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*Kilkee Civic Trust*

## Summer Schedule for 2023

*Kilkee Civic Trust, (KCT), is a non-profit organisation working to enhance the quality of life in Kilkee, and its hinterland, by preserving and promoting its cultural heritage, and so making it a more attractive place to live, work and invest.*

## Talks - Arts in Focus - Music

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*KCT Summary of Events - 2022: Page Nos. 5 & 6*

*Arts in Focus: Page No. 12*

*Music: Page Nos. 7 & 8 and 24 and 37 & 38*

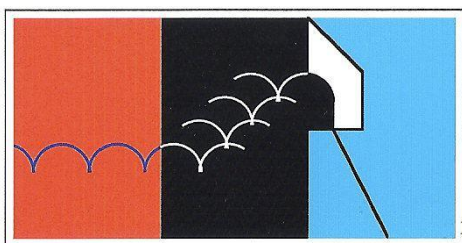
*KCT Festival News: Page No. 39*



*All of our events are recorded by Raidió Corca Baiscinn for subsequent broadcast on 92.5 & 94.8 FM streaming & later podcast on [www.rcb.ie](http://www.rcb.ie)*



*Summer Afternoon ~ Kilkee Swimmers - © William Glynn, Photographer*



*Kilkee Civic Trust*

## *Foreword*

By Chairman of Kilkee Civic Trust  
John Williams

On behalf of the members of Kilkee Civic Trust I would like to warmly welcome you to the 2023 summer programme. Once again, we present a programme of talks, music and performing arts which we hope will inspire, inform and entertain our supporters both new and old.

We have some national household names included in our talks line-up: Éanna Ní Lamhna (Irish Times), Michelle Dillon (Met Eireann), Aoibhín Garrihy (Fair City & Beo Wellness), as well as some well-known Clare and Limerick personalities, Elaine Keegan, Marc Ó Riain, Joe Coleman, Congella McGuire, Mick Carrick, Kieran Woods and Patrick Galvin.

Our music presentations start in June with the Irish Chamber Orchestra.



*John Williams*

Then, on a summer evening in late July, (performing at the Bandstand), we will feature Limerick Opera Festival – Opera for All. The month of August wouldn't be the same without the Big Band Sound, so we also invited Boherbuoy Brass & Reed Band for the Bay Swim event, and Ennis Brass Band to play at Sunday Mass and then to march from the Church, via O'Curry Street, to the Bandstand.

Our annual Arts in Focus is a delightful variety concert with additional art and craft displays, which will showcase a range of local and Ukrainian talent.

This year we bring you news of a brand-new festival event.

The festival is titled **Charlotte Brontë's Kilkee Honeymoon** and is organised for Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> September.

In 1854 renowned novelist Charlotte Brontë spent the greater part of her honeymoon in Kilkee. Her letters written to friends at the time express her love for this place. We have some excellent speakers lined up and the complete programme details will be announced shortly.

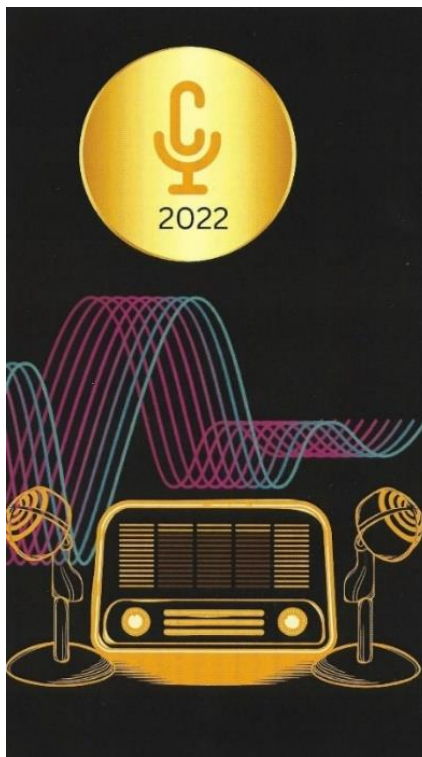
*Continued overleaf.*

In summer 2014, we formed an alliance with our local Kilkee based Community Radio Station: *South West Clare Community Radio Station LBG T/A Raidió Corca Baiscinn*. Every year since, Steven Addy, their Technical Director, has recorded all of our talks, music and Arts In Focus events. The events were later broadcast on 92.5 – 94.8 FM local waveband and streamed online at [www.rcb.ie](http://www.rcb.ie). The entire collection is available for you to listen back to as online podcasts. Steven will be busy at work, at each of our KCT events, again this summer.

*Steven Addy*



Last October; almost a decade of work and commitment was recognised by CRAOL during the National Community Radio Ireland Achievement Awards Ceremony held in Galway.



*CRAOL is otherwise known as Community Radio Ireland / Raidió Pobal na hÉireann, who are kindly supported by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland / Údrás Craolacháin na hÉireann now Cominsiún na Meán.*

As Chairman of Kilkee Civic Trust I want to take this opportunity to thank my fellow committee members for their input into the work of Kilkee Civic Trust. I especially have to thank our secretary Joseph McCloskey for the Trojan work on putting this excellent programme together. We also are very grateful to Siobhán Mulcahy, Clare County Arts Officer, for her much-appreciated support for our events.

We look forward to seeing you all over the summer days ahead.





# KCT Talks 2023 will be hosted at Cultúrlann Sweeney, O'Connell St., Kilkee V15 P960

**Free of Charge Entry to all KCT Talks & our annual Arts in Focus evening.**

All of our speakers give of their time and energy on a pro-bono basis.  
The appreciation of the audience & KCT is expressed by way of presenting each speaker  
with a Book Token, or similar, at the end of each KCT Talk.

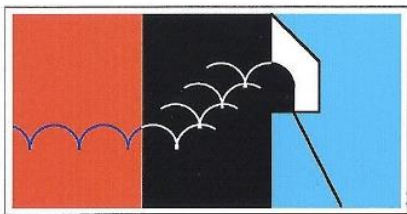
A Donations Box is provided at KCT Talks / events  
to assist us in defraying necessary expenses.

**Covid-19:** All Health & Government Guidelines will be followed at Cultúrlann Sweeney.  
Patrons are welcome to wear face masks, if they so desire.  
Hand sanitiser is located throughout the building.



*Currach Racing at Kilkee - © William Glynn, Photographer*





*Kilkee Civic Trust*

## **Programme Summer Events**

*June to September 2023*

*All events are on Wednesdays; except for those **dates highlighted in yellow.***

### **June 2023**

**Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June**

Irish Chamber Orchestra

**At 7:30 pm**

- AMERICANS & BOHEMIANS

### **July 2023**

Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> July

Patrick Galvin

- Pilotage on the Shannon, near Past, Present, and Future

**Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> July**

*Arts in Focus*

**From 6:45 pm**

- Ukrainian Arts & Crafts Display from 6:45 pm      Annual Gala Concert at 7:30 pm

Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> July

Michelle Dillon

- Forecasting Ireland's weather

Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> July

Éanna Ní Lamhna

- Going wild in Co. Clare - the birds and the bees, the flowers and the trees.

Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> July

Aoibhín Garrihy & Marc Ó Riain

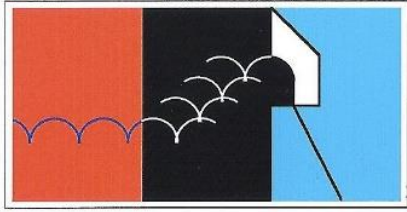
- Clare Writers – A lyrical sharing of personal poetry, prose & musings
  - Aoibhín Garrihy's book titled: *"Every Day is a Fresh Beginning"*
  - Marc Ó Riain's book titled: *"Loop Head: The Last of the Light"*

**Weekend in Late July**

- Limerick Opera Festival - Opera for All  
Performance at the Bandstand  
Date & details later



*Bandstand Kilkee - © Ruth Wood, Artist*



*Kilkee Civic Trust*

## **Programme Summer Events**

*June to September 2023*

*All events are on Wednesdays; except for those **dates highlighted in yellow.***

### **August 2023**

Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August      Joe Coleman

- House Full

Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> August      Mick Carrick

- The Rescue of the Leon XIII off Quilty in October 1907

Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> August      Kieran Woods

- The Story of Sykes House

**Heritage Week Event**

Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August      Elaine Keegan

- The Birds, Bats and Other Beautiful West Clare Wildlife

Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> August      Congella McGuire

- County Clare's Wonderful Biodiversity

#### **An August Saturday or Sunday**

- Boherbuoy Brass & Reed Band      Date & details later

#### **An August Sunday**

- Ennis Brass Band      Date & details later



*A Lawrence Collection Photograph from 1870  
Hard Times for Donkey & Owner*

### **September 2023**

**Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> September & Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> September**

- Charlotte Brontë's Kilkee Honeymoon

**Festival News!**

# Kilkee Civic Trust - Music - 2023

**Date:** Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 at 7:30 pm

© IRISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

**Americans & Bohemians**

Katherine Hunka *Director*

**Thur 22 June**  
Cultúrlann Sweeney, Kilkee, Co. Clare @ 7.30pm

IRISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

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

f t i o in

arts council  
clonmone  
ealaíon

funding  
music

**When:** Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 at 7:30 pm

**Where:** Cultúrlann Sweeney, O'Connell Street, Kilkee V15 P960

Tickets may be purchased online at: [www.clarearts.ie](http://www.clarearts.ie)

Alternatively; you may contact the Box Office at Cultúrlann Sweeney, Kilkee

- Tel: 065 906 0769
- Call in person – on Wednesdays & Fridays, 2 pm to 5 pm.

Tickets are priced at €25 each.

## ***IRISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA ON THE ROAD WITH AMERICANS & BOHEMIANS***

**Irish Chamber Orchestra (ICO)** directed by the very charismatic **Katherine Hunka** visits **Kilkee** (Clare), **Newport** (Mayo) and **Nenagh** (Tipperary) with another eclectic offering. *Americans & Bohemians* celebrates old and new music, popular tunes, and iconic works.

**Katherine** has been Leader of **ICO** since 2002 and has toured Europe, China, and Singapore to great success. Her 2020 CD of works by **Piazzolla** and **Schubert** with the **ICO** received glowing reviews. Katherine is known to engage with audiences throughout her colourful programmes.

**Jessie Montgomery** is one of America's fine young composers. **Irish Chamber Orchestra** performs her popular work *Strum* filled with rhythmic vitality which propels it from its nostalgic first moments to its ecstatic and dramatic ending.

**Samuel Barber** *Adagio for Strings* remains one of the most recognizable and best loved classical works. It was performed at Roosevelt's and John F. Kennedy's funerals and its enduring popularity saw it feature in movies such as *Platoon*, *The Elephant Man* and *Lorenzo's Oil*.

Before his collaborations with Hitchcock, **Bernard Herrmann** was already celebrated for his scores for *The War of the Worlds* and *Citizen Kane*. His *Psycho Suite* epitomizes suspense and terror. His inventive use of strings became a cliché for cinematic horror as **ICO** bring the shills and thrills to life.

From America to Eastern Europe, Bohemia was the centre of music at the turn of the century. **Dvořák's** arrestingly beautiful *Nocturne* brims with dark harmonies creating a gorgeous nocturnal postcard. **Josef Suk** was 18 when he composed his remarkable *Serenade in E Flat Major*. It brims with youthful vitality as its ever changing moods bring the *Serenade* to a climactic conclusion.

**Irish Chamber Orchestra (ICO)** is renowned for its breath-taking performances that brim with verve and originality. **ICO** pushes the boundaries of what a chamber orchestra can do whether performing at *Electric Picnic* or *Mozartfest*. Don't miss an opportunity to hear one of Ireland's cultural gems perform at **Cultúrlann Sweeney, Kilkee, St. Patrick's Church, Newport, Co. Mayo** and at the **Nenagh Arts Centre, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary** on **22, 23 and 24 June**.

The **Irish Chamber Orchestra**, funded by **The Arts Council of Ireland/An Chomhairle Ealaíon**, is resident at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at the **University of Limerick**. [www.irishchamberorchestra.com](http://www.irishchamberorchestra.com)

#### LISTING

**Irish Chamber Orchestra Katherine Hunka Director**

#### **AMERICANS & BOHEMIANS**

**Dvořák** *Nocturne in B, Op. 40*

**Jessie Montgomery** *Strum*

**Barber** *Adagio for Strings Op. 11*

**Herrmann** *Psycho Suite* for String Orchestra

**Suk** *Serenade for Strings Op. 6*

**Thursday 22 June** Cultúrlann Sweeney, Kilkee, Co. Clare @ 7.30pm

**Friday 23 June** St. Patrick's Church, Newport, Co. Mayo @ 7.30pm

**Saturday 24 June**, Nenagh Arts Centre, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary @ 8pm

Tickets €25 at all venues [www.irishchamberorchestra.com](http://www.irishchamberorchestra.com)



**Date:** Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 8pm

No. 1 of 9 Talks

**Speaker:** Patrick Galvin

**Talk Title:** Pilotage on the Shannon, near Past, Present, and Future

**Talk Description:**

As an island nation, we rely on our ports to facilitate 95% of all imports and exports.

Ensuring the safe and efficient movement of ships in and out of our ports is the job of our Maritime Pilots.

Patrick's talk will be broken into three sections: the near past, the present, and the future possibilities.



*Patrick Galvin*



In the near past, he will be looking at developing critical infrastructures on the Shannon, like Moneypoint and Tarbert power stations and the challenges they posed to the Maritime Pilots who were on the Shannon at the time.

A River Pilot himself; Patrick will expand on the career path to becoming a Pilot, and explain why a Maritime Pilot is necessary and regarded as one of the most critical risk mitigation measures to ensure the safe movement of ships in and out of our ports. Not only will Patrick Galvin tell us all about the ships in Irish Waters, he will also speak about the various types of cargo that our local ports import and export.

Then, he will look at the possibilities of what lies ahead, from potential developments on the Shannon Estuary, to how shipping may evolve and explore the potential to see autonomous shipping on the Shannon anytime soon.





**About the Speaker:**

Born and raised on the banks of the Shannon Estuary, in a village called Cappa, just outside the town of Kilrush in Co. Clare.

Patrick Galvin is a Class 1 licensed Pilot on the Shannon Estuary.



His seagoing career started in 1992 with Arklow Shipping.

In 1998 Patrick attended Cork Regional Technical College and attained his 2<sup>nd</sup> Officers Certificate.

Later, he completed Mate/Masters and Masters Unlimited certificates in South Tyneside College (United Kingdom) in 2002 and 2006.

While at sea, he worked for Arklow Shipping, P&O Ferries, and Stena Line, working in various roles on board up to the rank of Master.



Patrick Galvin became a Pilot on the Shannon Estuary in 2009.

In 2017 he was elected to the position of Chairman of the Association of Marine Pilots of Ireland; in 2021, he was elected Vice President of the European Maritime Pilots Association.

A proud Clare Man – Patrick Galvin is the first Irish Vice President of the European Maritime Pilots Association.

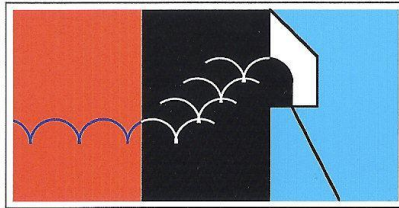


*Picture:  
Kilkee Cliff Walk  
In May, with Sea Pinks in bloom*



*Picture: Kilkee's Road Train*

# Arts in Focus



*Kilkee Civic Trust*

## Annual Gala Concert

Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> July at Cultúrlann Sweeney, Kilkee

Arts & Crafts Display from 6:45 pm

Gala Concert at 7:30 pm

An Evening of Music, Song, Dance & Poetry

*Featuring a display of Ukrainian Arts & Crafts*



A Celebration of all Artistic Talent

Arts in Focus organisers are Fionnuala Murnane & Daithí O'Connell  
Programme Details will be announced shortly

*All donations & funds raised will benefit: Raidió Corca Baiscinn*

A special "Thank You"  
to all our Arts in Focus participants  
You make this night possible every year!





**Date:** Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 8pm

No. 2 of 9 Talks

**Speaker:** Michelle Dillon

**Talk Title:** Forecasting Ireland's weather

**Talk Description:**

Michelle will give an insight into the world of weather forecasting at Met Éireann, giving an overview of some of Met Éireann's forecast products and services.



Met Éireann is the authoritative voice on meteorology in Ireland, its forecasts and warnings feeding into decisions that need to be taken by key stakeholders such as airport authorities, county councils and in extreme weather, the National Emergency Coordination Group.





Michelle will give an anecdotal account of some extreme weather events that she's been on duty for. She has seen many advances in the science of forecasting over the past two decades and in the communication of forecasts and warnings to the general public and to the relevant stakeholders, which ultimately helps society to protect life and property.



*Michelle Dillon, meteorologist Met Éireann, speaks to Superintendent, Liam Geraghty after a briefing by the National Emergency Co-ordination Group in Kildare Street, Dublin. Photo: Damien Eagers*



**About the Speaker:**

A native of Tullycrine, near Kilrush, in west Clare, Michelle joined Met Éireann in 2005. Then following the completion of a master's degree in Meteorology in UCD, she took up a meteorologist forecasting position in the Aviation Services Division at Shannon Airport, Co. Clare. She has expanded her role down through the years to include general forecasting as well as aviation forecasting, and has been a TV broadcast meteorologist on RTÉ since 2016.



She loves the variety of her role, relaying the all-important weather forecast information to the general public and to aviation stakeholders and getting to work and live in both Dublin and Clare.



*Diamond Rocks, Kilkee ~ © William Glynn, Photographer*

**Date:** Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 8pm

No. 3 of 9 Talks

**Speaker:** Éanna Ní Lamhna

**Talk Title:**

Going wild in Co. Clare - the birds and the bees, the flowers and the trees.

**Talk Description:**

Éanna will give us a whirlwind tour in her own inimitable way of the fascinating wildlife of Co. Clare.

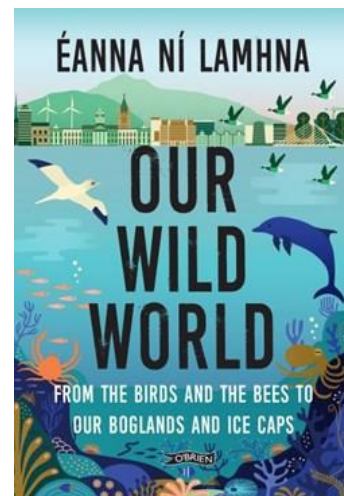
She will tell us about the original native Scots pines that still exist in the Burren as well as the butterflies there that occur nowhere else in Ireland.

The seabird colonies on the coast in high summer as well as the wildlife rich turloughs will be described and you will make the acquaintance of the fairy shrimp and the legless lizard.



The unique situation leading to both Arctic Alpine and Mediterranean plants living side by side on the Burren will also be described.

You are in for a treat.

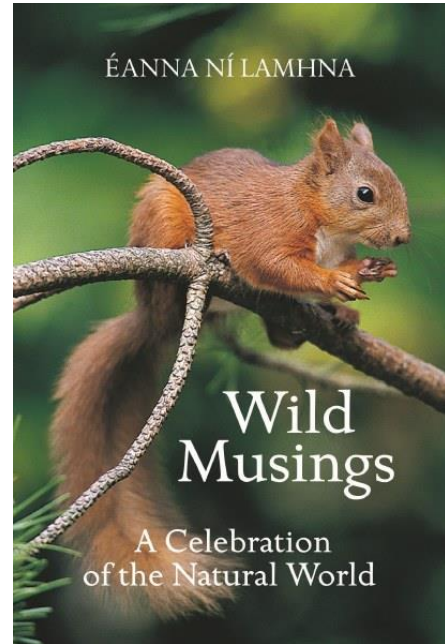




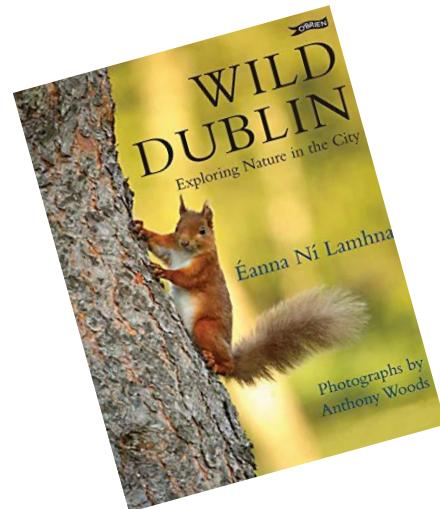
**About the Speaker:**

Éanna Ní Lamhna holds science degrees from UCD. Her thesis on the ecology of sand dunes and salt-marshes was published in the Journal of Life Sciences.

She set up the Irish Biological Records Centre in 1974 and is responsible for the original distribution maps of mammal and insects. She lectured post graduates on sustainability for 20 years in TU Dublin.



Her publications include a series of five studies on Irish Air Quality, eight books including Wild Dublin and her most recent – Wild Musings.



Éanna was President of An Taisce from 2004 – 2009 and was until recently President of the Tree Council of Ireland.



**TREE COUNCIL OF IRELAND**  
Comhairle Crann na hÉireann

Éanna is a Judge of Environmental Initiatives undertaken by local groups on a county level such as Pride of Place.

A highly respected radio and television broadcaster on environmental issues; she has been an expert on the RTÉ *Mooney Goes Wild* radio programme since it began in 1995 and indeed is still the only female voice.

Alongside Derek Mooney, (Presenter), she is joined on the panel by colleagues Terry Flanagan, (Science & Wildlife Reporter), Niall Hatch, (BirdWatch Ireland) and Dr. Richard Collins, (Ornithologist).



She also appears regularly on Virgin Media's *The Six O'Clock Show* with an environmental and wildlife slot.

Included in "Ireland's influential 100" list in 2012; she is a much sought-after speaker and lecturer and is a fluent Irish speaker.



*Strand Races in 2009 - © William Glynn, Photographer*



**Date:** Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 8pm

No. 4 of 9 Talks

**Speakers:** Aoibhín Garrihy & Marc Ó Riain

**Talk Title:**

Clare Writers – A lyrical sharing of personal poetry, prose & musings



**Talk Description:**

In what promises to be a lyrical event, Marc Ó’Riain (*The Last of the Light*) and Aoibhín Garrihy (*Every Day is a Fresh Beginning*) will share poetry and stories about landscape and memory and friendship.

From the sights and sounds and personal histories of the Loop Head Peninsula to poetry that navigates modern life with grace and empathy, these two writers have explored what it is to live today.

Aoibhín has edited a collection of poetry designed to offer moments of reflection in a busy world and Marc’s book is a testament to the power of family and loss, presented in an intriguing mix of poetry, prose and photographs.



**Date:** Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 8pm

No. 4 of 9 Talks

**Speaker:** Aoibhín Garrihy

**Individual Talk Title:**

Every Day is a Fresh Beginning

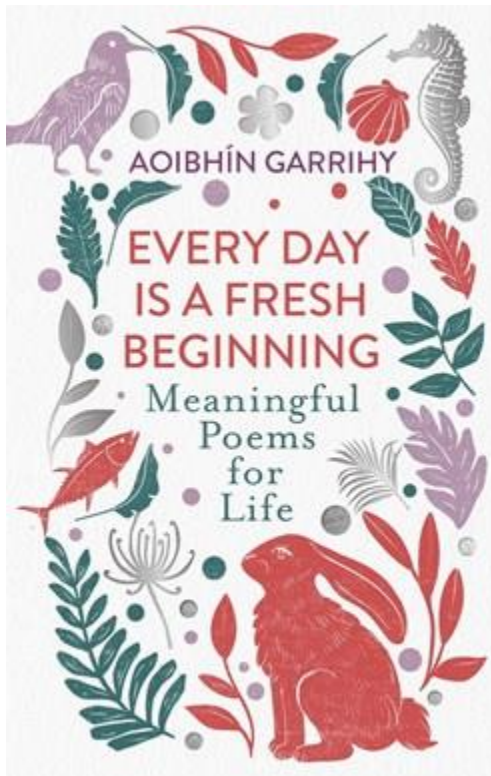
**Talk Description:**

*"Every Day is a Fresh Beginning: Meaningful Poems for Life"* is a stunning collection of poetry chosen by Aoibhín Garrihy to uplift and inspire, delight and comfort. These powerful verses will guide you through the stresses of modern life, touching on themes such as friendship, love, home, parenting, and grief.

With lines of classic and contemporary wisdom taken from a wide range of poets including Emily Bronte, W. B. Yeats, Seamus Heaney, Anne Casey and Jan Brierly, this anthology will bring joy to every reader.



Aoibhín will read selected poems and provide her own musings and reflections on both the personal and societal meanings for our times.



**About the Speaker:**

Aoibhín Garrihy is an accomplished actress and a household name in Ireland. Her role as Neasa Dillon in RTÉ's television series Fair City brought her public acclaim and recognition.



Her acting credits include *LOVE/HATE*, *Mattie* and *The Fall*. In 2017, she was a contestant in the first series of RTÉ's *Dancing with the Stars*. Not only is Aoibhín an accomplished actress; 2018 saw her as a guest chef on TV3 / Virgin Media's *The Restaurant*.



Widely regarded as popular, and a good friend; Aoibhín Garrihy is considered a fashion icon who has also proven herself a successful business woman.

In 2017, she founded BEO Wellness with business partner Sharon Connellan.

BEO, the Irish translation for life, living - simply to be alive and well, is all about unapologetic relaxation, quality rest and contemporary luxury in the home.



Nowadays; BEO is a nationally renowned lifestyle brand which blends live events promoting self-care with their product line which offers thoughtfully curated collections from sustainable and ethical sources in the West of Ireland.

Their product range was very much inspired by the landscape around them in Co. Clare.

Aoibhín Garrihy lives in Co. Clare with husband, John Burke, and their three children.



**Date:** Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 8pm

No. 4 of 9 Talks

**Speaker:** Marc Ó Riain

**Individual Talk Title:**

Loop Head: The Last of the Light

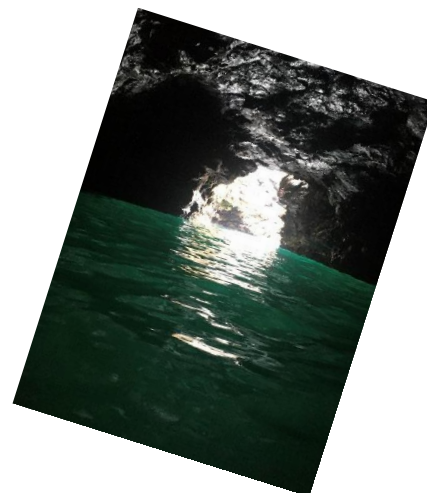
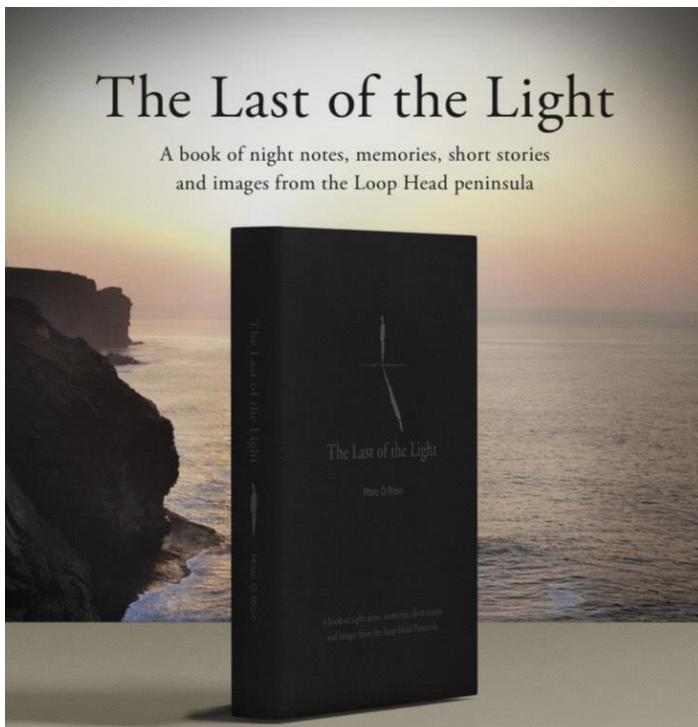
**Talk Description:**

"The author will be reading from his book, *The Last of the Light*: a book of night notes, memories, short stories and images from the Loop Head peninsula.



A layered text covering themes of place, brotherhood, memory, meaning and authenticity, wilderness and silence; all accompanied by evocative imagery from the peninsula.

It will be followed by an open discussion on the themes in a Q&A session.

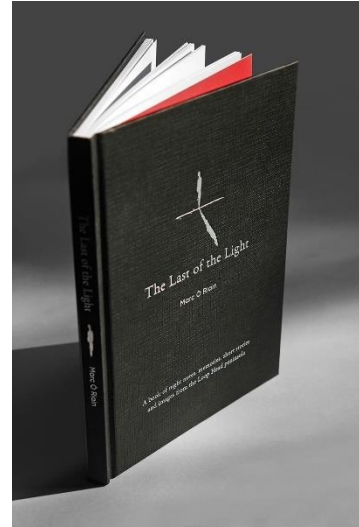


*Sea Cave at Cloghansavaun*



**About the Speaker:**

Marc Ó Riain is a Kilkee-born author. His recent book, ***The Last of the Light***, published under his own imprint, Bairneach Publications, (a nod to knowing Kilkee-ites), has garnered much attention locally and nationally, featuring on RTÉ's premier arts programme *Arena*, and, hailed as 'moving and beautiful' by the late Irish Times columnist, Michael Viney.



His work has been published in the *Sunday Tribune*, *Southword*, *The Galway Review*, and the anthology *Abandoned Darlings*, with his fiction being shortlisted for the prestigious Hennessy New Irish Writing Award and his poetry for the Gregory O'Donoghue International Poetry Prize.

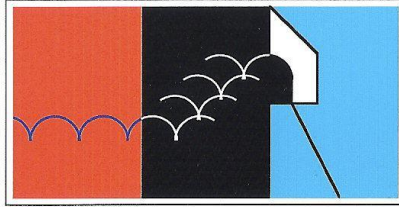
Marc holds an MA in Writing from NUI Galway and is a part-time creative writing tutor.

Marc Ó Riain posts, occasionally, as: *An Idler on the Loop*.



# *Limerick Opera Festival*

*Opera for All*



*Kilkee Civic Trust*

## *A summer's evening of Opera*

Featuring Ms. Jean Wallace, Soprano  
Kilkee Bandstand



*Bandstand Kilkee - © Ruth Wood, Artist*

Organised with the generous cooperation of  
Mr. Ger Reidy, Chair of Limerick Opera Festival and his team.

On a nice summer's evening in late July  
A soloist or two & an accompanist  
Performing Operatic Arias  
(Date & details later)

*Please bring your own rugs, low back seating and your picnic*



**Date:** Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2023 at 8pm

No. 5 of 9 Talks

**Speaker:** Joe Coleman

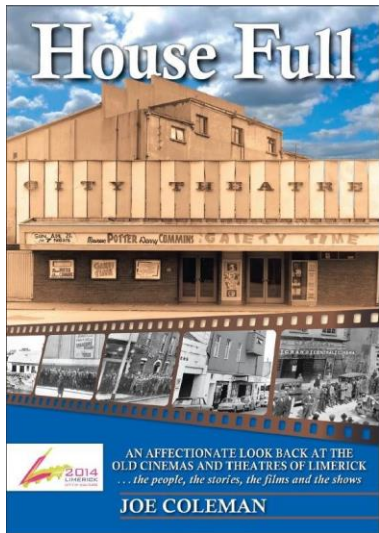
**Talk Title:** House Full

**Talk Description:**

"GOING TO THE PICTURES - IN TIMES GONE BY"  
*An affectionate look back at the old Cinemas and Theatres of Limerick and its Environs - The People, The Stories, The Films and The Shows.....*

This comprehensive and fully illustrated lecture looks back at a different time when going to the cinema was such a special treat.

The lecture is inspired by Joe Coleman's book "House Full" which was specially written and independently published for Limerick's National City of Culture in 2014. We meet the characters and well-turned-out members of staff that brought the venues to life.



On this journey we take a look at The Savoy, The Grand Central, The Carlton, The Royal, The Lyric, The City Theatre, The Tivoli, The Thomond, The Astor and a whole lot more.

We hear about the double features and the continuous shows, when we often

stayed in the auditorium to see the whole programme again for the same price.

We learn about the unruly behaviour of some of the patrons of simpler times, the queue jumping and the ducking in without paying and the courting in the back rows of the stalls and balcony.



We also learn about the huge influence of the Catholic Church right up to the post war period. The 27week long Limerick Cinema Strike that went on from October 1951 to May 1952 in which 120 workers were affected and suffered significant hardship over the period.

The Savoy which was one of the finest cinemas in Europe, with its magnificent Art Deco design and its beautiful decoration throughout.



Its 1500 seats were filled to capacity every Sunday night throughout the year - no matter what films were being shown, as tickets had to be booked in advance each week and almost always by the same patrons who considered the seats as their own. It was a great era with simpler times that will never be repeated.

### About the Speaker:

Joe Coleman comes from Thomondgate on the North Side of Limerick City, and is a second generation 'Soda Cake'.

Joe moved to Meelick, Co. Clare in 1986 where he lives with his wife Adalean.

He is a former cinema worker from his youthful days back in the 1970's when he worked in the old Savoy on Bedford Row in its final years as Limerick's best loved cinema then under the ownership of the great British Milling Company "The Rank Organisation".

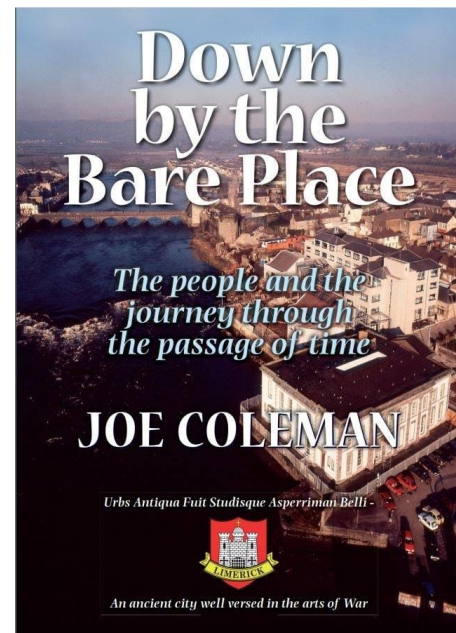




Joe has spent over 39 years in public transport with CIE/Bus Éireann until his retirement in 2017. He has two great passions in life; cinema and Irish railways, both subjects which he has featured in different lectures around the Limerick area in recent years.



He has written and independently published four books: "House Full" (2014), "Falling Gradient" (2016), "The Breaking Rapids" (2018) and "Down By The Bare Place" (2021). With the exception of the latter the other three are no longer in print.



Continuing Professional Development is important to Joe who has completed a wide range of courses in different principles. He also has the 'gift of the gab' and is a Distinguished Toastmaster with Thomond Toastmasters Club in Limerick. Joe is also a Failte Ireland Approved National Tourist Guide.

Nowadays; Joe Coleman broadcasts a weekly show LIVE and Online titled: "Movies & Melodies".

It is on every Tuesday from 1 to 2 p.m. on Limerick City Community Radio and available to stream Online at: [www.lccr.ie](http://www.lccr.ie)





**Date:** Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at 8pm

No. 6 of 9 Talks

**Speaker:** Mick Carrick

**Talk Title:**  
The Rescue of the Leon XIII  
off Quilty in October 1907

**Talk Description:**

On September 26<sup>th</sup> 1907 the Leon XIII, a three-mast sailing vessel reached Cobh (Queenstown) after a voyage of 165 days from Portland, Oregon, U.S.A.

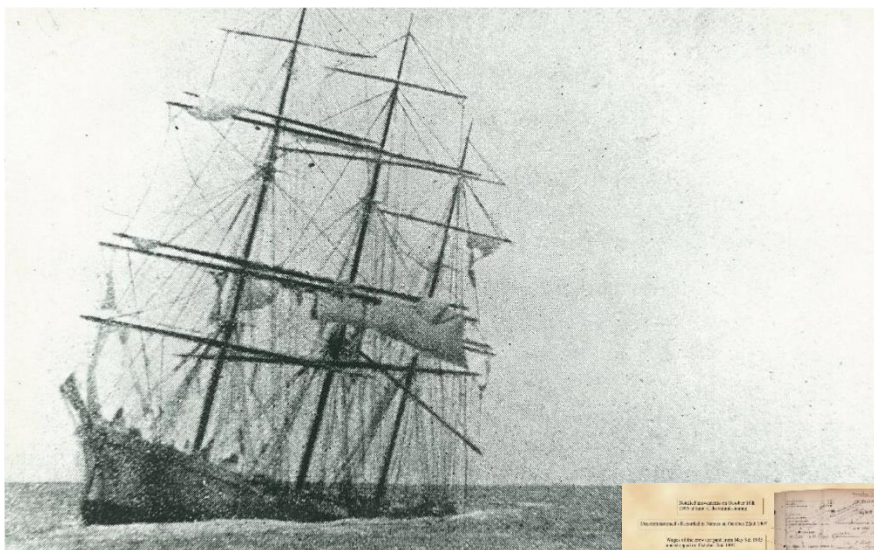
The Ship's Captain was given orders to proceed to Limerick and deliver the wheat to Bannatyne Mill.

The ship, which was built in Nantes in 1902, had a crew of 22 on board.

A violent storm damaged her rudder off Loop Head. She was blown northward by the force of the storm. The ship was sighted off Quilty on October 1<sup>st</sup>.



*Splice the main brace*



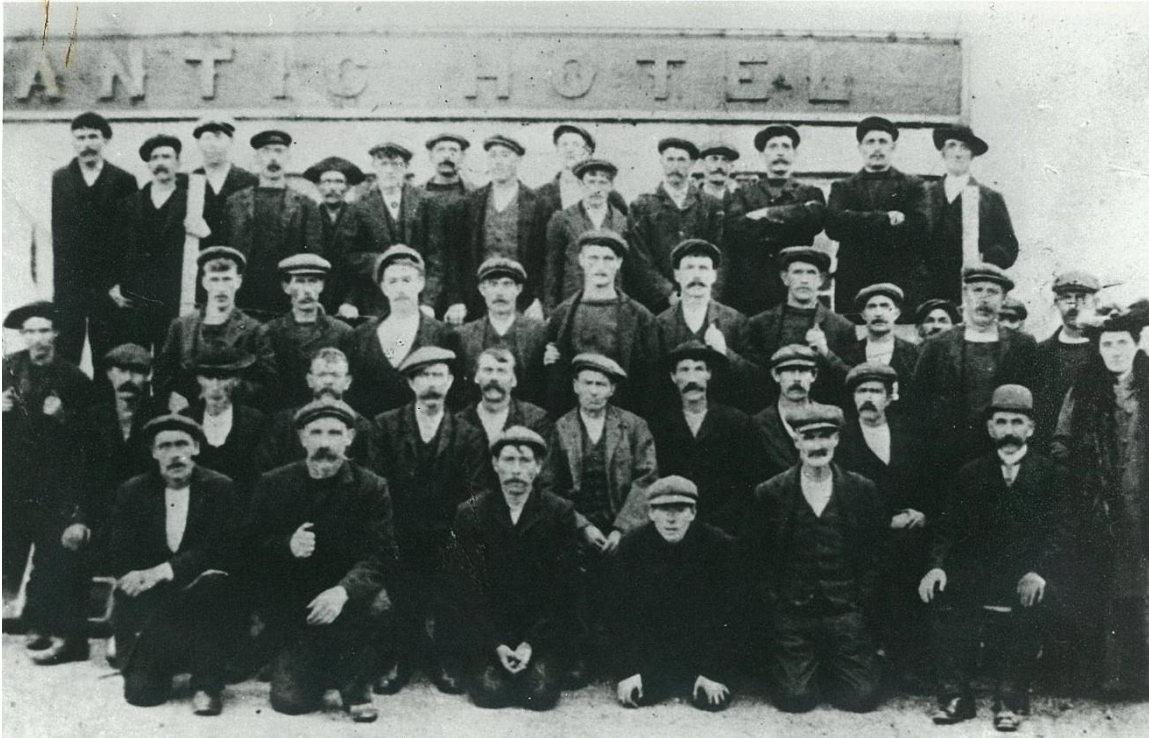
The Leon XIII struck the large reefs off Quilty and was split in two.

This talk will describe the brave and heroic rescue and its aftermath.

**About the Speaker:**

Mick Carrick was Principal of Quilty N.S. during the Anniversary of the rescue in 2007.





*The Rescuers pictured outside the Atlantic Hotel, Spanish Point*

**Front row:**

Seanie Kenny, Martin Murrihy (Galway) James Connors (Jamesie Sally, brother of Dooxy), Thomas Boyle (The Pilot), Michael Power, Patrick Talty (Publican)

**Second Row:**

Thomas King (Robbie), Michael Moloney, Thomas Boyle, John Scully (Jack), Thomas Clancy, Michael Dowd, Denis Kelly (Donacha), Patrick O'Connor (An Conchbir), Michael Stack, Patrick Connors (Padda)

**Third Row:**

John Kelleher (Johnny), Peter Boyle, Austin Boyle, Michael McNerney (Mick), Patk. Cunneen, Patk. Kelleher, Patrick Ryan (The Point), Martin McNerney, John Kenny (Johnny), Mickael Connors (Dooxy), Jas. King, Mrs. Patk. Talty.

**Top Row:**

John McNerney (Fodeen), John Connors (Johna), Patrick Keane (Bloora's brother), Michael Kenny, John King (Johnny), Patrick Kelly (Deny's son), Patrick Boyle, Patrick Boyle (Bartley), Jack Cunneen (Mgt. Egan's husband), Thos. Clancy (Tommy), James Falsey, Martin Moloney (Bgt. Corney's husband), Martin Boyle, Thomas Stack, Patrick Boyle.

*The bell from the Léon XIII  
is now in the Stella Maris Church  
in Quilty, Co Clare,  
to commemorate the rescue.*







*Michael McInerney and Michael Moloney two of the rescuers*

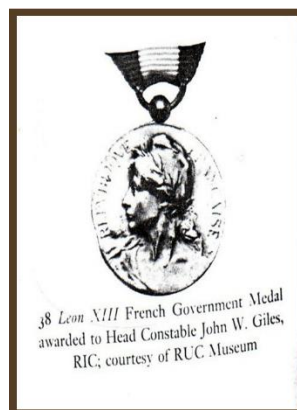
Michael McInerney recalls the stricken ship on that morning.  
One feature remains fixed in his mind, the sails.

*"She was all white sails. I remember it well.  
The coastguards brought their boat down and launched it, it was hardly out when it was  
upside down. So, the fishermen, manned their canoes and went out.  
Fr. Scanlan, the local curate blessed a sheaf of straw and said  
**"Ye will come home safely"**  
and they did."*



*Left: The door of the Captain's Quarters.*

*Below: A Medal awarded to a Head Constable John W. Giles, RIC, Leon XIII*



*Above: Ship's Bucket from the Leon XIII*



**Date:** Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at 8pm

No. 7 of 9 Talks

**Heritage Week Event**

**Speaker:** Kieran Woods

**Talk Title:** The Story of Sykes House

**Talk Description:**

The history and development of Kilkee is inextricably linked with Limerick and the many families from there who either owned or regularly rented properties in the town since the 1830s.

Sykes House is no exception to this general phenomenon.



*Kieran Woods*



This talk will trace the history of the house from its construction in the 1840s to the present day with the predominant focus being on the families who have owned it.



**About the Speaker:**

Kieran was born and spent his childhood in Kilkee before his family moved to live in Mayo and subsequently Dublin. He returns to spend time in Kilkee every year and in 2011 on the death of his aunt, Irene Doherty, became co-owner with his brother of Sykes House.

His retirement in recent years has facilitated his keen interest in history (both local and otherwise) and genealogy.

He is a Clinical Psychologist by profession and worked for most of his career in County Donegal where he was head of the H.S.E. Psychology Service.



*Wreck of the Edmond 1850  
Source the 1850 Illustrated London News  
Courtesy of Hathi Trust Digital Library*

*Modern Day Memorial - Edmond 1850  
On Sea Wall – opposite Sykes House*





Date: Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 at 8pm

No. 8 of 9 Talks

**Speaker:** Elaine Keegan

**Talk Title:**

The Birds, Bats and Other Beautiful  
West Clare Wildlife

**Talk Description:**

Join Elaine Keegan of the National Parks  
& Wildlife Service on a tour of West  
Clare's beautiful wildlife.



© Mike Brown, Photographer

This talk will focus on the important local sites for wildlife and the special plants and animals living in West Clare. Places such as Kilkee and Loop Head cliffs with their nesting birds and flower rich cliff tops. The wonderful wet and boggy life in Tullagher bog. The migratory wintering birds and muddy saltmarshes in the Shannon estuary.



The talk will look at the fascinating life of mysterious bats and other elusive mammals. As well as the

important habitats for them. This will be an illustrated talk with many photographs of the wonderful wildlife of West Clare.



© Mike Brown, Photographer



And there will be a chance at the end for you to come and meet some furry & feathered friends!





**About the Speaker:**

Elaine Keegan is the local West Clare Wildlife Ranger with National Parks & Wildlife Service.

She has been working with wildlife and biodiversity for more than 20 years.

Elaine is passionate about wildlife and is also involved in the West Clare Wildlife Club committee.

The National Parks & Wildlife Service are the government authority protecting wildlife.

The three key roles of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) are:



Secondly; to manage the Irish State's nature conservation responsibilities under national and European law and international commitments.

Firstly; to secure the conservation of a representative range of ecosystems (habitats) and to maintain and enhance populations of flora and fauna in Ireland.



© Mike Brown, Photographer

Thirdly; to promote awareness of natural heritage and biodiversity issues through education, outreach, engaging with stakeholders and to manage our National Parks and Nature Reserves.



*Seats at West End, Kilkee*



*RESCUE 115 ~ in the Sky over Kilkee*

**Date:** Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at 8pm

No. 9 of 9 Talks

**Speakers:** Congella McGuire

**Talk Title:**

County Clare's Wonderful Biodiversity

**Talk Description:**

County Clare is set apart by the Burren, the Atlantic coastline, the Shannon Estuary and Lough Derg including our inland waterways, all rich in wildlife and their habitats.

These places have evolved over time through the interaction of man with the landscape.

Significant challenges to biodiversity are posed by a general lack of awareness; inappropriate development; lack of habitat management; climate change and invasive species.



We are now facing extinctions of wildlife on a massive scale including extinction of species in Ireland.



This talk will discuss some of these very special places and their wildlife in Clare, the threats posed and resources available to protect them as

well as recent plans and policy and the results of surveys undertaken in the county.





**About the Speaker:**

Congella McGuire is from County Clare and has worked as the Clare County Council Heritage Officer for more than 20 years.

The role involves working with communities to undertake surveys, promotion, awareness raising and the conservation of the natural, built and cultural heritage of the County.



Projects are managed on a broad range of issues such as Public Realm planning, education initiatives and sustainable tourism while employing for example Nature Based Solutions and Green Infrastructure planning.

Congella previously worked as a Conservation Wildlife Ranger with National Parks & Wildlife Service and worked with BirdWatch Ireland as a Corncrake field worker in the midlands. Congella has a passion for birdlife and for bird conservation and has a wide working experience in nature conservation for over 30 years.



At present; Congella is on a year's sabbatical from work with Clare County Council.



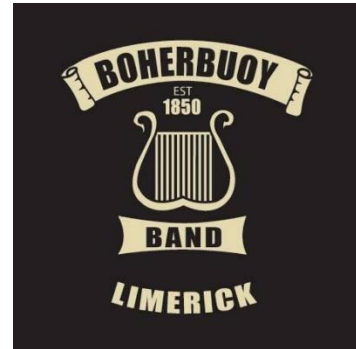


# Kilkee Civic Trust - Music - 2023

**Date:** On a weekend during July or August  
Exact Dates - To Be Confirmed - later

## **Boherbuoy Brass & Reed Band**

Kilkee Bay Swim & Kilkee Civic Trust  
have joined forces to invite  
*Boherbuoy Brass & Reed Band*  
to enhance the annual Bay Swim.



## **Event Details:**

Saturday or Sunday – To Be Confirmed / Bay Swim Day



- Performances at Kilkee Bandstand to coincide with the timing of the Small Bay & Big Bay Swims.
- Exact Band performance “day & times” will be posted nearer the event as they are entirely tide and weather dependant.



*Boherbuoy Brass & Reed Band at Kilkee Bandstand ~ Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> August 2017*

# Kilkee Civic Trust - Music - 2023

**Date:** On a Sunday in late August

Exact Date - To Be Confirmed - later

## Ennis Brass Band

Kilkee Chamber of Commerce & Kilkee Civic Trust  
have joined forces to invite  
*"Ennis Brass Band"*  
to perform at Kilkee.



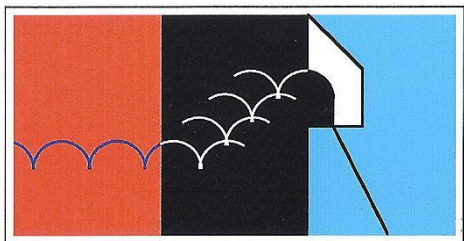
## Event Details:

- Venue: Kilkee Church & Bandstand
- The Band will participate by joining the Church Choir and playing during the 11am Sunday Mass at St. Senan's Church.
- Then; from Kilkee Church, (after 11am Mass), the Band will Play & March, via O'Curry St. to the Bandstand where the music will continue.
- As always; Kilkee Chamber of Commerce & Kilkee Civic Trust wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of our Parish Priest Fr. Gerry Kenny, and the Church Choir, with this annual event.



*Ennis Brass Band  
Marching down O'Curry St., Kilkee  
and performing at Kilkee Bandstand*





*Kilkee Civic Trust*

*Diary Date!*

*Festival September 2023*

## *Charlotte Brontë's Kilkee Honeymoon*

*Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> September & Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> September*

*Cultúrlann Sweeney, O'Connell Street, Kilkee V15 P960*

*Programme Details will be announced shortly*

