

**Friday May 1<sup>st</sup>**

7.00 pm.

Registration for weekend.

Cyril Gray Memorial Hall, Dugort.

*Full Weekend €110.*

7.30pm

Official Opening by : Ambassador **Declan Kelleher** .

Permanent Representative of Ireland in the European Union.

Ambassador Kelleher will give his opening address on the theme;  
**" Culture, Diplomacy and Mutual Understanding" .**



The 12th Annual Heinrich Boll Weekend will open with an address by **H.E. Declan Kelleher**, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the E.U. Prior to his appointment to Brussels he was Ambassador of Ireland to the People's Republic of China where he served from 2004 to 2013, and was instrumental in opening up trade and cultural links between Ireland and China . Ambassador Kelleher has long experience as a diplomat in the Department of Foreign Affairs both at home and overseas, including at the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations in New York, and at the Irish Embassy in Washington. He also served as Ireland's Ambassador to the E.U. Political and Security Committee from 2000 to 2004. He has spent time working in the private sector as an economic and financial analyst, specialising in global marine and oil industries. He holds a degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from Oxford University.

Presentation of Essay Competition prizes by Ambassador **Declan Kelleher**.

8.30pm

The Prophet and the Bishop: the religious war between Edward Nangle 1800-1883  
And Archbishop John MacHale 1791- 1881.

Illustrated talk by **Kevin Toolis**.



From the 1830s to the 1880s a great religious war raged in Connaught between Evangelical Protestants and the Catholic Church for the hearts of the poor. Rather than Christian charity hatred burned bright in the potato ridges of Mayo. In fear for their lives, God's prophets went armed as they preached the Holy Bible, children starved, villages razed, converts ostracised, and blood was shed. And every Christian soul, alive or dead, was keenly fought over for eternity. Two men, bitter enemies, the Prophet Edward Nangle and his Catholic rival Archbishop John MacHale were the heart of this war in a teeming but abandoned remote province that continually teetered on the edge of starvation. In 1834 Nangle, himself the son of an old Hiberno-Catholic family, founded the Achill Mission and began to build the Colony on the slopes of Slievemore. In 1837 he acquired a printing press and used his monthly newspaper *The Achill Missionary Herald and Western Witness* like a cudgel to denounce his foes and preach his gospel of a vengeful God impatient with the Popish heathen in his midst. And to raise more funds to sustain his work in the wilderness.

In his great missionary energy Nangle created schools, hospitals, orphanages, and proffered physical salvation in the form of famine relief. Many islanders, willing or unwilling, were saved by Protestant charity.

The arrival of these 'venomous fanatics' in his Catholic heartland did not go unchallenged by the Mayo-born and fervent Irish nationalist Archbishop John MacHale. Battalions of monks and militant priests were sent to the island, rival Catholic schools founded, and a vehement campaign of intimidation and counter attack commenced. There was only space for one God and one church on Achill. The war was finally lost in the 1880s as the powers of both the Prophet and the Bishop dwindled into defeat . But like discordant twins both of these Irishmen jointly shaped the history of their time and the history of Achill Island forever.

Kevin Toolis is a BAFTA winning film maker, playwright and writer who won the 2014 Single Drama BAFTA award for his MI5 spy thriller *Complicit*. He is also the playwright and director of the West End hit *The Confessions of Gordon Brown*. He is the founder of the UK/Irish production company Many Rivers Films - [www.manyriversfilms.co.uk](http://www.manyriversfilms.co.uk) Born In Edinburgh of Achill parents, Toolis studied at Edinburgh University and worked as a reporter and magazine writer for the New York Times, The Guardian and The Observer and reported on conflicts in Ireland, Iran, Syria, Afghanistan and Africa. Toolis is the author of a classic work on the Troubles - *Rebel Hearts: Journeys Within the IRA's Soul*. Toolis has directed and produced a number of ground breaking documentaries on terrorism including the five part *Cult of the Suicide Bomber* and the history of the *Car Bomb*. Toolis has a house on Achill and lives part of the year on the island.

## Saturday May 2 nd

Exhibition of archival photograph material **HEINRICH BÖLL AND FAMILY** during their early years on Achill, from the Böll family collection at the Cyril Gray Hall.

10.00 am

Guided Walk with **Eoin Halpin**. Meet at Atlantic Drive, Ashelm Car park  
Archaeology and geology of Ashlem.



The magnificent landscape around Ashlem Bay is a product of the folding and faulting of the underlying rock formations. The walk will explore these features and examine how the apparently solid rocks are in fact 'plastic', bending and being re-shaped by the enormous forces of nature. In addition the walk will take in the promontory fort of Dun Bunafahy and discuss the origins and development of these enigmatic sites which are one of the most numerous class of archaeological monuments on the island.

12.00 – 1.00pm

Writing seminar with **Mike McCormack**.  
Lavelle's Seaside House and Pub, Dooega.



Born in 1965 Mike McCormack is the author of two collections of short stories *Getting it in the Head* and *Forensic Songs*, and two novels *Crowe's Requiem* and *Notes from a Coma*. In 1996 he was awarded the Rooney Prize for Literature and *Getting it in the Head* was chosen as a New York Times Notable Book of the Year. A short film, which he scripted from one of the stories in that collection, was long listed for an Academy Award in 2003. In 2006 *Notes from a Coma* was shortlisted for the Irish Book of the Year Award; it was recently published by SOHO Press in New York.

He was awarded a Civitella Ranieri Fellowship in 2007 and he has been the recipient of several Arts Council Bursaries. He has taught in numerous schools and universities.

He currently teaches on the MA in Writing at the National University of Ireland, Galway and on the MFA in Creative Writing at the American College in Dublin. He also teaches on the MFA at Sierra Nevada College. He was visiting professor at Willamette University, Illinois in 2001 and recently he has taught in the Irish Writers Center in Dublin. He currently lives with his wife in Galway.

1.00 pm

Lunch: Lavelle's Seaside House and Pub. Dooega.

2.00 pm - 5.00pm

Heinrich Böll cottage open to public.

2.15pm

**Edward Nangle: Family Pictures**  
Cyril Gray Hall.

Illustrated talk by **Hilary Tulloch**.



My great-grandfather was one of the children of Edward Walter Nangle and his first wife, Eliza Warner. Edward Nangle carefully recorded the births of all his children in the Family Bible. Their eighth child, Harry, was born in the Settlement at Dugort in 1841 and it was where he spent the first eleven years of his life and the summer holidays for the remainder of his childhood. His own two eldest children 'ran wild' at Dugort in the 1870s. A few extracts of Harry's letters, written when he was a young man, survive and give an idea of his home life.

Edward Nangle himself left little written comment on his family life. He seemed to view it very much as an integral part of the life of the Settlement. In the *Achill Missionary Herald* he writes about the death of his wife Eliza and the death of his daughter Matilda. As far as I know, his own letters and diaries, mentioned by Henry Seddall, have not survived. Edward Nangle's descendants are spread around the world and I have been trying to discover mementoes that have been passed down through the family so that I can record them and perhaps learn from them.

The most interesting group of items are the paintings. I want to share these pictures because many are of places in Achill painted at a time when few people were visually recording the island. I hope that Achill islanders may recognise some of the scenes that we have yet to identify. For me, Edward Nangle was essentially a family man, my grandmother's beloved grandfather on whose lap she sat, whose beard she stroked and whose arms enfolded her. She was only five when he died, hence the very physical memories that she passed on to her grandchildren. Hilary Tulloch. As a family historian, I am interested in the context of the lives of my ancestors. I, like many of my family who have gone before, have lived an itinerant life and perhaps that is why I have always tried to make sense of the stories that I heard. My grandmother was immensely proud of her Nangle heritage, telling us about the long line of military men from whom she descended and that they came to Ireland with Strongbow. Early in life I loved to draw family trees, diagrams connecting people from her memories. Later I wanted to know more about them as individuals, where they lived and the choices they made. Before returning to Ireland, we lived in Bermuda where I undertook research for the Bermuda National Trust's *Architectural Heritage* series on pre-1900 houses and their occupants. In addition, and together with my husband, I transcribed and photographed the historic graves and memorials on the islands. Many commemorated naval and military families from the age of sail when Bermuda was the hub of the North Atlantic. Our work was published in 2011 by the Bermuda National Trust and National Museum of Bermuda under the title *Bermuda Memorial Inscriptions*.

3.00pm

Talk **Patricia Byrns. Women in the Colony. Women and the Achill Mission**  
Cyril Gray Hall.



Patricia Byrne's talk covers, firstly, the role of the women involved directly and indirectly in the Achill Mission activities; secondly, she discusses the witness and critique provided by women travellers who visited Dugort at the time of the Mission operation; thirdly, she deals with the stark situation of native Achill Island women in the 1830s and 1840s when the Achill Mission was at its height.

Edward Nangle's first wife, Eliza, and six of their children are buried on the slopes of Slievemore. The presentation looks at the Mission roles of Eliza Nangle, her sister Grace Warner, and Isabella Adams, and how they related to the position of Protestant philanthropic women of the period, as well as to that of Roman Catholic nuns of the time. The stories of Margaret Reynolds, wife of coastguard officer Francis Reynolds, and Margaret Lavelle – employed in the Nangle household – reveal how local women were drawn directly into the community conflict associated with the Mission.

Several prominent women visited the Achill Mission in the 1830s and 1840s: Jane Franklin in the early days of the Mission establishment; the writer Anna Maria Hall in the early 1840s; the American missionary and philanthropist Asenath Nicholson in the Great Famine years. Their writings provide first hand observations on the Mission and interesting critiques of its operations.

The lives of Achill Island women in the Achill Mission period of the 1830s and 1840s could not have been starker. Primitive living conditions, frequent pregnancies, illiteracy, gruelling physical work and famine marked their lives. National School statistics for the island in this period reveal that females were far less likely to receive a basic education than males. Looking at the Achill Mission through the prism of women's lives offers a distinctive perspective on a controversial episode in Achill and Irish history.

Patricia Byrns's narrative nonfiction book, *The Veiled Woman of Achill – Island Outrage & a Playboy Drama*, was published by The Collins Press in 2012. It deals with the atrocity at the Valley House, north Achill, in 1894, when landlord Agnes McDonnell was attacked and her home burnt. The book covers the subsequent trial of the notorious James Lynchehaun and his escapades with the law, as well as the influence of the case on John Millington Synge in the writing of *The Playboy of the Western World*. Patricia is a Mayo native currently living in Limerick where she has worked in regional economic development for most of her career. She holds an MA in Writing from NUI Galway and her poetry, fiction and nonfiction have been published in a range of journals and magazines. She has broadcast on RTE's *Sunday Miscellany* and *The History Programme* and, among the publications which have featured her work, are the *Irish Times* (Irishwoman's Diary), *New Hibernia Review*, *Journal of the Galway Historical & Archaeological Society* and *Cathair na Mart*. Patricia is currently researching the Achill Mission story. Email: patricia05@eircom.net

3.45 pm

**Rev Patrick Comerford** . TS Eliot (1888-1965): the Nobel poet and his Irish connections. Cyril Gray Hall.



Like Heinrich Boll, TS Eliot was a Nobel laureate and was deeply influenced in his writings by the events of war – ‘The Waste Land’ grows out of his reflections on World War I, and the events; he was an air warden in World War II, and the ‘Four Quartets’ draws on many of those war-time experiences.

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of his death on 4 January 1965, and the one hundredth anniversary of his marriage to Vivienne Leigh-Wood in 1915, portrayed in the film *Tom & Viv*. Her family’s wealth rested on property inherited in Dun Laoghaire (then Kingstown).

Eliot’s reputation has been plagued by accusations that he held anti-Semitic and anti-Irish views. In a study of Eliot’s impact on Anglican theology, Professor Barry Spurr deals convincingly with the accusations of anti-Semitism. But Eliot has often been accused of being anti-Irish.

Yet his conversion to Anglicanism is attributed to his childhood Irish nanny in America, Annie Dunne from Co Cork. His marriage to Vivienne Leigh-Wood brought another forgotten Irish connection, for her family’s wealth was built on her Irish-born grandmother’s inherited properties in Dun Laoghaire.

Eliot had a strong friendship with James Joyce, a more difficult relationship with WB Yeats. Patrick Comerford tackles these questions by looking at Eliot’s portrayals of Irish characters from his references to the Irish princess Isolde in ‘The Waste Land’ to his deployment and of Irish figures such as Sweeney and Reilly in his poetry and plays.

Patrick Comerford reassesses Eliot’s Irish influences and examines his friendships with four key Irish contemporary literary figures: WB Yeats, James Joyce, the Jesuit philosopher Martin D’Arcy, and the poet Louis MacNeice who closely identified with Achill.

(Revd Canon Professor) Patrick Comerford is Lecturer in Anglicanism, Liturgy and Church History in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, Dublin, an Adjunct Assistant Professor in Theology in Trinity College Dublin, and a visiting lecturer in Mater Dei Institute of Education, a college of Dublin City University.

He studied theology at the Irish School of Ecumenics, Kimmage Manor, Maynooth and in Cambridge, and holds degrees and diplomas from Maynooth, Trinity College Dublin and the IOCS, Cambridge.

Patrick worked for 30 thirty years as a journalist with provincial and national newspapers, and is a former Foreign Desk Editor of *The Irish Times*. He has contributed to many books, journals and magazines, and writes for three monthly magazines. He has published two studies of TS Eliot in this 50th anniversary year.

He is a member of the General Synod and Standing Committee of the Church of Ireland, serves on the Irish and British boards and councils of the Anglican mission agency Us (formerly USPG), and his work for Anglican mission agencies has brought him to Romania, Egypt and China. He has been a regular visitor to Achill since the 1970s, and spoke about Nangle and the Achill Mission at these weekends in 2013 and 2014.

5.00pm

Opening Exhibition – Photos of the Dugort Village Colony. **John Michael Nikolai**.

Guest speaker; **Rev Patrick Comerford**.

American photographer living in Achill. Studied English literature and art history at Princeton University, moved to Nashville, Tennessee where I worked with famous portrait photographer Jim McGuire. After a 12 year apprenticeship John moved 4,000 miles to Achill to try and become an artist himself.

“IN NANGLE’S FOOTSTEPS” Last year **John Michael Nikolai** was commissioned by Kevin Toolis to take photographs at some of the locations on Achill Island associated with the Reverend Edward Nangle. As he worked on this project, the artist tried to imagine Achill during this period and what it might be like to have a powerful and enigmatic figure such as Nangle roaming the landscape.





6.30 pm

Exhibition opening **The Cillíní of Ireland** by **René Böll**.  
Achill Sound Hall.



The history of Achill island and the topography of the Currane peninsular hold a testimony that is equally relevant to both social and cultural history: the burial grounds of children who died unbaptised, that, besides many other descriptions, are usually referred to as 'cillíní'. Outcasts from society, people who had been executed or committed suicide and women who died in childbirth together with their babies were also buried in the cillíní. Also, often victims of the 19th century famine or, as on Inishbiggle, an island off the coast of Achill, a 4-year-old child whose parents did not have enough money for a normal burial. But for the most part, they were babies. Much about the history of the cillíní lies in the dark; there are indications that their origins go back to pagan times. Most of the cillíní that are known today probably date back to the time of the Counter-Reformation, and they were still in use in some places, as on Achill Island, at the beginning of the 1960s.

The cillíní are found in many places on the island that already served as memorial sites in the past – visible through their stony traces, but evading recognition by those who do not know what these loosely scattered stone signs refer to. Traces in the visible of something absent which is nevertheless tangible, present; a simultaneous visibleness and invisibleness in which the history and the landscape of the island are interwoven.

For many years René Böll has engaged with these abandoned places in photographs, writings and oil paintings, in which he traces the particular atmosphere of the sites. Through his work he would like to provide a memorial to the children and to those buried anonymously and to reinstate them in people's memories. (Translation by Rosemary Little).

8.30pm

Reading by **Christian Kracht** St. Thomas's Church Dugort.



Christian Kracht, born in 1966, is a Swiss novelist and journalist and is considered as one of the most important contemporary writers in German. He had his first success with "Faserland" in 1995, his debut novel. Among the authors who write in German he is a master of "Tongue in Cheek": his writing is ironic, full of innuendo, occasionally ambiguous. It is seen as a result of Kracht's dealings with English speaking models and pop culture, their ambiguous play with symbols and references. This style could also be the result of Kracht's literary biography and the fact that he spent most of his life on different continents, far away from the German literature scene with its language rules and orderly codes. (from Der Spiegel). Author Christian Kracht received the Wilhelm-Raabe Prize for his novel "Imperium", one of the highest Awards for German literature. Presented in association with the **Goethe-Institut** Ireland

Reading by **Mike Mc Cormack**

**This Day in Flames**

Marcus Conway is an engineer and he is under pressure from all sides – family, work and politics are all weighing down on him and Marcus is not sure that he is coping at all well with a life which has suddenly become very complicated indeed...

In one hour – that which is strung between the Angelus Bell and the time signal for the One O Clock News he is suddenly inundated with memories of his life. In the section I am going to read he recalls that heart-breaking awkwardness and disorientation which overtook his beloved father in his last months of his life after the death of his beloved wife, Onnie. He recalls how a man who had lived with such certainty was completely undone by loss and grief. And Marcus recalls also how he and his sister made such a sorry-fist of coming to his aid and comforting him during that awful time..

This excerpt comes from the second half of the novel and it highlights style and the rhythm of the book which is that of a continuous, unbroken outpour which carries the reader along without halting for full stops or breaks of any sort.....

Chair: Kevin Toolis.



**Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup> .**

10.00am

Guided Walk with **Eoin Halpin**.  
*Slievemore: The Colony and Finsheen*

12.00pm

Sunday Miscellany St. Thomas's Church. Dugort

For over forty years, Sunday morning on RTÉ Radio 1 has meant Sunday Miscellany. Each week, the programme presents a selection of new writing from both established writers and new voices, woven together with complimentary music. This morning's live recording of Sunday Miscellany will feature writers including John F. Deane, Mary O'Malley, Mike McCormack and Kevin Toolis as well as local musicians Laoise Kelly, Diarmuid Gielty and others. The programme will be presented by Sunday Miscellany's producer Aoife Nic Cormaic. As the recording will begin at 12.00, we would ask you to please be seated by 11.45 as latecomers cannot be admitted.

1.30pm

Lunch : Gray's Guest House.

2.30pm

Reading **Mark Patrick Hederman**

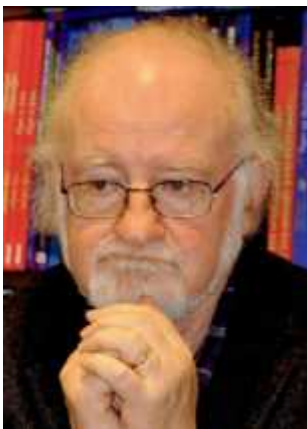


Talk on Faith (in context of Nangle) and introduction to "*Give Dust a Tongue*", and "*Semibreve*" by John F Deane.

Dom Mark Patrick Hederman, OSB, Abbot of Glenstal Abbey, County Limerick, Ireland, is a Benedictine monk, teacher, lecturer and writer. Formerly headmaster of the school at Glenstal, he was later named academic dean.

Cyril Gray Hall

Followed by a Reading from "*Give Dust a Tongue*", memoir, and "*Semibreve*" a new collection of poems. **John F Deane** . Cyril Gray Hall.



"*Give Dust a Tongue*" is a memoir that views the spiritual developments of an internationally acclaimed poet, from the strict Roman Catholic of his upbringing on Achill Island, through years spent in a Spiritan seminary studying for the priesthood, a marriage and the death of a young wife, through the establishment of Poetry Ireland, the National Poetry Society, and the development of his own poetic career, the study of such faith poets as George Herbert and Gerard Manley Hopkins, to his present faith in Christ as the centre of hope and evolution. The book uses many of Deane's best and best-loved poems to help chart this development and works towards the origins and completion of a sequence of poems that face directly the question Christ asked: *Who do you say that I am?* Deane's answer is in a sequence of poems, published here for the first time, "*According to Lydia*". The route to a contemporary Christian faith takes in memories of his time on Achill Island, in the novitiate in Tipperary and the seminary in Kimmage, Dublin, as well as his encounter with the work of Teilhard de Chardin, priest and anthropologist, and the poetry of the Nobel prize-winning Swedish writer, Tomas Tranströmer.

The poems in *Semibreve* combine lyric grace with a fiercely questing intelligence, pushing against the mysteries of faith in a fractured world, paying tribute to the value of human life and love. Running through the book is a thread of elegy for the poet's brother, who died of cancer in 2010. The collection concludes with a sequence describing a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Throughout, Deane gives poetic voice to the paradox of human existence as simultaneously 'blessed and broken'.

John F. Deane was born on Achill Island in 1943. He founded Poetry Ireland – the National Poetry Society – and *The Poetry Ireland Review* in 1978, and is the founder of The Dedalus Press, of which he was editor from 1985 until 2006. In 2008 he was visiting scholar in the Burns Library of Boston College. John F. Deane's poetry has been translated and published in France, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Romania, Italy, Slovakia, Sweden and other countries. His poems in Italian won the 2002 Premio Internazionale di Poesia Città di Marineo. His fiction has been published by Blackstaff Press in Belfast; his most recent novel *Where No Storms Come* was published by Blackstaff in 2011. He is the recipient of the O'Shaughnessy Award for Irish Poetry and the Marten Toonder Award for Literature. John F. Deane is a member of Aosdána. In 2015 Columba Press published his Memoir: "*Give Dust a Tongue*". His poetry has been shortlisted for the *Irish Times* Poetry Now Award and the T.S. Eliot Prize. In 2007 he was made Chevalier en l'ordre des arts et des lettres by the French government. In October 2011 Deane was awarded the Serbian prize the Golden Key of Smederevo, as well as the Laudomia Bonanni prize from L'Aquila, Italy.

Please print and complete this registration form and forward it, with the relevant fees, to:

Mary Lavelle-Burke,  
Achill Heinrich Böll Association, Cashel, Achill, Co. Mayo.  
Cheques payable to 'Achill Heinrich Böll Association'.

<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Telephone: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p>
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( ) Full Weekend Activities

€110

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| ( ) | Individual events;-<br>Opening Exhibition – Photos of the Dugort village Colony.<br><b>John Michael Nikolai</b> . Keel Hall.   | Free  |
| ( ) | <b>Official Opening Guest Speaker; Declan Kelleher</b><br>Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Ireland in the European Union.<br>Talk by <b>Kevin Toolis</b> . | €20.  |
| ( ) | Guided Walk with <b>Eoin Halpin</b> ; (Saturday Morning )<br>Ashlem: Geology and Archaeology<br>Lunch Lavelle's Pub Dooega.  | €20.  |
| ( ) | Writing seminar with <b>Mike McCormack</b> . Lavelle's Dooega.   | €15.  |
| ( ) | Illustrated talk by Hilary Tulloch.<br><i>Watercolours of Edward Nangle – early paintings of Achill.</i><br>Based on paintings by Edward Nangle found in daughters papers.                         | €15.  |
| ( ) | Talk Patricia Byrns. Women in the Colony.  | €15.  |
| ( ) | Rev Patrick Comerford. TS Eliot (1888-1965): a centenary appraisal of the Nobel poet<br>and his Irish connections.   | €15.  |
| ( ) | Official opening René Boll Cillíní   | Free. |
| ( ) | Readings Christian Kracht and Mike McCormack<br>St. Thomas's Church Dugort.  | €20.  |
| ( ) | Sunday Morning 10.00am. Guided Walk with Eoin Halpin.<br>Slievemore: The Colony and Finsheen   | €10.  |
| ( ) | Sunday Miscellany St. Thomas's Church.   | €15.  |
| ( ) | Lunch Gray's Guest House   | €10.  |
| ( ) | Talk Mark Patrick Hederman<br>Launch of <i>Two new books</i> from John F Deane. With poetry readings.<br>Cyril Gray Hall   | €15.  |

Further details;

Mary Lavelle Burke;  
John Mc Hugh

[www.heinrichboellcottage.com](http://www.heinrichboellcottage.com)

<http://www.achilltourism.com/artsweekend.html>

087 772 0192

086 232 5516. [hbollachill@anu.ie](mailto:hbollachill@anu.ie)

