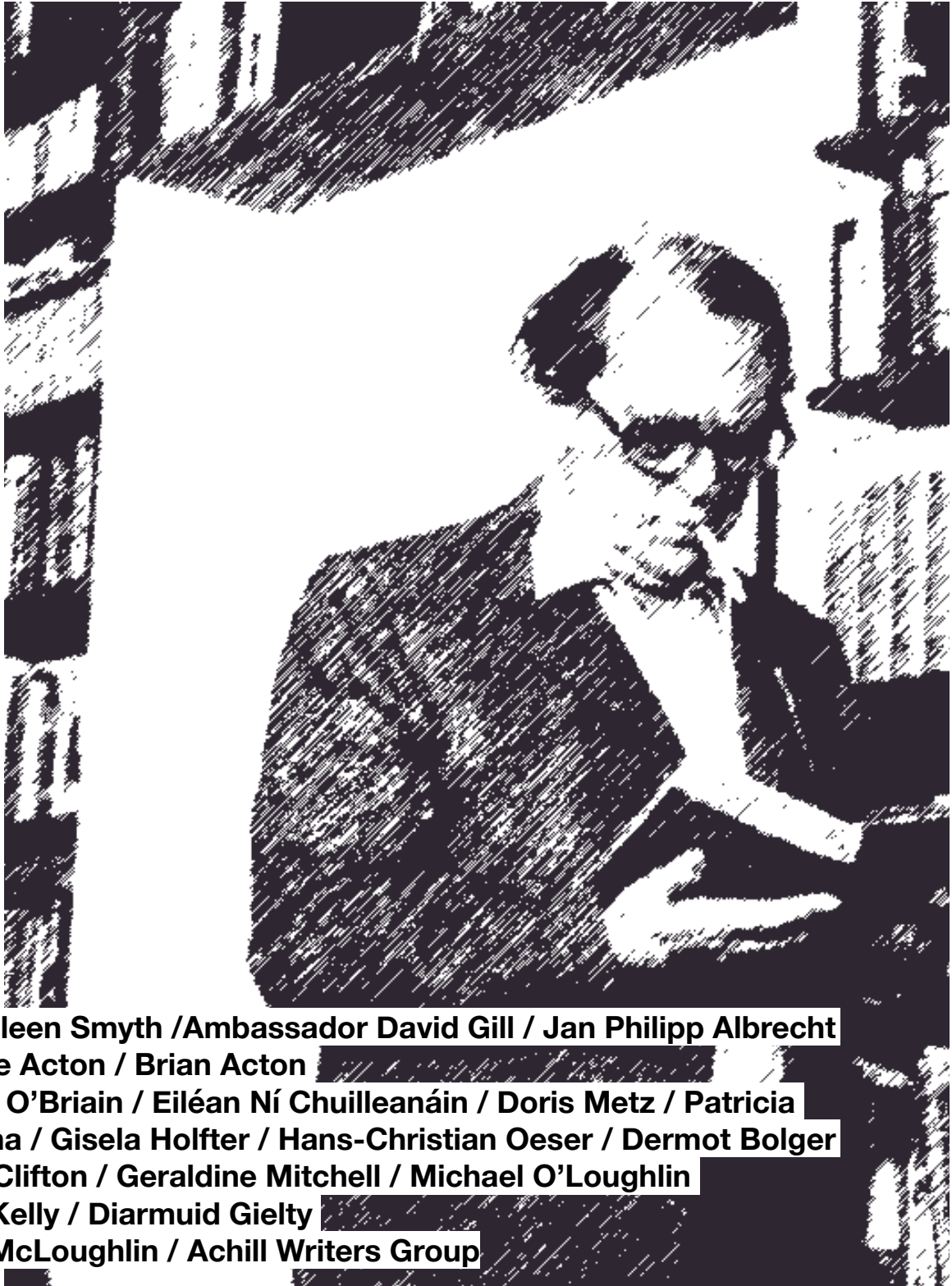


Festival May 2nd - 4th 2025

Heinrich Böll



**Dr. Kathleen Smyth / Ambassador David Gill / Jan Philipp Albrecht
/ Wiebke Acton / Brian Acton
Micheál O'Briain / Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin / Doris Metz / Patricia
McKenna / Gisela Holfter / Hans-Christian Oeser / Dermot Bolger
/ Harry Clifton / Geraldine Mitchell / Michael O'Loughlin
Laoise Kelly / Diarmuid Gielty
Tomás McLoughlin / Achill Writers Group**

Friday, May 2nd

HB 2025

19:00 Registration and Welcome St Thomas' Hall F28 H320

**19:30 Chairperson's
Opening Address**

Dr. Kathleen Smyth

**German Ambassador
– Opening Remarks**

David Gill (born 1966) is a German civil servant and politician, serving as the German Ambassador to Ireland since August 2024. He previously served as German Consul General in New York

and he had been Secretary of State and head of the Bundespräsidialamt, the administration of the President of Germany. He was appointed on March 19th, 2012, by President Joachim Gauck and stayed in office until February 2017. He is a member

of the Social Democratic Party of Germany.



**Student Essay
Presentation by**

Ambassador David Gill

**Jan Philipp Albrecht -
Keynote Talk**

Jan Philipp Albrecht has been a member of the board of the Heinrich Böll Foundation since June 2022. Prior to that, he was Minister for Energy Transition, Agriculture, Environment, Nature and Digitalisation of the State of Schleswig-Holstein for four years. He was a Member of

the European Parliament for nine years, where he became the youngest German member in 2009. From 2006 to 2008, Albrecht was the spokesman for the federal board of the Green Youth and was particularly involved in the environmental and civil rights movements. As a member of the European Parliament, he negotiated

numerous digital, trade and legal policy projects, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as Parliament's rapporteur. He was vice-chairman of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and led several parliamentary delegations to the United States.



Friday, May 2nd

HB
2025

Katerina Poladjan - A Reading from her work.

Katerina Poladjan was born in Moscow, grew up in Rome and Vienna, and lives in Germany. She writes theatre texts and essays. Her prose debut »In einer Nacht, woanders« was followed by »Maybe Marseille« and, together with Henning Fritsch, she

wrote the literary travelogue »Hinter Sibirien«. She was nominated for the Alfred Döblin Prize as well as for the European Prize of Literature, and took part in the Days of German-Language Literature in Klagenfurt in 2015. For »Hier sind Löwen« she received scholarships from the German Literature Fund, the

Berlin Senate and the Tarabya Cultural Academy in Istanbul. In 2021, she was awarded the Nelly Sachs Prize of the City of Dortmund. Katerina Poladjan was shortlisted for the Leipzig Book Fair Prize 2022 with »Zukunftsmusik« and was awarded the Rheingau Literature Prize 2022.



The book "Upheaval"

This is a story of change: in the vast Siberian expanse, one thousand versts east of Moscow, a grandmother, mother, daughter, and granddaughter live together in one room of a communal apartment, beneath crumbling plaster that hearkens back to bygone days. It is the 11th of March, the start of a new era that no one can yet anticipate. Life continues as normal. The engineer next door tries to sort his life into little boxes; Varvara helps

deliver a baby; Maria dreams of love; and Yanka wants to sing in the kitchen at night. Upheaval is a powerful novel about four lives on a turning-point, a lost world whose tremors we can still feel today. In this incisive chronicle of our time, Katerina Poladjan shows once again that German literature is, above all, European literature. Upheaval is a timeless novel replete with tender humour that turns to the age-old, yet ever-pressing question of how we should live. "One could say that [Katerina

Poladjan] has written the 'book of the hour' that must be read now, in the face of Russian Great Power fantasies." - Der SPIEGEL, Xaver von Cranach. "Katerina Poladjan has written one of the very great contemporary German novels, which is read differently now in times of war than it was in times of peace." — ARD, Denis Scheck. "Upheaval is the quintessence of a novel: as powerful and beautiful and clear as thirty novels." — Monika Rinck.

The reader

Upheaval will be read by actress and translator Wiebke Acton. Originally from Germany, now based in England, Wiebke has been performing on stage for 20 years. Her work spans a range of theatre forms including devised, physical and site-specific theatre as well as theatre for young audiences. As an associate artist at the Globe Berlin, she regularly performs Shakespeare and

German classics in both German and English languages. Wiebke holds an MA in Literary Translation. As part of her dissertation, she translated Charles Way's play 'The Gift' which is now published in Germany. Currently, Wiebke is a PhD researcher at the University of Leeds investigating 'Transnational Theatre-Making'.

The musician

Wiebke will be accompanied by her husband Brian - a skilled musician who has distant roots in the live music scene of Ireland. After moving to England in 2002, he established himself as a versatile guitarist and an imaginative jazz arranger. Brian now creates immersive audio environments in non-traditional places such as forests and urban centres.



Reception Valley House. F28 D8F7

Saturday, May 3rd

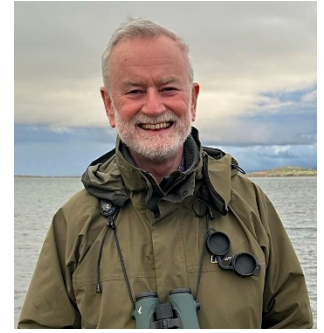
HB
2025

10:00 Meet Gielty's Clew Bay F28 F6C1 Nature walk at Keem Bay. Guided Walk with Micheál O'Briain. Includes lunch.

The guided walk will visit Keem Bay, one of the remarkable jewels in the crown of Achill Island's natural heritage. This bay is of European conservation importance, containing two contiguous Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) - the 'Achill Head SAC' that protects its marine life and the 'Croaghnaun/Slievemore SAC' on land that protects a rich variety of heathland habitats. Basking sharks frequent the bay in Spring and bottle-nosed dolphins are

frequent visitors. It also attracts a range of seabirds, including the black guillemot. The cliffs bordering the bay are home to ravens, crows and other birds. During the walk there will be an opportunity to experience and learn about the special flora and fauna of this magnificent area on the extreme western fringe of Europe. Micheál Ó Briain is passionate about nature and its conservation in Ireland and across the European Union. Following his studies of Brent geese in Ireland and Canada for his PhD at University College Dublin, he worked for the Irish Wildbird Conservancy (now BirdWatch Ireland), initially as its first Conservation

Officer, then as National Director. He spent almost 30 years working for the European Commission on EU and international nature and biodiversity policies, particularly on setting up Natura 2000, the EU wide network of protected areas. He has a long term interest in the birds and other wildlife of Achill, which he has been recording over the past 16 years. Since retiring at the end of 2021, he has been largely based on the island and continues his journey of discovery of its special nature. Through his wildlife photography, he aims to celebrate, promote awareness of and appreciation for this wonderful part of Europe's natural heritage.



12:30 Lunch. Gielty's Clew Bay F28 F6C1

14:00 Anne Shannon Memorial Writers workshop with Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin. Gielty's Clew Bay F28 F6C1

Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin was educated at Oxford before spending her working life as an academic in Trinity College, Dublin. She was a founder member of Cyphers, a literary journal. She has won the Patrick Kavanagh Award; the Irish Times Award for Poetry; the O'Shaughnessy Award of the Irish-American Cultural Institute, which called her "among the very best poets of her generation"; the International Griffin Poetry Prize; and the 1573 International Poetry Award, one of China's highest literary honours. Her collections include

Acts and Monuments (1972, winner of the 1973 Patrick Kavanagh Award); Site of Ambush (1975); The Second Voyage (1977, 1986); The Rose Geranium (1981); The Magdalene Sermon (1989); The Brazen Serpent (1994); The Girl Who Married the Reindeer (2001); Selected Poems (2008); The Sun-fish (2009, a Poetry Book Society recommendation, shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize in 2009 and winner of the 2010 Griffin International Poetry Prize); Legend of the Walled-up Wife (translations from the Romanian of Ileana Malancioiu, 2011); The Boys of Bluehill (2015); and The Mother House (2019, winner of the 2020 Irish Times Poetry Now Award). Her Collected

Poems was published in October 2020 and was winner of the Pigott Poetry Prize in association with Listowel Writers' Week in 2021. The Map of the World, published in September 2023, was shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize. Published in 2024 was a new, revised edition of Cork which was first published in 1977 with poems by Eileen Ní Chuilleanáin and drawings by Brian Lalor. Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin is a Fellow and Professor of English (Emerita) at Trinity College, Dublin. She served as Ireland Professor of Poetry from 2016-2019. She was married to Macdara Woods, who died in 2018. In May 2022, she was elected Saoi in Aosdána.



Saturday, May 3rd

HB
2025

14:00 - 17:00 Heinrich Böll Cottage open to public. F28 CC96

14:00 Screening “Petra Kelly – Act Now” St Thomas’ Hall F28 H320

Introduction by director Doris Metz

“Activist Petra Kelly was convinced that a single person could change the world and, as co-founder of the German Green Party, she did. Director Doris Metz crafts an enlightening portrait of one of the most influential political figures of the 20th century. Weaving historical archives that showcase Kelly’s creative tactics to fight for disarmament, the environment and human rights, and with intimate and revealing testimonies from her inner circle, the film demonstrates that her spiritual legacy continues to resonate today.” (Ruth Somala, DOC NYC)

Petra Kelly was one of the most influential political figures of the 20th century. She fought for a world without weapons and nuclear energy, for a society at one with nature. She was co-founder of Germany’s Green Party – the first green party to find success. In 1992, she was murdered aged just 44. The issues she addressed are today more topical than ever before. Not only did Kelly vault to fame as the star of the Green Party, she was also a woman capable of founding a new and world-changing politics and taking on two superpowers. At the

height of the Cold War, Kelly inspired hundreds of thousands to take to the streets to protest the deployment of nuclear missiles on West German soil. She grew up in the racist America of the 1960s, and as a student, she worked on Robert Kennedy’s campaign team in the months before his assassination. Her role model was Martin Luther King, and his philosophy of civil disobedience shaped her thinking.

Kelly wanted to give Germany, with its sinister Nazi legacy, a new moral identity. She was murdered at the age of 44 by her partner and political colleague, former NATO general Gert Bastian. She was a woman who changed history and who, like many history-changing women, has been largely erased. Her far-sighted transnational thinking and global action, her commitment to peace and human rights beyond the East-West bloc thinking of the time, makes her an icon for the 21st century. PETRA KELLY – ACT NOW! brings this great figure of world history back to life.

With international archive images never seen before, it paints a picture of a sensitive and unwavering woman who could not be stopped by anyone. Close friends and companions talk for the first time about Petra Kelly’s private and political life.

Doris Metz was born in Bavaria, Germany. She writes and directs documentary films. Prior to this, she was a writer and editor for the Süddeutsche Zeitung in the field of media and politics. In 2005, she shot a widely acclaimed cinema documentary film, SCHATTENVÄTER (Ghost Fathers), about Matthias Brandt and Pierre Boom, the sons of Willy Brandt and GDR spy Günter Guillaume. TRANS – I GOT LIFE (co-director Imogen Kimmel), a highly relevant plea for freedom and self-determination of transgender people received the audience award at the Munich Film Festival in 2021. PETRA KELLY – ACT NOW! (world premiere Munich Film Festival 2024) screened at prestigious festivals such as the Festival Internacional De Cine De Morelia, Mexico; DOC NYC; and the Cork International Film Festival. It has reached over 30,000 viewers since its theatrical release and has just been nominated for the national German Film Award 2025.



Saturday, May 3rd

HB 2025

15:45 Screening will be followed by a Q&A with director Doris Metz, and panel discussion with Jan Philipp Albrecht, Patricia McKenna and Gisela Holfter (Chair).

Patricia McKenna is a practicing barrister and member of the Bar of Ireland. She was Ireland's first Green Party MEP and made history for the Greens by topping the poll in the 1994 European Parliament elections. She served from 1994-2004 and was a Vice President of the Green Group in the parliament. Patricia was a friend of the late Petra Kelly up to her untimely death in 1992. Petra attended many events in Ireland organised by Patricia on peace, neutrality, disarmament, and opposition to the

17:00 Hans-Christian Oeser St Thomas' Hall F28 H320

When we read works by international authors, we experience them through translation. If we find ourselves drawn to their language, it is due in large part to the translator. This raises an important question: what linguistic and stylistic skills are required to remain loyal to the original text while also creating a compelling literary work in its own right - one that is both authentic and accessible? Hans-Christian Oeser, who has translated over thirty Irish authors into German, as well as several German poets into English, will join Hans-

militarisation of the EU. Patricia is also well known for the landmark 1995 'McKenna judgment' by the Supreme Court when she successfully challenged the Government's use of public money to fund just one side in a referendum. Patricia left the Green Party in 2009 declaring that they had lost their soul and had abandoned some of the key principles that motivated the founding members of the Green movement. Patricia was born in Monaghan and is also a qualified art teacher.

Gisela Holfter studied in Cologne, Cambridge and St Louis, and worked as an Assistant Teacher in Belfast and as a Lektor at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand, before coming to Limerick

Henner Becker to discuss aspects of his approach to translation, giving some short samples in the process. In 1978, he passed the First State Examination and worked as a trainee teacher in Berlin-Wilmersdorf and Berlin-Schöneberg. Also in 1978, he received the Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE). In 1980, he passed the Second State Examination and received the title of Studienassessor. In the same year, he went to Dublin. In 1989, he received the Diploma in Translation from the Institute of Translation and Interpreting (ITI) in Milton Keynes, England. In Dublin, he worked until

in 1996. She is Professor in German and Director of the Centre for Irish-German Studies at the University of Limerick. She has published numerous articles and co-edited more than a dozen books, the latest being Rückblicke und Reflektionen – A History of German Studies in Ireland (Irish-German Studies 16, WVT 2023). Her monographs include Erlebnis Irland (1996, WVT), Heinrich Böll and Ireland (2011, paperback 2012, CBS) and An Irish Sanctuary: German-speaking Refugees in Ireland 1933-1945 (with H. Dickel, 2017, paperback 2018, de Gruyter). She was elected to the Deutsche Akademie für Sprache und Dichtung in 2023.

1983 as a DAAD lecturer for German language, literature and regional studies at University College, Dublin. In 1983/84, he was a lecturer at the National Institute for Higher Education, now Dublin City University. From 1983 to 1988, he returned to University College, Dublin and from 1984 to 2000 taught German language and literature at the Goethe-Institut in Dublin. Since then, he has been involved in his translations and the various offices, such as that of secretary of the P.E.N. Centre for German-speaking Authors Abroad from 2009.



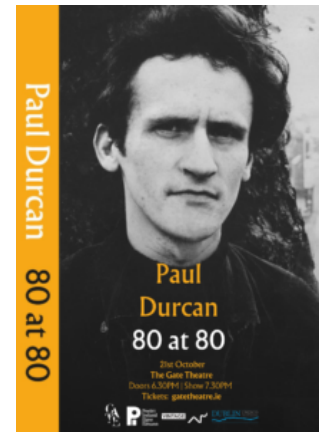
20:00 80 at 80. An evening of Paul Durcan's poetry to celebrate his 80th birthday. St Thomas' Church. F28 WC92

A look back at the extraordinary career of one of Ireland's most lauded and popular poets, Paul Durcan, through readings of his much-loved poems by poets and admirers. For fifty years, he has explored and questioned a world both real and imagined, and remains the most companionable of poets. Steeped in the goings-on of Ireland and preoccupied with its concerns, he has delighted, enriched and unsettled his readers. Durcan's output contains beguiling love poems, surreal liberating narratives, quirky memorable utterances and though

his poetry is sometimes prompted by headlines – the Northern Troubles, the Divorce Referendum, the death of six nuns in a fire, the election of Mary Robinson, the election of Pope Francis – and sometimes by private concerns, complex relationships, joyous occasions – the breakdown of his marriage, his strained relationship with his father – Durcan's poetry is always courageously personal and passionately spiritual.

Paul Durcan was born in Dublin in 1944. His first book, *Endsville* (1967), was followed by more than twenty others, including *The Berlin Wall Café* (a Poetry Book Society Choice in 1985); *Daddy, Daddy* (winner of the Whitbread Award for Poetry in 1990); *Crazy About Women* (1991); *A*

Snail in My Prime: New and Selected Poems (1993); *Give Me Your Hand* (1994); *Greetings to Our Friends in Brazil* (1999); *The Art of Life* (2004); *The Laughter of Mothers* (2007); *Life is a Dream: 40 Years Reading Poems 1967–2007* (2009); *Praise in Which I Live and Move and Have My Being* (2012); and *The Days of Surprise* (2015). In 2001, Durcan received a Cholmondeley Award. He was Ireland Professor of Poetry from 2004 to 2007. He was conferred with a DLitt by Trinity College, Dublin in 2009, and by University College, Dublin in 2011. In 2014, he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Irish Book Award. He is a member of Aosdána.



Dermot Bolger's fourteen novels include *Night Shift*, *The Woman's Daughter* and *The Journey Home* that each chart a different decade of working-class Dublin life. More recent explorations of contemporary Ireland include *The Valparaiso Voyage*, *Tanglewood*, and *The Fall of Ireland*. His historical novels include *The Lonely Sea and Sky*, and two linked novels – *The Family on Paradise Pier* and *An Ark of Light*. In 2015, he published *That Which is Suddenly Precious*, a new and selected poems distilled from nine previous collections including his 2012 sequence, *The Venice Suite: A Voyage Through Loss*. He established Raven Arts Press, and New Island Books, now one of Ireland's leading publishers. He was Writer Fellow in Trinity College, Dublin, Playwright in Association with the Abbey Theatre and Writer in Residence at the National Museum of Ireland.

Harry Clifton was born in Dublin in 1952, and has travelled widely in Africa and Asia, as well as more recently in Europe. He won the Patrick Kavanagh award in 1981 and has

been the recipient of fellowships in Germany, France, the United States, and Australia. His publications include: *The Desert Route: Selected Poems 1973-88*; *Night Train through the Brenner*; *On the Spine of Italy*; *Berkeley's Telephone*; *Secular Eden: Paris Notebooks 1994-2004* which won the Irish Times Poetry Now award; and *The Winter Sleep of Captain Lemass*. He has taught in Bremen and Bordeaux universities, as well as Trinity College and University College, Dublin. He returned to Ireland in 2004 and was Ireland Professor of Poetry from 2010 - 2012.

Geraldine Mitchell is an Irish poet and writer. After a career combining teaching and journalism that took her to France, Algeria and Spain, she settled on the Mayo coast near Louisburgh where she now lives. Naming Love is Geraldine Mitchell's fifth collection of poems. Her previous collections are *Mute/Unmute* (2020), *Mountains for Breakfast* (2017), *Of Birds and Bones* (2014) and *World Without Maps* (2011), all with Arlen House. She won the Patrick Kavanagh Award in 2008 and is widely

published and anthologised. A selection of her work is currently being translated into French.

Michael O'Loughlin was born in Dublin in 1958, and is a poet, translator, critic, screenwriter and commentator. He studied at Trinity College, Dublin. His poetry collections are *Stalingrad: The Street Dictionary* (1980); *Atlantic Blues* (1982); *The Diary Of A Silence* (1985); *Another Nation* (1996); *In This Life* (2011); *Poems 1980-2015* (2017); and *Liberty Hall* (2021). A collection of translations of Gerrit Achterberg, *Hidden Weddings*, appeared in 1987. His work has been widely anthologised and translated into many languages. He has been Writer Fellow in Trinity College, Dublin, Writer in Residence in Galway City and County, and Sealines Writer in Residence in Riga, Latvia. In 2017, he was UNESCO City of Literature Writer in Residence in Prague.

Hans-Christian Oeser

Wiebke Acton



Saturday, May 3rd

HB
2025

Laoise Kelly and Diarmuid Gielty

Laoise Kelly from Westport, Co. Mayo, now living on Achill Island, is regarded as the most significant harper of her generation – Nuala O'Connor. She has pioneered a new style of driving instrumental harping showcased in her three critically acclaimed solo albums Just Harp, Ceis and Fáilte Uí Cheallaigh. She was director of the Achill International Harp Festival, encompassing her role as musical director of music Suites Sraith Oileán Acla, Mayo-Breton & Ireland Galicia collaborations. Throughout her solo career she has recorded on over 70 albums with many of Ireland's foremost artists including Seamus Heaney, The Chieftains, Christy Moore, Sharon Shannon, Dónal Lunny, Tommy Makem, Matt

Molloy, Tommy Peoples, Mary Black, Maighread & Tríona Ní Dhomhnaill, as well as Kate Bush and American country/bluegrass icon Tim O'Brien. She has performed for Irish Presidents Michael D. Higgins, Mary Robinson, Mary McAleese and for the twenty-five EU Heads of State and Presidents in Dublin. She has represented Ireland with the Irish Embassy in Nigeria, Ghana, Russia, Argentina, and is honoured to have represented Ireland at the World Harp Festival in Paraguay. In 2020, Laoise was awarded Musician of the year, TG4's Gradam Ceoil Ceoltóir na bliana.

Diarmuid Gielty began playing fiddle as one of the first students of the Scoil Acla Summer School revival in 1985. He has been long term member of the Dooagh Pipe Band and was the chairperson of Scoil Acla from 2006 until

2019. During his time away from Achill, Diarmuid played regularly with well known musicians such as Francie Mooney, Dermot Byrne, Maireád Ní Mhaonaigh, Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh and Emer Mayock. Diarmuid has performed at the Achill International Harp Festival collaboration concerts in 2016, 2017 and 2018, playing alongside world class artists including Allan McDonald, Mary MacMaster and Donald Hay (Scotland), Jean-Michel Veillon and Erwan Menguy (Brittany), Anxo Lorenzo, Xabier Diaz (Gallica) and Steve Cooney, (Ireland). Over the years Diarmuid has made numerous appearances playing music and contributing regularly on TG4, RnaG, and RTÉ radio and television.



Sunday, May 4th

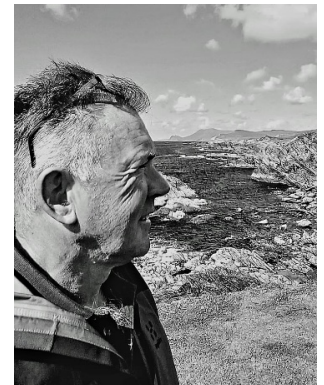
HB
2025

10:00 Guided Walk in Currane landscape to Lough Ard with Tomás McLoughlin. Includes lunch. Meet Ted Lavelle's F28 AX57 – Bus Transfer.

Terrain: Country lanes
Distance: 6km
Ascent: 200m
Duration: 3 hours
Level of Difficulty: Moderate
Minimum Gear: Sturdy walking shoes / boots, waterproofs, mobile phone, snacks and fluids

A nice walk with great views and plenty to talk about. The walk will be along bog roads. We will be taking a different routes up and down.

Tomás, a professional International Mountain Leader, has been leading groups for 35 years locally and abroad. Walks always have lots of information and stories to keep everyone entertained.



13:00 Lunch Ted Lavelle's F28 AX57

14:00 Achill Writers Group Readings Ted Lavelle's F28 AX57

Achill Writers have been coming together to share their work and support one another since the early 1990s. This network of local writers continues a tradition of shared storytelling preserved and handed down orally over the centuries. Writers of many different genres have spent time in Achill, including the novelist and

Nobel Laureate, Heinrich Böll; novelist, Graham Green; poets John F. Deane and Paul Durkan; journalist, John Healy; naturalist and writer, Robert Lloyd Praeger; among many others. The link between the Heinrich Böll Association and Achill Writers has been nurtured over the years by the inclusion in the Weekend programme of a writing workshop and readings by Achill Writers.

Music Laoise Kelly and Diarmuid Gielty

15:00 Closing of the Festival 2025

Heinrich Böll

Festival May 2nd - 4th 2025

Tickets: www.heinrichboellcottage.com

Full Weekend: €150

One Event: € 30

Walks, including lunch: €40

**Further information:
achilltourism.com**

email: hbollachill@anu.ie

Telephone: 086 2325516



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



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Mayo County Council



HOME TO MAYO



Mayo Arts
Service



GOETHE
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