

Liz McManus A Shadow in the yard

Liz McManus opened with an insignt into the life of a writer. She pointed iz McManus opened with an insight out the two polar opposite stages of developing a book. The first is a private hermitlike existence where you spend months alone writing your book, then comes the second, the very public stage, when you must share your work first with publishers and with the readers at various book launches and recitals. Liz explained that the book, much like the life of the writer, is divided into two parts. The first part describes the events leading up to a woman's death and the second focuses on the aftermath, which is told almost thirty years later through the eyes of the woman's daughter. She began by reading an abstract from the opening pages of the book where it's the winter of 1970 in Co. Donegal, and an elderly man is walking his dog on the morning after a huge storm when, in the swollen river, he makes the shocking discovery of a woman's body. The second

reading introduces us to the woman's

daughter, who is living in Dublin, the same age as her mother when she died and appears to be in crisis and contemplating disappearing.

The book is set against the backdrop of the troubles, the first part is at



the beginning of the troubles in the 1970s and the second is at the time of the Good Friday agreement. Liz said she wanted to explore, compare and contrast two very different Irelands through the experience of the two women. It is clear, from the brief abstracts that Liz treated us to, that the reader is in good hands with this well written and thought provoking book. *Padraig Ruane*

Charlie Lamson

As Charlie took to the stage armed with nothing but his acoustic guitar, I knew we were in for a treat based on the beautiful melodies he dabbled in while tuning his guitar. Originally from Boston, Charlie has been living in Ireland for the past number of years. He played a selection of his original music which was

wonderful fusion of American country, folk and blues. His music brought to mind, the great folk music sound of the sixties/ seventies with some of referencing lyrics his sunshine and good times, giving the listeners an overall feeling. warm songs between entertained us with stories

of his past in Boston. Charlie is eager to get playing up on more stages. When asked about how he finds playing in front of a crowd, his response was "I love it." So be sure to keep an eye out over the coming months for a local gig. We will be sure to advertise, as soon as we know of any! Aoife Hester

Bray Arts Drama Group

When the stage lights fail to function: four actors armed only with a vague script from their stage manager, are left searching in the dark for ideas. The ensuing chaos causes personality clashes and barriers to come crashing down. With uncertainty rearing its ugly head; things are about to get worse; by the casual onslaught of Winifred's remarks, along with her razor-sharp cynicism and unwelcome wit.

Will the well-structured Ernest be able to save the day, with his experienced and privileged acting background, as he attempts to take control of events? With improvisation needed quickly; will the seemingly weaker and younger Laura reveal her true grit and spirit? Or will soul-searching Tony save the day?



As true personalities are revealed; we see Winifred go 'weak at the knees' for one of the members of the cast, bringing hilarity to the stage. But the hurt is raw for some, and one of the members of the cast is destined to walk out on the performance, as loyalties shift, causing rifts in the dark. The audience present at the Bray Arts Show will know the outcome of this strong, full-on portrayal of an improvised situation: One that casts light on the skills of the performers.

Helen Harrison

MAY PREVIEW 2015



Helen Harrison - Poet

The Last Fire" a collection of poetry by Helen Harrison was launched at the Monaghan Art Show, Helen will be reading from her book of poetry. Helen was born in the Wirral, seven miles from Liverpool, of Irish parents and has lived most of her adult life in the border countryside of Co. Monaghan. Her poems have been published in "A New Ulster "North West Words", and the "Bray Arts

Journal ". Her Poetry journey began while meeting up with Moposogs Monaghan. She was awarded funding from "The Arts Council of Northern Ireland ", during 2014, to study poetry at the Poets House, Donegal. Helen is also involved in the Monaghan Arts Network.

Helen has presented her work at the Bray Arts several times before; her earthy organic poetry has always gone done well.

MOURNING

I think, it was the winding lane that did it – the one Lined with daffodils: Wordsworth would have approved. I had my own poem set out – open like the cupped Yellow offerings; perhaps I'd have added in: Sun-trapped Stone steps - coming down from the white-washed loft;

And what the house held:

The bed-rails, the heavy wardrobe and ancient drawers, The lace of the curtains, and the old dresser, A range to help a kettle sing, and streams,

Of light across the lanolin floor – peeping From wide window-sills, with hills outside.

Now, I have to content myself with the fact that - we have a bigger vegetable patch here, than the little fenced one at the back of the cottage we nearly had – I knew the man who lived there once.

AZARIA STARFIRE



Will be performing a Cabaret style feather fan dance

APPELLATION PENDING



You can expect plenty of toe tapping, foot stomping, sing-a-long and maybe a few of your fancy foot moves in the Martello Hotel at the Bray Arts night on Monday 11th May!

Appellation Pending return to play a varied set of old and new, contemporary and traditional American bluegrass music......or maybe old and traditional songs played in bluegrass style!

Appellation Pending are a Bray based band whose members have a varied musical taste but all have a love of bluegrass music in common!

The band features Paul Blunnie on banjo and percussion, Stephen Byrne on guitar, Roisin Duddy on Fiddle; Jackson (Mark) MacArtain plays mandolin and harps, Shay Hiney on Bass and Marie O'Reilly and Theresa Bradley vocals and percussion.

So, come along, experience the emotion and fun of bluegrass and enjoy some great music and songs, soaring harmonies and maybe some fancy footwork on the dance floor!







Poetry

Me Aengel

I had an argument with me Aengel , I turned and told him where to go , I was sorry when he left but I didn't want to let that show , maybe he got tired of lookin out for me a long time ago , and I just gave him an excuse to leave but he's more than welcome home , welcome home , calling all aengels , does anyone know where's mine gone ...

I want to talk to my Aengel and tell him that it's ok now, those troubles are over and done with now he can come back down, and tell me his side of the story and how's it all workin out, the truth is I'm missing his company in around the house, Calling all aengels, does anyone know where's mine gone

I'm getting worried about me Aengel I hope that nothing's going wrong , you'ld think he'd call me if there's anything up but he's always been so headstrong , maybe if ye see him will ye tell him that ye heard me singing out this song , because it's true he's still me Aengel and together is where we belong , we belong ,

calling all aengels , does anyone know where's mine gone , Calling all aengels , does anyone know where's mine gone , where's mine gone



THE **MARTELLO** HOTEL. BRAY MON May 11TH 2015 DOORS OPEN 8PM **ADMISSION**

€5 - €4 CONC.





Helen Harrison Poet

Will read from her latest collection of poetry "The Last Fire" giving wonderful pictures of life in Ireland based on her real life experiences and people she has met at home in Monaghan and abroad.

Azaria Starfire Burlesque Dancer





Appellation Pending Blue grass band

Will bring a varied set of old and new, contemporary and traditional American bluegrass music with plenty of emotion and fun, toe tapping, foot stomping and maybe a few of your fancy foot moves.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PERFORM OR PRESENT YOUR WORK AT THE BRAY ARTS PLEASE CONTACT JULIE ROSE McCORMICK AT 0872486751: ALL ART FORMS WELCOME, FILM, DANCE, ART, LITERARY, MIXED MEDIA, MUSIC, SONG, PUPPETRY, EXPERIMENTAL, SHOWCASE NEW WORK.

