

Thursday May 28th Cooney's Hotel, Ballymahon

8.00 pm Official Opening of Art Exhibition
Music Recital by The Innyside Singers

Friday May 29th Rustic Inn, Abbeyshrule

8.30 pm Chair: Dr. Chris Wheatley
Official Opening: John Murray
Keynote Address: Dr. Andrew Carpenter
*"Pallas and Paris, Lissoy and London:
The importance of Ireland to Goldsmith and his age"*
Music and Entertainment

Saturday May 30th Bog Lane Theatre, Ballymahon

11.30 am Chair: Oliver Hegarty
Mr. Desmond Egan: *"The Poetry of Oliver Goldsmith"*
12.15.p.m Dr. Brian Arkins: *"Goldsmith the Dramatist"*..
2.15.P.M. Chair John O'Donnell
Dr. Chris Wheatley *"Goldsmith's contribution to Irish and English Literature"*
3.00 pm Dr. Fergus O'Ferrall *"Oliver Goldsmith and Politics, Then and Now"*
4.00 pm Goldsmith Literary Tour
7.30 pm The Three Jolly Pigeons Ceol agus Craic

Sunday May 31st Pallas

3.30 pm Chair: Anne Tully
"Poetry Readings"
Noel Monahan - Mary Melvin Geoghegan - Desmond Egan
Results of Children's and Adult Poetry Competitions
Joe's Cheese & Wine
Readings of Winning Entries



Dr. Chris Wheatley is a Professor of English, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies at the Catholic University of America in Washington. His research interests include: 17th- and 18th-century English and Irish drama, 20th-century American and Irish drama, rhetorical concerns in literature and philosophy. He is the author and editor of a number of books and articles including the recently released, "Irish Plays of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century", co-edited with Kevin Donovan, published by Thoemmes Press.

John Murray is a regular presenter of RTE's *Morning Ireland*, and the weekly business and personal finance show, *The Business*. He is a former Deputy Government Press Secretary and Head of the Government Information Services. In 2000, he travelled to China for two years with his wife. John has previously been with the *Tallaght Echo* and the *Cork Examiner* as well as *Cork FM* local radio. He has two children, Stephen (18) and Catherine (16). His first book, *Now That's What I Call Jargon*, was published in November 2000.

Prof. Andrew Carpenter was educated at Oxford and UCD and is a former Associate Professor in the English Department at UCD and since 2006 a full Professor. A member of the Royal Irish Academy, in 2007 he was elected a Fellow of the English Association. He was founding president of the Eighteenth-Century Ireland Society and founding editor of its journal *Eighteenth-Century Ireland*. He has a long association with scholarly publishing through his *Irish Texts from the Age of Swift* and through various scholarly texts and anthologies. He has lectured in many universities across the world and has delivered papers at conferences in many countries.

Oliver Hegarty Oliver, an experienced Clinical Psychologist, works as a Management Development Consultant and Lecturer in Athlone Institute of Technology. He is an experienced facilitator and has performed the role of trainer, consultant chairperson and facilitator for a variety of professional, voluntary and community organisations during the last 20 years. He lives in Athlone, Co. Roscommon

Des Egan was born in Athlone, and now lives in Newbridge. Since 1987 he has been a full-time writer. He has published 22 Collections of Poetry; two of Prose and two translations of Greek Plays. In 1983 he received The National Poetry foundation of USA Award. He was first Poet-in-Residence at UCD. In 1997 he was conferred with a Doctorate of Letters at Washburn University, Kansas, USA. In 1998, he was appointed to The Cultural Relations Committee of the Dept. of Foreign Affairs and his *Poesie Scelte* was awarded the prestigious Bologna Literary Award.

Brian Arkins was educated at Clongowes Wood College and at University College, Dublin, where he obtained an M.A. in Classics and a Ph.D. in Latin. His research interests include Latin poetry, the Classical Tradition in the modern era, and Irish literature. Prof. Arkins was the Honorary President of the Classical Association of Ireland in 2005. His most recent publications include *Hellenising Ireland: Greek and Roman Themes in Modern Irish Literature*, 2006 and *An Interpretation of the Poetry of Propertius (c. 50-15 B.C.)* 2005.

John O'Donnell has been employed as a teacher of English in Ballymahon Vocational School since 1968. He was appointed Principal in 2002 and retired last year. A Goldsmith enthusiast, he was an active member of the Summer School Committee for many years and was Honorary Secretary for a time.

Dr. Fergus O'Ferrall is Adelaide Lecturer in Health Policy at Trinity College, Dublin. Outside of this he is a historian and has published books and articles on Daniel O'Connell and Catholic Emancipation. He is a Life Member of the Longford Historical Society and is a co-editor of a major new book entitled "LONGFORD: HISTORY AND SOCIETY" and of the forthcoming *Historic Town Atlas of Longford* to be published by the Royal Irish Academy in 2010. He has a lifelong interest in Oliver Goldsmith and was a speaker at the First Goldsmith Summer School in 1985.

Noel Monahan has won several awards for his work. In 2001 he won the prestigious SeaCat National Poetry Award, organised by Poetry Ireland and also the RTE, P.J. O'Connor Award, for his play, *Broken Cups*. In 2002 he won the ASTI Achievements Award for his contribution to literature at home and abroad. Other awards include The Alingham Poetry Award and The Kilkenny Prize for Poetry. The *Funeral Game* is Noel Monahan's fourth collection of poetry. *Opposite Walls* was published in 1991, *Snowfire* in 1995, and *Curse of The Birds* in 2001, all published by Salmon Publishing.

Mary Melvin Geoghegan is originally from Dublin but now lives in Longford with her two sons. She is a member of Longford Writers Group and her poetry has been published in *Poetry Ireland*, *Books Ireland*, *Acorn* and various other publications. Her first collection of poetry, *The Bright Unknown* was published in 2003. In facilitating creative writing courses in schools under the name "Free the Butterfly", she has made a deep contribution to fostering a love of poetry and an ability to write poetry among children and young adults. She has also edited a collection of Longford children's poetry entitled *Ride Along Dear Grandma!*