

| | The Wren's Nest | The Owlery | The Rookery | Step House | Granary |
|--------------|---|--|---|--|---|
| FRIDAY | | | | | |
| 2.15 - 3.15 | DOUBLE TROUBLE: Margaret Atwood (<i>Old Babes in the Wood</i>) and Deborah Levy (<i>August Blue</i>) on living through uncertainty, writing between darkness and light. Introduced by Fintan O'Toole | THE HOLY LAND IN ANTIQUITY: Historian Tom Holland (<i>In the Shadow of the Sword</i>) on the ancient roots of the current mess in Israel and Palestine, explaining the present crisis in the context of the deep past. | THINGS FELL APART: In Jon Ronson's award-winning podcast, he uncovers intriguing, wholly unexpected stories. 'Nothing is more interesting than the complicated truth.' | | |
| 3.45- 4.45 | THE MEMORY GAME: Filmmaker and writer Neil Jordan's first memoir (<i>Amnesiac</i>) has just been released. His long-time collaborator and producer Stephen Wooley will share their experiences of working together. | LET'S TALK ABOUT RACISM: In their books, journalists Emma Dabiri (<i>Disobedient Bodies</i>) and Afua Hirsch (<i>Decolonising My Body</i>) explore ritual and beauty, race and identity, and reconnecting with their heritage. | A SUMMONING: Sinead Gleeson (<i>Hagstone</i>) discusses her eerie first novel which finds an artist on a secluded island challenged and transformed by a mysterious commune of women. In conversation with journalist Patrick Freyne. | | |
| 5.00 - 5.55 | HOW I LISTEN: Elizabeth Strout (<i>Lucy by the Sea; Olive Kitteridge</i>) talks to Minnie Driver (<i>Managing Expectations</i>) about writing and 'finding out what it feels like to be another person.' | LIVING TREASURES: Katherine Rundell (<i>The Golden Mole</i>) with (<i>Cacophony of Bone</i>) on the healing nature of the natural world. | SEAMUS HEANEY: A LIFE IN LETTERS: Catherine Heaney introduces Christopher Reid, editor of <i>The Letters of Seamus Heaney</i> , and actor Ciarán Hinds, who will read from the collection. | NORTHERN LIGHT: Martin Doyle (<i>Dirty Linen: The Troubles in My Home Place</i>) talks to Máiría Cahill (<i>Rough Beast</i>) about the lasting toll of violence in a single rural parish in Co Down. | |
| 6.10 - 7.05 | ON EARTH WE'RE BRIEFLY GORGEOUS: Vietnamese American writer, professor and photographer, Ocean Vuong (<i>Time is a Mother</i>), talks to literary journalist Alex Clark. | REINVENTING DICTATORSHIP FOR THE INFORMATION AGE: Kai Strittmatter, author of <i>We Have Been Harmonised: Life in China's Surveillance State</i> and Isabel Hilton, founder of China Dialogue, discuss the regime of Xi Jinping and its implications for the world's democracies. | THE RESTORATION OF NATURE: Conservationists Charlie Burrell and Isabella Tree (<i>Wilding</i>) talk about their work at the Knepp Estate in West Sussex that has put wilding on the agenda. With Catherine Cleary, co-founder of Pocket Forests. | GENRE-DEFYING WORK: Artist and stage designer Es Devlin's work ranges from operas, plays, stadium concerts for acts such as Beyonce and U2, and Olympic opening ceremonies. And there are her choral sculptures at Tate Modern and V&A. She talks to Emma Dabiri. | |
| 7.25 - 8.20 | REPORTING FROM THE FRONTLINE: BBC journalists Orla Guerin, Lyse Doucet and Fergal Keane come straight from the Middle East and talk about restricted access, misinformation, personal safety and operating within a complicated media environment. <i>[NB this talk is particularly subject to change or cancellation]</i> | LOVE KNOTS: Winner of the 2024 Writer's Prize for Fiction, Anne Enright (<i>The Wren, The Wren</i>), talks to <i>Irish Times</i> Books Editor Martin Doyle about family mythologies, generational conflict and the ties that bind. | DON'T ASK ME, I'M JUST THE BASS PLAYER: U2 co-founder Adam Clayton talks to documentary film-maker Nick Broomfield. | CELEBRATING DYLAN THOMAS: Join Cerys Matthews (musician, author and broadcaster) and Arun Ghosh (multi-instrumentalist) as they revisit the fictional Welsh seaside village of <i>Under Milk Wood</i> with music, chat and projections. Screen | THE MYSTERIOUS CASE OF KITSY RAINEY: A one-man show, written and performed by Mikel Murfi. It's the third in his trilogy following <i>The Man in the Woman's Shoes</i> and <i>I Hear You and Rejoice</i> . |
| 9.30 - 11.00 | | | AT NIGHT IN BORRIS VILLAGE ---> | TINY PIANO MAN: David O'Doherty, with his €10 ebay keyboard, unpacks the complications he encounters between sleeps. | MUSIC IN THE VILLAGE: Ye Vagabonds, Josh Okeefe and others |
| | | | | | |

| | The Wren's Nest | The Owlery | The Rookery | Step House | Granary |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|--|
| SATURDAY | | | | | |
| 10.30 - 11.25 | REWILDING BIG AND SMALL: Keen gardener Adam Clayton (bassist in U2) talks to conservationist Isabella Tree (<i>The Book of Wilding</i>) about practical solutions for rewilding - from allotments and gardens to farms and public spaces. | YOU COULDN'T MAKE IT UP: Margaret Atwood (<i>Old Babes in the Wood</i>) and John Vaillant (<i>Fire Weather: A True Story from a Hotter World</i>) ask who needs fiction when nature is providing enough of a fast-moving, harrowing story? With Alex Clark . | PUT ANOTHER RECORD ON: Annie Mac , broadcaster, DJ and author and Cerys Matthews , musician, author and broadcaster share their lives lived in and passion for music. | | |
| 11.40 - 12.35 | CHIPS WITH EVERYTHING: Broadcaster and writer Misha Glenny on the ethical implications of the microchip, and the battle for technological supremacy. It's a tale not just of innovation but of sinister espionage and opaque governance, asking who will come out on top in the new Cold War: China or the West. With Isabel Hilton (Founder of China Dialogue) | VERY EARLY IN THE MORNING: Seasoned night-owls Dylan Moran and David O'Doherty wonder what people do at this hour of the day, so they have got up early specially to find out. | STATE OF DECLINE: In Andrew O'Hagan's <i>Caledonian Road</i> , a London-based art historian on the brink of disaster is surrounded by oligarchs, bent businessmen, poisonous columnists, fading aristocrats and fashionistas. With novelist Joshua Cohen (<i>The Netanyahu</i>). | GROWING UP IN THE SHADOWY WORLD OF THE IRA: Mairia Cahill (<i>Rough Beast: My Story and the Reality of Sinn Fein</i>), records her story of sexual abuse by a senior IRA member and her subsequent fight for justice. She tells Olivia O'Leary about her transition from republican activist to member of the Seanad and SDLP, and her life now as a writer. | |
| 1.00 - 1.55 | THE STATE OF US: Ireland has relied on emigration; it now relies on immigration for economic growth. Fintan O'Toole with Kathy Sheridan asks if there is real political will to create the infrastructure - and social change - required. | THE COST OF LIVING: Deborah Levy discusses her trilogy of 'living autobiographies' (<i>Real Estate</i> , <i>The Cost of Living</i> , <i>Things I Don't Want to Know</i>) with actor and writer Minnie Driver (<i>Managing Expectations</i>). 'To separate from love is to live a risk-free life. What's the point of that sort of life?' | MERCHANTS OF THE THRILLER: Anthony Horowitz (<i>Close to Death</i>) and Liz Nugent (<i>Strange Sally Diamond</i>) talk about the art of cliffhangers and page-turners. | AFRICA RISING: Lemn Sissay (<i>Let the Light Pour In</i>) and Afua Hirsch (<i>Brit(ish) On Race, Identity and Belonging</i>) explore how young creatives are reinventing culture across Africa in fashion, film and music, referencing Afua's three-part BBC documentary <i>Africa Rising</i> . | WILD AND REBELLIOUS: Jane Wellesley (<i>Blue Eyes and a Wild Spirit</i>) has written about her grandmother, poet Dorothy Wellesley, married to a future Duke of Wellington, lover of Vita Sackville West and intimate friend of WB Yeats. She tells historian Roy Foster about a remarkable life. |
| 2.20 - 3.15 | THE BARRY BROTHERS GO WEST Sebastian Barry (<i>Days Without End</i>) and Kevin Barry (<i>The Heart of Winter</i>) read from their books set in the American Mid-West. With music from Ye Vagabonds . | CLIMATE JUSTICE: Chair of The Elders, Mary Robinson , and David Wallace Wells (<i>The Uninhabitable Earth</i>) discuss the pressing humanitarian issues that arise from climate change, with Isabel Hilton , founder of the China Dialogue Trust. | KILBURN CAPERS: Annie Mac (<i>The Mess We're In</i>) talks about being Irish in London, and the soundtrack that accompanies her coming-of-age novel set at the turn of the millennium. With Sinead Gleeson . | WE'RE ALL ON THE SHADOWY FRINGE NOW: Film director Nick Broomfield and Jon Ronson (who was inspired by Broomfield's documentaries to become a journalist) discuss adventures on life's fringes among neo-nazis, conspiracy theorists, shadowy sex cults...and swap observations of mainstream cultural life. | |
| 3.40 - 4.35 | THE REST IS ANCIENT HISTORY: Historian and podcaster Tom Holland (<i>The Wolf-Girl, the Greeks and the Gods</i>) and classicist and comedian Natalie Haynes (<i>Stone Blind: Medusa's Story</i>) in conversation about the enduring fascination of the ancient world and giving voice to women in the classics. | TWENTY YEARS ON: Laureate for Irish Fiction Colm Toibin talks to Katherine Rundell about his new novel, <i>Long Island</i> , a sequel to <i>Brooklyn</i> . | MY VULNERABILITY IS MY POWER: Ocean Vuong (<i>Time is a Mother</i>) reads from his work and talks to writer Kerri ni Dochartaigh (<i>Cacophony of Bone</i>), with a special guest performance from Nashville-based folk musician Josh Okeefe . | GLAMOUR AND THE SCHOOL RUN: Dawn O'Porter (<i>Cows, So Lucky, Life in Pieces</i>) and Emma Dabiri (<i>Don't Touch My Hair, What White People Can Do Next</i>) swap lives for an hour. | WRITING WRONGS: Travellers and writers Emma Ward and Martin Beanz Warde talk about barriers to cultural inclusion and how peer mentorship is helping them break through and flourish creatively; journalist Patrick Freyne shares his experiences on mentoring; and leading festival producer and programmer Naoise Nunn hosts. |

| | The Wren's Nest | The Owlery | The Rookery | Step House | Granary |
|--------------|--|--|---|---|--|
| 4.50 - 5.45 | EVERYTHING IS LISTENING: Creative pioneers Laurie Anderson and Es Devlin in conversation about their avant-garde projects. | TROUBLES AND STRIFE: Louise Kennedy (<i>Trespasses</i> and <i>The End of the World is a Cul de Sac</i>) discusses her award-winning work, and the vibrant surge in writing, television and film work emerging from the North. With Alex Clark . | ACCOUNTABILITY IN UKRAINE: Human rights lawyer Janine di Giovanni talks to Baillie Gifford prizewinner John Vaillant about The Reckoning Project, which documents crimes against humanity committed during the Russian invasion of Ukraine. | WARRIOR POET: Lemn Sissay marvels at young Scottish poet and campaigner Len Pennie (<i>Poyums</i>) whose hundreds and thousands of followers watch her daily online videos. They discuss how she navigates language and verse for a new generation. | AN EMBRACING OF MY ACCENT: Playwright and actor Emmet Kirwan (<i>Dublin Old School, Accents</i>) - accompanied by musician Brian Dillon (<i>The Line, Meltybrains</i>) - stages a selection of his best-known and new works, a fusion of acoustic hip hop and verse theatre. |
| 6.05-7.00 | WORKING IN THE LINEAGE OF THE LAUREATES: Simon Armitage in conversation with Katherine Rundell about how poetry punches through time like nothing else, why we need it, and how he does it. | BEYOND THE FOG OF WAR: Misha Glenny, Joshua Cohen and Isabel Hilton discuss how the world is changing and the seismic shift in geopolitics from the West in favour of Asia and the Global South. | MOVERS AND SHAPERS: Anthony Sattin (<i>Nomads: The Wanderers Who Shaped Our World</i>) and Manchan Magan (<i>Global Nomad</i>) on how migration has fostered and refreshed civilisation throughout history. | OVERBOARD: Science journalist Olive Heffernan (<i>The High Seas: Ambition, Power and Greed on the Unclaimed Ocean</i>) with David Wallace Wells (<i>The Uninhabitable Earth</i>) envisage humanity's future on a resource-limited planet. | THE MYSTERIOUS CASE OF KITSY RAINEY: A one-man show, written and performed by Mikel Murfi . It's the third in his trilogy following <i>The Man in the Woman's Shoes</i> and <i>I Hear You and Rejoice</i> . |
| 7.20 - 8.15 | RE-DEFINING GLOBAL HISTORY: Historian Peter Frankopan (<i>The Earth Transformed</i>) will discuss how the natural world has shaped human history and how humanity has, in turn, shaped the environment. With Fintan O'Toole . | MYSTERY PLEASURE CRUISE: Writer and performer Dylan Moran and writer Kevin Barry set sail across uncharted waters in a conversation that might end up just about anywhere. | DEVIANT MINDS: Writer and filmmaker Jon Ronson (<i>The Psychopath Test</i>) and former State Pathologist Dr Marie Cassidy (<i>Beyond the Tape</i>) have an interest in common: psychopaths. | I AM NOT AS WELL AS I THOUGHT I WAS: Ruby Wax performs a parlour version of her raw, dark and funny sell-out show about searching for meaning...but ending up in a mental ward. A tragic comedy. | |
| 9.00 - 11.30 | | | AT NIGHT IN BORRIS VILLAGE ---> | YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE GOOD TO GIVE IT A GO: Actress (and writer) Sally Phillips (the <i>Bridget Jones</i> films, <i>Miranda</i>), talks to journalist Roisin Ingle about a career in comic timing. She seizes the moment to perform some monologues from her show 'Talking to Strangers' | MUSIC IN BORRIS : Tom Dunne, Fiachna O Braonain and Alan O'Connor , and others |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

| | The Wren's Nest | The Owlery | The Rookery | Step House | Granary |
|---------------|--|--|---|--|---|
| SUNDAY | | | | | |
| 10.30 - 11.25 | SUNDAY ASSEMBLY: Writers and musicians staying the weekend with us contribute to a service for those in conflict. | POET AND POLYMATH: Simon Armitage poet, playwright, musician and novelist in conversation with broadcaster and writer, Olivia O'Leary . | FIRE AND GEOPOLITICS: John Vaillant (<i>Fire Weather</i>) with David Wallace-Wells (<i>The Uninhabitable Earth</i>) on the need for urgent action, and solutions, in a climate-disrupted world. Chaired by Katherine Rundell . | THE WAY UP IS THE WAY DOWN: Actress Sally Phillips and poet Lemn Sissay - drawing on his childhood experiences - discuss the ups of downs and the downs of ups, with Sally's son Olly Bermejo . | |
| 11.40 - 12.35 | LET THE LIGHT POUR IN: For the past decade, Lemn Sissay has composed a short poem as dawn breaks each morning. Life-affirming, witty and full of wonder, these poems chronicle his own battle with darkness and are fuelled by resilience and defiant joy. | SLEUTHING FOR A LIVING: Anthony Horowitz (<i>Close to Death</i>) and former State Pathologist Dr Marie Cassidy (<i>Body of Truth</i>) on mysteries, misdeeds and motives for murder. | AI ANXIETY ON THE RISE: Kai Strittmatter (author of <i>We Have Been Harmonized</i>) and Jennifer Cassidy (an AI and diplomacy specialist), consider the challenges of artificial intelligence as well as its potential for good. Moderated by Andrew O'Hagan . | CHILDREN IN CONFLICT: War reporters Mary Fitzgerald and Janine di Giovanni talk about documenting the experience of children in conflict, drawing on their years in the field, as well as Janine's current Ukraine focus with The Reckoning Project and Mary's work with the War Childhood Museum (Ukraine, Gaza and a future Northern Ireland collection). | ALL I HAD LOST AND ALL I HAD GAINED: Claire Kilroy (<i>Soldier Sailor</i>) explores the clash of a mother's fierce love for a new life with the resulting, seismic change in identity. With Alex Clark |
| 1.20 - 2.15 | THE BIRDS AND THE BEES: Conservationist Isabella Tree (<i>Wilding</i>), ornithologist and bird whisperer Sean Ronayne , and nature writer Kerri ni Dochartaigh (<i>Cacophony of Bone</i>) join Manchán Magan (<i>Listen to the Land Speak</i>) to relish in the joyous pursuit of the wild. | SO MUCH AT STAKE: Fintan O'Toole, David Wallace Wells and Joshua Cohen discuss the fears and consequences of this year's US elections and the impact on American politics of the war in the Middle East. With Lyse Doucet . | DIVINE MIGHT: Classicist, writer, comedian Natalie Haynes (<i>Divine Might: Goddesses in Greek Myth</i>) performs her one-woman show, and stands up for the role of the goddesses, 'as mighty, revered and destructive as their male counterparts.' | GETTING TO THE HEART OF A STORY: Film director Nick Broomfield talks about documenting the lives of the Stones, Kurt Cobain, Leonard Cohen, Brian Jones, Tupac and Biggie, Whitney Houston and others. With writer and musician Patrick Freyne . | THE WAITRESS, THE CHEF AND HIS WIFE: In her second novel, critic and writer Sarah Gilmartin (<i>Service</i>) tells a story of power and complicity in the kitchen. With <i>Irish Times</i> books editor Martin Doyle . |
| 2.50 - 3.45 | FROM OLIVE KITTERIDGE TO LUCY BARTON: Elizabeth Strout talks to Alex Clark about her writing life and the recurring characters who appear in her books. | THE CAT LADY SINGS Cecelia Ahern (<i>In a Thousand Different Ways</i>) and Dawn O'Porter (<i>Cat Lady</i>) about how we all see the world differently | IRISH COASTAL WATERS: Olive Heffernan (<i>The High Seas</i>) on her current research, funded by the Pulitzer Center, into how ocean protection is shaping up in Ireland and abroad. In conversation with marine journalist Lorna Siggins . | GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN: Colm Toibin on the rich legacy of writer and civil rights activist James Baldwin, one hundred years on. | EGYPT: Writer and broadcaster Anthony Sattin (<i>Nomads</i>) gives an illustrated talk on the ways in which ancient Egypt has shaped the West, a first glimpse of a book-in-the-making called <i>Why Egypt Matters</i> . |
| 4.15 - 5.20 | WHY HISTORY MATTERS: Tom Holland, Roy Foster and Misha Glenny on "s/he who controls the past controls the future" | RUBY 'N' JON: Ruby Wax (<i>Mindfulness Guide for the Frazzled</i>) and Jon Ronson (<i>The Psychopath Test</i>) talk about mental health and the surprising discoveries they made while researching their books. | GENERATION DISCONNECT: Journalist Justine McCarthy (<i>An Eye on Ireland</i>) and playwright Emmet Kirwan (<i>Dublin Old School, Accents</i>) ask why - if Ireland is such an economic powerhouse - young people are unable to afford to live here and how it is directly effecting the arts in Ireland. | | |