
Bray Arts Journal

Issue 1

September 2006

Volume 12



EDITORIAL

BRAY ARTS 206 -2007 SEASON

Off again for the Bray Arts 2006-2007 season. Our best wishes to Zan O'Loughlin who is the new chairperson elected at the June Arts Evening and AGM. The outgoing chairperson Sheena McMahon Walshe is to be congratulated on her unique input to Bray Arts; in particular her promotion of young performers who were very much a feature of the last Bray Arts season. The outgoing committee Carmen Cullen, Frank O'Keeffe, Peter Growney and Gerard Thomas must also be thanked for their continued dedication to Bray Arts. All the contributors to the Journal and the literary editors Anne Fitzgerald and Eugene Hearne are to be congratulated on their excellent work on the Bray Arts Journal. Tom Costelloe's continued support with the PA System is as always deeply appreciated. If you feel you can make a contribution of any sort, in the coming season, please don't hesitate to come forward to any of the committee members.

Remember also, the journal is here for your comments, observations and literary work. See the submission details on page 8.

Front Cover : from Triptych by **Paul Flynn**. Paul has studied colour and images in detail on a professional level for many years. His Visual Art is influenced by Irish culture, Writers, Storytellers, the people and all aspects of Irish life which in itself has a story to tell. His work forms part of collections in Europe, America and China. Paul's bronze bust of Samuel Beckett is on display at the Dublin Writers Museum.



BECKETT WAITING

Triptych 48" x 108" Acrylic on Stretched Canvas. These large paintings were exhibited at the Florence Biennale December 2005 in Italy.

Much of what is in the Triptych "Beckett Waiting" is a reflection of Samuel Beckett's work. Many of the details refer to his style of writing especially in the play "Waiting for Godot" in which we see the futility of modern life and the absurdity that sometimes prevails. Some of his earlier work dealt with meditating on the obscurity of theological mysteries, the approach of death, and the passage of time. All of these are addressed in this Triptych.

NEWS AND VIEWS

LOOKING BACK

Looking back on the last couple of Arts Evenings before we took our Summer break I am reminded of the tremendous contribution of our local artists/performers who, for no financial return, give so much pleasure and enjoyment. Happily for us in Bray Arts there appears to be an abundance of talented people prepared to give of their best for the sheer pleasure of expressing themselves and entertaining others through their own particular art form.

In the absence of our normal reviews in May and June we missed the opportunity to comment on the likes of **Sonia Haccius** who gave us a fascinating and personal insight into the world of set design. Her style of delivery was engaging and humorous. **Fiona O'Farrell**, a long time member of Bray Arts took us on her own unique perambulations through Thailand with her paintings, drawings, photographs and mixed media works. In June **Jo Callenan** the South African artist now residing in Ireland gave a very eloquent talk on her own personal artistic journey taking us from South Africa to Wales and Ireland.

In May we were treated to a very special piece of theatre from The Two Old Codgers, **Frank O'Keeffe** and **Justin Aylmer**, in a piece called **The Strike**, written by Frank. These old codgers with a kind of cute naivety discussed the vagaries of modern living and current topics. It was a wonderfully humorous and insightful commentary on life as seen by the old



codgers. I am really looking forward to hearing them again this coming season.

After the Old Codgers we had some very young entertainers in the form of **The Sellouts**. This talented Wicklow based band was a real hit with the audience.

I must also mention the very final act of the 2005/2006 season, **Barbara Donnelley** and her Dancers. They brought delighted smiles, oohs and ahhs from the audience with their high kicking, high energy cabaret dance and music.

..FOR WRITERS

Evoke creativity and enhance your imagination this Autumn and Winter with The Creative Writer's Workshop. Full programme details of residential Writers' Retreats & Weekend Workshops available on

web: www.thecreativewritersworkshop.com

Tel: +353 86 252 3428

E: creativewriting@ireland.com

..FOR CREATIVES OF ALL SORTS

Open Invitation to attend a Multi-Disciplinary Performance Event.

Maya Lila Sanskrit for "illusion" and "play". Originated by **Joan Davis** in collaboration with Dance Artists / Vocalists Penny Collinson, Maggie Harvey, Mary Nunan; Artist/ Musician Nicholas Twilley and Vocalist Eileen Keane.

at **Gorse Hill**, Cliff Road, Windgates, Bray, Co. Wicklow:

August 31st at 4 pm,

September 2nd at 2 pm,

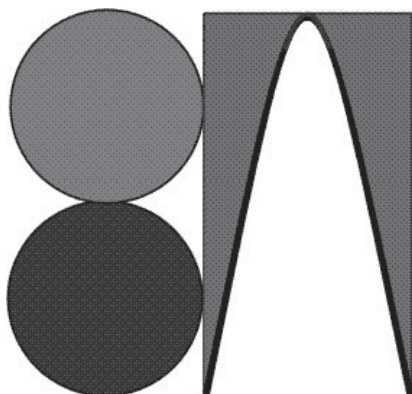
September 3rd at 2 pm.

For further details go to <http://www.gorsehill.net/>

BRAY ARTS WEBSITE AND NEW LOGO

Bray Arts has finally got its own website www.brayarts.net. We are developing the site gradually and at present you can access the backcopies of the Bray Arts Journal from January 2006. It also includes a comments facility for feedback and very shortly we will have a calander of upcoming Bray Arts events on the site. We would welcome any suggestions or views you might have and would also welcome anyone who has some experience of web design/mastering who would be willing to give us some assistance in maintaining and developing the site.

Along with our new website we have launched our new LOGO which was designed by Caolan O'Loughlan. We think it is a



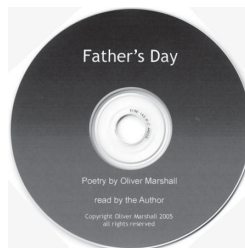
very strong and distinctive LOGO and thank Caolan for his excellent work.

PREVIEW OF SEPT 4TH ARTS EVENING

8:00pm Heather House, Seafront, Admission Euro 5/4conc

Poetry

Last October Lorcan Byrne reviewed a book of poetry called **Father's Day** by Bray based poet **Oliver Marshall**. He said



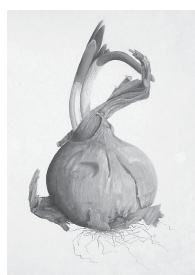
"... while the pain is at times almost unbearable, as in 'For My Daughter Going to Spain' or 'Lecce Remembered', there is no despair. Instead there is a stoic strength and a recognition that love is the balm for any wound that time might inflict."

Oliver has recorded this beautiful collection on CD which will be launched at our Arts Evening with a reading by Oliver himself.

Art

Yanny Petters from Enniskerry started her artistic career as a signwriter and gilder. After spending eight years in London she returned to Ireland in 1993 and began to develop her work focussed on a botanical theme.

Yanny has been painting studies of mostly Irish wild plants since then. As well as her own very distinctive work in



watercolours and oils Yanny specialises in 'painting on glass', a technique she has been developing since her signwriting years. She is influenced by Tromp l'oeil techniques and the use of light by Dutch painters of the 17th Century. But why not come along to see and hear the rest of the story from Yanni herself.

Literature

From early childhood, one of the most pleasurable experiences is having someone read a story for us. Well



Belinda Kelly, a talented writer from Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, will read for us on Sep. 4th from her own work. She studied English and French at UCC. She then worked and trained as an actress in the UK. Belinda features in the creative writing section of this Journal on page 5 with an extract from her first novel *Starstruck*. She also writes poetry and short stories and is a member of Abraxas Writers.

Music and Song



Jimmy Cullen's early musical influences were his mother's old time singing and his father's traditional fiddle playing. Perhaps not surprisingly folk music has been a life long passion.

His performance for Bray Art's Club will include a combination of O Carolan pieces, folk ballads and self-compositions.

The Castle

By Alma Bray den

He's not moving.
They offer respite,
he knows if he leaves
there's no coming back

His apple trees
bend with fruit, juicy red,
dropping into high weeds
he can neither lift nor pull.

The house holds dusty memories
of her spectacular baking,
now, weevils invade
the self-raising flour.
Her chair, still covered
with the throw she was making.
The piano aches for her touch.

They say the place needs painting
he dreads a fall,
they'd have him in seconds
strapped, stretched, siren screaming.

He's not leaving.

Mid-Summer Solaten

by Millie Purwin

Shine on my body
make it glow
Penetrate my heart

it is not enough

only your love
can make it glow

my body and heart

Growing

They never again talked the same way after that,
never as close. Later they went down and sat by
the stream, bending over it like sallies, dipping into
the water from time, breaking up their reflec-
tions with sticks and straws. Strange to say they
never looked so different to each other, even when
they played close together but now they saw how
different they were it seemed for the first time.

She didn't really want to link arms with him going
home. She ran off ahead in a reverie of her own,
staring into the eyes of the flowers that were as
tall as her and seemed to talk to her about some
secret life. The wind blew the flowers in his direc-
tion also whispered something, but when turned he
wasn't looking after her. He was swinging by his
arms from the bough of a tree and staring across
at the red roofs of the well-stocked barns that would
one day be his.

To my love

by Millie Purwin

I feel like a nun
in this grey Swedish cell
without my love

Nothing to remind me
of who I am
No poetry flows

from inside myself
It warms the night
it is for you

FRED SMITH & SON (LIMITED)

by Brendan O'Brion

The M5 snakes to destinations of no man's dreams
Sloughs around Sandwell, outskirts Perry Barry
thence onto Dudley via a diversion.
It is raining grey.

Fred Smith and Limited Son exit motorway
veering left at Junction 1
hauling sofa and settee to be much admired in West Bromwich.
It is polite to do so,

Fred Smith owns a van and the most ordinary name.
As if his mother had prophesied 'Smith from West Brom town.
Little future in that, Fred will do fine, he won't be going far'

EXTRACT FROM NOVEL STARSTRUCK

by Belinda Kelly

CHAPTER 4 - Letters Home

Sunrise in Shepherd's Bush was Ruby's favourite time of day. Empty taxis circled the central wasteland that lay at the heart of the Bush. Ruby left the tube station and crossed the street to descend the ramp towards her flat on Woodstock Grove. She passed The Queen's Head pub at the

top of the tree-lined avenue. The drawn velvet curtains bragged a lock-in. When Ruby arrived at the steps leading down to her basement flat, the front door was open. She slowly edged her head around the doorframe. A row of painted fingernails dangled from the sofa in the corner of the living room. Ruby crept towards her half-dressed mother and removed the empty vodka bottle that lay in her lap. She noticed a sheet of paper poking from under the sofa cushion. The top half of the letter was torn but Ruby could decipher the most important part: "We are delighted to offer you a place on the two year acting course at the London School of Dramatic Art. Could you please ensure that you contact us before May 1st, 1994. Otherwise we will offer your place to an applicant on our reserve list." Ruby stuffed the letter in her back pocket and folded a blanket over her mum's contorted body. Birds sang outside. She glanced at the television. Nurse Hathaway wheeled an unconscious boy through the emergency doors. Ruby crept from the living room and locked her bedroom door. She read the letter several times and then cried herself to sleep.

Padraig pushed his bike over the cattle grid at the entrance to the Mahon farm. He cursed Donal Mahon for always demanding that the post be hand delivered and cycled up the stony driveway. In his fist he held a letter addressed to Donal's youngest. It was sent over from England and looked official enough. On the other side of the front door Cara waited for him to pass the envelope through the letterbox. Through the mottled glass window Padraig determined a fluffy white bathrobe. Unfortunately the delicious Cara was accompanied by her black Labrador whose face he could also see growling through the glass. Padraig held onto the letter and fumbled through his sack. He wanted to see Cara's dressing gown.

'Ah, where is it? I was sure I had a letter for Cara Mahon from England'

He fumbled in his bag again, throwing his arms up into the air.

'No. I'm wrong. It must be for the other place'.

The front door swung open. Cara stood at the bottom of the stairs in her white dressing gown. She wore a pink towel draped around her black hair. Padraig noticed she held the Labrador by his collar.

'Well. Do you know what, Cara Mahon? You are the spit of Elizabeth Taylor in that get-up'

'Have you any post for us today?' Cara replied, trying to play down the import of Padraig's hand in her future. She well remembered him scratching his stubble against her

face when she and her sisters followed him on his round. 'What'll you give me if I have? Padraig smiled, baring a row of mustard teeth, hiding the letter behind his back. 'First' paused Cara. 'Let me show you what I won't give you'

She yanked the dog's collar, causing him to lunge at Padraig's crotch. He felt a rush of heat as the dog's jaw snapped near his balls. He threw the letter in Cara's face. Running for his bike, he dragged his sack along the gravel. 'I'm reporting you' he shouted after Cara breathlessly. 'To the Gardai'

Cara stroked Pio, picked the letter off the step and shut the front door.

At the conservatory breakfast table, Jamie sat in his Calvin Klein boxer shorts. He sat with his back to the gardens of Highdale House, as he couldn't bear sunlight this early in the morning. Margarita placed his breakfast in front of him as he rippled the muscle on his tanned forearm. Eggs Benedict. Again. His head throbbed from last night. He had finally got to shag Lucy Mannering at Roger's 21st birthday party. She had held out until 2am. He undressed her in the study and licked her delicious nipples as the others went for a swim. She was his ninth girl this year. That would make one every...

'James, I believe this is for you'. His father strode into the conservatory wearing a pinstriped suit and a hideously pink tie. His patent leather shoes clacked against the tiled floor causing Jamie's head to bang. He flung the cream envelope on top of the eggs. Above Jamie's name and address 'The London Academy of Dramatic Art' was printed in a burgundy scroll.

Margarita arrived at the table with a coffeepot in one hand and a teaspoon in the other. When she saw the envelope, she threw the coffeepot on the table. She ran around to Jamie and pressed her nose against the envelope. Then she ran out into the hall.

'Meezes Lloyd! Meezes Lloyd!' she shouted up the winding staircase.

'The letter you wanted. From the school. It has come for Jamie'

Jamie's mother screamed from her bedroom and scuttled down the staircase.

'Here we go', sighed Mr. Lloyd. He walked to the end of the table and watched the gardener make a balls of his clematis tree.

Mrs. Lloyd burst into the room followed by a waft of scent. One eye was heavily made up, the other would have to wait.

'Okay. Everybody. Calm down. Everybody just calm down' she said fanning her hands in an attempt to dry her coral varnished nails. Margarita joined Mrs. Lloyd's side as she stood facing Jamie at the table. Her piggy eyes disappeared into her cheeks as she crossed both sets of stubby fingers on each hand.

'No pressure then folks?' quipped Jamie as the two of them hung over the envelope.

'Charles' Mrs. Lloyd dropped her jaw in disbelief.

'What on earth are you doing over there? Don't you want to know what's in the letter?'

Taking the opportunity to vex his wife further, Mr. Lloyd walked towards the breakfast table.

'Why would I want my son to spend his life poncing around in a pair of tights?'

He opened the conservatory doors and headed off into the

garden.

Jamie tore open the envelope. 'For Christ's sake Dad, he laughed. 'I can assure you. I will NOT be poncing about in a pair of tights!'

Belinda Kelly is from Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. This is an extract from 'Starstruck', her first novel. Belinda will be reading more of her work on 4th Sept. See the preview of this upcoming Arts Evening on page 3.

VIDEO VOYEUR

Harold Chassen

Since the last issue of the Journal several great DVDs were released, *Syriana*, *Capote*, *Walk the Line*, and *Munich*. My pick of these is *Capote*. It tells of the relationship between Truman Capote and the killers of a family in rural Kansas in the American mid-west. He pleads, begs and coerces the story from the killers in order to write his book *In Cold Blood*. Once he gets what he wants he turns his back on them. The

film earned a Best Actor Oscar for Phillip Seymour Hoffman in the title role. It is well worth seeing for his performance alone.

NEW EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS

on the themes of Nature, Music and Politics

by **Stephen McKee**



at the United Arts Club
3 Upper Fitzwilliam Street
Dublin 2
(phone: 01-6611411)

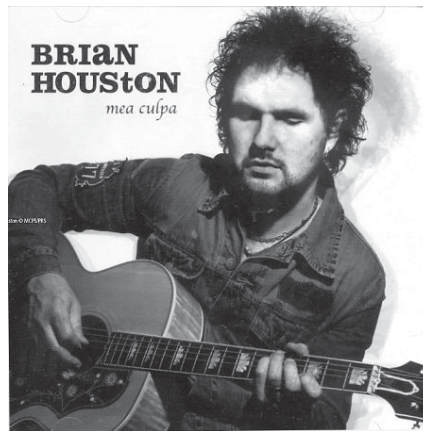
TD Mary Hanafin will open the exhibition on September 6, at 7 pm

This exhibition curated by Olivier Cornet will run until September 12th

Review

Brian Houston - Mermaid Arts Centre Saturday 12th August. Reviewer **Zan O'Loughlin**

Brian Houston from Belfast, a musician of many talents played support to Juliet Turner at Mermaid Arts Centre on 12th August. He played acoustic guitar, electric guitar and



the harmonica. He writes his own songs and with his wide vocal range performs them brilliantly, each song with its own unique rhythms, sounds and lyrics. 'Red Badge of Courage' is a memorable and touching song he wrote for his wife. Introducing the song Brian said

"It's two years and five days when, on holiday, my wife discovered a lump in her breast. On returning home she was diagnosed with a three inch malignant tumour." Brian then sang his tribute to her courageous battle. It was so touching without being sentimental. Listening to him was a soulful and enjoyable experience.

Brian has played support to Elvis Costelloe at the point. He performs mainly in England, Wales and Scotland. Hopefully he will return to the Mermaid as the main performer. He is one to look out for. His latest CDs are *Mea Culpa* and *Jesus and Justice*.

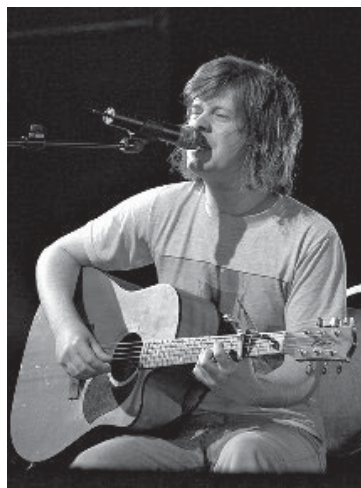
FIONN REGAN - CD "THE END OF HISTORY"

- OUT: AUG 25th 2006

The *End of History* is the beguiling debut album from Irishman Fionn Regan. The release will be supported by a national tour.

Fionn's 5-track *Hotel Room EP* caused a mighty stir amongst punters and pundits on its release in 2004 and

The End Of History is the perfect successor displaying an artistic vision that is distinctly his own. 12 songs of honesty and simplicity; an album that is at all turns heart-warming, affecting and beguiling.



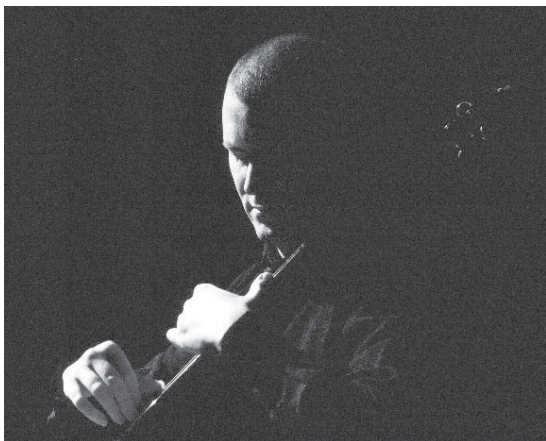
For the recording of his debut, Fionn has eschewed the big production values embraced by many singer-songwriters. Fionn's sonic ideals have more in common with classic recordings of the

60s and 70s, recording in a live capacity using analogue

equipment, with guitar & vocals performed simultaneously in one take while introducing percussion, piano and strings to mesmerising effect.

Redmond OíToole -New CD

Redmond's debut album is to be released on October 2nd and will be available in record shops in Ireland as well as directly from his website www.redmondotoole.com. The track list includes Satie, Monpou, Bach and Haydn. If you want a taster of this excellent CD, Redmond has kindly put some sample tracks on his website. You will find all the details of Redmond's upcoming concerts on



the site but just in case you do not have convenient access to the internet we have printed out his very busy itinerary below. As always we are delighted to see Redmond back home and playing in Ireland.

2006

October 2nd, Solo Recital, National Concert Hall, Dublin.

October 5th, Solo Recital, Linenhall Arts Centre, Castlebar.

October 7th, Solo Recital, Mermaid Arts Centre, Bray, Wicklow.

October 11th, Solo Recital, Civic Theatre, Tallaght.

October 12th, Solo Recital, Hawkswell Theatre, Sligo.

October 14th, Solo Recital, Airfield House, Dundrum.

October 18th, Solo Recital, Bank of Ireland Arts Centre, Dublin.

November 19th, Duo with Elizabeth Cooney (violin), Royal Dublin Society, Chamber Music Weekend, Dublin.

December 2nd, Concierto de Aranjuez with Dublin symphony Orchestra, Kings Inn, Dublin.

December 6th, Duo with Elizabeth Cooney (violin), Bank of Ireland Arts Centre, Dublin.

2007

January 19th, Solo Recital, St. John's Theatre, Listowel, Kerry

For Concert bookings in the Republic of Ireland please contact:

Madeleine Flannagan Web: www.classicallinks.ie

E-mail: madeleine@classicallinks.ie

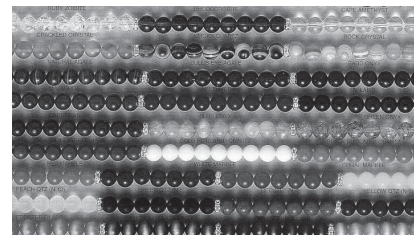
Tel: 00 353 (0) 91 799258

Address: classicallinks 9 Lakeview Claregalway Co. Galway Ireland

NEW SHOP FOR THOSE WITH A BEADY EYE FOR JEWELLERY AND CRAFTS.

Jewellery designer and all round crafts expert, Velda Conaty, has opened a sparkling new store on Quinsborough Rd, Bray. BDI Jewellery, a must for anyone with a magpie-like love of beads, buttons and all things shiny, was established in 2004 by Velda and her father, John. Having grown too big for its Blackrock Market booth, the company has recently upgraded to a sparkling new premises on Quinsborough Road, where Velda and John have created a veritable candy shop of crafts. Along with jewellery designed and handcrafted by Velda, BDI has an elaborate range of beads which customers can choose to make into jewellery themselves. Having anticipated the creative mood that overcomes you when you walk into the shop, BDI have put together kits that customers can buy to make their own jewellery. An astounding assortment of colourful ribbon and leather cord is also available as an alternative to the silver chain on sale. The shop has a dazzling array of beads from around the world including Crystal, semi precious, handmade glass, seed beads, pearls, plastic as well as tools and books. They also carry a wide range of findings from base metal to sterling silver. The only limit on what you can create is your own imagination. Velda has had a keen interest in crafts since childhood and is accomplished in cross stitch and knitting, to which she devotes the little time left over when not designing and making

jewellery and running the business. A timely Christmas present of a jewellery craft book set Velda on the path to BDI in 1999 and she hasn't looked back since. She has developed an expert knowledge of beads and gemstones and sources her materials from all over the world, giving BDI its rainbow of colours and distinctive global feel. John and Velda have been running evening classes in jewellery making at the Foxrock Institute for the past two years and is an excellent source of information and advice on all things bead related. **BDI Jewellery**, 10 Boulevard Centre, Quinsborough Rd is open Monday- Saturday, 9am- 6pm



AND FOR THOSE WITH A BEADY EYE FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

Bray Photo Labs tell us they are using the most up to date technology in the world to print images from digital media and download them to CD if you want. They also offer, along with normal photographic processing some other useful services such as copy and repair of old photographs, print from slides and download negatives onto CD.

Bray Photo Labs
No 2 Herbert Road
Bray
Co. Wicklow
Tel : 2867418

P.S.

Would you like to assist Bray Arts? Every little helps. For example we get volunteers to decorate the function room of the Heather House for our Arts Evenings for different months; we get volunteers to do PRO work, distribution of Journals etc. We will accept any help you can give.

There is one particular job someone might volunteer to do for the coming season or even part of the season and that is to take care of our PA system. This involves keeping the PA system in your own home and setting it up (very simple) each month for the Arts Evening. This might suit someone who could use a PA system for say band practice in their own home.

If you think you would like to help Bray Arts then contact any of the committee members or email bacj@eircom.net.

Submission Guidelines

Editor : Dermot McCabe : bacj@eircom.net

Creative Writing Prose/Fiction Editor : Anne Fitzgerald : afitzgerald3@ireland.com

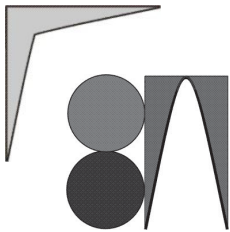
Poetry Editor : Eugene Hearne : poetrybray@yahoo.ie

Email submissions to any of the above or post typed submissions to

The Editor BAJ 'Casino',
Killarney Rd. Bray,
Co. Wicklow

Visual material: Photographs by Post. Digital Images by Email or CD in JPEG format.

Deadline 12th of each month.



BRAY ARTS EVENING MONDAY 4TH SEPT 2006 8:00PM
HEATHER HOUSE HOTEL, STRAND RD. SEAFRONT, BRAY
RELAX AND ENJOY A FANTASTIC EVENING - EVERYONE IS WELCOME

ADMISSION 5 EURO AND 4 EURO CONCESSION

Oliver Marshall - will launch the CD of his wonderful poetry collection 'Father's Day'.

Yanni Petters - Highly regarded artist will talk about and present her unique paintings.

Belinda Kelly - actress and writer will read from her latest work

Jimmy Cullen - talented musician and singer will play Carolan, Folk and his own compositions

Bray Arts is grateful for the support of Bray Council, Wicklow Council, CASC and Heather House Hotel.

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