

34TH 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 :**

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| 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, Forney 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, Ursula McGoey, Sean Ryan, Tom Seery, Donie Keyes, Arthur Conlon, Claire McCormack.

[www.olivergoldsmithfestival.com](http://www.olivergoldsmithfestival.com)

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**Forás Éireann**



**Longford County Council**



**Westmeath County Council**

Udarás Áitiúla Éireann  
Local Authorities Ireland



**Irish Public Bodies  
(IPB)**



Clár Éire Ildánach  
Creative Ireland  
Programme  
2017-2022



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**1ST - 3RD JUNE 2018**



**Theme:**

"Where wealth and freedom reign contentment fails.

And honour sinks where commerce long prevails" The Traveller (1764)



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FRIDAY 1ST JUNE | The Rustic Inn, Abbeyshrule, Co. Longford. | Adm. €10

- 8.15pm** Innyside Singers Recital.  
**8.30pm** Official Opening by Donall Mac An Bheatha, Senior Planner, Longford County Council.  
**8.45pm** **Speaker:** Dr Fergus O'Ferrall – "A Prospect of Society": Public Happiness or Private Avarice?"  
**10.00pm** Musical Entertainment by Tony Dunne, Jim Mulkerrin and friends

SATURDAY 2ND JUNE | Goldsmith Room, Ballymahon Community Library  
Adm. €10

- 11.00am** **Chair:** Ms Claire McCormack  
**Speaker:** John Connell – "Goldsmith and Me – a Long History"  
**12.00pm** **Speaker:** Séamus Dooley – "Journalism: Not Just Business. Why a free press is worth defending"  
**01.30pm** **Chair:** Eamonn Tynan  
**Speaker:** Dr Michael Griffin – "Failures of Contentment: Goldsmith, Brexit and Trump"  
**7.00pm** Goldsmith Literary Tour. (See over for details).  
**9.00pm** The Three Jolly Pigeons  
 Traditional/Folk music and Ballad Seisiun with The Henshaws.

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

- 12 noon** Goldsmith Miscellany  
**Chair:** Brian Toolan  
**Speakers:** Kevin Flood, John Noonan, Christy Mannion, Maura Farrell, John Greene  
 Musical Interludes by Donie Keyes and Pdraig Campbell

SUNDAY 3RD JUNE 2017 | Pallas (Birthplace of Oliver Goldsmith) | Free Event

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



**Dr. Fergus O'Ferrall**, is Lay Leader of The Methodist Church in Ireland, 2016-18; he is a historian and author of a number of books including *Catholic Emancipation Daniel O'Connell and The Birth of Irish Democracy 1820-30* (Dublin, 1985), *Daniel O'Connell* (2nd Edition, 1998), *Citizenship and Public Service* (Dundalgan Press, Dundalk, 2000). He is a native of Co. Longford and he has edited with Martin Morris, *Longford History and Society* (Dublin, 2010). He has been Adelaide Lecturer in Health Policy, Trinity College, Dublin, President of The National Youth Council of Ireland and Chair of The Wheel, the coordinating body of the community and voluntary sector. He is a Governor of The Irish Times. He is a contributor to the recently published *A Dialogue Of Hope Critical Thinking For Critical Times* ed. Gerry O'Hanlon SJ, (Messenger Publications, Dublin, 2017). He contributed to the 1985 and the 2009 Goldsmith International Literary Festivals.



**Donall Mac An Bheatha**, was born and bred in Clontarf, Dublin and received his Masters Planning Degree from University College Dublin. He has worked as Senior Planner in Longford for twenty years. He was responsible for the recent erection of the Longford Literary Trail maps and signs in the County. Before that he worked in both Dublin and London. Recently returned from a 'cultural' tour of Goldsmiths haunts on Fleet Street, London. Donal found the visit both illuminating and inspiring.



**John Connell**, is an award-winning investigative journalist, author, playwright, producer and farmer. Author of the No 1 bestseller *The Cow Book*, Connell farms and writes in his native Longford. His journalism work has been published and broadcast worldwide and been the recipient of numerous international awards including 2 walkleys, and a UN media prize. He ran his own production company in Australia and produced numerous documentaries for tv and online in the human rights area, his work led to the freeing of Tamil refugees from wrongful detention by the Australian government. He is currently working on a theatre play for the Abbey and *The Cow Book* is to be the subject of an upcoming documentary.



**Séamus Dooley**, is Irish secretary of the National Union of Journalists in Ireland. A graduate of the College of commerce Rathmines, He served as a journalist with the Tullamore tribune before his appointment as Editor of the Roscommon Champion. Prior to becoming a full-time trade union official Séamus worked as a sub editor at the Irish Independent. Educated at St Mary's Boys NS and St Saran's Secondary School, Ferbane Séamus inherited a love of Goldsmith's poetry from his late father. Visits to Goldsmith country remain a favourite childhood memory. An occasional contributor to Sunday Miscellany Séamus is a committee member of the Clé club traditional music club.



**Claire Mc Cormack** is News Editor at AgriLand – Ireland's leading farming news portal. She is a native of Moyvore, Co. Westmeath. Claire – a past pupil of Mercy Secondary School, Ballymahon – is a passionate writer on agri politics at a local, national and international level. The former

Sunday Independent and Farming Independent writer is also currently embarking on a Masters in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development at UCD. She was also a previous recipient of the 'Veronica Guerin Memorial prize'.



**Michael Griffin**, is a senior lecturer in English at the University of Limerick. He is the author of *Enlightenment in Ruins: The Geographies of Oliver Goldsmith* (2013). He edited an edition of the eighteenth-century Ballymore poet (and influence on Goldsmith) Laurence Whyte in 2016. The

Letters of Oliver Goldsmith, which he co-edited with David O'Shaughnessy of Trinity College Dublin, will be published later this year by Cambridge University Press. He will be working for the next several years on a new edition of the collected works of Oliver Goldsmith, also for Cambridge University Press.



**Eamon Tynan**, is a native of Ardagh and lives in Breaney. His original home was the residence of the Murphy family, who were the agents for the Fetherston landlord family (Mistakes of a Night). Eamon was a teacher of English with County Longford V.E.C. since 1971 when he took up his first

teaching position in Ballymahon Vocational School. He moved to Longford Vocational school in 1980 as assistant principal. Eamon retired in 2009 after working as County Longford Home school Liaison Community Co-ordinator with County Longford V.E.C.



**Brian Toolan**, is a former London City Merchant Banker and now lectures in the Business Faculty at Athlone Institute of Technology. A keen amateur actor with Athlone Little Theatre, he is chairman of the RTÉ All-Ireland Drama Festival Fringe and organises an extensive programme of

art and photographic exhibitions, drama, film, poetry readings, children's performances, choral recitals, musical performances and even an arts and crafts and artisan food fair. He is originally from Galway and is married with three children.



**Gerard Smyth**, has published nine collection, including *A Song of Elsewhere* (Dedalus Press, Dublin, 2015), *The Fullness of Time: New and Selected Poems* (Dedalus Press, 2010) and *The Yellow River* (with artwork by Seán McSweeney and published by Solstice Arts Centre, 2017).

He was the 2012 recipient of the O'Shaughnessy Poetry Award and is co-editor, with Pat Boran, of *If Ever You Go: A Map of Dublin in Poetry and Song* (Dedalus Press) which was Dublin's One City One Book in 2013. He is a member of Aosdána and Poetry Editor of The Irish Times.