



FRIDAY 6TH JUNE



BORRIS FESTIVAL OF WRITING & IDEAS



	THE ORANGERY	THE ROOKERY
1.15 - 2.15pm	LIFE ON PLANET EARTH: Booker Prize-winner Samantha Harvey (<i>Orbital</i>) in conversation with Nobel Prize-winner Abdulrazak Gurnah (<i>Theft</i>). With arts critic and novelist Sue Rainsford .	SECRET MIRACLE WORKERS: Biologist and mycologist Merlin Sheldrake (<i>Entangled Lives</i>) talks to Manchán Magan (<i>Listen to the Land Speak</i>) about how the study of fungi and their underground networks transform our understanding of how all life works.
2.15pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Samantha Harvey, Abdulrazak Gurnah, Merlin Sheldrake, Manchán Magan	THE OWLERY
2.45 - 3.45pm	THE LOVE OF A WINGED CREATURE: Seán Ronayne (<i>Nature Boy: A Journey of Birdsong and Belonging</i>) talks to Helen Macdonald (<i>H is for Hawk</i>) about adventures in nature, a love of birds, and how the natural world has healed them both.	CAN EUROPE SURVIVE?: Given the shifting US stance on NATO, MEP Cynthia Ní Mhurchú , along with member of the European Council on Foreign Relations Bruno Maçães (<i>World Builders: Technology and the New Geopolitics</i>) consider the fate of Europe. In conversation with journalists Lara Marlowe and Carole Cadwalladr . <i>In partnership with European Parliament.</i>
3.45pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Seán Ronayne, Helen Macdonald, Bruno Maçães, William Kentridge	
4.15 - 5.15pm	A WOMAN ON THE OUTERMOST EDGE: In <i>The Place of Tides</i> , James Rebanks (<i>The Shepherd's Life</i>) travels to a remote Norwegian island to learn from Anna Måsøy, one of the last women harvesting eiderdown by hand. This is a mesmerising meditation on friendship, history and redemption. With Sue Rainsford .	WHAT IT IS TO REMEMBER: Human rights lawyer Philippe Sands (<i>38 Londres Street</i>) talks to Beata Umubyeyi Mairesse (<i>The Convoy</i>) about her powerful literary exploration of displacement and memory, drawing on her experience as a survivor of the Tutsi genocide in Rwanda.
5.15pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): James Rebanks, Philippe Sands, Beata Umubyeyi Mairesse, Barbara Demick	
5.45 - 6.40pm	FOOLS GOLD: Celebrated novelist, biographer and activist Margaret Drabble (<i>The Millstone, Jerusalem The Golden</i>) has long explored the undercurrents beneath the apparent calm of family life. Join her as she discusses a life in writing with Alex Clark .	WORLD DOMINATION: THE USA v CHINA TECH WAR: Misha Glenny unpacks a rivalry that is reshaping the global electronics sector, and the full array of dirty tricks (trade disruptions, tariffs export controls, restrictions on market access) being deployed in this race to the top.
6.40pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Margaret Drabble, William Dalrymple, Misha Glenny, Jules Montague, Suzanne O'Sullivan	
7.00 - 7.55pm	THE GREAT UNSETTLER: In the words of Alice Oswald , "It's often assumed that the role of poetry is to comfort, but for me it's the great unsettler". Join her as she reads from her work and talks to Clair Wills . <i>Supported by the TS Eliot Foundation.</i>	LOVE, FRIENDSHIP AND BETRAYAL: Nobel Prize-winner Abdulrazak Gurnah (<i>Theft</i>) talks to journalist Kirsty Lang about his latest novel, a quicksilver coming-of-age tale of three young people in 1990s Tanzania exploring friendship, power, identity and belonging.
7.55pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Alice Oswald, Colin Greenwood, Geoff Dyer, Abdulrazak Gurnah	
8.15 - 9.15pm	TO ALL THE GIRLS I'VE LOVED BEFORE: Paul Howard is Ross O'Carroll Kelly , and these are his eight worst dates. A world premiere.	RHYTHMS THAT MADE HISTORY: Legendary record producer Joe Boyd is joined by historian William Dalrymple to discuss <i>And the Rhythm of Roots Remain</i> , a journey through the sounds, personalities and events that have shaped Western popular music. From Havana to Soweto, Calcutta to Seville, Joe reveals music as a force for change, connection, and freedom – while delving into his record collection. Joe will sign copies of his book in the venue after this talk.

Festival Artist in Residence

DYLAN MORAN

Across the weekend, watch out for a series of 'happenings' with writer, actor and visual artist Dylan Moran - from **stretches** to loosen your body and mind up, to **pop-up conversations** with guest speakers, to a **group mural project**, to an **exhibition** of his work, to a bit of **improv**.

Where?

Beside the entrance arch to the Bookshop

When?

Friday: 6.40pm

Saturday: 12 noon (for a few hours)

Sunday: 10.30am

THE BALLROOM

SWIMMING IN THE OCEANS OF QUACKERY: Neurologist **Suzanne O'Sullivan** (*The Age of Diagnosis: Sickness, Health and Why Medicine Has Gone Too Far*) is joined by **Jules Montague** (*The Imaginary Patient: How Diagnosis Gets Us Wrong*) to explore the injustices of the modern medical system, and the ways in which diagnosis often fails the patient. With physician-turned-writer **Rivka Galchen** (*Everyone Knows Your Mother Is a Witch*).



LIVE MUSIC IN THE ROOKERY

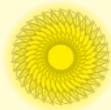
9.30-11pm

Composer and fiddle player **Martin Hayes** with cellist **Kate Ellis**.

11.05pm -12am

A blend of American Old Time and Irish Folk, **DUG** is the name given to the transatlantic music project of Scottish Irishman **Lorkin O'Reilly** and California native **Jonny Pickett**.





SATURDAY 7TH JUNE



7am

DAWN-ISH CHORUS:

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

BORRIS FESTIVAL OF WRITING & IDEAS

	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. <i>An 'Empire' Podcast event.</i>	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: Journalists Fintan O'Toole and Carole Cadwalladr examine the growing threats to journalism – from disinformation and political interference to the collapse of investigative reporting – and why defending the truth has never been more urgent. In conversation with Misha Glenny .		
11.25am	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): William Dalrymple, Anita Anand, Jane Ohlmeyer, Samantha Harvey				
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.	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 .	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 collaboration.	A NEW ART HISTORY?: Katy Hessel (<i>The Story 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): Katy Hessel, Sinéad Gleeson, Sin Blaché & Helen Macdonald, William Sieghart, James Rebanks, Manchán Magan, Martin Hayes				
1.30 - 2.25pm	THEATRE OF TRANSFORMATION: The legendary Fiona Shaw talks to fellow Cork actor Eileen Walsh about the alchemy of performance and how the characters of her childhood 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.	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.	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, Geoff Dyer, Paul Murray				
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 Villagers - 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 identity, exile, and O'Neill's enduring sense of unbelonging.	ON CRIMES AND IMPUNITIES: In 38 <i>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 .	THE DIRECTOR'S CONSCIENCE: Bafta and Emmy award-winning filmmakers Leslie Cockburn (<i>Yuri The Great</i>), Margaret Brown (<i>Descendent</i>) and Molly Dineen (<i>The Lie of the Land</i>) talk to documentary journalist Ben Anderson about the role film can play in exposing inequality and injustice, and driving change.
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 discusses his literary life, ranging from his three bestselling memoirs, his love of Graham Greene and Oscar Wilde, to his 2024 short story collection, <i>The Great American No</i> , whose tales, he writes, are '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>) explore their different approaches to and perspectives on representing conflict on the genocide in Gaza – as a literary writer and a graphic novelist, a Palestinian and an American. With William Sieghart , 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>) on their work as novelists.
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	NETANYAHU, TRUMP, PUTIN AND THE COURTS: Human-rights lawyer Philippe Sands (<i>East West Street, 38 Londres Street</i>) and Harvard activist-attorney James Tierney discuss the possibility of holding the most powerful to account – and what role, if any, the legal system can play in today's political landscape. In conversation with Carole Cadwalladr .	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.	THE RISE OF THE AUTOCRAT: The New World Order as defined by the leaders of China, Russia 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, Dominic Sandbrook, Chris Floyd				
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. With Katy Hessel .		
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.



SUNDAY 8TH JUNE



BORRIS FESTIVAL OF WRITING & IDEAS

	THE ORANGERY	THE ROOKERY	THE OWLERY	THE BALLROOM	CHAPEL
10.30 - 11.30am	SUNDAY ASSEMBLY: Reflections from the Front Line Veteran war-correspondent Lindsey Hilsum (<i>I Brought the War with Me</i>) leads us in a commemoration for those in conflict. With contributions from Denise Gough , Fiona Shaw , William Sieghart – along with other writers and musicians who have been with us over the weekend.	KINSHIP: Manchán Mangan (<i>Brehons and Brahmins</i>) and William Dalrymple (<i>The Golden Road</i>) explore the many cultural connections between Ireland and India - including mythology, language and legal systems.			MANY LIVES AND AFTERLIVES: Alcoholic, opiate addict and fabulist, James Clarence Mangan, 'Ireland's forgotten national poet' - beloved by Irish icons from James Joyce to Shane MacGowan - has been resurrected by Bridget Hourican (<i>Finding Mangan</i>). With Patrick Freyne on the challenges of writing biography, and of reckoning with her own ghosts in the process.
11.30am	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Manchán Magan , William Dalrymple , Bridget Hourican				
11.45am -12.45pm	MY MOTHER, EDNA O'BRIEN: Carlo Gébler talks to Margaret Drabble about his mother, Edna O'Brien. With readings from Denise Gough and Fiona Shaw .	EARTH SHAKERS AND MAKERS: Biologist Merlin Sheldrake (<i>Entangled Lives</i>) is joined by naturalist Helen Macdonald explore the hidden world of fungi – organisms that shape life on Earth, challenge our ideas of intelligence and individuality, and hold extraordinary potential to heal, transform, and sustain our world.	THOSE LONG UNEVEN LINES: Max Hastings (<i>Catastrophe 1914: Europe Goes to War</i>) and Geoff Dyer (<i>The Missing of the Somme</i>) on approaches to the Great War. With Jane Ohlmeyer .	WHAT TO DO WITH A BOY'S RAGE?: Documentary filmmaker Alan Bradley (<i>Invisible Men – Ireland's Incels</i>) and writer Catherine Prasifka (<i>This Is How You Remember It</i>) investigate why young men are entering violent and extremist spaces – and what this reveals about the world we've built around them. With Ben Anderson .	BECOMING AN UNBELIEVER: Philosopher-writer Rebecca Goldstein grew up in a stern orthodox Jewish community, until she read her way out of religion - graduating from a sense of entrapment into the limitless beliefs on offer in atheism. She revisits her 'novel' <i>36 Arguments for the Existence of God: A Work of Fiction</i> . In conversation with William Sieghart .
12.45pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Carlo Gébler , Margaret Drabble , Merlin Sheldrake , Helen Macdonald , Rebecca Goldstein , Max Hastings , Geoff Dyer , Jane Ohlmeyer				
	<div><div></div><div>12.45-1.30pm TOOTING AND PARPING: Music out the front of the house with Code of Behaviour Brass Band</div><div></div></div>				
1.40 - 2.35pm	OUR LIVES IN EXILE: Journalists Andrei Soldatov and Irina Borogan (<i>The New Nobility</i> , <i>The Red Web</i> , <i>The Compatriots</i>) exiled from Moscow for their fearless investigations into Russia's secret services, offer a rare glimpse into Putin's world. With Misha Glenny .	MUSIC, ONCE AND AGAIN: Singer Glen Hansard joins author/producer Joe Boyd to talk about music they both love, from Joe's productions of Nick Drake, R.E.M., Fairport Convention and Pink Floyd, to Glen's roots in trad. Glen will have his guitar at the ready.	AS TRUE AS THE SUN WILL RISE: A decade on, Donal Ryan returns to the world and voices of his beloved debut, <i>A Spinning Heart</i> . The resulting portrait of contemporary life in Tipperary, <i>Heart Be At Peace</i> , is an enchanting and non judgemental portrayal of humanity - in all its weirdness, melancholy, comedy and love. With Alex Clark .	CRACKING MYSTERIES: Booker Prize winner and Stafford and Quirke's creator, John Banville (<i>The Drowned</i>) and Gold-Dagger winning Una Mannion (<i>Tell Me What I Am</i>) take on the literary crime. With Kirsty Lang .	COMICS JOURNALISM: Renowned as 'the greatest practitioner of comics journalism today,' Joe Sacco is joined by award-winning war correspondent Ben Anderson for an illustrated talk on documenting civilian stories from the world's most volatile conflict zones. Together, they explore how visual storytelling can bridge the gap between hard-hitting journalism and wide popular appeal.
2.35pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Rupert Everett , Joe Boyd , John Banville , Una Mannion , Joe Sacco , Donal Ryan				
3.15 - 4.15pm	OF CHILDREN, ANIMALS AND HUNGER ARTISTS: Kristin Scott Thomas performs a selection of short stories from Kafka's archive, a performance described as "funny and absurd; bizarre and troubling; captivating and unsettling." Introduced by John Banville .	PERIPHERAL THINKING - THE TREE IS NEVER JUST ITSELF: William Kentridge on transformation, the 'poor man's animation', and the pleasures of self-deception.	GREEK TO ME: Ferdia Lennon talks to Rebecca Goldstein (<i>Plato at the Googleplex</i>) about bringing ancient Greece into the 21st century, and his award-winning debut, <i>Glorious Exploits</i> – 'a stunningly fun meditation on companionship, humanity, and the role of performance.'	THE TRAUMA OF THE TROUBLES: Eoin McNamee (<i>The Bureau</i>) and Carlo Gébler (<i>A Cold Eye</i>) reflect on lives spent in a traumatised Northern Ireland, how they have tackled this in fiction and in non-fiction, and the stories unearthed along the way.	WHEN THE PAST IS HAUNTED BY THE PRESENT: Adania Shibli's <i>Minor Detail</i> explores the aftermath of a 1949 Palestinian massacre through the eyes of a young woman and a soldier. Here Adania discusses the struggle for a language during our present times, where hindrances to free artistic expressions and work are mounting. <i>Minor Detail</i> itself was subject to such treatment at Frankfurt Bookfair in 2023. With Alex Clark .
4.15pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): William Kentridge , Ferdia Lennon , Rebecca Goldstein , Carlo Gébler , Adania Shibli				
5 - 6pm	IDEAS CHANGE HISTORY: Cognitive psychologist, public intellectual and professor at Harvard Steven Pinker in conversation with John Micklethwait (editor-in-chief of Bloomberg News).	DREAMING OF DANIEL: First public performance of musician Jerry Fish's tribute to the late, great artist and musician Daniel Johnston - featuring MayKay from Fight Like Apes & guitarist Conor Brady - blending a wide array of Indie, Americana, folk and cabaret.	THESE DAYDREAMS PERSISTED LIKE AN ALTERNATE LIFE: Paul Murray (<i>The Bee Sting</i> , <i>Skippy Dies</i>) and cultural historian Clair Wills (<i>Missing Persons</i> , <i>My Grandmother's Secrets</i>) are online friends. Here they meet in person for the first time to discuss Paul Murray's writing life, from <i>An Evening of Long Goodbyes</i> to <i>The Bee Sting</i> - and all that came between.		
6pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Steven Pinker , Paul Murray , Clair Wills				

