



Winter 2022 Newsletter.

Welcome.

Hello again from Kildare Writing Centre and happy December to you all. We've had the first hard frost of the year here in Millford this morning along with bright winter sunshine and, honestly, it lifts the heart and soul. Something else that has lifted my spirits this past Autumn has been the return to in-person classes here at Kildare Writing Centre. To sit around the oval table just for the sake of words, writing them and reading them, discussing them, laughing over them, being moved to tears by them...simply sharing them...it doesn't get much better. Thank you to the lovely group of humans I currently share my Tuesday evenings with.

The present course continues after Christmas and then a new one will be starting up in the Spring. Details below. I am keeping all classes to eight students as that is the most comfortable and manageable number. I am also starting back the morning memoir classes, again, more about that below.

And in other more personal Kildare Writing Centre news, as some of you will know, over Covid we had to say goodbye to our three dogs, Marco, Lola, and Lottie, those of you who have attended classes here in the past will remember them as the welcoming party! Well, the new generation are coming soon. So, the next time you're coming to KWC you can look forward to meeting Flossy and Keeper, our rough collie puppies. And yes, those are the names of the Brontë dogs...why wouldn't I?

So, for now, it remains for me to say, I hope you enjoy the newsletter, do please help spread the news about the courses, and until next time, have yourselves a Christmastime of joy and wonderment...*Pauline.*

In this issue:

- Festive Literary events
- Grants submissions.
- Spring courses at Kildare Writing Centre

Festive Literary events.

Just because writing is a solitary pursuit doesn't mean we can't put on the glam and glitter, (or more realistically, clothes appropriate to being seen in a public space) and hit the town. Here are a few events that might suit you, geographically and otherwise.

- If you are a member, associate or professional, of the Irish Writers' Centre, this is happening tonight. <https://irishwriterscentre.ie/whats-on/iwc-members-christmas-party/>
- If you're knocking around Dublin city next Monday:



- For my Galway subscribers, happening tomorrow. I would love to be in the west to hear this storyteller. <https://www.eventbrite.ie/cc/celtic-tales-electrifying-storytelling-show-359339>
- This is happening with writer Colum McCann among others in Limerick: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/an-ode-to-christmas-tickets-474028200107?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>
- And if you're in Cork, you can never go wrong with Dickins at Christmas: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/a-christmas-carol-at-nano-nagle-place-tickets-469121855097?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>
- I'm including this event, happening at various locations around the country, because we all know Leonard Cohen is the poet who should also have got the Noble prize of literature, some might argue, got it before...ahem...the other songwriter! I am looking forward to catching the Kilkenny happening of this one! <https://www.birdonthewire.ie/>
- And again, in the Irish Writers centre...and not just for women, what a lovely way to welcome in 2023 with their annual Nollaig na mBan event. <https://irishwriterscentre.ie/whats-on/nollaig-na-mban-2023-home/>

Grants Submissions.

It is that time of year when grant and bursary applications are opening so make sure you are keeping yourself updated from the arts council and your local county councils. Here are some links I am familiar with, but I would advise you to check out your local county council arts service to see what is available for 2023:

- Kildare County Council: note the earlier submission date of February 28th, it used to be mid-March.
<https://kildarecoco.ie/ArtsService/GrantsandOpportunities/#:~:text=Submissions%20can%20now%20be%20made,through%20each%20individual%20call%20out.>
- All Arts Council available funding
<https://www.artscouncil.ie/available-funding/>
- You can register your interest in funding with Laois County Arts office here:
<https://laois.ie/departments/arts/grants-schemes/>

Next Courses at Kildare Writing Centre.

1.

Writing the short story.

An eight week in-person course

Tuesday February 21st – Tuesday April 11th

6.30pm-9.30pm Cost: €280

Over the course of the eight weeks, I will take you through the craft of writing the short story, introduce you to the masters of the form, both classical and contemporary, and afford you the opportunity to write a story each week or work on one or more stories intensely over the ten weeks.

Course outline.

Week 1. Where to start/how to start! First impressions and Story Openings.

Week 2. Characterisation.

Week 3. Dialogue.

Week 4. Setting: Exploring ways of using Time and Place

Week 5. Point of view.

Week 6. Plot and Theme

Week 7 & 8. Language and description.

The format for each class is as follows:

1. Introductory chat followed by a prompted 10-minute written exercise.
2. An instructive session, based on a PowerPoint/handout on the art of writing where a different element of craft is explored each week.
3. A short discussion referencing the **weekly reading assignment**.
4. A fifteen-minute break with refreshments provided
5. Workshopping **weekly written assignments** from at least three students.
6. Concluding chat about the writing plans for the week ahead.

Eight participants(max) accepted on course. You can book your place here with a deposit of €100. The balance will be due on or before February 21st. Please indicate when you book the course you are signing up for:

Booking: <https://kildarewritingcentre.com/courses-1>

2.

Writing your Story.

A four week in-person course.

Monday January 30th to Monday February 20th

11am to 1pm__Cost €100

A course for creative non-fiction writing (Memoir/biography/autobiography).

If you have a story you want to record for posterity or an interest in something or someone specific that you would like to write about, then this may be the course you are looking for. Through prompted written exercises, instruction in the art of writing, and the sharing of your work you will be encouraged and guided through the processes involved in writing about facts in a creative manner.

Course outline.

Week 1. What is creative non-fiction. Why life-writing? Form and structure.

Week 2. How to turn yourself into a character!

Week 3. Finding your writing voice.

Week 4. The shape of the story and the art of storytelling.

The format for each class is as follows:

1. Introductory chat followed by a prompted 10-minute written exercise and reading of what is written by anyone who wants share.
2. A discussion based on ideas that may have arisen from the contributions.
3. A short break of ten minutes with refreshments provided.
4. An instructive session, based on a handout on the art of writing where a different element of craft is explored each week.
5. A short discussion referencing the week's reading assignment.
6. Concluding chat about the writing plans for the week ahead.

Eight participants(max) accepted on course. You can book your place here by paying the full fee of €100. I should advise that this course has proven to be very popular in the past so get in fast to avoid disappointment:

Booking: <https://kildarewritingcentre.com/courses-1>

Buying books this Christmas.

Don't forget to support yourself and your community by buying books as gifts this Christmas. And as always support your local independent bookshops. Here are my local ones:

<https://www.facebook.com/seanchaibooks>

<https://www.woodbinebooks.ie/>

<https://farrellandnephew.ie/>

And of course, *Charlotte & Arthur*, published by Merdog Books is still available in bookshops and online and I have some signed copies here at the centre.



HAPPY CHRISTMAS 2022