



BelfastBookFestival.com


The
Crescent

| Wednesday 6th June | | |
|--|--------|------------------------|
| Stephen Clements: Back in our day | 1.00pm | The Crescent |
| An Anatomy Of A Campaign | 1.00pm | NI War Memorial Museum |
| Meet the Author: Bernie McGill | 6.00pm | Books, Paper, Scissors |
| Three Verses | 6.30pm | The Crescent |
| Refugee Stories | 8.00pm | The Crescent |
| Aaron Giles: How to Survive the end of the world | 8.00pm | The Crescent |
| Alastair Campbell: Saturday Bloody Saturday | 8.00pm | Windsor Park |

| Thursday 7th June | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| Guillem Balagué | 1.00pm | The Black Box |
| Chris Mullin | 6.30pm | The Crescent |
| Michele Mendelssohn | 6.30pm | Waterstones |
| Squat Pen | 7.00pm | Books Paper Scissors |
| An evening with Doire Press | 7.00pm | The Crescent |
| The Crescent Book Club | 7.00pm | The Crescent |
| Dale Pinnock | 7.30pm | Hillmount Garden Centre |
| Ed Husain | 8.00pm | The Crescent |

| Friday 8th June | | |
|----------------------|--------|--------------|
| Autonomy | 6.00pm | The Crescent |
| Francesca Martinez | 6.30pm | The Crescent |
| John Crace | 7.00pm | Ormeau Baths |
| River Mill Readings | 7.30pm | The Crescent |
| Raoul Martinez | 8.00pm | The Crescent |
| Hymn to the Reckless | 9.00pm | The Crescent |
| Dale Pinnock | 7.30pm | Hillmount |

| Saturday 9th June | | |
|---|---------|--------------------|
| Chamber Babies with Cettina Musumarra | 10.30am | The Crescent |
| Chamber Babies with Cettina Musumarra | 11.30am | The Crescent |
| Young Adults In Belfast | 1.00pm | The Crescent |
| Imagine! | 3.00pm | The Crescent |
| Emily Reynolds | 6.00pm | The Crescent |
| Novecento - 1900 | 7.00pm | The Crescent |
| Maria Isakova-Bennett: Coast to coast to coast | 7.00pm | The Crescent |
| Will Eaves | 7.30pm | The Crescent |
| Astral Weeks: The Music and the Myths of Van Morrison | 8.00pm | Strand Arts Centre |
| The Festival Poetry Slam | 9.00pm | The Crescent |

| Sunday 10th June | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|--------------------|
| Michael Walker's "Green Shoots" | 11.00am | Strand Arts Centre |
| Huw Kingston "Mediterranean" | 3.00pm | The Crescent |
| Four Poets | 4.00pm | The Crescent |
| Fern Riddle | 6.00pm | The Crescent |
| Oggy Boytchev | 6.30pm | The Crescent |
| Andrew Mehan & Henrietta McKervey | 8.00pm | The Crescent |
| Steve Parrish | 8.00pm | Malone Lodge Hotel |
| An Evening With Mark Twain | 8.30pm | The Crescent |



| Monday 11th June | | |
|--|--------|--------------------|
| Literary Lunch: Julie Peakman | 1.00pm | Linen Hall Library |
| Understanding Autism - Jessie Hewitson & Laura James | 6.00pm | The Crescent |
| Templar Poetry Launch - Damian Smyth and Katherine Duffy | 6.30pm | The Crescent |
| Cinepunked presents Frankenstein | 7.30pm | The Crescent |
| Caolinn Hughes | 8.00pm | The Crescent |

| Tuesday 12th June | | |
|--|--------|--------------------|
| Literary Lunch : Emer Martin | 1.00pm | Linen Hall Library |
| Silence We Enter: 100 Years & the Representation of the People Act | 6.00pm | The Crescent |
| The Wonder Tales | 6.00pm | The Crescent |
| John Tusa | 8.00pm | The Crescent |
| Planes, Trains & Automobiles | 8.30pm | The Crescent |

| Wednesday 13th June | | |
|---|---------|--------------------|
| Flowers at the Frontline | 12.30pm | Ulster Museum |
| Literary Lunch: Shelia Llewellyn & Paul Maddern | 1.00pm | Linen Hall Library |
| Kevin Quinn Talk on Robert Frost | 1.00pm | The Crescent |
| David Nihill | 6.30pm | Ormeau Baths |
| Sue Hubbard & Bernie McGill | 6.30pm | The Crescent |
| Glenn Patterson & BBC Writersroom | 7.00pm | The Crescent |
| In Place | 7.30pm | The Crescent |
| The Crescent Writers Read | 7.45pm | The Crescent |
| Mike Wendling | 8.00pm | The Crescent |

| Special Event – Mon 18th - Sat 23rd June | |
|--|-------------------|
| The Kite Runner | Grand Opera House |

| Thursday 14th June | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|--------------------|
| A Tropical Glen | 12.30pm | Ulster Museum |
| Literary Lunch : Heather Richardson | 1.00pm | Linen Hall Library |
| Poetry Jukebox: Local Heroes | 6.00pm | The Crescent |
| If The Kids Are United | 6.30pm | Strand Arts Centre |
| Loud, Quiet Loud | 6.30pm | Waterstones |
| The Poetic Line | 7.15pm | The Crescent |
| Mairtín Crawford Awards | 8.30pm | The Crescent |
| An Evening With Mark Twain | 8.30pm | The Crescent |

| Friday 15th June | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------------------|
| Literary Lunch: Gerald Lynch | 1.00pm | Linen Hall Library |
| Robert Salisbury | 1.00pm | Palm House |
| Sam Thompson | 6.00pm | The Crescent |
| Marshall: The Promise Of Silence | 6.30pm | The Crescent |
| Olivia Laing | 6.30pm | Waterstones |
| Irish Writers Centre - Taking the Mic | 7.00pm | Tropical Ravine |
| John Lennox | 8.00pm | Fisherwick |
| Janey Godley | 8.00pm | The Crescent |

| Saturday 16th June | | |
|--------------------------|---------|--------------------|
| Borderlines | 12.00pm | The Crescent |
| Crime at the Crescent | 2.00pm | The Crescent |
| Solstice: Light and Dark | 3.00pm | Accidental Theatre |
| Irish Pages | 6.30pm | The Crescent |
| The Architecture of Love | 8.30pm | The Crescent |
| Family Fun Day | 12.00pm | Lower Crescent Pk |
| LitCrawl | 6.00pm | Queen's Quarter |

Introduction

This year's festival brings us another sparkling line-up of local and international talent from across the literary genres. The breadth of work covered by this excellent programme, presented by some of the best writers in their fields, makes this one of the most accessible, enjoyable and welcoming literary festivals on these islands. The Arts Council, as principal funder, is delighted to support the festival as it continues to open up opportunities for everyone to experience the immeasurable pleasure of books and the transformative power of the literary imagination, in all of its forms.

Dr Damian Smyth, Head of Literature and Drama, Arts Council of Northern Ireland

Now in its 8th year, the Belfast Book Festival has once again delivered another incredible programme of events for this great city. Our festival is more than just a literary celebration; it is a feast of arts activity encompassing music, theatre, film, comedy and much more. Eleven days with over 100 events, blended together to create a truly exciting programme for all ages and book tastes. The festival is for everyone, for the regular literary festival-goer or those who simply wish to broaden their knowledge of the local arts scene and the tremendous diversity, let alone value for money, the Festival offers. Once again we are grateful to our funders, sponsors, venues and other festival partners for their invaluable support in helping to make this all possible. If you have never been to the Festival before, make this year your first... you won't be disappointed!

Charlotte Jess, Chair of The Crescent

Booking Information

Online
BelfastBookFestival.com

By Telephone
028 9024 2338

In Person
The Crescent
2-4 University Road
Belfast
BT7 1NH

Bookworm Festival Pass £80

Are you a regular festival visitor? Would you like a festival pass which grants you access into an unlimited number of book festival events? Then look no further than our Bookworm Festival Pass! But hurry as there are only a limited number of passes available!

More details can be found online.
T&C's apply.

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Cathal Duane of UsFolk

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the Nottingham Playhouse and Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse production of

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'the best page-to-stage
show since War Horse' THE STAGE

The Kite Runner

Adapted by Matthew Spangler

Based on the best-selling novel by Khaled Hosseini

Directed by Giles Croft



GRAND
OPERA
HOUSE

MON 18 JUNE - SAT 23 JUNE 2018
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**WEDNESDAY
6 JUNE**



Stephen Clements

Back In Our Day

We are delighted to welcome **Q Radio's Stephen Clements** to the Belfast Book Festival 2018 to open this year's festival. Join us for a breezy lunchtime chat as he looks back on the memories that shaped our childhoods. Do you remember the slippery dip slide in Newcastle? What was your first car? Remember when Wham bars were as big as your hand? Stephen's book, **Back In Our Day**, is a celebration of all those memories of growing up here in Northern Ireland in the 1970s and 1980s.

1pm
£8 inc. lunch | £5 event only
The Crescent



Anatomy of a Campaign: The British Fiasco in Norway 1940

A Discussion with John Kiszely

The British campaign in Norway in 1940 was an ignominious and abject failure. It is perhaps best known as the fiasco which directly led to the fall of Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and his replacement by Winston Churchill. But what were the reasons for failure? Why did the decision makers, including Churchill, make such poor decisions and exercise such bad judgement? What other factors played a part? Join **John Kiszely** as he draws on his own experience of working at all levels in the military to assess the campaign as a whole, its context and evolution from strategic failures, intelligence blunders and German air superiority to the performance of the troops and the serious errors of judgement by those responsible for the higher direction of the war. The result helps us to understand not only the outcome of the Norwegian campaign but also why more recent military campaigns have found success so elusive.

1pm
£6 | £4
Northern Ireland War Memorial Museum

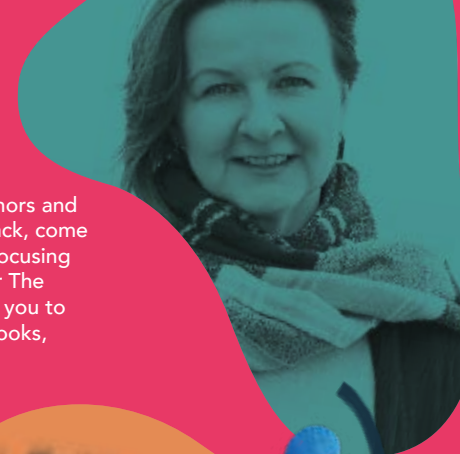


Bernie McGill

Meet the Author

Bernie McGill is one of Northern Ireland's most respected authors and following the May 2018 launch of *The Watch House* in paperback, come along and join in the conversation led by BBC's **Helen Mark**. Focusing on her career to date and the recent inspiration and setting for *The Watch House*, Rathlin Island, this is the perfect opportunity for you to get to know the author in an informal and relaxed session at Books, Paper, Scissors bookshop.

6pm
Free event
Books, Paper, Scissors



Mel McMahon, Colin Dardis & Joan Newmann

Three Verses

Join Irish poets **Mel McMahon**, **Colin Dardis** and **Joan Newmann** as they read from their latest works. **Mel McMahon** will be reading from his second collection, **Beneath Our Feet** (Abbey Press). A poetic tribute to Wilfred Owen, one of World War One's greatest poets. The book deals with the last two years of Owen's life and explores his time in France and Craiglockhart. **Colin Dardis** will be reading from **the x of y** (Eyewear Publishing). Navigating an often complex and uneven playing field, the collection strives to find balance from a life constantly fluctuating between profit and loss, exploring questions of existence and identity, asking who we really are, and how we can possibly be. **Joan Newmann** will read from **Dead End** (Summer Palace Press), a rumination on death which is often as playful a collection as it is a dark and hauntingly beautiful one.

6.30pm
Free Event
The Crescent



Refugee Tales

An Evening in Solidarity with Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Detainees

Attitudes towards refugees and migrants are worsening across Europe, so much so that you could argue they have become the new underclass. While those with 'citizenship' enjoy basic human rights, people seeking asylum can be detained without charge for years, plunged into Kafka-esque uncertainty. **Refugee Tales**, sees poets and novelists retell the stories of individuals who have direct experience of Britain's policy of indefinite immigration detention. Presenting their accounts anonymously, as modern day counterparts to the pilgrims' stories in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, this book offers rare, intimate glimpses into otherwise untold suffering. Introduced by the co-editor **Anna Pincus** and featuring readings and discussion from **David Herd** and celebrated author, poet and performer **Patience Agbabi**. Profits from the book go to Kent Refugee Help and Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group.

8pm
£8 | £6
The Crescent

Aaron Gillies

How To Survive The End of The World
(When It's In Your Own Head): An Anxiety Survival Guide

Join Aaron Gillies, comedian, writer and Twitter heavy-weight, for an evening of lively discussion on what happens when it feels like the world is ending every single time you wake up. 13% of people in Britain suffer with anxiety. One in four people will battle a mental health problem at some point in their lives. But Aaron is here to help. **How To Survive The End of The World (When It's In Your Own Head): An Anxiety Survival Guide** tackles anxiety in Aaron's own unique and darkly comic way. From helping readers identify the enemy, to safeguarding the vulnerable areas of their lives, Aaron examines the impact of anxiety, and gives readers some tools to fight back - whether with medication, therapy, CBT, coping techniques, or simply with a dark sense of humour.

8pm
£8 | £6
The Crescent



Alastair Campbell

Saturday Bloody Saturday

Join us for an evening overlooking the pitch at the newly refurbished **Windsor Park** as we welcome to this year's Belfast Book Festival the acclaimed journalist, broadcaster, former Downing Street Press Secretary and now prolific novelist, **Alastair Campbell**.

Alastair will be joined by BBC's **Seamus McKee** to discuss his life, work and latest novel **Saturday Bloody Saturday**.

A fascinating and engaging speaker, we are delighted to welcome Alastair back to the city with a novel that cites Martin McGuinness as a source for much of the background details.

Co-written by former professional footballer Paul Fletcher, Saturday Bloody Saturday has garnered rave reviews for its attention to detail, authenticity and thrilling conclusion.

Against the backdrop of the national stadium, this is a must-see event at this year's festival and fitting event to conclude the first night of Belfast Book Festival 2018.

8pm
£20 (includes a copy of the book) | £14
Windsor Park



This event is sponsored by
House Belfast



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***THURSDAY
7 JUNE***



Guillem Balagué

Brave New World

With the Premier League drawn to a close for another year and a summer of football looming, join **Guillem Balagué** for a special lunchtime event where the Sky Sports journalist and author of best-selling biographies on Pep Guardiola, Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi will chat all things football before flying to Moscow to cover the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

His most recent book, **Brave New World: Inside Pochettino's Spurs** saw the journalist gain unprecedented access to Pochettino and his backroom staff over the course of the 2016-17 season, resulting in the most comprehensive and compelling portrait of a manager and of a club in the modern Premier League era.

This event is a must-see for not only Tottenham Hotspur fans, but anyone with even a passing interest in the beautiful game.

1pm
£8 | £6
The Black Box



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Chris Mullin

Hinterland - a Memoir

All serious politicians should possess a hinterland, but not all do. **Chris Mullin** was one who did. Join author, journalist and politician as he discusses his autobiography **Hinterland**. By the time Chris entered parliament he had reported from the wars in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. He is the author of three novels and has led the successful campaign to free the innocent people convicted of the Birmingham bombings. In parliament he quickly established himself as a fearless inquisitor, going on to become a minister in three departments. He is the author of three widely acclaimed volumes of diaries.

6.30pm
£8 | £6
The Crescent



Michèle Mendelssohn

Making Oscar Wilde

Oscar Wilde is today recognised as an inspired and charismatic thinker ahead of his time, his works are beloved around the world. But it was not always so. Packed with extraordinary new evidence and gripping social history, **Making Oscar Wilde** takes the reader behind the scenes to reveal the secret story of his self-creation in Victorian England and post-Civil War America. **Michèle Mendelssohn's** years of research enable her to recreate a spectacular panorama played out on both sides of the Atlantic, painting a vivid picture of sensation-hungry journalists, showmen, and popular entertainers alongside racial controversies, sex scandals, and the rising power of Irish nationalism. Join the author as she reads and discusses her new work.

6.30pm
Free Event
Waterstones



An Evening with Doire Press

Doire Press has been producing and championing the best of new Irish literature from some of our finest contemporary writers. Join four of their finest poets and short story writers as they present extracts from their latest works. Poet **Stephanie Conn's** newly published **Island** takes inspiration from her ancestor's homeland living and fishing on Copeland Island off the coast of County Down, whilst **Emma McKervery's The Rag Tree Speaks** questions Irishness informed by history and mythology and a sense of magic. **Kelly Creighton's Bank Holiday Hurricane** focuses on dislocation and disenchantment in a beautiful collection of linked short stories whilst **Rosemary Jenkinson's Catholic Boys**, set mainly in Belfast, casts a sometimes witty, but always thoughtful and profound eye towards the city and in her inhabitants.

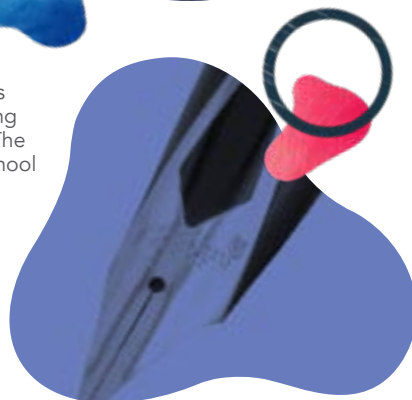
7pm
£6 | £4
The Crescent



The Squat Pen

The Squat Pen brings together up and coming writers and performers of poetry, music and prose, alongside those more established. Running regular events in Belfast and across the island of Ireland since 2013. The Squat Pen has appeared at the John Hewitt International Summer School in Armagh at Ó Bhéal in Cork and on BBC Radio. Hosted by poets **Ray Givans** and **Paul Jeffcutt**, the evening promises to deliver a showcase filled with riches, a cornucopia of words and music.

7pm
Free Event
Books, Paper, Scissors



Ed Husain

The House of Islam

The Belfast Book Festival is pleased to welcome **Ed Husain**, author of **The House of Islam** and former radical Islamist turned co-founder of Quilliam; the world's first counter-extremism think-tank, as he seeks to provide entry to the minds and hearts of Muslims the world over and explain how the West and Islam can co-exist in peace. With the gulf between Islam and the West widening, Ed Husain will discuss how it might be that the West and Islam can cohabit the same space and reflect on why a faith rich with strong values and traditions, observed by nearly two billion people across the world, is increasingly seen by the West as something to be feared rather than understood.

8pm
£8 | £6
The Crescent



Dale Pinnock

An Evening with the Medicinal Chef

We are delighted to welcome the award-winning, bestselling author on the subjects of Nutrition and Health, the Medicinal chef **Dale Pinnock**.

A presenter on ITV's consumer show 'Eat Shop Save', Dale has also been featured in thousands of print-based features across the span of his career. Dale's true passion is taking the complex and contradictory science of nutrition, and turning it into something real and applicable that people can actually begin to use and utilize in their everyday life to achieve long-lasting results and a lifetime of improved health. Come join us in the beautiful surroundings of Hillmount Garden Centre for a summer evening soirée where Dale will explain the secrets of how to cook and eat our way to better health.

7.30pm
£10 | £8
Hillmount Garden Centre





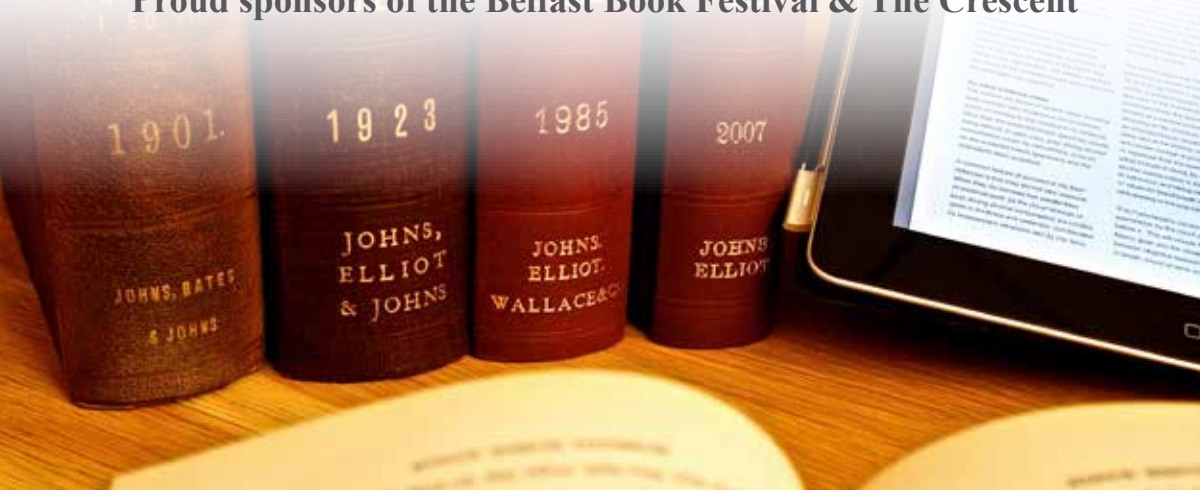
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FRIDAY 8 JUNE



Autonomy

What is bodily autonomy? What does it feel like when it's taken away? Join us for an evening of stories, poems, memoirs, essays and discussion that explores what it means to have bodily autonomy. Edited and compiled by Kathy D'Arcy, **Autonomy** should be read by anyone who wants to understand why no-one should ever be forced to stay pregnant against their will. Read it if you do understand, and would like to be part of the change. Proceeds from the sale of this book will go to support those working to ensure that all women have access to the full range of reproductive healthcare, including safe legal abortion.

6pm
£5
The Crescent

River Mill Readings

Paul Maddern

To celebrate the opening of **The River Mill**, a new writers' retreat in South Down, proprietor **Paul Maddern** has invited three extraordinary writers to read at this year's Festival: **Claire Keegan**, **Sarah Roby** and **Rosamund Taylor**. There will be a draw at this event for a complimentary 6-night stay at The River Mill (single occupancy). For more information about The River Mill writers retreat visit the-river-mill.co.uk.

7.30pm
Free Event
The Crescent



Francesca Martinez

What The **** Is Normal?!

If you grow up in a world where wrinkles are practically illegal, going bald is cause for a mental breakdown, and women over size zero are encouraged to shoot themselves (immediately), what the hell do you do if you're, gasp ... DISABLED? Whatever body you're born into, the pressure to be normal is everywhere. But have you ever met a normal person? What do they look like? Where do they live? What do they eat for breakfast?

And what the **** does normal mean anyway?

Join award-winning wobbly comedian Francesca Martinez as she sits down with Sarah Firby to discuss the funny, the personal, and the universal story of how she learned to stick two shaky fingers up to the crazy expectations of a world obsessed with being 'normal'.

"Bloody funny and touching...unique and powerful" – Russell Brand

6.30pm
£10 | £8
The Crescent

John Grace

I, Maybot

Ever since Theresa May first whirled into inaction as prime minister, there has only been one reliable source of strength and stability: **John Grace's** political sketches for **The Guardian**. We are delighted to welcome Grace to Belfast for an evening discussing his weekly doses of biting satire that not only provided much-needed respite from the madness of it all, but also gave us his now notorious moniker for our automaton PM, the Maybot. In **I, Maybot**, Grace introduces a curated selection of his most acerbic sketches, charting May's tumultuous premiership to date. From the EU referendum and ensuing tragicomic leadership campaign, to the snap election, Tory-DUP coalition of chaos and endless Brexit wranglings, Grace's analysis makes for essential and uproariously entertaining reading.

7pm
£8 | £6
Ormeau Baths



Raoul Martinez

How to create freedom!

Join philosopher, artist and filmmaker **Raoul Martinez** as he exposes the mechanisms of control that pervade all of our lives. His powerful book, **Creating Freedom**, questions our very understanding of the meaning of freedom. Joined by **Francesca Martinez**, Raoul will explore the limits placed on our liberty by human nature and society, and expose the myths at the heart of our economic, political, and criminal justice systems. Martinez argues that the more we understand the limits on our freedom, the better placed we are to transcend them. Fierce, scholarly and profoundly hopeful, Raoul will present his radical and compelling manifesto for the future daring us to think imaginatively, to open our eyes to the great potential for change that exists and, most importantly of all, to do something about it.

8pm

£8 | £6

The Crescent

Hymn to the Reckless: An Evening of Spoken Word

Erin Fornoff with Colin Hassard & David Braziel

Hymn to the Reckless, the debut collection of poems by American-born **Erin Fornoff**, traces an arc from youthful adventures in the Appalachian mountains to a confrontation with life's complexities, not least in the radically transformed America of recent times. Erin Fornoff hails from the Appalachian mountains. Based in Dublin, she has performed at Glastonbury, Electric Picnic, Cúirt, and toured with viral poet Hollie McNish. She has been published and anthologized in *The Stinging Fly*, *Cyphers*, *New Planet Cabaret*, *The Irish Times*, *Icarus* and *Penduline*. **David Braziel** is a performance poet, three times winner of the Belfast Book Festival poetry slam, winner of the Red Pill slam, the Bangor literature festival slam and the Belfast Heat of the All-Ireland slam giving him places in the All-Ireland finals. 2018 is fast becoming an important year for **Colin Hassard**. At the end of 2017 he received funding from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland to work on his first published collection, due out in October. 2017 saw him work as the resident poet on BBC Radio Ulster's Science and Stuff programme.

9pm

£6 | £4

The Crescent

Fri 8 Jun



**SATURDAY
9 JUNE**

Chamber Babies

Bring along your little one for this unique edition of **Chamber Babies** and enjoy a special concert featuring the **The Mother Goose Suite** performed by **Nadene Fiorentini** on the piano. Chamber Babies is a venture initiated by **Belfast Music Society** and the concerts are very informal events with short programmes that are designed for babies and adults alike. You can walk, sway, crawl, roll, dance or just chill out to a careful selection of short classical pieces designed both to engage and enchant (or soothe to sleep!). Concerts are aimed at babies from 0-18 months old.

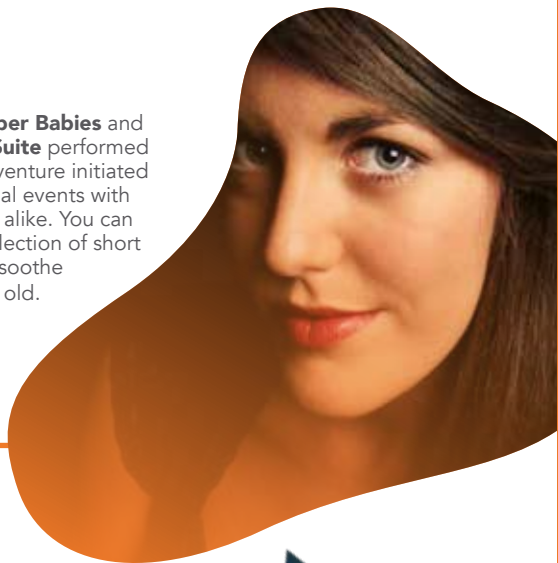
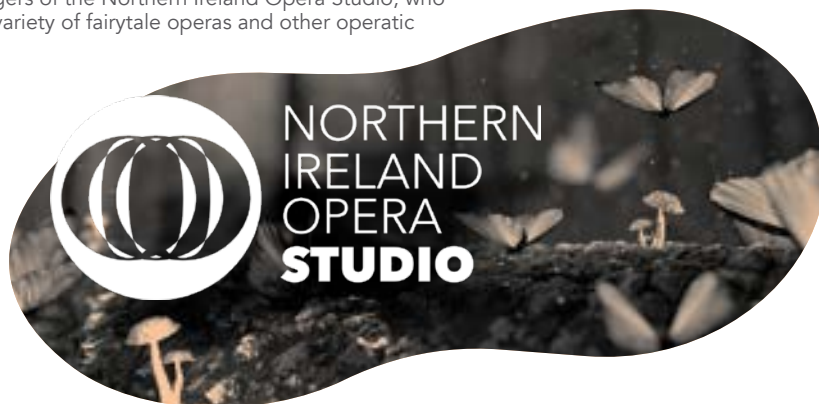
10.30am OR 11.30am
£6 per adult
The Crescent

NI Opera

Imagine!

Come along to Northern Ireland Opera's Imagine! and let your children explore their ideas about a new world with mysterious creatures, magical landscapes and exotic sounds. Through music, art and craft, your child will go on a journey of playful engagement with themes of identity, discovery and fantasy, led by the singers of the Northern Ireland Opera Studio, who will perform music from a variety of fairytale operas and other operatic works for children.

3pm
£6 (or 4 for £20)
The Crescent

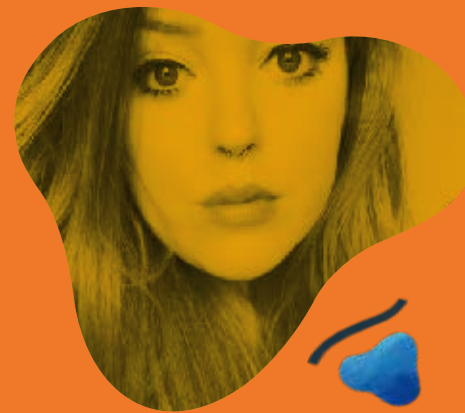


Emily Reynolds

A Beginner's Guide to Losing Your Mind

Emily Reynolds is mad. After years of trying - and failing - to cope with her symptoms, she was finally diagnosed as bipolar in her early twenties. Since then Emily has been on a mission to find the best way to live with her illness, and now she wants to share that knowledge with you. Living with mental illness is isolating, infuriating and painful - but also very boring and, sometimes, kind of gross. **A Beginner's Guide to Losing Your Mind** is a companion to make the journey feel a little less lonely. A blackly funny, deeply compassionate and extremely practical book, join Emily Reynolds for a frank and candid discussion on what it's like to live with mental illness and a guide to dealing with and understanding it.

6pm
£7 | £5
The Crescent



Stefano Panzeri

Novecento ('900)

Alessandro Baricco, author of the book Novecento ('900), maintains that "you're not really screwed as long as you have a good story and somebody to listen to it". Novecento is the play of those who got on a ship to America and those who decided to get off their own life. Our Novecento, echoing the sweat and the hope from the old Titanic docks, will give substance to the past and present voices of those who cross seas and chase new horizons, and will do so through a collective story: the play will be performed in English with some parts in Italian, by professional actor **Stefano Panzeri**. This show will commemorate the story of the Virginian ocean liner, its passengers, and its extraordinary pianist.

7pm
£8 | £6 | £4
The Crescent



Coast to Coast to Coast

Maria Isakova-Bennett

The **Coast to Coast to Coast Journal** designed and created by **Maria Isakova-Bennett**, and edited by **Maria** and **Michael Brown**, is a hand-stitched publication designed to be both a small piece of artwork, and a poetry journal. Each issue containing the work of a maximum of twenty poets, is a unique numbered artefact produced as a limited edition. Maria and Michael will launch a special Irish Issue of Coast to Coast to Coast at Belfast Book Festival which features new work from poets John Mee, Keith Payne, Heather Richardson, Stephanie Conn, Nessa O'Mahony, Michael Ray, Therese Kieran, Michael Farry, Annette Skade, Moyra Donaldson, James Meredith, Attracta Fahy, Paul Jeffcutt, Michael Sheehan, Karen McDonnell, Olive Broderick, Georgi Gill, Daragh Breen, Jane Robinson and Emma McKervey. There will be readings by poets featured in the journal and an opportunity for an open mic.

7pm

£5

The Crescent

Will Eaves

Murmer

Join acclaimed author, **Will Eaves** as he reads from and discusses his moving and marvelous meditation on Alan Turing. Taking its cue from the arrest and legally enforced chemical castration of the mathematician, **Murmer** is the account of a man who responds to intolerable physical and mental stress with love, honour and a rigorous, unsentimental curiosity about the ways in which we perceive ourselves and the world. Formally audacious, daring in its intellectual inquiry and unwaveringly humane, Will Eaves's new novel is a rare achievement. The opening section of Murmur was shortlisted for the 2017 BBC National Short Story Award.

7.30pm

£6 | £4

The Crescent



Poetry NI

The Festival Poetry Slam

Poetry NI proudly presents The Belfast Book Festival Poetry Slam! Open to all poets, we invite you to take the mic and enter our annual poetry slam competition. Share your work in front of a lively and appreciative audience, with new readers always welcome. To enter, just register at the start of the night; names will be drawn out at random, with each poet invited onstage to read. Available slots will be limited to 22 due to time constraints, so it's first come, first served! This year, the winner will receive the Brian Bailey Memorial Cup, in tribute to the much missed poet and pioneer of the Belfast live poetry scene. Poems in tribute to Brian will also be read out on the night. For full slam rules, please see poetryni.com/slam_rules

9pm

£4

The Crescent



Ryan H. Walsh & Donal Scullion

Astral Weeks: The Music and the Myths of Van Morrison

Boston Globe, Vice and Boston Magazine journalist **Ryan H. Walsh's** mind-expanding dive into a lost chapter of 1968, **Astral Weeks: A Secret History of 1968** features the famous and forgotten. From life-changing concerts and chilling crimes, to acid experiments and film shoots, Ryan H. Walsh will reveal the secret, wild history of the unique time that saw the recording of Van Morrison's Astral Weeks. An iconic rock album shrouded in legend, a masterpiece that has touched generations of listeners and influenced everyone from Bruce Springsteen to Martin Scorsese. Featuring a set in tribute to the album that blessed us with such tracks as Madam George, Cyprus Avenue and Sweet Thing, **Donal Scullion** leads a special guest band for what promises to be one of Belfast Book Festival 2018's most unique and special events. With a fully licensed bar in the iconic Strand Arts Centre, a wild night is calling celebrating East Belfast's most famous troubadour and one of the finest rock albums ever recorded.

8pm

£10 | £8

Strand Arts Centre



Johns Elliot
SOLICITORS

This event is sponsored by
Johns Elliot Solicitors



**SUNDAY
10 JUNE**

Michael Walker

Green Shoots

More than a century after the Easter Rising, football in Ireland – like the country itself – remains divided. At the Euro 2016 finals in France, the country sent two teams – the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Both teams did well – each managed by a man called O'Neill, each resplendent in emerald green and backed by noisy, good natured supporters – but still they were as much divided as they were united.

Michael Walker's Green Shoots examines why, almost a century after one Irish Association became two, this is still the case. It traces the overlapping stories and individuals in both associations, beginning with the tale of the boy on the front cover, Johnny Brown, a Belfast Protestant who played for Eire. *Green Shoots* is the engrossing account of the inside stories, dramas and dreams of the game in Ireland, but above all it is the definitive history of a footballing nation and its many paradoxes.

11am

£5

Strand Arts Centre - Sunday Salon



Huw Kingston

Mediterranean - A year around a charmed and troubled sea

Mediterranean - a year around a charmed and troubled sea tells the tale of the authors 13,000km, 12 month, 17 country circumnavigation of the Mediterranean by sea kayak, foot, ocean rowboat and bike. At a time of immense upheaval in the Mediterranean, the journey in 2014/15 exceeded expectations on every level – the physicality, the landscapes and of course the humanity. The journey was a commemoration of the Centenary of the Anzac landings in Gallipoli, Turkey where he started and ended. It was also a fundraiser for Save the Children specifically for the children affected by the desperate crisis in Syria. Join Australian based (but UK born) **Huw Kingston** adventurer, environmentalist, speaker and writer as he talks about his incredible journey.

3pm

£8 | £6

The Crescent



Four Poets

With Ruth Carr, Maureen Boyle,
Medbh Mc Guckian & Maria McManus

Join four of Northern Ireland's leading poets as they read from their latest collections. **Ruth Carr's Feather and Bone** is a personal response to two remarkable women: Mary Ann McCracken and Dorothy Wordsworth. **Maureen Boyle's The Work of a Winter** contains poems written over sixteen years. They are often narrative and many attempt to give voice to women and men whose voices we haven't been able to hear reflecting the idea that poetry can give intimate imaginative access to people's lives. **Medbh Mc Guckian's Love, the Magician**, is a collection in which, 'The human and the animal go hand-in-hand....as do the domestic and the intimate, whilst **Maria McManus' Available Light** is a book about birds, but not in the way you might immediately imagine.

4pm
£6 | £4
The Crescent

Fern Riddell

Death in 10 minutes

Join **Fern Riddell**, an historian specialising in sex, suffrage and culture in the Victorian and Edwardian eras and regular contributor to the Guardian, Huffington Post, Telegraph and Times Higher Education, as she uncovers the story of radical suffragette Kitty Marion, told through never before seen personal diaries in Kitty's own hand. Kitty Marion was sent across the country by the Pankhurst family to carry out a nationwide campaign of bombings and arson attacks, as women fought for the vote using any means necessary. But in the aftermath of World War One, the dangerous and revolutionary actions of Kitty and other militant suffragettes were quickly hushed up and disowned by the previously proud movement, and the women who carried out these attacks were erased from our history. Now, for the first time, their untold story will be brought back to life.

6pm
£7 | £5
The Crescent

Sun 10 Jun



Oggy Boytchev

The Spies Who Changed the World

The Belfast Book Festival is delighted to welcome back **Oggy Boytchev** to the city. Since his visit in 2015 the journalist and BBC producer has penned his first work of fiction. **The Unbeliever** is a panorama of Cold War paranoia and intrigue spanning four decades, told through the life of one extraordinary – and real – spy. A story of love, loyalty, ambition and betrayal, it is a gripping and highly original novel by a journalist who was born behind the Iron Curtain. An engaging and fascinating speaker this is sure to be an evening of captivating discussion.

6.30pm
£8 | £6
The Crescent

Andrew Meehan & Henrietta McKervey

One Star Awake on Violet Hill

One Star Awake, the debut novel from **Andrew Meehan** is an unusually brilliant piece of work. Fast, furious, funny and deeply atmospheric. It is a stunningly inventive novel, following a young woman who, over the course of a hot sticky summer in Paris, having come to in a restaurant bereft of her memories, must solve the puzzle of who she is.

Henrietta McKervey's skillfully organised and thrilling **Violet Hill** follows two protagonists living 100 years apart. In London 1918, Violet Hill, the only female private detective in the city is hired by a Sir Arthur Conan Doyle who is intent on contacting his dead son. Meanwhile, a century later, Susanna - a Super-recogniser, an elite police officer with extraordinary powers of recognition begins to dig into the past lives of the old tenants of the house she rents on Primrose Hill. It's not long before the past begins to untangle.

8pm
£6 | £4
The Crescent



An Evening with Mark Twain

Award winning actor **Daniel Foley** presents An Evening With Mark Twain. Join the humorist, entrepreneur and the writer William Faulkner affectionately referred to as the father of American Literature for this one man play that sees Twain ruminate on everything from his childhood and travels to his years spent on the Mississippi as a steamboat pilot. A subtle, nuanced and utterly loving recreation of a literary man who drank in the world as he found it without ever losing the sense of wonder that gifted us such timeless characters as Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer. Interspersed with readings from some of Twain's most loved stories, Foley's play is as witty, warm and brilliant as the man himself.

8.30pm
£10 | £8
The Crescent

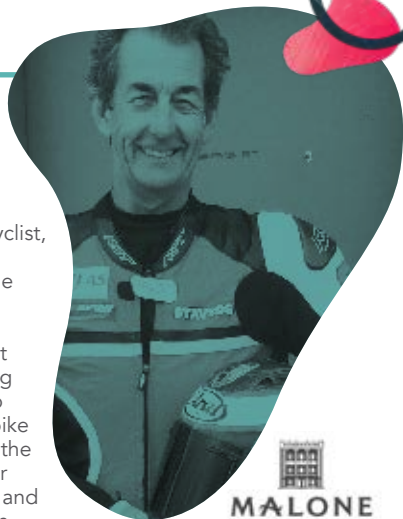
Steve Parrish

My Life As A Racer - Parrish Times

The Belfast Book Festival is pleased to welcome champion motorcyclist, truck racer and television presenter **Steve Parrish** to the city for an evening discussing his hell-raising account of life - and death - in the fast lane. Joining us fresh from the TT Races, **My Life As A Racer - Parrish Times** tracks Steve's amazing journey over the last four decades, through a rollercoaster ride of emotions in surely the most dangerous and exhilarating sporting arena there is. From competing for the world motorcycle championship on a Suzuki in the 1970s, to managing a successful Yamaha factory team to three British Superbike Championship titles and starting a successful truck racing career in the 1980s, the book traces his life on and off the track up until and after his retirement in 2002 when a successful career as sports presenter and pundit began. This a must see event for all motor racing enthusiasts.

8pm
£10 | £8
Malone Lodge Hotel

This event is sponsored by
Malone Lodge Hotel



**MONDAY
11 JUNE**

Jessie Hewitson & Laura James

Understanding Autism

Jessie Hewitson, award winning journalist at **The Times**, has written the book she wished she'd read when her son was first given the diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder. **Autism: Everything You Need To Know About Raising A Happy Autistic Child** combines her own experiences with tips from autistic adults, other parents, autism professionals and academics. She is joined by **Laura James**, author of **Odd Girl Out**, a book that asks the question, What do you do when you wake up in your mid-forties and realise you've been living a lie your whole life? Do you tell? Or do you keep it to yourself? The authors will talk about their own personal experiences, offer practical advice and explore two inspiring and enriching books that celebrate difference and champion happiness.

6pm
£6 | £4
The Crescent

Templar Poetry Launch

Damian Smyth & Katherine Duffy

We are delighted to welcome **Templar Poetry** to this year's festival for the launch of **Damian Smyth's** sixth collection, **English Street** and **Katherine Duffy's** IOTA Shot Award pamphlet, **Talking the Owl Away**.

Damian Smyth's sixth collection is focussed on what has always distinguished his work – the myths and moments of a market town in Ireland, with the vexations, joys and disruptions that belonging to anywhere brings. **Katherine Duffy** is the eleventh Irish poet to win a Templar Pamphlet Award. Her two previous collections of poetry are *The Erratic Behaviour of Tides* (1999) and *Sorrow's Egg* (2011), both with the Dedalus Press. Her poems have been anthologised in *The Field Day Anthology of Irish Writing*. She also writes fiction, in both English and Irish, and her short stories have received awards including Oireachtas na Gaeilge prizes and, in 2006, the Hennessy Writer of the Year award.

6.30pm
£6 | £4
The Crescent

CinePunked Presents

Mary Shelley's Frankenstein

Trapped in the icy waters of the Arctic, a group of explorers come across a scientist travelling solo. Victor Frankenstein is a man haunted by his own Creation - a homicidal man-made man driven by desire and revenge. Join **CinePunked** as they celebrate 200 years of Mary Shelley's classic novel with a screening of Kenneth Branagh's version of *Frankenstein*. Regarded by many as the most faithful adaptation of the story, and packed with an all-star cast including Helena Bonham Carter, Ian Holm, John Cleese, Robert De Niro as The Creation and Branagh as Frankenstein himself. After the film CinePunked will host an interactive panel discussion about the film and Mary Shelley's influence on gothic horror and science fiction, and the cinematic versions of her work. Featuring Robert JE Simpson and Dr Rachael Kelly with Dr Raymond Cummings. Audience participation is encouraged.

7.30pm
£5
The Crescent

Caoilinn Hughes

Orchid & The Wasp

Orchid & The Wasp is the dazzlingly original debut from award winning writer **Caoilinn Hughes**. Set in Dublin, London and New York and exploring the ethical underbelly of contemporary society through the coming of age of an utterly singular heroine, the novel brings to life the charged, compulsive voice of Gael Foess as she strives to build a life raft in the midst of economic and familial collapse. Caoilinn will be joined by novelist **Jan Carson** to discuss this gorgeous novel, crackling with joyful fury and anarchic gall. Fresh off the print, *Orchid & The Wasp* has gained rave reviews from writers such as John Banville "richly inventive and highly entertaining" and Anthony Doerr who has hailed the author as a "massive talent". We are delighted to welcome Caoilinn to Belfast for what will be one of this year's true literary highlights.

8pm
£6 | £4
The Crescent



Sunday Lunch with the kids

Kids eat free!*

Join us for a 4 course lunch
for £20 per adult
Free bouncy castle and face painting

* For each paying adult, one kid eats free, valid for kids up
to 12 years old. Excluding special holidays.

Lets Celebrate

Private parties, birthdays, christenings,
anniversaries + communions

Buffet options from £10 per person
Three course meal options from
£27 per person

*T&C's apply - Subject to availability.

60 Eglantine Avenue, Malone Road, Belfast BT9 6DY t: +44 28 9038 8000 e: events@malonelodgehotel.com

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**TUESDAY
12 JUNE**

Silence We Enter - 100 Years & the Representation of the People Act

Dr. Lucy Collins (UCD) and poets **Maria McManus** and **Nessa O'Mahony** are joined by **HIVE Choir** (SARC), for this unique collaboration, exploring women's representation in literature and sound, from suffrage to the present. They draw on historically significant literature, which has been overlooked, and put voice to the silenced. Who is silent? Who Speaks? Who is listening? What is said? What is unsaid? What is heard? What happens in the space between?

6pm
£6 | £4
The Crescent

Jane Talbot & Noel Harron

The Wonder Tales

If you're into Victorian steampunk, if the idea of 'The Good Old Days meets The Rocky Horror Show' raises a wry smile, or if you're a fan of Baz Luhrmann's Moulin Rouge, **The Wonder Tales** will be right up your street.

Join spectacular storytelling duo **Jane Talbot** and **Noel Harron** for a rambunctious evening of story and song! **The Wonder Tales** is a timely reminder that storytelling is for adults too – and that we live in times where we've never needed storytelling more. Written by Jane Talbot, author of **The Faerie Thorn** and **Other Stories**. Songs co-written by Jane Talbot and Noel Harron. This show is for adults. Not suitable for those under 12.

6pm
£8 | £6
The Crescent

Tue 12 Jun

John Tusa

Making A Noise

Join renowned broadcaster, defender of the arts and protector of journalistic freedoms, John Tusa as he discusses his recently published memoir **Making A Noise**. From the battles to create the ground-breaking Newnight in 1979, to six years of defending the BBC World Service from political interference, Tusa's recollections are etched with candour. His account of two years of internecine warfare at the top of the BBC under the Chairman, 'Dukey' Hussey will go down as a major contribution to BBC history. His recollections of a hilarious and petty-minded few months as head of a Cambridge college will be read as a case study of the absurdities of academic life; while running the rejected and maligned Barbican Centre, Tusa led its recovery into the major cultural centre that it is today. Often based on personal diaries, **Making a Noise** is a fearless and entertaining memoir of life at the top of the arts and broadcasting.

8pm
£10 | £8
The Crescent

Jan Carson & Anthony Toner

Planes, Trains & Automobiles

The literary landscape is always shifting, as are the writers who shape it. Some of our best-loved poems and stories focus on the experience of travel and journey. Singer songwriter **Anthony Toner** and novelist and short story writer **Jan Carson**, will be your travel guides, as they lead you on an adventure through some exceptional pieces of writing and songs which explore our obsession with the open road.

8.30pm
£8 | £6
The Crescent



**WEDNESDAY
13 JUNE**

A Talk with Frances Green

Flowers at the Frontline

Flowers at the Frontline considers the role of women and the part they and fresh flowers played in boosting morale at home and overseas. Join **Frances Green** as she recounts one woman from Belfast's extraordinary journey across the Irish border, to North Africa and Italy where she served on the front lines of the Second World War. This captivating talk shines a light on some little known aspects of social history - and flower arranging!

12.30pm

£3

Ulster Museum

Kevin Quinn

Robert Frost, Twenty Poems

Poet and critic **Kevin Quinn** introduces and reads a selection of poems by Robert Frost. If the English-speaking world has a favourite poet it is probably Robert Frost. If there is one thing that accounts for this popularity, it is most likely the engaging tone of much of his poetry. He contrived always to sound like a man talking good sense to people of good sense. This talk will illustrate the formal range of his poetry, from short, self-contained lyrics to poems of mid length like After Apple-Picking and Mending Wall, to his longer poems, what he called his "novels", such as The Death of the Hired Man and Home Burial. Frost's often anguished, private life is drawn on to illuminate the poems.

1pm

£6 | £4

The Crescent



David Nihill

Do You Talk Funny?: 7 Comedy Habits to Become a Better (and Funnier) Public Speaker

In one year, **David Nihill** went from being deathly afraid of public speaking to hosting business conferences, regularly performing stand-up comedy, and winning storytelling competitions in front of packed houses. And he did it by learning from some of the best public speakers in the world: stand-up comics. **Do You Talk Funny?** teaches the key principles of stand-up comedy and how they can be applied to your speaking engagements and presentations to make you funnier, more interesting, and better looking (or at least two of the three). Whether you are preparing for a business presentation, giving a wedding toast, defending your thesis, raising money from investors, or simply want to take on something you're afraid of, David will take you from sweaty to stage-ready. *In association with co3.*

6.30pm
£8 | £6
Ormeau Baths



Sue Hubbard & Bernie McGill

Rainsongs & The Watch House

Sue Hubbard and **Bernie McGill** arrive at this year's festival with two novels that have garnered rave reviews from every corner. Tonight they will read from *Rainsongs* and *The Watch House*. Sue Hubbard's **Rainsongs** conjures the rugged beauty of County Kerry's coastline and the inner landscapes of its characters in richly poetic and painterly language. It unfolds as a compelling tale of grief, art, and the fragile, quiet ways in which time and place can offer a measure of redemption. In Bernie McGill's **The Watch House**, during the summer of 1898, on the small Irish island of Rathlin, strangers have arrived from the mainland, laden with mysterious radio equipment. When native Nuala Byrne is sent to cook for the Italian engineer Gabriel, she becomes enthralled by the world of knowledge that he brings from beyond her own narrow horizons. It is a gripping novel, beautiful and lyrical, tender and fierce.

6.30pm
£8 | £6
The Crescent



Glenn Patterson & BBC Writersroom

Screenwriting For Authors

BBC Writersroom is hosting a free event with award-winning novelist and BAFTA-nominee **Glenn Patterson** to discuss the challenges a novelist faces when writing for the screen or radio, including how to approach the different types of writing, choosing the best format for an idea, the key elements to consider, the art of adaptation, the practicalities and realities of being a scriptwriter and the process from treatment to first day of principal photography. Glenn Patterson's novels include *Gull*, *The Mill for Grinding Old People Young* and *Burning Your Own* (winner: Betty Trask Award and the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature). He co-wrote hit feature film *Good Vibrations*, as well as writing for *The Frankenstein Chronicles* and radio dramas for BBC Radio 3 and BBC Radio 4. BBC Writersroom is a cross-genre department for scripted content within the BBC, who works with and develops new and experienced scriptwriters.

7pm
Free Event
The Crescent



Mike Wendling

The Alt-Right: From 4chan to The White House

An editor at BBC Trending, Mike Wendling has spent years covering extremism and internet culture for radio, online and television, and was part of the BBC team covering the 2016 US presidential election. For this special event, Mike will be joined by Elizabeth Nelson Gorman to discuss his analysis of the growing Alt-Right movement. *Alt-Right: From 4chan to The White House* takes aim at the white nationalist, misogynist, far-right movement that rose to prominence during Donald Trump's successful election campaign in the United States. He will reveal the role of technological utopians, reactionary philosophers, the notorious 4chan and 8chan bulletin boards, and a range of bloggers, vloggers and tweeters, highlighting the extreme ideas which underpin the movement's thought.

8pm
£7 | £5
The Crescent



In Place

In Place is a multi-media song-cycle; 10 songs each setting new texts and mixing live performance, field recordings and electronics. A collection of diverse cultural viewpoints blending personal histories and places across the UK this new song cycle is a colourful compendium of ideas, brought to life on stage by some of the UK's finest instrumentalists. The new texts have been specially created by a set of writers for whom 'place' is a guiding force in their work: **Robert Macfarlane, Paul Farley, Nick Papadimitrou, Selina Nwulu, Jackie Morris, Daljit Nagra, Richard Skelton** and **Autumn Richardson**.

Musicians

Colin Riley composer (Moov/Homemade Orchestra)
Melanie Pappenheim voice (DV8/The Shout/Damon Albarn)
Ruth Goller upright & electric bass (Melt Yourself Down/Let Spin/Gufo)
Kate Halsall keys/harmonium (Michael Clarke/Ockham's Razor/Galvanize Ensemble)
Stephen Hiscock percussion (Ensemble Bash/Steve Reich/
Nitin Sawhney)
Nic Pendlebury viola (Smith Quartet/Steve Reich/Django Bates)

7.30pm
£12 | £10
The Crescent

Wed 13 Jun

**THURSDAY
14 JUNE**

Diana Oxlade

A Tropical Glen, A Florilegium

A **Tropical Glen**, a **Florilegium** was produced as a Millennium project by Belfast City Council Parks department. As the Council's Graphic Designer, **Diana Oxlade** produced the stunning selection of Botanical Watercolours that have created this florilegium. Join Diana as she gives us an illustrated talk about her often funny and surreal experience of producing this unique book.

12.30pm

£3

Ulster Museum



Stuart Bailie & John White

If The Kids Are United

The 1960's and 1970's will always be remembered as a time of brutality and division in Northern Ireland. Musicians from the punk, folk and rock scenes in Belfast rallied against the cruelty and disorder of the times whilst George Best conquered Europe and was a hero to every schoolboy in the city. Join **Stuart Bailie** and **John White** as they discuss how, with The Troubles raging and daily life marred by the ever present threat of violence, people found response and solace in the music they created and the football team they supported - a team that could unite, for 90 minutes on a Saturday afternoon at least, even the most divided of communities.

6.30pm

£7 | £5

Strand Arts Centre



Loud, Quiet Loud

At Waterstones, they like selling books, they like talking about books, they even like taking pictures of books with cats, but this hardly ever leaves enough time to actually read them.

To put this right, Waterstones Belfast invite you to come in, sit down, stick your phone in your bag and have a nice, quiet read with them in store at their shop on Fountain Street.

Come along from 6.30 for wining and chatting and all the other, noisier things, and hang around after for more, but at 7pm it's eyes to the page!

6.30pm

Free event

Waterstones Belfast



James Harpur, Mark Roper & John F. Deane

The Poetic Line

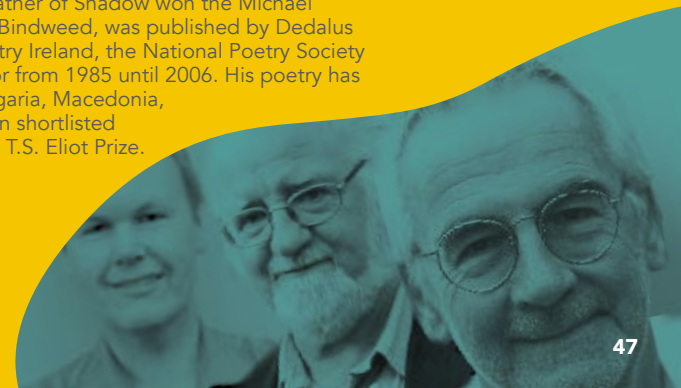
Join **Stephen Connolly** and poets **James Harpur**, **Mark Roper** and **John F. Deane** for an evening of readings from three superlative poets. **James Harpur** is poetry editor of Temenos and a former winner of the UK National Poetry Competition.

His latest book is The White Silhouette. Derbyshire born **Mark Roper's** collections include The Hen Ark, which won the 1992 Aldeburgh Prize for best first collection and The Home Fire (Abbey Press, 1998). A Gather of Shadow won the Michael Hartnett Award in 2014. His latest collection, Bindweed, was published by Dedalus in autumn 2017. **John F. Deane** founded Poetry Ireland, the National Poetry Society and The Dedalus Press, of which he was editor from 1985 until 2006. His poetry has been translated and published in France, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Romania, Italy, Slovakia, Sweden and has been shortlisted for the Irish Times Poetry Now Award and the T.S. Eliot Prize.

7.15pm

£6 | £4

The Crescent



Poetry Jukebox

Local Heroes

Poetry JukeBox is an audio installation of contemporary poetry which is located permanently in the grounds of The Crescent and we are delighted to partner with the Poetry JukeBox to celebrate **Mairtín Crawford & Heather Newcombe**. Both Mairtín and Heather were fine poets in their own right, but they were also outstanding in their generosity as champions of the work of other writers. This curation of Poetry JukeBox by **Moyra Donaldson** and **Kate Newmann**, will feature a selection of the work of Heather and Mairtín, recorded by local poets. Uniquely you have the opportunity to preview the work with, Litcrawl - you can take a Poetry JukeBox walk with Mairtín & Heather's work. The poems will then be 'live' on Poetry Jukebox.

6pm

Free Event

The Crescent

Mairtín Crawford Awards

Short Story & Poetry

In Association with NIPR Books

Mairtín Crawford died on Sunday 11th of January, 2004. For 8 years Mairtín worked as a part time creative writing tutor at The Crescent and it is this period that many who read and followed his work regard as the most promising period of his career. These awards pay tribute to him. The judging panel for **The Mairtín Crawford Poetry Award** is headed by Mairtín's friend and contemporary, renowned poet **Moyra Donaldson**, whilst Belfast novelist and short story writer **Jan Carson** has guest judged the first **Mairtín Crawford Short Story Award**. Join us as the winners of each award will be announced, as well as a special prize donated by **The Tyrone Guthrie Centre**, a week long writing retreat to "The Most Promising Writer" across the two categories. Come along and hear the winning poets and writers read their work.

*We would like to thank sincerely our sponsors **NIPR Books** and **The Tyrone Guthrie Centre**, for all of their wonderful support.*

8.30pm

Free event

The Crescent



Thur 14 June

**FRIDAY
15 JUNE**



Sir Robert Salisbury

The Field of Dreams

When **Sir Robert Salisbury** and his wife Rosemary were nearing retirement, they moved back to County Tyrone from Nottinghamshire, bought a fifteen-acre site and started to build a house. 'It was when we first spent time on the land we now owned that Rosemary asked whether I noticed anything odd. Eventually I gave up. "There is no birdsong," she said, "In terms of wildlife, this land is absolutely barren."

Join Robert in the beautiful setting of the Botanic Gardens Palm House to learn of the inspiring story of how he and Rosemary, both enthusiastic gardeners, transformed an unloved rural wasteland into a thriving, renowned wildlife garden - home to lapwings, hares, yellowhammers, otters, bats and many other species that have not been seen in the area for many, many years.

1pm
£5

Palm House, Botanic Gardens

Sam Thompson

Jott

Belfast writer **Sam Thompson's** debut novel *Communion Town* was longlisted for the Booker Prize in 2012. His latest book, **Jott**, is an ambitious, haunting and a beautifully written novel and confirms Thompson's place amongst our very finest contemporary writers. In February of 1935, two young Irishmen walk in the grounds of a London mental hospital. Arthur Bourne, a junior psychiatrist, is about to jeopardise his future for his closest friend, an aspiring writer called Louis Molyneux. *Jott* is a story about friendship, madness and modernism. It was inspired by a story from Sam Thompson's childhood. His grandfather Geoffrey was a lifelong friend of Samuel Beckett: they met at boarding school, studied together at Trinity College, Dublin and moved to London as young men in the 1930s. As a junior psychiatrist Sam's grandfather worked at the Bethlem psychiatric hospital in south London, and helped Beckett research his first novel *Murphy* by taking him onto the wards.

6pm
£6 | £4
The Crescent

Fri 15 Jun



Marshall

The Promise Of Silence

The Promise Of Silence is eye opening, shocking and damning. **Marshall's** memoir unpacks the historical truth about the struggle of homosexual life in Catholic Ireland. "It is a voyage into the horizons of intolerance that was practiced by the Catholic religion. It is enriched with the impression of tangibility to entangle the reader with the taste of emotions, the touch of sufferance and the sound of brutality. It incorporates the religious, social and political battle of a homosexual to survive in a heteronormative culture." Born in Catholic Ireland in 1976, Marshall resurrects his emotional journey. "The Catholic god that governed Irish politics silenced queers, the pulpit sermons liberated the wrath of god and even his holy mother, as she turned the discoloured gilded pages of her aged bible in prayer crucified him in punishment for his immorality."

6.30pm
£6 | £4
The Crescent

Olivia Laing

Crudo

Olivia Laing radically rewires the novel in a brilliant, funny and emphatically raw account of love in the apocalypse. A *Goodbye to Berlin* for the 21st century, **Crudo** charts in real time what it was like to live and love in the horrifying summer of 2017, from the perspective of a commitment-phobic peripatetic artist who may or may not be Kathy Acker. Fans of Laing's non-fiction works *The Trip to Echo Spring* and *The Lonely City* will find themselves afloat in familiar waters with 'Kathy', a voracious consumer of culture, as she is pulled from her comfortable, artistic world into the troubled realities of the Trump era. Join the author in Waterstones Belfast as she reads and discusses her debut work of fiction.

6.30pm
Free Event
Waterstones



Irish Writers Centre

Takin the Mic: Read at the Ravine

The **Irish Writers Centre's** monthly open-mic night, **Takin the Mic**, comes to the Belfast Book Festival for a very special Tropical Takeover. Join IWC Roaming Writer-in-Residence **Jan Carson** on her last stop in Belfast's Tropical Ravine as she hosts a line-up of special guests, writers from the "Postcard Stories" Project and, of course, open-mic performers of spoken word, poetry, comedy and music. Sign up to perform on the Irish Writers Centre website or come along to hear an evening of exciting work from writers from across the island.

writerscentre.ie/readattheravine

7pm

Free Event

Tropical Ravine, Botanic Gardens



John Lennox

Cosmic Chemistry – Do God and Science Mix?

With **Stephen Shaw QC**

The Belfast Book Festival is pleased to present an evening in conversation with **John Lennox**. The internationally renowned speaker and academic will confront the notion that science has made a belief in God unnecessary, perhaps even obsolete. Do Science and God mix, or are they fundamentally incompatible?

A cultured and resilient, consummate debater, John Lennox has shared the stage with many of the world's most adamant atheists on the subject of the existence of God, and given such heavyweights as Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens patent pause for thought despite their own seemingly unshakable and contrarian views.

In conversation with **Stephen Shaw QC**, John Lennox will lay out his case that science, far from proving the non existence of God, can serve to strengthen the argument that God is not only real, but that our own existence is the calculated product of his intelligent and deliberate design.

8pm

£10 | £8

Fisherwick Presbyterian Church



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RELAX INDULGE SLEEP

Janey Godley

Belfast Book Festival is delighted to welcome The Queen of Scottish Stand-Up and perennial thorn in Donald Trump's side, Janey Godley to the city for an evening of unapologetic, take-no-prisoners stand-up.

A regular 5-star performer at the Edinburgh Fringe, in 2008 Janey won the Fringe Report Award as 'Best Performer' and two Nivea Funny Women Fringe Awards – as 'Best Stand-Up' and, overall, for 'Best Show' as "one of the most prolific and extraordinary stand-up comedians working in the UK".

Sure to be a festival highlight, the not-to-be-missed Janey Godley is Scottish comedy personified: swears, passionate and very, very funny.

8pm

£12 | £10

The Crescent



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SATURDAY 16 JUNE



Borderlines

Eoin McNamee, Neil Hegarty & Anthony Quinn

Join **Eoin McNamee**, **Neil Hegarty** and **Anthony J. Quinn** as they discuss the hidden histories of their native places and how fiction can deepen the mystery of Northern Ireland's landscapes and its past. **Eoin McNamee** is the author of the Booker nominated **The Blue Tango**, and **Blue Is The Night**, which won the Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year. **Neil Hegarty's** debut novel **Inch Levels** was shortlisted for the Kerry Group novel of the year award and is the author of **Frost: That Was The Life That Was**, the authorised biography of David Frost. **Anthony J. Quinn's** debut novel **Disappeared** was picked by the Sunday Times as one of its Books of the Year and his latest critically acclaimed novel **Undertow** was published on the 1st June.

12pm
£6 | £4
The Crescent



Crime at The Crescent

Can crime writing reflect society, and explore issues of political, economic and moral weight? Join panelists **Brian McGilloway**, **Anthony J. Quinn**, **Claire Allan**, **Sharon Dempsey** and **Andrea Carter** as they are asked to identify and discuss how crime writing reflects society, and to examine how writing about traumatic events can be used to reflect and heal.

2pm
£6 | £4
The Crescent

Johns Elliot
SOLICITORS

This event is sponsored by
Johns Elliot Solicitors



Sat 16 Jun

How To Get Your Collection Published

This reading and panel discussion unites cutting-edge short story writers, **Mia Gallagher**, **Rosemary Jenkinson** and **Wendy Erskine**, each of whom are launching a new collection in 2018. The panel will provide up-to-the-minute insight into how to get individual short stories published, how to select stories, choose a title, gain a publisher and promote your stories. A must-see event that tells you all you need to know.

4pm
£8 | £6
The Crescent

Irish Pages Launch: "Criticism" (Vol 10, No 1)

From Begrudgery to Hyperbole: On Recent Irish Fiction

In this lively issue, there is a focus on the critical spirit in all genres: non-fiction essays, literary journalism, memoir, travel writing, poetry, fiction or other work of imaginative distinction. By "Criticism," both the brandy of praise and the poteen of critique were meant. The resulting issue is particularly strong on the current situation in Europe, climate change and ecological themes, poetry and Irish fiction.

With readings and discussion from contributors **Patricia Craig**, **David Park**, **Kerry Hardie** and **Chris Agee**, enjoy a glass of wine and this latest issue of one of Ireland's most esteemed literary journals. *"Not only, it seems, has a new wave of fiction burst upon us, but a change of tone has overtaken its reception. Dublin, once famous for begrudgery, has now performed a volte face and opted instead for hyperbole."*

6.30pm
£5
The Crescent



The Architecture of Love

Fresh from the triumph of a Novel of the Year award for Midwinter Break, **Bernard MacLaverty** returns to his native Belfast to close out the city's Book Festival. Joining him are his daughter, the poet **Ciara MacLaverty**, whose latest collection is about 'the places love takes us', and the Hennessy Award-winning poet **David Cameron**, 'one of the most insightful and thought-provoking poets around' (Sunday Herald). And the architecture of love is explored in music, too, with a set from Kurt Cobain's favourite songwriter, **Eugene Kelly**.

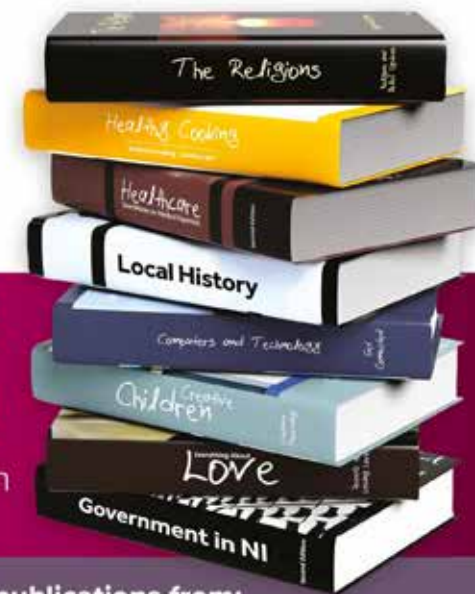
8.30pm
£10 | £8
The Crescent

Sat 16 Jun



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Literary Lunches

From 11 - 15 June we are delighted to team up with **Linen Hall Library** to bring you some literary delights during your lunch hour.

| Day | Event | About |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Mon 11 June 1pm £5 | Julie Peakman Hitler's Island War: The Men who fought for Leros | Dr. Julie Peakman's latest work is a new departure for her, a book about WWII on Leros, the Greek island she had loved since she was a teenager. Interviewing witnesses over 15 years and collecting important but little known information on the Battle of Leros, she has written a new kind of war book that puts people, not strategy at the centre of the story. |
| Tue 12 June 1pm £5 | Emer Martin The Cruelty Men | The Cruelty Men , is a sweeping, multi-generational view of an Irish-speaking family, who moved from Kerry to the Meath Gaeltacht, relating the disasters that befall their children in Irish institutions. This novel, spanning the 30s to the 70s, follows the psychic and physical displacement of a society in freefall after independence. It is a heart-wrenching yet timely story of survival set in a harsh Ireland that still holds a prominent place in the country's psyche. |
| Wed 13 June 1pm £5 | Sheila Llewellyn & Paul Maddern Walking Wounded | Walking Wounded is set in Northfield Military Psychiatric Hospital in 1947; a large, understaffed and struggling institution on the brink of closure, just months before the founding of the NHS. While Walking Wounded is a work of fiction, it is set in the context of real events which took place in 1940s psychiatry. It is based on extensive medical research and her own experience of treating sufferers of PTSD. Sheila trained as a cognitive behavioural therapist at the University of Oxford, and worked with PTSD sufferers for more than ten years. |
| Thur 14 June 1pm £5 | Heather Richardson Doubting Thomas | Doubting Thomas is a story of sex, drugs and blasphemy in late seventeenth-century Edinburgh. After participating in the particularly gruesome autopsy of a pregnant prisoner, Robert is unable to consummate his marriage to Isobel. He buries himself in work, and his overzealousness contributes to the demise of a down-at-heel apothecary named James Aikenhead. Fifteen years pass and the apothecary's son, Thomas, appears at the Carruths' door seeking recompense for his father's death. At his side is Mungo Craig, a cunning poet with dubious loyalties. The two insinuate their way into Robert and Isobel's life, freshly exposing old fault lines in the Carruths' marriage and subjecting them to dangerous new pressure. |
| Fri 15 June 1pm £5 | Gerald Lynch Omphalos | When Eugene DeLint, the head of Omphalos, is found murdered, Detective Kevin Beldon is called in, bringing along much personal and professional baggage: his wife Cynthia is a recent suicide, his absent son Bill is a disappointment, and his daughter Kelly, who began her legal career at Omphalos, is emotionally distant with him. Kevin is still disturbed from his failure the year before to have solved the so-called Widower serial killings. He still suspects that the escaped Widower was connected to Omphalos, and secretly he views Eugene DeLint's murder as a last chance to solve the Widower case and so absolve his wife of the sin of suicide. |

Special Event

The Kite Runner

Monday 18 to Saturday 23 June
Grand Opera House

*Adapted by Matthew Spangler. Based on the novel by Khaled Hosseini.
Directed by Giles Croft.*

Direct from London's West End, the Grand Opera House, in association with The Belfast Book Festival welcomes the critically acclaimed stage adaptation of the bestselling novel by Khaled Hosseini.

The Kite Runner is a haunting tale of friendship which spans cultures and continents, following one man's journey to confront his past and find redemption. Afghanistan is a divided country on the verge of war and two childhood friends are about to be torn apart. It's a beautiful afternoon in Kabul and the skies are full of the excitement and joy of a kite flying tournament. But neither Hassan nor Amir can foresee the terrible incident which will shatter their lives forever. Belfast Book Festival attendees can avail of 20% off tickets on Monday 18 June at 7.30pm. Use promo code **BOOKFEST** when booking online at goh.co.uk.

Age recommendation: 14+

★★★★★

'the best page-to-stage show since War Horse'
THE STAGE



Workshops

Get creative at this year's festival as the authors and poets of Belfast Book Festival 2018 share their knowledge, wisdom and know-how with a superb programme of workshops and classes for anyone and everyone with a writing itch to scratch.

Claire Keegan Fiction Workshop

Saturday 9 AND
Sunday 10 June
9.30 - 5.30pm
£350
The Crescent



Federica Ferrieri & Giada Mangiardi Novecento ('900)

Saturday 9 June
10am - 5pm
£35 | £30
The Crescent



David Brazier Performance Poetry Workshop

Saturday 9 June
10am - 4pm
£15
TownHouse

Jan Carson Peopling Your Stories

Sunday 10 June
2pm - 4pm
£25 | £21
The Crescent

E A Gleeson Falling in Love with Belfast

Sunday 10 June
2pm - 4pm
£25 | £21
The Crescent

Sheena Wilkinson and Bernie McGill On The Same Page

Saturday 16 June
10am - 8pm
£60
The Crescent

Meet the Author Gerry McCullough

Sat 16 June
10.30am - 1.30pm
£15 | £12
The Crescent



Engage

Writers in schools

During Belfast Book Festival 2018 a number of children's authors will be visiting primary, secondary and grammar schools as part of our Writers In Schools programme. Writers In Schools is a hugely important part of our festival every year, in the hope of inspire and encourage a new generation to become the readers and writers of the future.

The Crescent Book Club

Thursday 7 June
7pm
Free
The Crescent

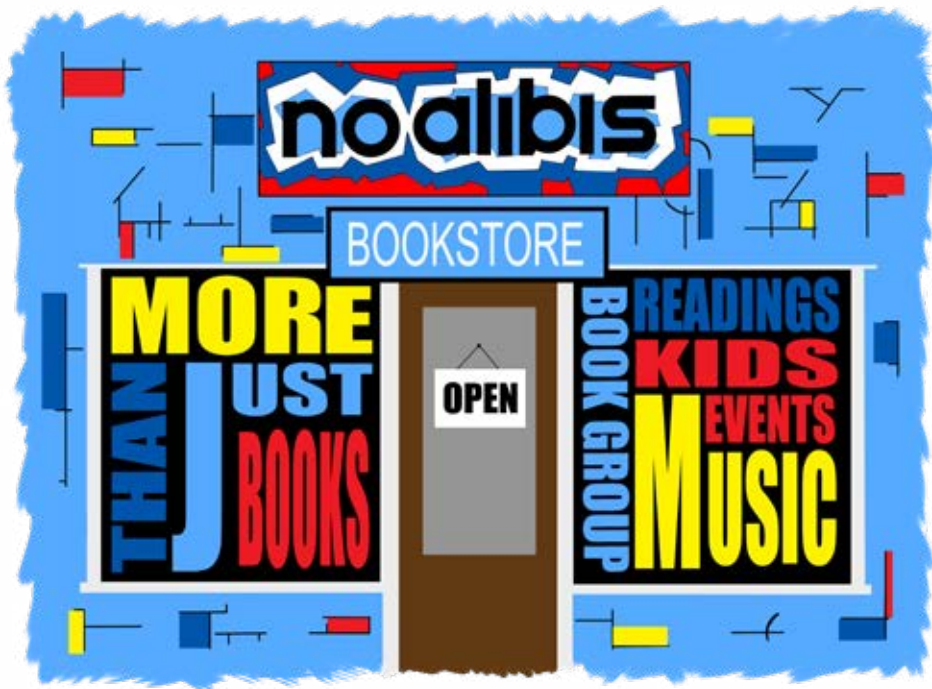
The Crescent Book Club is a monthly get-together led by poet and Crescent tutor Ruth Carr. This month the club has been reading two titles; **I'm Not Scared**, the critically acclaimed thriller from Italian novelist **Niccolo Ammaniti** and **Novecento**, the short dramatic play by **Alessandro Baricco**. This event is open to all and free to attend. Come along to The Crescent and engage in the discussion or sit back and relax and enjoy the exchange of views on two wonderful modern works of Italian literature. 18+

The Crescent Writers Read

Wednesday 13 June
7.45pm
Free
The Crescent

Come along and hear a selection of the amazing range of work that participants produce throughout the year at our creative writing classes in the Crescent. Both first time and seasoned writers will share and read their work at this informal gathering. With refreshments provided and a table of books looking for new homes, why not bring some of your own books to swap too. 18+

For more information email
Outreach@CrescentArts.org



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Booking Information

Online

Booking your tickets online is easy. Simply go to BelfastBookFestival.com, pick your favourite events and pay online through our secure system to get an email with your tickets (PDF) sent to you instantly.

In Person/ By Telephone

You can purchase your tickets by calling us on (028) 9024 2338, or in person at The Crescent.

Refunds

Festival Tickets cannot be refunded once purchased unless the event is cancelled or postponed. In this event, refunds must be claimed from point of purchase. All tickets for events are non transferable after purchase.

Accessibility

We endeavor to make the Festival as accessible as possible. We recommend that we are notified when booking of any specific requirements so that we can adequately provide for your needs and confirm accessibility. A 2 for the price of 1 offer is also available in the case of an attendee requiring assistance – please contact us when booking to arrange this.

Free Events

Availability for free events is 'first come, first served'. Tickets for free events should be booked in advance if specified in individual event listings.

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Family Fun Day

Saturday 16th June
12 - 4pm
Lower Crescent Park

The Belfast Book Festival Family Fun Day returns for its 6th year and promises to deliver a great day out that the whole family can enjoy!

Our Family Fun Day aims to introduce children to the fabulous world of books for all ages and abilities and this year we are celebrating the great Roald Dahl and all his wonderful characters and stories!

There will be Arts & Craft activities, Face Painting, interactive storytelling, renowned children's author readings, entertainment and a Book Fair! Best of all, our Family Fun Day is FREE for all to attend!

So why not pack a picnic and join us for a great day out!

The Family Fun Day is run in partnership with the Belfast City Council.

Please note that this is a family friendly event and all children must be supervised by a parent/guardian throughout.



In partnership with
Belfast City Council



LIT CRAWL MAP

- 1 Johns Elliot Solicitors
- 2 Accidental Theatre
- 3 The Crescent
- 4 The Crescent Townhouse Hotel
- 5 The Festival Tent, Lower Crescent Park
- 6 House Belfast
- 7 No Alibis
- 8 Seamus Heaney Centre
- 9 Bookfinders
- 10 QFT
- 11 Bar Sub, Students Union
- 12 Naughton Gallery
- 13 Botanic Gardens
- 14 Tropical Ravine
- 15 Books, Paper, Scissors
- 16 Cafe Destination
- 17 Friar's Bush Graveyard
- 18 Malone Lodge Hotel



LIT CRAWL

Saturday 16 June
6pm - 11pm

For one night only the businesses and arts organisations that call the Queen's Quarter their home, will throw open their doors to an exciting and eclectic programme packed full of events as the Belfast Book Festival presents Lit Crawl Belfast.

Lit Crawl Belfast will be the 2nd city on the island of Ireland and the 3rd city in the UK to host Lit Crawl.

How does Lit Crawl work?

The night is divided into 3 sessions to make a fast-paced evening of pop-up events and quirky literary happenings. This is literature done differently. Make your way between each session (which lasts no longer than 45 minutes each) of bookish content all of which are centered around the festival marquee located in Lower Crescent Park. The park will be filled with music and spoken word plus local food and drink vendors.

And don't forget to converge back to Lower Crescent Park after the three sessions have ended, where in the LitCrawl marquee, an 8-piece band who will raise the roof and close out the Belfast Book Festival 2018 to the music of Bob Dylan.

Choose from a variety of unique literary themed events including readings and plays, gigs and guided jaunts around the Queen's Quarter, and a host of assorted oddities, all in surprising venues ranging from cafes and bookstores to graveyards and cinemas.

It's all FREE and there is no need to book ahead, so come along and celebrate Belfast's most literary of quarters.

Curated by Jan Carson



Session One: 6pm - 6.45pm

| Event | Venue |
|--|------------------------|
| Watching the Detectives | No Alibis |
| Belfast Zine Market | Bar Sub Students Union |
| Monkey Puzzler | Tropical Ravine |
| Book Dating | Café Destination |
| Jukebox Jaunt Session 1 | Botanic Gardens |
| Reading? OK! | Naughton Gallery |
| The BFG: The Big Fantastical Garden of Stories | The Festival Tent |
| Minute After Midday | Accidental Theatre |

LIT CRAWL



Session Two: 7.15pm - 8pm

| Event | Venue |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Readings from the Tangerine | Bookfinders |
| Jukebox Jaunt Session 2 | Botanic Gardens |
| A Story in Two Parts | Tropical Ravine |
| Literary Knittery | Books, Paper, Scissors |
| Belfast's Books of the Dead | Friar's Bush Graveyard |
| Nox: A Dramatic Adaptation Part 1 | QFT |
| Tenx9 | The Festival Tent |
| Jazzstral Weeks | Bar Sub Students Union |

Session Three: 8.30pm - 9.15pm

| Event | Venue |
|---|------------------------|
| Book Doctors | No Alibis |
| Written in the City | Seamus Heaney Centre |
| Back to School with the YA crew | The Crescent |
| Punching Above Their Weight- SmallPresses | Bar Sub Students Union |
| Nox: A Dramatic Adaptation Part 1 | QFT |

Other Events

| Event | Time | Venue |
|----------------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Botanic Book Hunt | Throughout | Botanic Avenue |
| The Bob Dylan Band - After Party | 9pm - 11pm | The Festival Tent |



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