

Some Important Dates

- 1728 November 10th - Born at Pallas, Co. Longford.
- 1730 Family moved to Lissoy, Co. Westmeath.
- 1734 Attended Village School under Thomas Byrne.
- 1741 Sent to School at Edgeworthstown (Mr. Hughes's).
- 1744 Entered Trinity College, Dublin, as a sizar.
- 1749 Took Bachelor of Arts Degree.
- 1751 Rejected for orders by the Bishop of Elphin.
- 1752 Went to Edinburgh University to study medicine.
- 1754 Arrived at Leydon, in Holland, to continue his studies of medicine.
- 1755 Left Leydon and took Degree of Bachelor of Medicine at Louvain. Travelled on foot in France, Germany, Switzerland and Italy.
- 1756 Landed at Dover and settled in London.
- 1764 "The Traveller" published.
- 1766 "The Vicar of Wakefield" published.
- 1768 "The Good Natured Man" published.
- 1770 "The Deserted Village" published.
- 1773 "She Stoops to Conquer" published.
- 1774 Died April 4th and buried in the Temple.
- 1999 Memorial erected in Ballymahon.

Information

John O'Donnell, Secretary, Rathmore
Ballymahon, Co. Longford
Phone (0902)32374, (087) 2286611

Accommodation

For accommodation visitors may contact
Midland-East Tourism, Mullingar.
(Tel: (044) 48650, Fax: (044) 40413)

Committee

Chairman: Mr. Seamus McCormack
Secretary: John O'Donnell
Treasurer: Nial Nally
Teddy Mc Goey, Sean Ryan, William Dowler, Marion Canavan, Cecil English (Old Athlone Society), Dr. Patrick Kelly, Joe Farrell, Martin Murray, Chrissy Connolly, Chris Wheatley (Catholic University of America, Washington D.C.), Maria Losada Freind (University of Huelva, Spain), Fergus O'Farrell, Albert Horan, Willie Flanagan.

Goldsmith Country



Our thanks to Westmeath and Longford Co. Councils for their help and support.

Seventeenth Annual Goldsmith Summer School

Friday June 1st to Sunday June 3rd



Theme:
"Oliver Goldsmith in
London"

"...he wrote to exalt virtue and expose vice, and he accomplished his task in a manner which raises him to the highest rank among British authors"
Sir Walter Scott, 1827

We gratefully acknowledge the support of Foras
Eireann.

Programme

Friday June 1st

Rustic Inn, Abbeyshrule

8:30pm **Official Opening**

by Victor Kiernan, Chairperson,
Longford Co. Council.

MC; **Seamus McCormack**, Chair
Goldsmith Summer School Committee

9:00pm: **Professor Bill McCormack:**

Keynote address: "Goldsmith and Other Citizens of the World". (Bill McCormack is Prof. of Literary Hist. at Uni of London. Most recent publications are *Fool of the Family*; *a Life of JM Synge*, *Ferocious Humanism*; *An anthology of Irish Poetry*. He has published poetry as Hugh Maxton. Latest collection is *Gubu Roi* (Lagan Press). Also an autobiography, *Waking*. Member Aosdana. **Hugh Maxton** gives a Poetry reading in The Three Jolly Pigeons on Sunday 6:00 PM.)

Chair: **Fergus Kennedy**, Arts Officer,
Longford Co. Council.

10:30 pm: "Voices and Music Through The Ages" Light-hearted drawing-room entertainment from some friends and visitors, old and new, to the Summer School.

Saturday June 2nd

Bog Lane Theatre, Ballymahon

3:00pm: **Poetry Forum:**

Readings of original works by writers from Midlands. Launch of **Goldsmith and Midlands Writers' Group**. MC: Grace Brennan. Shannonside

Watermark: Sweet Aurburn! Loveliest village of the plain.

9:00 pm: **Paul Durcan** reads from his



poems. (Paul Durcan's first of fourteen books appeared 1967. Awards include Patrick Kavanagh Award '78 & '80, Whitbred Poetry award '90 with *Daddy Daddy*,

Most recent Publications include *Greetings to our Friends in Brazil '99* (Harvill), *A snail in My Prime*, *Give Me Your Hand*, *Crazy About Women*. "Durcan's must be the most capacious and generous mind in contemporary poetry: in the face of the rabid and murderous dark he finds always something or someone to celebrate" Theo Durgan, *Sunday Tribune*.)

Chair: **Paul Perry**, writer in residence
Longford Co. Council.

Sunday June 3rd

Goldsmith Monument, Ballymahon

1:00pm: **Tour of Goldsmith Country** will include events at Pallas and Three Jolly Pigeons. Return to Ballymahon 7:00 PM.

3:00pm: **Pallas**

Children from schools in Goldsmith Country read their poems.

Joe's Cheese and Wine - Refreshments.

4:00pm: **Poetry reading by Vona Groarke**

Vona Groarke grew up two fields away



from Goldsmith's Lissoy Parsonage. Winner of numerous Poetry Prizes including Stand International Poetry Prize 2000. Poetry publications *Shale '94*, *Other Peoples Houses '99*. In Spring 2002 *Flight* will

be published.)

MC: **Chrissy Connolly**

6.00pm: **Three Jolly Pigeons**

Poetry Reading by **Hugh Maxton**

Chair: Fergus O'Farrell

9.00pm: **Bog Lane Theatre, Ballymahon.**

Norma Clarke speaks on "Women writers in the London of Goldsmith's time" (Norma Clarke, from London, is the author of *Dr. Johnson's Women* (2001) "She shows us much about what it meant to be a female writer in the 18th Century. Literature offered intelligent women an outlet for their talents in a society in which most occupations were closed to them". (Adam Sisman)

Chair: Anne Tully

Close of Summer School

Admission: All Events- £25 or Individual events £5

Aims

- ❖ To develop a deeper insight into the writings of Oliver Goldsmith.
- ❖ To promote Goldsmith Country as a major tourist attraction.

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