



SATURDAY 7TH JUNE



BORRIS FESTIVAL OF WRITING & IDEAS

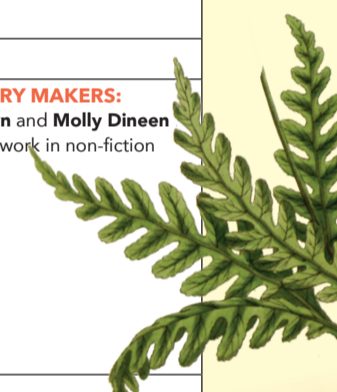
7am

DAWN-ISH CHORUS:

A walk in the woods and along the mountain stream, with birdman **Sean Ronayne**. Meet outside the front of the house for porridge and poitín.



	THE ORANGERY	THE ROOKERY	THE OWLERY	THE BALLROOM	CHAPEL
10.30 - 11.25am	IRELAND AS 'LABORATORY': Historians William Dalrymple (<i>The Golden Road</i>) Anita Anand (<i>The Patient Assassin</i>) and Jane Ohlmeyer (<i>Making Empire</i>) explore how Ireland, as Britain's first colony, became a template for colonial expansion in the rest of the world. An 'Empire' Podcast event.	STILLNESS IN SPACE: Samantha Harvey (<i>Orbital</i>) discusses the quiet power of her Booker-Prize winning novel and where pastoral realism meets low Earth orbit. A meditation on time, perspective, and the strange beauty of stillness in space. With Alex Clark .	STOP THE PRESS: Journalism - and journalists - are under threat. Investigative journalism is being eradicated, news feeds are not fact-based, publications and agencies are being shut down and corrupted. Carole Cadwalladr , Fintan O'Toole , Patrick Radden Keefe .	HANDED DOWN: Fiddler Martin Hayes (and author of <i>Shared Notes: A Musical Journey</i>) talks music - and the ceremony of the handing down of songs and instruments to others - with stadium rocker Colin Greenwood .	
11.25am	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): William Dalrymple, Anita Anand, Jane Ohlmeyer, Samantha Harvey, Patrick Radden Keefe, Martin Hayes, Colin Greenwood				
11.50am -12.45pm	RITUALS OF THE LAND: James Rebanks (<i>The Place of Tides</i>) and Manchán Mangan (<i>Listen to the Land Speak</i>) explore the importance of preserving ancient farming traditions and the rich lore of the land, reflecting on how these rituals can connect us to both the past and the future.	AND IN THAT MOMENT, EVERYTHING CHANGED: Historian and podcaster Dominic Sandbrook and photographer Chris Floyd explore a dozen powerful images that capture defining moments in history. Together, they reveal the stories behind the photographs that shaped how we see the world.	H IS FOR HORROR: When naturalist Helen Macdonald (<i>H is for Hawk</i>) met sci-fi writer Sin Blaché online, an unlikely creative partnership was born. The result? <i>Prophet</i> - a queer techno-thriller about a mysterious substance that turns memories into deadly weapons. Most of the novel was written virtually, until the duo met in Ireland to finish it. Neurologist Jules Montague joins them to unpack memory, imagination, and the strange alchemy of collaboration.	A NEW ART HISTORY?: Katy Hessel (<i>The History of Art Without Men</i>) puts women artists back into the frame. In conversation with Sinéad Gleeson (<i>Constellations: Reflections from Life</i>).	POETRY PHARMACY: Join apothecarist William Seighart and Denise Gough for an event that will soothe, revive and inspire with the extraordinary power of words.
12.45pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Dominic Sandbrook, Chirs Floyd, Katy Hessel, Sinéad Gleeson, Sin Blaché & Helen Macdonald, William Seighart, James Rebanks Manchán Magan				
1.30 - 2.25pm	FROM THE LOCAL TO THE UNIVERSAL: The legendary Fiona Shaw talks to fellow actor Eileen Walsh about the alchemy of transforming the local to the universal, exploring how the voices of her childhood in Cork came to inform some of her greatest classical performances.	THE ENVIRONMENT WILL SHAPE GLOBAL POLITICS: For Bruno Maçães (<i>World Builders: Technology and the New Geopolitics</i>), the climate crisis is now at the heart of geopolitics. Join him as he explores how climate change is reshaping world politics, driving new disputes over resources, migration, and power, and how our changing environment will influence the future of global conflict. With Kirsty Lang .	WOULD YOU RATHER...?: Journalists and stablemates Paul Howard and Róisín Ingle use this nowhere-to-hide conversation game to grapple with the big questions.		SECRETS SHE HAD TO KEEP: Clair Wills (<i>Missing Persons, or My Grandmother's Secrets</i>) joins Elaine Feeney (<i>Let Me Go Mad in My Own Way</i>) to discuss unearthing painful family histories - stories long buried, secrets fiercely guarded - and the lasting impact they have across generations.
2.25pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Bruno Maçães, Paul Howard, Clair Wills, Elaine Feeney				
3.10 - 4.05pm	TRIAL BY BATTLE: Max Hastings on what really went on on D Day, the subject of his latest book <i>Sword</i> . With Dominic Sandbrook (Co Host of <i>The Rest is History</i> podcast).	LOUD MOUTHS, QUIET SOULS: Conor O'Brien published <i>Passing a Message</i> to capture his musical project <i>Villagers</i> - a chronicle of lyrics, artwork, photographs, ideas and sketches. He talks to Colin Greenwood of Radiohead (who in turn documented his band's exploits in <i>How to Disappear: A Portrait of Radiohead</i>) about the mysterious relationship between frequencies, feelings and the transcendent possibilities of the musical moment.	A WILD GOOSE CHASE: Award-winning novelist Joseph O'Neill (<i>Netherland, Godwin</i>) joins longtime Granta editor Bill Buford to explore his sharp, subversive take on post-9/11 America. From cricket to football, wit to rage, they delve into themes of identity, exile, and O'Neill's enduring sense of unbelonging.	ON CRIMES AND IMPUNITIES: In <i>38 Londres Street</i> , the final instalment of the <i>East West Street</i> trilogy, Philippe Sands tracks a former SS commander into Pinochet's Chile. Blending personal memoir, historical investigation and legal drama, Sands exposes the hidden links between fascist fugitives, brutal political regimes, and how one address in Santiago became a symbol of terror - and of the global fight against impunity. With Barbara Demick .	DOCUMENTARY MAKERS: Margaret Brown and Molly Dineen talk about thier work in non-fiction film-making.
4.05pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Philippe Sands, Barbara Demick, Conor O'Brien (Villagers), Colin Greenwood, Max Hastings, Dominic Sandbrook, Joseph O'Neill				
4.40 - 5.45pm	JUGS OF DUST: Actor and writer Rupert Everett on <i>The American No</i> , a collection of short stories - and his three bestselling memoirs, his love of Graham Greene and Oscar Wilde - and testaments to failure of a kind. With Patrick Freyne (<i>Ok Let's Do Your Stupid Idea</i>)	THREE YEARS, FOUR MONTHS: THE WAR IN UKRAINE: Lara Marlowe (<i>How Good It Is That I Have No Fear of Dying</i>) considers the West's inability to face up to Putin at this critical juncture in European history. In conversation with Lindsey Hilsum (<i>I Brought The War With Me</i>).	WHOLE WORLD, SHORT FORM: What can a short story hold? Three generations of literary writers - Margaret Drabble (<i>A Day in the Life of a Smiling Woman</i>), Christine Dwyer Hickey (<i>The House on Parkgate Street & Other Dublin Stories</i>) and Maggie Armstrong (<i>Old Romantics</i>) discuss the short story as a means of representing the female experience. With Alex Clark .	NARRATING PALESTINE: Adania Shibli (<i>Minor Detail</i>) and Joe Sacco (<i>Palestine</i>) discuss their different approaches, experiences and perspectives - as a literary writer and a graphic novelist. With William Seighart , founder of 'Forward Thinking', a conflict mediation NGO in the Middle East.	I WRITE WHAT I KNOW, AND THEN I TELL LIES: Elaine Feeney (<i>How To Build a Boat, As Your Were</i> , and fresh off the press, <i>Let Me Go Mad in My Own Way</i>) in conversation with writer Sinéad Gleeson (<i>Hagstone</i>).
5.45pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Rupert Everett, Lara Marlowe, Lindsey Hilsum, Adania Shibli, Joe Sacco, Margaret Drabble, Christine Dwyer Hickey, Maggie Armstrong				
6.20 - 7.15pm	IN PURSUIT OF JUSTICE: Human-rights lawyer Philippe Sands (<i>East West Street, 38 Londres Street</i>) in conversation with Patrick Radden Keefe (<i>Empire of Pain, Say Nothing</i>) on literature, law and justice; on the line that is said to divide fact and fiction; and on the challenges of holding the most powerful to account.	TIME CAPSULES: In his memoir about growing up in '60s and '70s England, Geoff Dyer (<i>Homework</i>) taps his memory bank with dry wit. He and Paul Murray (<i>The Bee Sting</i>) revel in the complexities of family life.	THE RISE OF THE AUTOCRAT: The New World Order as defined by the leaders of China, Russia, India and the US, with four people brave enough to talk... Bruno Maçães, Barbara Demick, Misha Glenny and Leslie Cockburn .	WITHSTANDING THE HEAT: From warzones to kitchens, from Afghanistan to the fiery trenches of British publishing, war-correspondant Ben Anderson and journalist-chef Bill Buford interrogate one another on the adrenaline, risks, and revelations of their high-stakes careers.	
7.15pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Philippe Sands, Patrick Radden Keefe, Geoff Dwyer, Paul Murray				
7.50 - 8.45pm	QUELLING DISSENT: Fintan O'Toole in conversation with Steven Pinker (<i>When Everyone Knows That Everyone Knows</i>) on what we really mean by 'free speech' and the criminalisation of political demonstration.		PERFORMANCE ON THE PAGE AND OFF: Eimear McBride (<i>The City Changes Its Face</i>) and actor Fiona Shaw discuss contending with passion and jealousy in theatre and literature.		
8.45pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (in talk venue): Steven Pinker, Eimer McBride				



LIVE MUSIC IN THE ROOKERY

9.30pm: VILLAGERS

An intimate show from **Villagers** - the indie folk musical project of the mesmerising **Conor O'Brien** - this Ivor Novello prize winning, and Mercury Prize nominated musician is rich in articulate lyrics and musical dexterity.

10.45pm: GLEN HANSARD - Live and Unplanned

Oscar-winning songwriter **Glen Hansard** (from *The Frames* and *The Swell Season*) gathers musicians together for an impromptu session

