

33RD ANNUAL GOLDSMITH *International Literary Festival*

OBJECTIVES

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

IMPORTANT DATES ABOUT OLIVER GOLDSMITH :

1728: Born at Pallas Ballymahon, Co. Longford.	1755: Left Leiden and took degree of Bachelor of Medicine at Louvain. Travelled on foot in France, Germany, Switzerland and Italy.
1730: Family moved to Lissoy Co Westmeath	1756: Landed at Dover and settled in London.
1734: Attended Village School under Thomas Byrne.	1764: "The Traveller" published.
1741: Sent to School at Edgeworthstown.	1766: "The Vicar of Wakefield" published.
1744: Entered Trinity College Dublin as a sizar.	1768: "The good Natured Man" published.
1749: Took Bachelor of Arts Degree.	1770: "The Deserted Village" published.
1751: Rejected for orders by the Bishop of Elphin.	1773: "She stoops to Conquer" published.
1752: Went to Edinburgh University to study medicine.	1774: Died April 4th and buried in the Temple aged 45.
1754: He arrived in Leiden, Holland to continue studies of medicine.	1999: Memorial erected in Ballymahon.
	2004: Goldsmith's Grave Rededicated.

GOLDSMITH LITERARY TOUR STOPS

Birthplace Pallas, Forgney Church, The library, Old Schoolhouse, The Busy Mill, Lissoy parsonage, Kilkenny West Church, Hawthorn Bush, The Alehouse, The Three Jolly Pigeons.

GOLDSMITH LITERARY FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Chairman: Seamus McCormack (087 6189506)

Secretary: Willie Flanagan (087 9713130)

Treasurer: Niall Nally

PRO: William Dowler

Anne Tully, Joe Farrell, Teddy McGoe, Sean Ryan, Tom Seery, Donie Keyes, Arthur Conlon.

www.olivergoldsmithfestival.com

Produced with Financial Assistance from:

FORÁS ÉIREANN



Longford County Council



Westmeath County Council



Irish Public Bodies (IPB)



Fáilte Ireland
National Tourism Development Authority

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2ND – 4TH JUNE 2017

Theme: "Goldsmith and the Irish Experience in London"

"Every Absurdity has now a champion to defend it" (preface to *The Traveller*)

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FRIDAY 2ND JUNE | The Rustic Inn, Abbeyshrule, Co. Longford. | Adm. €10

- 8.15pm** Innyside Singers Recital.
8.30pm Official Opening by Paddy Mahon, Chief Executive Officer, Longford County Council.
18.45pm **Chair:** Seamus McCormack
Speaker: Jonathan Moore – “*The Irish in London in the Time of Oliver Goldsmith and After. From Grub Street to Brexit.*”
10.00pm Musical Entertainment by The Des Smyth Trio.

SATURDAY 3RD JUNE | Goldsmith Room, Ballymahon Community Library | Adm. €10

- 11.00am** Goldsmith Literary Tour. (See over for details).
2.30pm **Chair:** Joe Flaherty
Speaker: Arthur Conlon – “*The Georgian City: A Journey through Goldsmith’s London.*”
3.00pm **Speaker:** Prof. Norma Clarke – “*Goldsmith: In His Time and Ours.*”
7.00pm The Three Jolly Pigeons
 Goldsmith B-B-Q with music by The Henshaws.

SUNDAY 4TH JUNE | Goldsmith Reading Room, Ballymahon Community Library | Adm. €10

- 12 noon** Goldsmith Miscellany
Chair: Martin Morris
Speakers: Aidan O’Hara, Jean Farrell, Luke Baxter, Claire Mc Cormack, Hugh Campbell.
 Musical Interludes by Donie Keyes and Padraig Campbell

SUNDAY 4TH JUNE 2017 | Pallas (Birthplace of Oliver Goldsmith)

- 3.30pm** **Chair:** Anne Tully
Readings: Poetry readings by the winning entrants of the Goldsmith Poetry competition.
Adjudicated by acclaimed poet Michelle O’Sullivan.
Poetry Reading by Michelle O’Sullivan.
 CHEESE & WINE SPONSORED BY JOE & CHRIS FARRELL, PALLAS.
 Music by Gerry Bohan



Paddy Mahon, Chief Executive of Longford County Council is a Galway man who grew up in Tuam in north County Galway.

Paddy holds a BE in Civil Engineering from University College Galway (now NUIG) and an MBA from Dublin City University. He has worked in both the public and private sectors and has lived and worked in England, Australia and prior to his current role, has worked for a number of Local Authorities in the west of Ireland.

Paddy started his local government career as an engineer with Mayo County Council in 1991 and over the next 17 years progressed to the role of Director of Services with Mayo County Council in 2008.

Paddy was appointed as Chief Executive with Longford County Council in July 2016.



Jonathan Moore has been a lecturer in journalism covering Irish affairs for over thirty years. For much of this period, he lectured in Irish history and politics and later journalism at what is now London

Metropolitan university. He retired from the university in 2016. He wrote for the Scotsman, Guardian, Irish Post, Irish Echo, Fortnight, BBC online, Books Ireland, Linen Hall Review and others. He broadcast for BBC TV and radio, Al Jazeera, Sky News, CNN, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, NBC, Australian Broadcasting Corporation and Channel 4.



Joe Flaherty is a native of Lanesboro and is currently managing director of Iconic Newspapers, owners of the Longford Leader and nine other leading Irish regional newspapers.

Having grown up in the shadow of Goldsmith country, he is keenly aware of the writer’s rich cultural legacy.

Married to Niamh Donlon, the couple live in Longford town with their three young children. Joe is involved in several local groups and organisations and is a passionate supporter and advocate for Longford town and county.

He sees the county’s rich literary past as a key plank in developing the region’s tourism potential and is honored to participate in this year’s Summer School.



Arthur Conlon is a teacher employed by Longford Westmeath ETB. A long standing member of the Goldsmith Festival committee, he was the Festival PRO for 10 years. He is also a past chairman of the Bog Lane Theatre. A native of Ballymahon, he is married to Brona, a former noted actress with the Cornmill Theatre. Arthur has a long standing passion for, and interest in London and hopes to share some insights into the time Goldsmith spent in the great city.



Norma Clarke is professor of English Literature and Creative Writing at Kingston University, London. Her recent book, *Brothers of the Quill: Oliver Goldsmith in Grub Street* is, among other things, a study of Goldsmith in the context of his Irish associates in London. It has been highly praised. John Mullan welcomed it in *The Guardian* as ‘a lively account of 18thC London’s literary underworld’ and ‘a book that buzzes with anecdotes’. She has written extensively on 18thC writers, with a special interest in Irish writers (*Queen of the Wits: a Life of Laetitia Pilkington*). She reviews regularly for the TLS and other leading journals, and has published 5 novels for children.



Martin Morris is a native of Drumming, Ardagh, Martin Morris is the archivist with Longford County Council and an occasional lecturer in Archival Studies in Maynooth University. He has a keen interest in local history and is PRO of County Longford Historical Society.



Michelle O’Sullivan was born in Chicago and grew up in County Sligo. She has a BA and MA from the University of Hertfordshire and worked in England as a primary teacher. She has also lived in Greece and the US. She lives in County Mayo

with her two children. The Mayo landscape – rivers, mountainsides, livelihoods was the inspiration for her stunning debut collection of poetry, *The Blue End of Stars*. This first collection received great critical acclaim and was shortlisted for the Michael Murphy Memorial Prize and won the prestigious dlr Shine/Strong Award presented at the annual Mountains to Sea Book Festival. Her subsequent collection, *The Flower and the Frozen Sea* builds on the promise of her auspicious debut and is a Poetry Book Society Recommendation. *The Flower and the Frozen Sea* was published on 1 October 2015. Both collections are published by The Gallery Press described by Colm Tobin as being one of the “two or three best poetry presses in the world”.