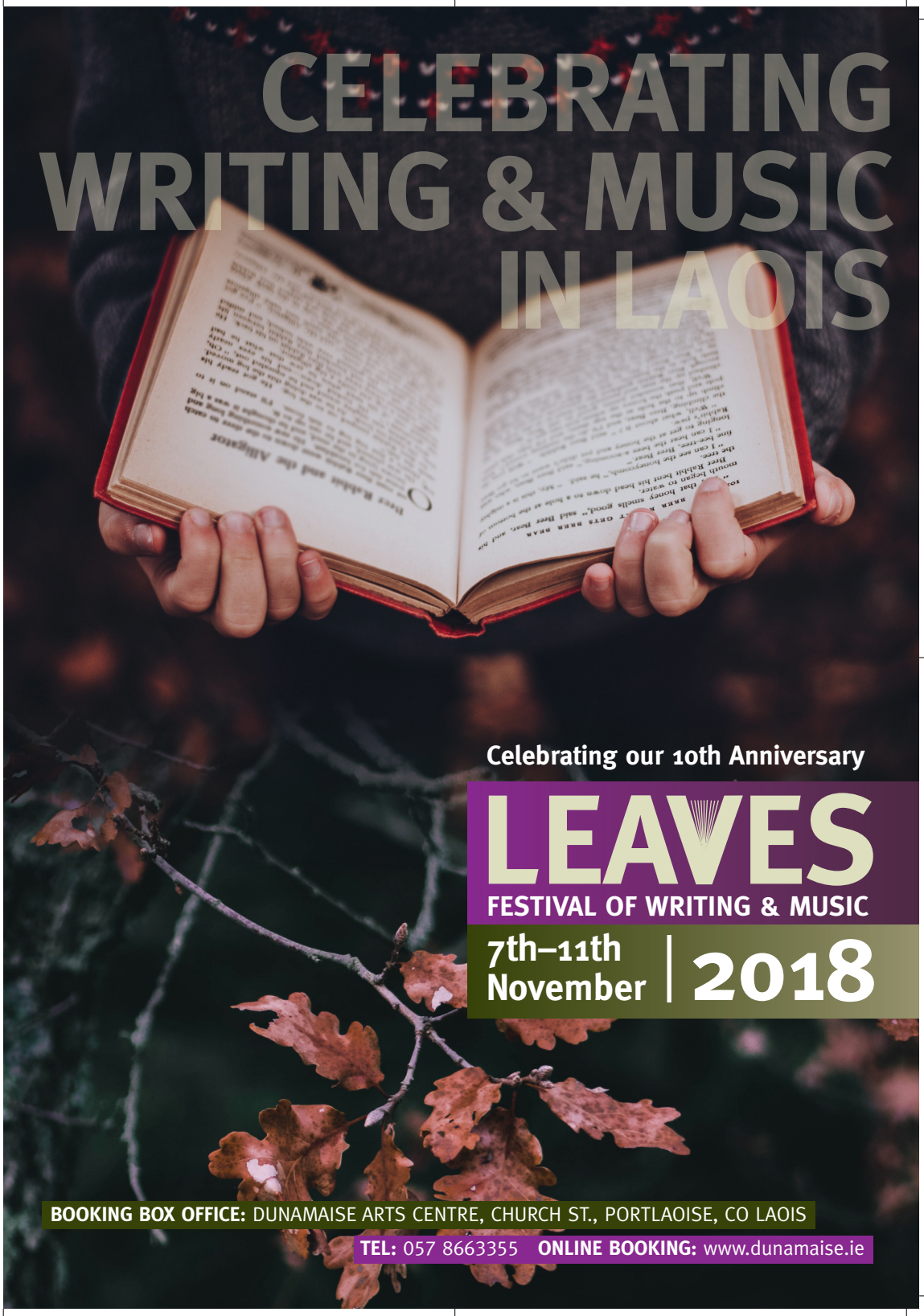
Leaves Literary Festival 2018.qxp:Layout 1 12/10/2018 14:01 Page 1



Leaves Literary Festival 2018.qxp:Layout 1 12/10/2018 14:01 Page 2

LEAVES
FESTIVAL OF WRITING & MUSIC
7th–11th November | 2018

Fáilte

The *Leaves Festival of Writing and Music* celebrates the diversity and richness in today's literary, music, theatre and film scene. *Leaves* aims to excite and engage with audiences young and old. This year the weekend-long programme will be held in Dunamaise Arts Centre and St Peter's Church of Ireland, Portlaoise.

Speaking about the *Leaves* Festival Co-ordinator, Muireann Ní Chonaill said,
"celebrating its tenth anniversary, the Leaves Festival is a great opportunity to hear from contemporary writers, enjoy the art of conversation, listen to musicians and appreciate film and theatre."

The weekend programme includes spoken word, poetry readings, book launch, workshops, music and conversations.

The programme of events at Dunamaise Arts Centre includes cinema and theatre production. Welcome to *Leaves Festival of Writing and Music* and we look forward to sharing some of the magic that is in store.

Muireann Ní Chonaill
Arts Officer & Leaves Festival Coordinator

Leaves Literary Festival 2018.qxp:Layout 1 12/10/2018 14:01 Page 3

DUNAMAISE ARTS CENTRE EVENTS

FRIDAY 9th NOVEMBER 8pm

MUSIC & SPOKEN WORD

with Stephen James Smith featuring Enda Reilly

Join us for an entertaining evening with Spoken Word Artist Stephen James Smith as he reads from his debut collection, *Fear Not* (published by Arlen House) featuring music by Enda Reilly.

THE AUDITORIUM, Dunamaise Arts Centre / €12

SATURDAY 10th NOVEMBER 10.30am-12.30pm

WRITING WORKSHOP

with Helen Cullen

London based writer, Helen Cullen will share her wisdom and experience at a special workshop for adult writers.

BOARDROOM, Dunamaise Arts Centre / €20

SATURDAY 10th NOVEMBER 3pm

BOOK LAUNCHES

THE LOST LETTERS OF WILLIAM WOOLF

by Helen Cullen

Helen who grew up in Portlaoise has had great success with her debut novel, *The Lost Letters of William Woolf*.

GROWING PAINS & GROWING UP

by John Whelan

Represents a journalistic memoir to mark 40 years of his working in media.

MEZZANINE & GALLERY, Dunamaise Arts Centre / FREE

Leaves Literary Festival 2018.qxp:Layout 1 12/10/2018 14:01 Page 4

ST. PETER'S CHURCH EVENT

SATURDAY 10th NOVEMBER **8pm**

MUSIC & SPOKEN WORD

An intimate evening of music, writing and conversation with Dermot Bolger, Helen Cullen, Brian Keenan, Kathleen Loughnane and Seán Ryan.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH OF IRELAND / €15

"IN KATHLEEN LOUGHNANE'S HANDS *(THE HARP)* ***IS A PRECISION INSTRUMENT, SWIFT AND SPARKLING"*** Hot Press, 2002

PUBLIC EVENT

THUR 8th – Sat 10th NOVEMBER

GAEILGE TAMAGOTCHI

An Irish performance installation by Manchán Magan

In Gaeilge Tamagotchi Manchán Magan invites you to adopt an Irish word. Participants wind through a labyrinth of 30m of raw Irish linen to receive an endangered Irish word from the artist, which they agree to nurture, nourish and take guardianship of. They each receive a word unique to them and are given the opportunity to print or paint their word on stone, oak-wood or linen as a ritualistic covenant.

LAOIS SHOPPING CENTRE / FREE
8th Nov: 9.30am-12.30pm and 4-6pm
9th Nov: 2.30-5pm and 6-8.30pm
10th Nov: 11.30am-1.30pm and 2.30-5.30pm
Suitable for all ages

Leaves Literary Festival 2018.qxp:Layout 1 12/10/2018 14:01 Page 5

LIBRARY EVENTS

THURSDAY 8th NOVEMBER 4.30-7.30pm

LAOIS LIBRARIES PRESENTS

STORYTELLING TRAINING

with Simone Schuemmelfeder

For parents, grandparents and carers, Join Laois Reader-in-Residence Simone Schuemmelfeder for tips, stories and inspiration.

PORTLAOISE LIBRARY / Booking essential: laoislibrary@laoiscoco.ie

FRIDAY 9th NOVEMBER 12 noon

CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP ON

STORYTELLING

with Simone Schuemmelfeder

RATHDOWNEY LIBRARY / Booking essential: laoislibrary@laoiscoco.ie

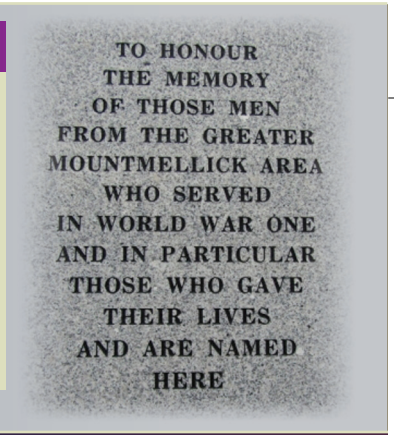
SUNDAY 11th NOVEMBER 7.30pm

LEST WE FORGET

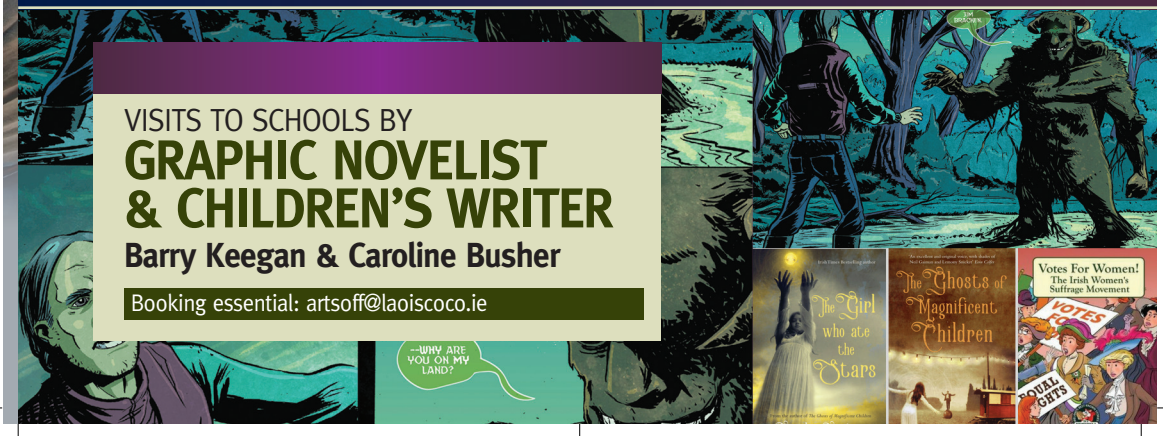
World War One Spoken Word Remembrance Event

There will be a spoken word evening of remembrance for those who lost their lives and fought from the Mountmellick area in World War One, consisting of poetry, prose, newspaper articles and narratives about those who fought in the war. Tickets will be available on www.eventbrite.ie.

MOUNTMELLICK LIBRARY Booking Essential / FREE



SCHOOL EVENT



VISITS TO SCHOOLS BY

GRAPHIC NOVELIST & CHILDREN'S WRITER

Barry Keegan & Caroline Busher

Booking essential: artsoff@laoiscoco.ie

Leaves Literary Festival 2018.qxp:Layout 1 12/10/2018 14:01 Page 6

DUNAMAISE ARTS CENTRE EVENTS

TUESDAY 6th NOVEMBER 8pm

THEATRE

HOLY MARY by Eoin Colfer

In typical Colfer fashion, the characters are very real and very funny, brilliantly portrayed in this hilarious and heartbreaking tale of Communion, confusion and consternation

DUNAMAISE ARTS CENTRE / €18/€16

WEDNESDAY 7th NOVEMBER 8pm

CINEMA

THE HAPPY PRINCE
by Edward Albee

The last days of Oscar Wilde – and the ghosts that haunted them – are vividly evoked in this poignant, dignified and career defining tribute.

DUNAMAISE ARTS CENTRE / €7/€5

Contributors

STEPHEN JAMES SMITH is a Dublin poet and playwright central to the rise of the vibrant *Spoken Word* scene in Ireland today, Stephen's poetry videos have amassed over 2.5 million views, including 2017's *My Ireland* and the recent commission by Aviva, *Bring it Home* highlighting this year's England Vs Ireland rugby final. Stephen has performed at high profile events and venues such as Electric Picnic, Glastonbury, Other Voices, The National Concert Hall, The Barbican and London Palladium (alongside Glen Hansard); The Oscar Wilde Awards in L.A. and many more. Stephen was our Artist in Residence earlier this year, commissioned by Laois Arts Office, and facilitated poetry workshops in Laois secondary schools. His poetry has been recently added to the LC syllabus and has been translated into multiple languages.

BRIAN KEENAN was born in Belfast in 1950. His books include *An Evil Cradling*, (Hutchinson, 1992), his internationally acclaimed account of his experiences of being held hostage for four and a half years in the Lebanon, which is regarded as a modern classic. Other books include a novel, *Turlough* (Jonathan Cape, 2000); *Four Quarters of Light: An Alaskan Journey* and *I'll Tell My Ma: A Belfast Memoir*. In a relaxed and intimate conversation with poet Dermot Bolger he will discuss his experience of being held hostage in a time of war and his more recent experiences of exploring present day Lebanon, as a free man now hopelessly captivated by that city.

DERMOT BOLGER was born in Dublin in 1959, and is one of Ireland's best known writers. His fourteen novels include *The Journey Home*, *Tanglewood*, *The*

Lonely Sea and Sky, *The Family on Paradise Pier* and his just published, *An Ark of Light*, which he will read from. His first play, *The Lament for Arthur Cleary*, received the Samuel Beckett Award. Numerous other plays include an adaptation of James Joyce's *Ulysses*, staged by The Abbey Theatre – Ireland's National Theatre. His *New and Selected Poems, That Which is Suddenly Precious*, appeared in 2015. He devised the bestselling collaborative novels, *Finbar's Hotel* and *Ladies Night at Finbar's Hotel*, and edited *The Vintage Book of Contemporary Irish Fiction*. A former Writer Fellow at Trinity College, Dublin, Bolger writes for Ireland's leading newspapers, and in 2012 was named *Commentator of the Year* at the Irish Newspaper Awards.

HELEN CULLEN is originally from Portlaoise, Co. Laois and is an Irish writer who worked at RTÉ for seven years before moving to London in 2010 where she established a career as an events and engagement specialist. Following freelance work with the BBC and The Times, she joined the Google UK marketing team in 2015. Helen wrote the first draft of this novel while completing the Guardian/UEA novel writing programme under the mentorship of Michele Roberts. She also holds a M.A. in Theatre Studies from UCD and is currently completing a M.A. in English Literature at Brunel University. Helen is now writing full-time and working on her second novel. Her debut novel, *The Lost Letters of William Woolf* will be published in 2018 by Graydon House in America, Penguin Random House in the UK and in translation in other foreign territories.

JOHN WHELAN is a journalist of forty years. He has written extensively for many of the country's leading provincial and national titles on current affairs, social and environmental issues and the arts. From Portlaoise, he also served in the Senate for five years until 2016. Today he continues to work as a columnist, commentator, broadcaster and blogger. He is also the author of *The Buddha of Ballyhuppahaun* (2010). His latest work *Growing Pains and Growing Up*, published by Laois Today, is an anthology of articles, immersed in his own personal experiences, which explore the major political, social and cultural issues of the past four decades. The author has also given the book a novel 'soundtrack' as he says, *"Music is the constant backdrop in our lives and marks the mundane and humdrum in our daily routines as well as the stand-out and memorable moments. Music is the audio-emotional screen-saver to our every waking moment, whether we are aware of it or not."*

BARRY KEEGAN is an Independent Comic Book Creator who launched *The Bog Road* graphic novel in 2018 which is set in County Laois. The tale brings the land to life through the spirits of nature and highlights the uniqueness of the county. The book was created in Portarlington when Barry was living in Laois. The sequel to *The Bog Road* is currently underway which will see the spirits of Laois being brought forward to help another county of Ireland.

KATHLEEN LOUGHNANE is widely acclaimed for her arrangement, playing and teaching of Irish harp music. The moods in her playing range from the exuberant lift of her dance music to the haunting beauty of her slow airs.

SEAN RYAN is one of Ireland's best known tin whistle players, his unique style, makes his playing easily recognisable. A full time musician, Seán has toured across Europe, the U.S.A., Tasmania, and enjoys an annual tour of Japan. A Tutor each year at the Willie Clancy Summer School, Seán enjoys sharing his repetoire of dance music and slow airs. He plays a regular Sunday session, now in it's 37th year in the Crane Bar, Galway.

Leaves Literary Festival 2018.qxp:Layout 1 12/10/2018 14:01 Page 8

ENDA REILLY, Dublin singer-songwriter writes in both Irish and English and has had appearances on TG4, BBC2 Northern Ireland and the Franco-German TV network ARTE's Metropolis show. His album *New Songs In Irish* which is a collection of his songs and co-writes in the Irish language is now available from endareilly.com. *Arise and Go!*, a collaboration with the Irish contemporary poet Stephen James Smith, goes from strength to strength with their video of W.B. Yeat's *September 1913* being aired both on RTÉ's TV show *The Works* and the IFTA Award Winning *No Country For Old Men* documentary.

CAROLINE BUCHER graduated with a First Class Honours MA in Creative Writing from UCD. She is the Irish Times best selling author of *The Ghosts of Magnificent Children* and *The Girl Who Ate The Stars* (Poolbeg Press) and is represented by Trace Literary Agency, USA. Her highly anticipated second novel *The Girl Who Ate The Stars* was published by Poolbeg Press in March 2018 and has received much critical acclaim. Caroline is the current *Reader in Residence* with Wexford Public Library Services.

LEAVES
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FESTIVAL TEAM:
Muireann Ni Chonaill *Arts Officer*
Bernie Foran *Laois Libraries*
Bridie Keenan *Assistant Arts Officer*
Patricia O'Rourke *Clerical Officer*
Michelle de Forge *Director of Dunamaise Arts Centre*

The Arts Office acknowledges the financial support of the Arts Council and Creative Ireland.

Thanks to the Manager and Staff of Dunamaise Arts Centre.

For more information on the Leaves festival & the Laois Arts Programme contact:
THE ARTS OFFICE,
LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL,
ÁRAS AN CHONTAE,
PORTLAOISE,
CO. LAOIS

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DUNAMAISE
ARTS CENTRE