



Winter 2021 Newsletter.

Welcome.

And so, another year draws in as the world continues to spin in ever more dizzying, swirly patterns. I think it's safe to say we all thought this Christmas would be different, and it might yet be, and the expressed hope that 2022 will see a new dawn might yet prove to be more than an empty cliché. I did think that I would be writing to announce the reopening of the actual door to welcome you back to the long table and cups of tea around the island in the kitchen. Alas! Not yet!

However, it is not all bad, online courses have certainly had advantages and I have had the delight of meeting students from far and wider than the plains of Kildare. On many a cold, dark night, as I chatted with participants before class, we all agreed that the walk to the computer from the kitchen was a welcome alternative to having to leave the house.

Also, as this year has seen the publication of my novel, *Charlotte & Arthur*, a work of historical fiction, I am excited to be adding a new course to the online schedule: **Writing Historical Fiction: The Art and the Craft.**

As we are all busy at this time of the year, I am keeping this edition shorter, and instead of the usual feature giving a shout out to a literary related topic, I am using the slot to share details from a new publication press established by John MacKenna and Angela Keogh. Those of you who have taken courses with me, will have often heard me quote John's wisdom when it comes to writing and I use his work in the memoir course, so this is a lovely opportunity to give something back to John and Angela.

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- The Harvest Press
- January/February courses at Kildare Writing Centre
- Gift Vouchers
- *Charlotte & Arthur* news.

The Harvest Press



Stories worth telling

New publication and books for Christmas

Friends,

Here we are on the doorstep of December. Christmas is just around the corner and we are delighted to announce the release of our first audio book. *I Knew This Place* (**double audio CD**) is a collection of twenty-eight of John MacKenna's *Sunday Miscellany* radio essays, from the book of the same name.

Ranging across the four seasons, this collection makes for a wonderful Christmas present. Read by John MacKenna, in his own intimate and inimitable style, these radio essays bring to life the characters and the landscape which will be familiar to MacKenna's listeners.

The CD is available from www.theharvestpress.ie at €15. Postage free to ROI.

Also available from The Harvest Press are:

***The Winter Dress*, by Angela Keogh**

Set during Christmas 1348, this beautiful novel was described by the Irish Times as *authentic and intense...The Winter Dress lingers and resonates long after the last page*

***I Knew This Place*, (book, back in stock) by John MacKenna**

More than eighty of MacKenna's radio essays from RTE's *Sunday Miscellany*, the Irish Times reviewer wrote *woven with rich and intimate language, distinctly Irish and yet utterly universal*.

***The Forgotten*, by Gerard Whelan**

A moving and deeply researched account of the men and women from Castledermot and district who fought in the Great War.

A remarkable book of the secret histories of these men and women. The Nationalist

All the above are available from www.theharvestpress.ie

If you have any queries, please do get in touch with us at editor@theharvestpress.ie

With every good wish,

John and Angela

And according to the website, submissions will open up again in January 2022 for publication in 2023!

2022 Courses at Kildare Writing Centre.

1. Introduction to Creative writing, with a focus on the short Story.

Tuesday January 25th – Tuesday February 15th

7pm-9pm

4-week course

Cost €120

This four-week course (eight hours) is designed to facilitate you in writing a short story. Over the course of the weeks, we will look at story openings, characterisation, dialogue and setting as you are guided through handouts on craft, invited to partake in written activities, and encouraged to discuss the elements of craft encountered in assigned stories and in your own work.

There will be a reading assignment each week and your written goal will be to complete a short story.

While your manuscripts will not be workshopped during the classes, I will suggest that you share your work in progress with the group so that any references you make to your text during our discussions will be familiar and thus enable the sharing of ideas.

You will be encouraged to submit your story a fortnight after the classes finish to enable me to offer any advice, I think may be helpful.

Writers of the short form you can expect to encounter include William Trevor, Eilís Ní Dhuibhne, Claire Keegan, Danielle McLaughlin, Flannery O' Connor, Raymond Carver, Jhumpa Lahiri, Carys Davies, and Kevin Barry.

2. Writing Historical Fiction: *The Art and the Craft.*

Thursday January 27th – Thursday February 17th.

7pm-9pm

4-week course

Cost €120

Over the four weeks this course looks at what we mean by historical fiction, it explores why we write it, how it has changed in recent times, and what is involved when we decide that we have an idea we want to transform into a novel.

Each lesson will look at the art of historical fiction, the theories, the advice handed down from famous practitioners like Hilary Mantel, and the craft of historical fiction, how characterisation, dialogue, and setting are informed by a combination of fact/truth/imagination.

Reading and writing assignments will involve researching primary and secondary history sources, engaging with the work of other writers, writing first drafts of opening chapters, and formulating a methodology/work schedule that works for you.

3. Writing Creative non-fiction: memoir, autobiography, auto-fiction, the personal essay.

Saturday January 29th, 10am -4pm.

Cost €75

This facilitated one day, online workshop aims to explore the many ways in which we write about our life. Through free-writing activities, sharing of stories, and instructional handouts, you will be guided to a place of confidence and knowledge from where you can begin to tell your story.

Participants can expect to encounter and explore:

- Why Life-writing?
- Exercises that help you explore what it is you want to write.
- Truth and Memory in creative non-fiction
- Turning yourself into a character
- Thinking on every page
- The ‘voice’ in creative non-fiction
- The art of story and storytelling
- The shape of the story: form/structure in creative non-fiction.

4. Beginning the novel: the opening chapters and planning a schedule.

Saturday February 26th, 10am-4pm

Cost €75

This is an introduction to writing the novel. The course looks at the opening pages and what it is the writer needs to do to keep the reader reading. Whether you are coming with an idea for a novel or a completed first draft, this course is a must to teach you how to present your best work and avoid the slush pile!

Participants can expect to encounter and explore:

- Writing exercises aimed at discovering your passions and your voice.
- Story openings: what the reader expects in the first pages.
- Common errors and how to solve them
- Handling language and description.
- Revising and editing.

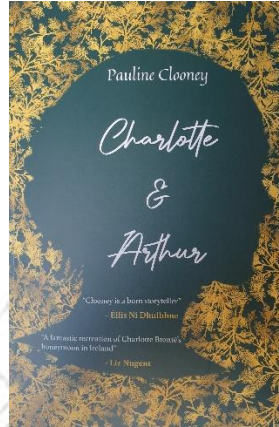
Gift Vouchers for Christmas

If you would like to give someone the gift of a voucher towards a course at the centre, you can either buy one for €30 or €50 on the website or contact me if you had a different sum in mind. I will send you the voucher via email and it can be addressed to the recipient.

Booking: <https://kildarewritingcentre.com/courses>

Charlotte & Arthur.

News



Thank you to everyone who has supported me and sent lovely messages of congratulations and kind, thoughtful reviews of the novel, I want you to know how much it all means. Writing is not only a lonely process, but a very self-doubting one, so it is very encouraging to get such generous feedback.

Here are a few of the highlights in terms of engaging with the public that you might like to have a look at/listen to.

RTE Radio One The History Show: <https://www.rte.ie/radio/podcasts/22033387-charlotte-bronte/>

The Irish Examiner feature: <https://www.suejleonard.com/articles/beginners-pluck/pauline-clooney/>

The Literary Ladies Guide interview: <https://www.literaryladiesguide.com/literary-musings/charlotte-arthur-by-pauline-clooney/>

Review in Writing.ie: <https://www.writing.ie/readers/charlotte-arthur-by-pauline-clooney/>

And in late January 2022, I feature in a BBC Northern Ireland Documentary, *The Brontës: An Irish Tale*. I'll be sure to keep you posted on exact dates.

If anyone is interested in buying a signed copy, perhaps as a Christmas gift, I do have some copies from the Publishers that you can get directly from me.

Thank you for all the support in 2021

And until 2022, I wish you all a safe, warm, and carefree Christmas.

Pauline.