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# Bray Arts Journal

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Issue 7

March 2011

Volume 16



## Preview of Arts Evening on Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Mar 2011

Upstairs at The Martello, Seafront, Bray  
Doors open 8:00pm Adm. €5 / €4 conc.

**Cloak and Dagger** : Fintan Dagger and Niall Cloak have been playing together since the start of the summer, and have been experimenting with traditional musics', and aran jumpers since.

**The Fagan School of Irish Dancing** : The school started twenty years ago by three sisters, Deirdre, Angela and Eileen, Deirdre's daughter Suzanne and Eileen's daughter, Niamh, who are now also fully qualified dancing teachers.

As well as competitions the dancers have represented Ireland at many festivals throughout Europe. Classes are currently held in West and South Dublin and they can be contacted on  
01-2821817/01-8212347

**Jame Kelly Singer** : James sings and play the guitar. The songs he plays have a folk / rock 'n' roll slant to them. The artists who inspired james are Neil Young, Luke Kelly, and, David Gray, to name but a few.

### Ger Doyle, Joe Doyle and Friends

Ger Doyle first picked up a fiddle at the age of 14 and began his life long love of music. Since then he has developed his interest in music and broadened his horizons by playing different types of music and different instruments. He now plays music for a living both here and abroad, he travels extensively from America to Slovenia the middle east . He works in films as a musician on screen and off, another job he has done in film is coordinator of other musicians working in films. Recently Ger has played for the 30th anniversary of Excalibur along with other performers on the night, Bob Geldoff, Chris de Burgh and Ger's Nephew Joe Doyle.

## Alex Mathias plays John Coltrane

Coltrane was the one of the most influential saxophonists in the history of jazz. He had a prolific yet short career (due his untimely death at the age of 40 in 1967), recording on over 100 albums and was at the forefront of almost every movement in jazz from the 50's to the late 60's – beb hardbop, modal and free jazz.



Alex Mathias and his fine group of young musicians capture the essence of Coltrane's music and style, taking the audience through the different stages of his career as a leader. Starting the show with some of Coltrane's most recognisable hardbop

compositions from early albums like 'Blue Train' they then move on to the music from 'My Favorite Things' and 'Giant Steps' putting a unique stamp on Coltrane's compositions and arrangements of standards. Mathias talks briefly between tunes about the saxophonist's career giving an overview of the spiritual and musical discoveries Coltrane made on the way.



Front Cover : Deciple  
Drawing by Boz Mugabe whose exhibition in Signal Arts opens on 1st March  
See Page 7 for more details

They play from March 21st-April 3rd in Waterford, Cork, Limerick, Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Derry, Antrim, Down and finally JJ Smyths, 12 Aungier St. in Dublin on April 3rd at 8pm. Go to  
[www.alexmathias.com/coltranetour](http://www.alexmathias.com/coltranetour)

to see specific venues and watch a video of their performance in the National Concert Hall. The concerts are organised by Livenote Productions ([www.livenote.ie](http://www.livenote.ie)), a Jazz Promotion Company, Jazz Entertainment Agency and Record Label founded by Alex in 2010.

## Bray Comedy Club

Wed, March 2nd, The Martello Bray

Bernard O'Shea and Andrew Stanley  
The amazing Andrew Stanly MCs. Andrew MCs The Comedy Cellar, Ireland's longest running comedy club and has appeared on



Andrew Stanley



Bernard O'Shea

RTE's I Dare Ya, The Liffey Laughs as well as performing at the Kilkenny Comedy Festival and the Carlsberg Comedy Carnival.

Bernard was chosen to perform in The Montreal Just for Laughs Comedy Festival in 2005 and also The Killkenny Cats Laugh Festival as a headliner for the last couple of years. His television credits include RTE's (Irish Television) The Liffey Laugh, Naked Camera, Just for Laughs and has appeared on your tv screens recently on The Panel and

The Republic of Telly.

The Comedy Club is offering a discount to all local businesses and local groups and services for our next gigs in March - email me back for details or call 086 330 9061 (frank)

For more details :

<http://www.eventelephant.com/braycomedyclubmarch2011>

## Photography Exhibition



Award winning Irish Photographers Des Byrne Bray & Gwen Paskins Greystones will be holding a joint Photography Exhibition based on the contrasts of Wicklow on Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th of April 2011. Part of the proceeds will be donated to the Five Loaves Charity for the Homeless in Bray. Your support for this local event would be kindly appreciated & we really look forward to meeting you.

**The Rose Lawless 'Cabaret Revolution' 8 week show.**

Every Saturday night, from March 5 - April 23rd at 9 pm in 'The



Matchbox Theatre' at 'Le Cafe des Irlandais' on Sth Georges street. Vintage dress Optional with great prizes for most elegantly dressed. As you can see from the attached poster, Rose is also looking for your vote of confidence. 15 euros/12.50 concession. Free Glass of wine on entry. Check out [www.roselawless.com](http://www.roselawless.com) for more pictures and info.

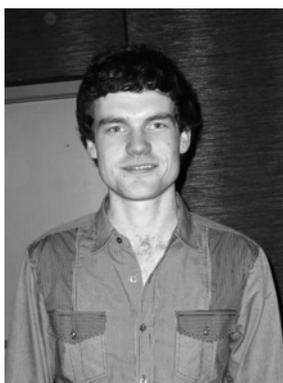
### Bray Singers' Circle

Bray Singers' Circle gathers on 3rd Saturday of every month, Strand Hotel, 9.30. All singers and listeners very welcome. Free entry. The March guest is **Mick Heffernan**, a local resident and singer/guitarist with The Abbey Tavern singers. Formerly with The Jolly Beggarmen and Devenish, Mick has a fine repertoire of thoughtful unaccompanied songs, an engaging personality and a super voice. Promises to be a great evening.

### Review of The Sonic Love Project

First night Thursday February 17, 2011

Heartiest congratulations to Michael Monaghan for a brilliant evening at the first rendition of The Sonic Love Project. It was held on Thursday 17th of February in the Function Room at the Martello Hotel under the auspices of Bray Arts.



Michael Monaghan

This was a new venture run entirely by Michael and his friends to attract the interest of all who love modern music in an informal open-minded social environment. The Sonic Love Project is a new platform for local live talent.

Shawn Levins was the house DJ for the night who initially attracted people to the venue with his raw hip hop beats played entirely through analog equipment, which is rare in this modern digital age. By 9pm the venue was filled with musical enthusiasts awaiting the performances.

Michael and his new band **Thirteen** opened the night with a terrific set of original compositions backed up by drums and a bass guitar that drew plenty of applause and on-stage banter. They were followed by the highly accomplished **Just The Trio Of Us** who mellowed the atmosphere with some technical jazz pieces with solos from guitar, bass and percussion players.

Poet, **Andrej Kapoor** followed with his new band **Noize Complex** in which Andrej entertained us with his new edgy lyrical passages set to the beat of DJ Shawn Levins, including rap rendition covers of artists such as Johnny Cash and Gorillaz.



Blind Yackety at The Cobblestone

The programme closed with a magnificent showing from **Blind Yackety** led by Kevin MacNamara on guitar and vocals, supported by eight other musicians including our own Niall Cloak on violin. Blind Yackety consistently produce uplifting sounds that cannot be found elsewhere. They are truly unique in their own style. Their tight precision and impressive compatibility to play together at high speeds, inspired energetic dancing among the entire audience. In between the high energy rock, the momentum occasionally slowed down to reveal rich a capella harmonies to which the audience gave their full attention. The headlining act closed the night after a loudly demanded encore, finishing the night with an epic coda, typical of Blind Yackety.

Michael would like to give a special thanks to John Duggan of the Martello Hotel and everyone involved for all their support. The Sonic Love Project looks set to be Bray's very own new platform for local live talent, which will allow Bray Arts to reach beyond the traditional performance evenings. A second Sonic Love event is set to be in two months which should be even bigger and better than before. We give Michael Monaghan a very personal vote of thanks and all our support for the future of this wonderful initiative.

Cearbhall O'Meadhra

The Bray Resource Centre invites you to:

### 'An Evening of Song'

Mon, 14th March at 8pm.



The event features **Philips Academy Chamber Orchestra & Chorus (USA)** with **Bray Gospel Choir** and special guest guitarist **Redmond O'Toole**. Tickets € 10 and €7(concession) available from the Fabric Gallery, Main Street Bray or phone The Carers

## Four Poems

by David Butler

### Swallows

Scythe–wings slide from the low vaults, calling,  
fall through the line of sight, swing wide,  
and, tight to the lawn, race their shadows.  
Gracing an arc, a long drawn, mower’s sweep,  
the lithe blades wheel and leap at once upwards,  
deep,  
deep in the blue air.

Chatter thrown wide over unploughed winds,  
they gather high, then scatter in heady reels  
to sow their sky–notes, peels, thin chips of sound,  
till they halt, crest, fall again low to ground  
and reap the long hours that have grown there  
over the fields.

The seasons turn, the dusk–silted eaves fall  
dumb,  
shunned by their feints of leaving, flights in  
shadow.  
They weave and scatter at nightfall, gather their  
numbers  
and scything and sweeping the hollows, they  
harvest in  
the last sheaves of light. Then they are gone,  
and with them the summer.

### Bray Head

Rocks are nouns,  
hedral, obstinate,  
but the sea is all verb.

Today the subjunctive mood is on her.  
She is mights, woulds,  
every sort of conditional.

Today’s skin is supine;  
the undertow  
tenses and dilates.

Wrack and tackle  
wither on the shore  
of last night’s imperatives.

The sea is all verb.  
Before her, our pronouns crumble  
into predicates.

### Glassblower

It is as though an incandescent swarm  
has clustered, on a spindle of his breath,  
to fabricate a hive  
in the hot globe of amber.  
It’s as though the air is given hands,  
cupping the molten bubble thrown out  
by his steady lung, crafting  
the dull red sun until it sets,  
like a premonition of Winter,  
into the fragile geometry of glass.

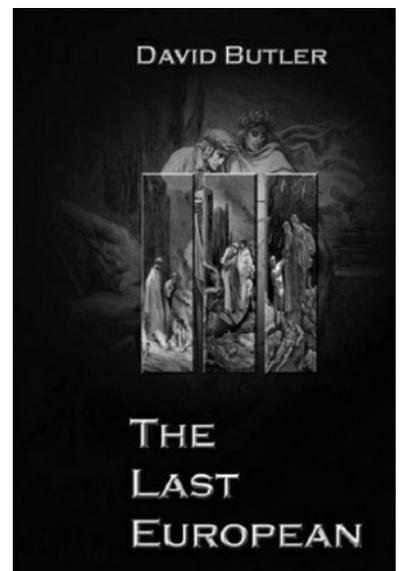
### Shaving Mirror

The illusion, in its concave retina, is  
virtual, magnified and upright,  
which shows the treachery of words.  
Rather say the image exaggerates  
with the precision of satire.  
It is a theatre of parallax;  
a moving circle, centred on the eye;  
a mercurial portrait, to which  
time, a third–rate artist  
who can’t leave well–enough alone,  
returns, morning after morning,  
to rework line and hatching  
with ever coarser charcoals,  
until the figure is botched, once for all,  
to caricature.

The collection from which these four poems are taken is titled *Via Crucis* (Doghouse Press) and is due to be launched on May 5th at Poetry Ireland.

David Butler was awarded a PhD in Latin American Literature at Trinity College, Dublin in 2002. His poetry has won numerous prizes, including the Ted McNulty (2001), Brendan Kennelly (2002) and Feile Filiochta International (2004). He is a twice winner of the Maria Edgeworth Short Story Award.

David is also a novelist and his novel *The Last European* (Wynkin deWorde, ISBN 1-904893-04-X, pp245 ) is available on the Amazon website.



## Shane Harrison in Iceland

Iceland loomed large last year, not so much as a destination - more a roadblock. Eyjafjallajökull sent a pall of ash over the North Atlantic disrupting flight services all over Europe. It's not the first



*Volcanic Ash from Eyjafjallajökull*

time Icelandic volcanoes have had a baleful effect on Europe. Three thousand years ago the explosion of mighty Hekla contributed to the eclipse of the early Mediterranean civilisations of Minoa and Mycenae. It won't be the last.

Iceland straddles the continental divide between Europe and America. The faultline is visible in the region of Thingvellir where the continental plates rear in sheer walls above a steaming plain. It is the site of the world's oldest parliament, the Althing. Here, in 930 AD, ancient Icelanders gathered to hold court and elect their parliament. Irish monks were the first people to reach Iceland but the Vikings would supplant them and become the first Europeans to colonise the North Atlantic and ultimately reach America.



*Visible Fault Lines in Thingvellir*



*Leif Eriksson*

Four hundred years before Columbus, Leif Eriksson founded Vinland (Greenland) and the colony lasted a couple of centuries before fading from sight and memory. In the 1930s the Americans commemorated the explorer with the donation of a dramatically heroic statue which guards the plaza before Reykjavik's landmark Hallgrímskirkja. The church is named for Hallgrím, a 17<sup>th</sup> century devotional poet. He married Goethron, a Westland Islander captured by Algerian pirates in 1620. She was amongst a fortunate few to be ransomed by the Danish king and Hallgrím was dispatched to reacquire the freed captives with Christianity - thus do love stories begin.

At the top of Hallgrímskirkja's immense spire you can see all of Reykjavik neatly laid out below. There's a palpable sense of drama and contrast on this fulcrum between the old world and the new, where Europe meets America. Powerful organ music pushes

up from the stark church full of gothic power, while the modernist spire feels like a spaceship to heaven. Meanwhile, the city far below has a feeling of toy town. The buildings are clad in corrugated iron,



*Hallgrímskirkja*

painted in primary colours tumbling down to the harbour, beyond which jagged snow-capped mountains pin down the deep blue horizon.

Iceland's modern parliament building dates from 1880 and is set in a pleasant square in the city centre with the small Cathedral, Domkirkjan, nearby. I shelter from the cold in a pleasant bar opposite the park and enjoy a pint of the local brew, Gull, the rim of the glass frosted with ice. There are large photos on the walls of recent disturbances. The black and white prints give a feel of ancient history, the scenes themselves, featuring police in riot gear, look improbable in such a placid square amongst an amiable people. The crash and the anger were real enough though.



There is political fire too in the work of ERRO at the City Arts Museum. Iceland's most significant visual artist was a prolific exponent of the collage, depicting a strange synthesis of propaganda, sex and consumerism. His most appealing series



*ERRO's Painting of Mao and Red Army Invading the West*

shows Mao and the Red Army leading a communist invasion of Europe and the USA. There is much reference to classical painting and iconic advertising such as the Rothman's ad. Perhaps the east will rise, as ERRO hints, or perhaps the twain should never meet.

## Review of February Arts Evening

Amidst the turmoil of looming elections and economic collapse, the February meeting provided a relaxed, pleasant and interesting evening's entertainment away from it all.

New to Bray arts, **Andrej Kapour**, a brilliant young poet, opened the proceedings with an exciting set of his own poetic work. Encouraged by his success at the Electric Picnic where he has appeared over the past two years, Andrej demonstrated his command of a wide range of styles from rap to modern romance. His clever use of voice tonality enriched his words and held the audience spellbound for the duration of each item. Delivered with striking clarity, his words alternately stabbed into the night air to shock and disturb or gently appealed for emotional responses as they coursed through each theme. His work was greeted with rousing applause.



Following the break, **Joanna Morrissey**, Floral Sculptor, wove the flowers into unusual and exotic graceful arrangements. Interspersing her deft hand movements with explanations of her technique, she neatly assembled her presentations with advice as to the best cuts to make and materials to employ. The resulting pieces drew gasps of surprise from her admiring audience. Joanna showed how she would use glass, water and Ostrich feathers to achieve an effect of light and floral beauty. Finishing with a flourish, Joanna flicked a hidden light switch in the base of one display that turned a simple arrangement into a magnificent piece of light sculpture. An appreciative discussion followed this unique presentation.



Against the backdrop of the newly created floral displays, **Rosie Wilson**, well-known member of the Shed Poets, took the floor and gently revealed the importance of arts in her life as the means of "keeping the fire alive". Reading from her rich tapestry of poetry, Rosie's moving words reinforced Dermot McCabe's eloquent review, published in the January issue of this journal, as she spoke of her deep appreciation of the value of life in "captive animals" and the freedom of the mountains of Kerry as expressed in "the Paps of Anu".



Embracing the whole of humanity, Rosie celebrated the fact that there is "still life in the old ones", the value of friendship and the graceful beauty of youth. Returning to her love of Kerry, Rosie spoke of her memories of the breaking waves and the richness of "fresh fish peppered" as a gift from "Big John Murphy" in her poem entitled "snow up Carraigna".

As her presentation drew to a close, Rosie's attentive audience appreciated the glimpses of familiar scenes and many shades of

human life with which her poetry was filled, beautifully expressed and flowing like a piece of music.

Picking up on the mellow mood established by Rosie, **Denis McArdle**, baritone, took the floor accompanied by



**Jillian Saunders** on piano. They presented a recital called "Let Us Garlands Bring" A Shakespeare song-cycle, composed by Gerald Finzi and Vaughan-Williams. Denis's full baritone enriched the work and was delivered with an easy grace and calm style that sustained the mediaeval feel of the piece. Jillian delivered a model of perfect accompaniment as the rich sounds of her piano were placed perfectly to support the voice and generate a rich atmosphere of lyrical beauty. The combination of two musicians working with close empathy on the words that have proved their worth over the centuries made a rich experience that was deeply appreciated by the entire audience with loud applause as the evening drew to an end.

Cearbhall E. O'Meadhra

## Signal Arts Exhibitions

### AUSPICIOUS RECONSTITUTIONS II

*Drawings by Boz Mugabe*

*From Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March to Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2011*

Boz Mugabe is a self taught visual artist based in Dublin City, Ireland. His work first came to prominence 20 years ago in various underground publications and he has exhibited widely throughout Ireland.

His work is a continued anthropological study, surveying human strength and tribal instinct. It investigates the human mind left to indulge in superstition, discovery, theology, persecution and survival at its own natural pace, rather than in a saturation of information, consumption and a time period where belief patterns and access to knowledge are no longer a sign of civilisation.



In a former life Boz worked rapidly by candlelight on illicit and heretical codices, narrowly avoiding much deserved execution. [www.bozgallery.com](http://www.bozgallery.com)

*Opening Reception: Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.*

### Sea Change

*Paintings by Brigitte McGovern and Louise Newman*

*From Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March to Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011*

Brigitte and Louise met whilst completing a residency at Cill Rialaig Artists Project in Kerry. Their mutual interest in the water-rich landscape of Ireland especially the South West, has inspired this collaboration.

Brigitte McGovern originally from Hamburg moved to Munich and worked as a graphic designer in advertising, before moving to Ireland in 1979 to pursue a career as a professional artist. In 2003 she was awarded the Douglas Hyde gold medal at the Oireachtas Exhibition and had works accepted for the Royal Hibernian Academy Annual Exhibition.

Louise Newman appeared on R.T.E. Open House in collaboration with Irish Arts Review Emerging Artist of the Year competition 2004 and her work was highlighted at the Eigse Carlow Arts Festival in 2005. Louise's work has been based on colour, light, water and reflection which come together to illuminate the grand seascape or reflect on an urban landscape.

*Opening Reception: Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.*

### Glass Flowers

*Flameworked and Fused Glass Works by Emma Bourke*

*From Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2011*

Emma is a visual artist working mainly in the medium of glass. At an international Flameworking Conference in Salem Emma became interested in Flameworking and brought the equipment home and set up a studio. She was the first student in NCAD to use this technique in her degree show. She won a research scholarship from the Craft Council of Ireland through the Future Makers Awards, sold a piece to the Museum of Ireland which is on permanent display in Collins Barracks.



Emma grew up in the natural world of the countryside; immersed in a culture of superstition, listening to stories of magic and fairies. It is these stories told to her by her grandfather that are a key influence in the development of this body of work.

*Opening Reception: Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.*

## *Sacred Spaces: Sacred Sounds*



Eamon Sweeney  
*Baroque & Classical Guitars*



Rachel Factor  
*Harpichord*



Redmond O'Toole  
*8-String 'Brahms' Guitar*

This April County Wicklow churches will host a new Concert Series. *Sacred Spaces: Sacred Sounds* will feature three well-known Wicklow musicians **Eamon Sweeney**, **Rachel Factor** and **Redmond O'Toole**. The concerts will take place in: Calary Church, Roundwood; St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Bray; Killiskey Church, Ashford, and will include music from the Irish & Baroque traditions including works by J.S. Bach, Turlough O'Carolan, Louis Couperin and Domenico Scarlatti. Each concert will run from **3.30-4.30pm** on three consecutive Sundays in Lent:

	<b>Calary</b>		<b>Bray</b>		<b>Ashford</b>
April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Eamon Sweeney	April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rachel Factor	April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Redmond O'Toole
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Redmond O'Toole	April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Eamonn Sweeney	April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Rachel Factor
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Rachel Factor	April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Redmond O'Toole	April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Eamonn Sweeney

It is intended that this concert series be easily accessible to the wider Wicklow Community. To this end tickets are priced: **Individual concerts: €15/€12, Series ticket (three concerts): €30/€20, Email: [info@earlyguitarireland.net](mailto:info@earlyguitarireland.net)**

Harpichordist and Ashford resident, **Rachel Factor**, is an established chamber musician and soloist having performed with many of Ireland's leading orchestras and ensembles including The Irish Chamber Orchestra, Crash Ensemble, Trio Quattro and others. She is becoming well known amongst the Irish Music Festival circles with performances at Dublin's Handel Festival and The Ardee Baroque Festival. Her artistry is generously supported by Music Network & the Arts Council.

Through his unorthodox playing style and committed musicianship, **Redmond O'Toole**, has emerged as one of the most innovative and exciting young guitarists in Europe. A native of Bray, he has collaborated with Elizabeth Cooney, Mary Coughlan, the Callino Quartet, Cora Venus Lunny, and the Dublin Guitar Quartet. He recently arranged Bizet's *Carmen* for the inaugural 'Lismore Music Festival' and is currently performing with one of the world's leading cellists, Raphael Wallfisch. His artistry is generously supported by Music Network & the Arts Council.

Ashford-based guitarist, **Eamon Sweeney**, teaches and performs extensively on early, classical, and electric guitars, and has given lectures and seminars on early guitar performance at International Guitar Festivals in Ireland, Scotland, and England. He holds a PhD in early guitar performance and performs regularly with the group, *Tonos*, alongside soprano, Róisín O'Grady. His artistry is generously supported by Music Network & the Arts Council.

## Silent

At Mermaid theatre 5 Mar 2011 - 20:00

Following the unstoppable success of *Forgotten*, Fishamble and Pat Kinevane have combined forces again on a very special new work, *Silent*. Homeless McGoldrig once had splendid things. But he has lost it all - including his mind. He now dives into the wonderful wounds of his past through the romantic world of Rudolph Valentino. Dare to laugh at despair and gasp at redemption in this brave, bleak, beautiful new production.

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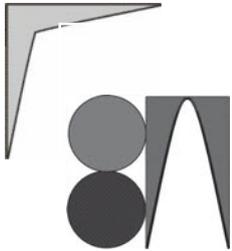
## Submission Guidelines

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Email submissions to the above or post typed  
submissions to :

Editor Bray Arts Journal  
'Casino'  
Killarney Rd.  
Bray  
Co. Wicklow

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## Bray Arts Evening Mon 7th Mar 2011

Upstairs at The Martello on the Seafront  
€5/€4 conc. Absolutely everyone is welcome.  
Doors open 8:00pm

Music : Cloak & Dagger (Niall Cloak and Fintan Dagger)

Dance : The Fagan School of Irish Dancing

Music : James Kelly Singer/Guitarist

Music : Ger Doyle, Joe Doyle and Friends

Bray Arts is grateful for the ongoing support of Bray Town Council and Heather House Hotel.  
Printed by Absolute Graphics, Bray www.agraphics.ie

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Editor, Bray Arts Journal  
'Casino'  
Killarney Road  
Bray  
Co. Wicklow