

Oliver Goldsmith's Life

to the children

- 1728 Born at Pallas, near Ballymahon, Co. Longford on Nov 10th.
- 1730 Family moved to Lissoy, Co. Westmeath.
- 1734 Attended Village School under Thomas Byrne.
- 1741 Sent to School at Edgeworthstown.
- 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 Leiden, in Holland to continue studies of medicine.
- 1755 Left Leiden 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.
- 1775 "She Stoops to Conquer" published.
- 1774 Died April 4th and buried in The Temple.
- 1985 Goldsmith Summer School Founded
- 1999 Memorial erected in Ballymahon.

For further information please contact:

Anne Tully (Secretary), Edgeworthstown, Co. Longford (043) 71448

Accommodation

For accommodation visitors may contact Midlands East Tourism, Mullinagar (044) 48650

Map of Goldsmith Country



OBJECTIVES

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

GOLDSMITH SUMMER SCHOOL COMMITTEE

- Chairman:** Seamus McCormack
- Secretary:** Anne Tully
- Treasurer:** Niall Nally
- PRO:** Arthur Conlon

John O'Donnell, Albert Horan, Joe Farrell, Sean Ryan, William Dowler, Cecil English (Old Athlone Society), Teddy McGoev, Fergus Kennedy, Anne Collins, Dr. Pat Kelly, Prof. Bill McCormack, Maria Losada Friend (University of Huelva, Spain), Willie Flanagan, Chris Wheatley (Catholic University of America), Chris Connolly, Martin Murray, Marion Canavan,

Nineteenth Annual

Goldsmith Summer School

May 30th - June 1st 2003



Theme:

"The Deserted Village"

PROGRAMME

Admission to all events €5.00

*"Ill fares the land to hastening ills a prey
where wealth accumulates and men decay"*

Friday May 30th

Rustic Inn, Abbeyshrule

Chair: Seamus McCormack

8.30: pm

Official Opening of Summer School by Mr Alan Dukes
Introduced by Mr. Pat O'Rourke, President of ICMSA

9.00: pm

Keynote Address by Vona Groarke

*Postcards from The Deserted Village.
Personal Notes on the Poem, its Place and its Readers"*

Vona Groarke's first collection, *Shale* (The Gallery Press, 1994) won the Brendan Behan Memorial Award in 1995. Her second collection of poems, *Other People's Houses* was published in 1999 by The Gallery Press and was received by the Times Literary Supplement as "a remarkable collection". She has been Writer in Residence with the National University of Ireland at Galway and at Maynooth, and with Cavan County Council. Recent prizes won include the Strokestown International Poetry Competition (1999), the Stand International Poetry Competition (2000) and the Davoren Hanna Poetry Prize (2001). Her third collection, *Flight*, was published in Spring 2002, and shortlisted for the Forward Prize. She has been described as "a writer of exceptional cognitive and emotional originality."

With her husband, poet Conor O'Callaghan, she will co-hold the Heimbold Chair in Irish Studies at Villanova University, Philadelphia, January-June 2004.

Postcards from "The Deserted Village" will look at some of the ways in which what we know of Oliver Goldsmith's Lissoy experiences influenced his life, the writing of "The Deserted Village", and how readers have understood his most famous poem.

Saturday May 31st

Bog Lane Theatre, Ballymahon

Chair: John O'Donnell

8.00: pm

Chris Wheatley

"Goldsmith, Luxury and History"

Christopher J. Wheatley is a Professor of English, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies at the Catholic University of America in Washington. 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.

His talk will deal with the complexity of Goldsmith's view of luxury. As everyone knows, Goldsmith thinks luxury leads to depopulation of rural areas, but he also thinks that luxury is essential to learning and the fine arts. His talk will attempt to reconcile these two positions.

9.00: pm

Anthony Cronin

"Goldsmith - The Lucky Poet"

Born in Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. He is the author of several books of verse including the long poems *RMS Titanic*, *Reductionist Poem* and *The End of the Modern World*, as well as various other collections, of which the latest is *The Minotaur and Other Poems* (1999). A novel, *The Life of Riley*, appeared in 1964 and was succeeded by *Identity Papers* in 1979. He has also written a memoir of literary Dublin and London, *Dead as Doornails* (1976); *No Laughing Matter*, *The Life and Times of Flann O'Brien* (1989); and *Samuel Beckett, The Last Modernist* (1996). Other collections of essays, largely selections from a column he contributed to the Irish Times between 1974 and 1987, are *An Irish Eye* (1985) and *Art for the People?* (1988). He has been associate editor of *The Bell* and literary editor of *Time and Tide*; has taught at Drake University and the University of Montana; and was cultural and artistic adviser to former Taoiseach, Charles J. Haughey.

In 1985 he received the Marten Toonder Award for his contribution to Irish literature. He will be conferred with the "Toric" at a reception at the Arts Council on May 30th and has recently been elected as a "sacri" by Aosdána joining Benedict Kiely, Louis le Brocqy and Seamus Heaney.

His talk will concern the fact that Oliver Goldsmith was lucky to be able to write one supreme poetic masterpiece, "The Deserted Village" and how the circumstances of his life militated against the writing of this poem which was composed four years before his death.

Sunday June 1st

12.00: pm

Tour of Goldsmith Country finishing at Pallas

(Booking 0902 - 52474)

3.30: pm

Pallas, Abbeyshrule

Chair: Chris Connolly

Poetry Reading by children from schools in Goldsmith Country. - Joe's Cheese and Wine

Poetry Reading by Anne Tully

Anne Tully is a mother of two, married to John Sheridan and from Moneylagan, Longford. She is a teacher in Ballymahon Vocational School. She has been twice published in the "International Library of poetry Anthologies". Her poem "October Fair" was originally published in "The falling Rain", and she has won the Grand Prize in The International Open Amateur poetry competition and subsequently been published in the "Best poems and Poets of 2002".

Poetry Reading by Conor O'Callaghan

Conor O'Callaghan was born in 1968. He has published two collections with Gallery Press: *The History of Rain* (1995) and *Seatown* (1999). A selection from those books appeared in the US from Wake Forest University Press in 2000, and a further chapbook, *A History of Hello*, appeared from Phoenix Press earlier this year. A book of prose non-fiction entitled *One-One* will be published by Bloomsbury in May 2004.

*"But a bold peasantry, their country's pride
When once destroyed can never be supplied"*