Close to home

SEASON ONE
OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2016

SEAMUS HEANEY
HomePlace
music, theatre, poetry, song, readings and talks
12 months, 12 books

www.seamusheaneyhome.com
Welcome across the threshold

One of the great challenges of devising a programme that does justice to the work of Seamus Heaney is the length of his career. His published work spans 47 years and embraces not just poetry but verse, translations, essays and plays. But in creating the programme for HomePlace’s inaugural year, we were offered an unexpected gift: from *Death of a Naturalist* in 1966 to *Human Chain* in 2010, Seamus Heaney published twelve collections of poetry. Twelve works for twelve months. What could we do but follow his lead?

Beginning in October with events inspired by *Death of a Naturalist* and ending next year with *Human Chain*, the 2016-17 programme moves both with the seasons and with the arc of Seamus Heaney’s own career.

Throughout the year, events will be clustered around two weekends per month. Some will be staged in surprising (and sometimes secret) locations, but many will take place in The Helicon, HomePlace’s intimate performance space.

The first quarter programme presented here takes its cue from the first three collections (*Death of a Naturalist, Door into the Dark* and *Wintering Out*) and stays close to home, inviting a range of noted Irish and British musicians, writers, poets and thinkers to perform, respond to and explore one collection every month.

Seamus Heaney once wrote that ‘an opening line should be like a melody’, and we’ve taken that lesson to heart; beginning the programme with a performance of Mahler’s magnificent *Kindertotenlieder*, and closing it with Schubert’s equally heart-rending *Winterreise*. In between, some of Seamus Heaney’s early influences, including Patrick Kavanagh and TS Eliot, will be represented by unique events in local spaces, none more so than the Bellaghy Forge, which we are delighted to open in November for two magical weekends.

With all this plus concerts, readings, talks, literary lunches, guided tours and more, the programme aims to capture the imaginative world of this Nobel Prize-winning writer for fans new and old; to ‘catch the heart off guard’, as Seamus Heaney once wrote, ‘and blow it open.’

We hope you enjoy it.

MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Foreword from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland

Seamus Heaney stands amongst the very great poets of all time. He was the embodiment of poetry, bringing its richness to the centre of our lives. Through his life and through his poetry he spoke to the people. And the people listened.

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland is delighted to be playing our part in the success of HomePlace and the celebration of the poet’s life and work. HomePlace lies at the heart of Mid Ulster District Council’s plans to broaden the scope and reach of the arts in the area. The Arts Council is supporting HomePlace and the wider programme of arts development in Mid Ulster through our Local Government Challenge Fund, which is providing match funding for significant new arts and cultural initiatives across Northern Ireland.

Heaney placed this island in the world’s gaze. Now, with HomePlace, there is the opportunity to focus that gaze acutely on the place that was his lasting inspiration and to build on the legacy of the great poet’s work.

Roisin McDonough,
Chief Executive, Arts Council of Northern Ireland

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Die Kindertotenlieder: by Gustav Mahler, A Dramatic Recital

Performed by mezzo-soprano Sara Fulgoni & the Meccore String Quartet
Friday 7 October - 8.30pm & Saturday 8 October - 7.30pm

Seamus Heaney’s famous poem ‘Mid-Term Break’ (which commemorates the death of his younger brother, Christopher) provides the inspiration for this opening recital in our autumn programme.

Mahler’s Kindertotenlieder is a moving song cycle that sets to music five poems by Friedrich Ruckert on the death of his children (no stranger to such tragedy, Mahler himself lost eight siblings during their childhood). For this recital (preceded by the second movement of Schubert’s Death and the Maiden), acclaimed mezzo-soprano Sara Fulgoni joins the Meccore String Quartet, one of Poland’s most compelling young ensembles, in a deeply moving exploration of Mahler’s powerful work.

Sara Fulgoni has performed at the major opera and concert venues of the world in a huge variety of repertoire, all to critical acclaim. The full, rich and lustrous quality of her voice, as well as her remarkable stage presence, have distinguished her operatic performances. She has sung much of the great mezzo repertoire, beginning with the baroque and classical heroines before moving into dramatic roles. Bizet’s Carmen has become a foundation of her work. She has sung the role for Santa Fe Opera, Toulouse (under Michel Plasson), the Palau de les Arts Valencia (under Lorin Maazel), Geneva Opera, Welsh National Opera, English National Opera and at the Beijing Music Festival, where she became the first western interpreter of the role to be presented in the capital of China since the Cultural Revolution. Sara has worked with Vladimir Ashkenazy, Riccardo Chailly, the late Richard Hickox, Kurt Masur, Riccardo Muti, Josep Pons, Jukka-Pekka Sarastre and the late Giuseppe Sinopoli.

‘on their way to the top’
NEUE on the Meccore String Quartet
Learning from TS Eliot: *The Play Way*

**Sunday 9 October - 2 - 6pm**

‘There is a sort of heavenly or at least more than human gaiety about some of (Beethoven’s) later things which one imagines might come to oneself as the fruit of reconciliation and relief after immense suffering; I should like to get something of that into verse before I die.’ TS Eliot

Although Seamus Heaney’s poem ‘The Play Way’ (the penultimate poem in *Death of a Naturalist*) was inspired by Beethoven, Heaney was not the first poet to take inspiration from the composer. TS Eliot famously drew on Beethoven’s Opus 132 for one of his greatest works, ‘Four Quartiets’, a set of interlinked ‘meditations’ on man’s relationship with time, the universe and the divine.

Now HomePlace brings these two works together for a unique event staged at four different churches in Bellaghy. Over the course of the afternoon, the audience moves from one church to the next to experience all four of Eliot’s ‘quartiets’, surrounded by the five movements (performed by the Meccore Quartet) that make up Opus 132. ‘The Play Way’ will also be read, and the final Beethoven movement, and the last of Eliot’s quartets (‘The Dry Salvages’), will be performed in St Mary’s - the church where Heaney is buried.

Weaving together two of the great achievements in Western culture, *Learning from TS Eliot* is a unique celebration of art’s ability to inspire and brings the opening weekend of the programme to a transcendent close.

Each performance begins on the hour.

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**Loss and Grief: Michel Faber**

**Friday 7 October - 6.30pm**

Death permeates Seamus Heaney’s debut collection, *Death of a Naturalist*. In advance of the first performance of *Kindertotenlieder*, Mahler’s great meditation on death, HomePlace welcomes award-winning novelist and poet Michel Faber, whose acclaimed new poetry collection, *Undying: A Love Story*, confronts the loss of his wife Eva, who died of cancer in 2014. Tracking the journey of her illness and death, and the aftermath of grief, *Undying* is an unflinching and courageous exploration of loss, filled with poems of extraordinary breadth and singular vision. Faber talks about his work, and considers the challenges faced by artists like Heaney and himself in translating grief into art.

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**Meccore String Quartet**

**Saturday 8 October - 11am**

The Meccore Quartet brings the sound of strings to HomePlace for this morning concert featuring *Death and the Maiden*, Schubert’s great testament to death and one of Seamus Heaney’s favourite works.

The Meccore String Quartet is an award-winning ensemble from Poland (the country that gave birth to Czesław Miłosz and Zbigniew Herbert – two of Heaney’s favourite poets) dedicated to bringing classical music to fresh audiences in imaginative new settings. Since their formation in 2007, their innovative approach has earned them numerous international awards, as well as invitations to perform at some of the world’s most prestigious festivals and concert halls.
SEAMUS HEANEY LifeCycle Tour

With accredited tour guide and Seamus Heaney expert, Eugene Kielt
Sunday 9 October - 9.30am & 11.30am

A guided coach tour of the landscape made famous by Seamus Heaney’s poetry in the company of local man, accredited tour guide and Heaney specialist Eugene Kielt, exploring the ‘home ground’ in which he was rooted and which so influenced his poetry.

Coach departs from HomePlace. Tour duration 1 hour.

Ireland: The Autobiography

Saturday 8 October - 3pm

Seamus Heaney was born in 1939 into an Ireland very different from our own. Drawing on a remarkable new anthology, this unique event aims to provide an evocative sense of the world into which the young Heaney arrived.

Edited by broadcaster and historian John Bowman, Ireland: The Autobiography is an anthology of eyewitness accounts and recollections offering a fresh, vivid take on the last century of Irish life. In this special event, an actor reads a range of extracts focusing on the Ireland of the 1940s, while Bowman discusses the rewards and challenges of researching and selecting the material.

One of Ireland’s best-known broadcasters and historians, John Bowman presented Questions & Answers on RTÉ television for over 20 years. Currently the presenter of Bowman Sunday Morning on RTÉ Radio 1, he is the author of books on everything from Eamon De Valera to the history of RTÉ.

* Death of a Naturalist: An Illuminations Introduction

Rosie Lavan - Saturday 22 October - 4pm

The Illuminations series aims to introduce Seamus Heaney’s works to a wide audience. Taking place immediately before a staged reading of the work, each Illuminations Introduction explores the themes and techniques underlying a specific collection, setting the poems in context. In this inaugural talk, Rosie Lavan offers an insight into Heaney’s first published volume, Death of a Naturalist.

Rosie Lavan is Assistant Professor of Irish Studies at Trinity College Dublin. After working as a journalist for several years, Lavan returned to Oxford in 2010 to complete a doctoral thesis focusing on Heaney’s early journalism and his work in publishing, broadcasting and education.

* Death of a Naturalist: Dramatic Reading

Friday 21 October - 7.30pm
Saturday 22 October - 6pm

Each month, HomePlace invites a leading theatre company/director to respond – in whatever way they choose – to one of Seamus Heaney’s celebrated poetry collections. Specifically designed to take place in the intimate surrounds of The Helicon, each staging will employ a unique combination of elements – including music, visuals, lighting and performance – to offer a fresh perspective on Heaney’s words. This inaugural performance brings to life some of the best-loved poems from Death of a Naturalist.

* CAN BE BOOKED TOGETHER (see At a Glance)
The Home Key: Phil Coulter

Saturday 22 October - 8pm

A close contemporary of Seamus Heaney at St Columb’s College, Phil Coulter had several hits under his belt even before he left Queen’s University Belfast for London. In the 50 years since then he has penned hits for everyone from The Bay City Rollers to Elvis Presley, moonlighted as a piano player for The Rolling Stones, performed at the White House and produced groundbreaking albums for the likes of Planxty and The Furey Brothers. When he finally got around to releasing his own work, his album Sea of Tranquility became the biggest-selling Irish album of all time. For this concert in our Home Key series, Coulter delves into his unrivalled back catalogue to perform songs exploring the idea of home.

Running throughout our opening year, The Home Key is a concert series in which singer-songwriters explore the idea of home.
**Birds in the Landscape**

Horatio Clare and Mark Cocker - Sunday 23 October - 4pm

From ‘Twice Shy’ (with its thrush and hawk) in *Death of a Naturalist* to ‘The Blackbird of Glanmore’ in *District and Circle*, Seamus Heaney’s work is rich in bird imagery, often signifying the journeys that we undertake in mind and in body. To explore Heaney’s imagery further, this event pairs two acclaimed writers who share his fascination with birds. In his book *A Single Swallow*, travel writer and novelist Horatio Clare followed the epic flight path of a migrating swallow across fourteen countries from South Africa to Wales, while in *Birds and People*, naturalist (and *Birds Britannica* co-editor) Mark Cocker drew on 40 years of writing and studying birds to present a wide-ranging celebration of man’s relationship with birds.

‘the most enthusiastic, open-minded, intelligent and incorrigibly romantic of travellers’

*The Mail on Sunday* on Horatio Clare

‘*Birds and People* is a beautiful anthem to the history and diversity of the relationship between birds and human beings’. *The Independent*
The Great Hunger
By Patrick Kavanagh

Directed by Conall Morrison
Saturday 5 & Sunday 6 November - 3pm

One of Seamus Heaney’s earliest influences was Patrick Kavanagh, whose poems first taught him that the greatest truth can be found in the ordinary and the commonplace, and gave Heaney permission to immerse his writing in the textures of rural life.

For this unique theatrical experience the audience will be transported to a secret location in the landscape surrounding HomePlace for a special reading of Kavanagh’s long poem ‘The Great Hunger’, directed by Conall Morrison.

‘a poem that throws up language as dark-webbed and cold-breathed as the clay the potato-digger kicks up in its opening lines’

Seamus Heaney on ‘The Great Hunger’

Widely considered to be Kavanagh’s masterpiece, ‘The Great Hunger’ is an epic work exploring the life and struggles of the anti-hero and small farmer Patrick Maguire, and this performance is a wonderful opportunity to experience the work amid the rural Irish landscape.

Buses to the secret location will depart from HomePlace at 3pm.

Louis de Bernières

Sunday 6 November - 5pm

‘I think of poetry as my original vocation,’ Louis de Bernières has said. ‘Novel writing somehow grew out of it.’ And how. His much-loved 1994 novel, Captain Corelli’s Mandolin, became an international bestseller and was made into a film starring Nicolas Cage and Penélope Cruz. But in recent years de Bernières has returned to his first love, bringing all the lyricism and romance of his prose style to the genre that lies closest to his heart. His debut collection, Imagining Alexandria, drew inspiration from the great Greek poet Cavafy (a poet much admired by Seamus Heaney), while his new collection, Of Love and Desire, draws on influences from classical Persian poets to Pablo Neruda to explore the many forms of love. For this special appearance at HomePlace, de Bernières reads from his work and talks about the poets who have shaped him.

‘an unexpected delight… (de Bernières) is a gifted poet… there are poems in this collection that certainly bear comparison with the greats’

Bel Mooney

£8

£10

LIFE, LITERATURE & INSPIRATION
Sparks Flying at The Forge

Saturday 5 November & Sunday 6 November - see website for performance details and times.

Seamus Heaney passed Barney Devlin’s forge in Bellaghy every day as a schoolboy, and the act of creation taking place inside formed one of the central images of his second collection, Door into the Dark.

Inspired by Heaney’s poem ‘The Forge’, Sparks Flying presents a weekend-long celebration of the joys and challenges of creativity, all taking place in The Forge. Mixing demonstrations of the blacksmith’s art with readings from Heaney’s work and reflections from leading artists and writers, reflecting on the role of the artist in society and what creativity means to them. Sparks Flying offers an ‘unpredictable fantail of sparks’, both literal and metaphorical, and ensures The Forge continues to serve as a place of creation and inspiration for all. For full details of the events taking place, go to www.seamusheaneyhome.com

“All I know is a door into the dark. Outside, old axles and iron hoops rusting; Inside, the hammered anvil’s short-pitched ring, The unpredictable fantail of sparks Or hiss when a new shoe toughens in water.’

Seamus Heaney ‘The Forge’

SEAMUS HEANEY LifeCycle Tour

With accredited tour guide and Seamus Heaney expert, Eugene Kielt

Sunday 6 November - 9.30am & 11.30am

Coach departs from HomePlace. (See p.8 for full details.)

* Door into the Dark: An Illuminations Introduction

Gail McConnell
Saturday 19 November - 6pm

The Illuminations series aims to introduce Seamus Heaney’s works to a wide audience. Taking place immediately before a staged reading of the work, each Illuminations Introduction explores the themes and techniques underlying a specific collection, setting the poems in context. In this second talk, in advance of this evening’s staged reading of Door into the Dark, Gail McConnell explores the poems in Heaney’s second collection.

Lecturer in English at Queen’s University Belfast, Gail McConnell has a specific interest in contemporary British and Irish poetry. Her monograph Northern Irish Poetry and Theology, exploring the work of Heaney, Michael Longley and Derek Mahon, was published in 2014.

* Door into the Dark: Dramatic Reading

Directed by Mick Gordon
Audio-Visuals by Jonathan Brennan
Friday 18 November - 7.30pm & Saturday 19 November - 8pm

Each month, HomePlace invites a leading theatre company/director to respond - in whatever way they choose - to one of Seamus Heaney’s celebrated poetry collections. Specifically designed to take place in the intimate surrounds of The Helicon, each staging will employ a unique combination of elements - including music, visuals, lighting and performance - to offer a fresh perspective on Heaney’s words. In this second performance, Artistic Director Mick Gordon and audio-visual artist Jonathan Brennan respond to Heaney’s 1969 collection, Door into the Dark. Cast to be announced.

Recently returned to his ‘home place’ of Belfast, Mick Gordon is a playwright, essayist and theatre director. He has been Artistic Director, Gate Theatre, London; Associate Director, National Theatre, London and Artistic Director Aarhus Theatre, Denmark.

* CAN BE BOOKED TOGETHER (see At a Glance)
Sparks Flying at The Forge

Saturday 19 November & Sunday 20 November
See website for performance details and times. (See p.16 for details)

£3

Alan Hollinghurst & Bernard O’Donoghue In Conversation

Sunday 20 November - 3pm

The poet and critic Bernard O’Donoghue was a long-standing friend of Seamus Heaney, and his book *Seamus Heaney and the Language of Poetry* offers a wealth of insights into Heaney’s use of language and the writer’s responsibility to art and politics. O’Donoghue has spent many years teaching at Oxford, where Heaney was Professor of Poetry, and for this ‘in conversation’ event he joins Alan Hollinghurst – an acclaimed poet and novelist (and graduate of Magdalen College, Oxford, where Heaney was a fellow) whose book, *The Line of Beauty*, won the Booker Prize in 2004 – to share their memories of the man and the work.

Duration: 1 hour 15 mins approx.

£5

The Glass Shore: Readings and panel discussion with Sinéad Gleeson

Saturday 26 November - 7pm

Last year saw the publication of *The Long Gaze Back: An Anthology of Irish Women Writers*, edited by Sinéad Gleeson. It was widely acclaimed and went on to win Best Irish Published Book of the Year 2015 at the Irish Book Awards. More importantly, it sparked lively discussion and debate about the erasure of women writers from literary canon. One question kept arising: where was the equivalent anthology for women writers from the north?

*The Glass Shore: Short Stories by Women Writers from the North of Ireland*, also edited by Sinéad Gleeson answers that question. Spanning three centuries and featuring both emerging and established writers, alongside deceased luminaries and forerunners, this collection includes work from Lucy Caldwell, Ethna Carbery, Jan Carson, Evelyn Conlon, Polly Devlin, Rosemary Jenkinson and Bernie McGill.

This panel discussion, featuring local writers Rosemary Jenkinson and Bernie McGill, will explore the role and representation of women writers in Northern Ireland.

£5

SEAMUS HEANEY LifeCycle Tour

With accredited tour guide and Seamus Heaney expert, Eugene Kielt
Sunday 20 November - 9.30am & 11.30am

Coach departs from HomePlace. (See p.8 for full details.)

£12

‘A pirate queen in battle clothes/ Is our sterner myth’
Seamus Heaney, ‘Girls Bathing, Galway, 1965’

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Seamus Heaney, ‘Girls Bathing, Galway, 1965’

£5
The Time of its Life: An evening of Guitar Music hosted by Ralph McLean Featuring Colin Reid and Robin James Hurt

FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER - 7.30pm

Taking inspiration from Heaney’s poem ‘Victorian Guitar’ (from Door into the Dark), broadcaster and DJ Ralph McLean hosts this special evening of music and conversation featuring some of the best guitar players working in Ireland.

Colin Reid is one of Ireland’s best-known musicians. He launched his solo career in 1997 after supporting the likes of Brian Kennedy and Waterson Carthy, and since then he has released five albums and performed with artists such as Eddi Reader and Boo Hewerdine.

Born in Belfast and raised in Scotland, Robin James Hurt plays guitar like a ‘demon gadgie’. Along with his own compositions, Robin plays and sings unique reinterpretations of folk songs from Scotland, Ireland and beyond, all accompanied by some tasty guitar picking!

Gary Lutton is an instrumental acoustic guitarist from Belfast, Northern Ireland. He was the winner of the UK/Ireland Sky TV competition Guitar Star (2015) where he had the opportunity to work with legends such as Rodrigo y Gabriela & Paco Pena and he has just released his first EP ‘Departure’.

Colin Reid

£6
The Home Key:
Liam Ó Maonlai
Saturday 10 December - 9pm
£15

Few artists could be better suited to The Home Key – our concert series in which singer-songwriters explore the idea of home – than Liam Ó Maonlai. Since Hothouse Flowers’ last album in 2004, Ó Maonlai has taken on a dazzling range of projects, forming traditional Irish band Ré and exploring his musical heritage through acclaimed solo albums like Rian.

While live shows find him moving effortlessly from sean nós to blues, Ó Maonlai has always combined musical virtuosity with a deep feeling for his musical roots, and this intimate solo show in The Helicon is a wonderful opportunity to experience Ó Maonlai exploring themes of place and belonging in his own inimitable style.

‘one of Ireland’s most charismatic musicians’
Nialler9

Fintan O’Toole
A Place in the World: Belonging after Brexit
Saturday 3 December - 7.30pm
£8

From the 1916 commemorations to Brexit, 2016 has been an emotionally charged year both at home and abroad, raising challenging questions about nation, identity and place.

Wintering Out is a collection deeply rooted in a sense of belonging but, in this post-Brexit landscape, what does that sense of ‘belonging’ mean, and how might it change? Will Brexit damage relations between North and South, or will artists find ways to circumvent the new borders (whether physical, psychological or symbolic)? Join us for a lively debate as author and journalist Fintan O’Toole examines the ways in which Brexit is redrawing the cultural map.

Fintan O’Toole is a leading author and Literary Editor of The Irish Times. An outspoken and often controversial critic, his polemical articles on the Brexit fallout have been required reading in recent months.

‘good journalists like Fintan O’Toole are the ones to look to if you want your lifelines to the contemporary reopened or the jump leads to your ethical sense connected up’
Seamus Heaney

BOX OFFICE T: +44 (0)28 7938 7444

‘one of Ireland’s most charismatic musicians’
Nialler9

www.seamusheaneyhome.com
End of Day

By Samuel Beckett & Jack MacGowran
Adapted by Conall Morrison
Performed by Denis Conway
Sunday 4 December - 3pm

Seamus Heaney first met the actor Jack MacGowran in the mid-1960s, when MacGowran was recording Beckett’s works for Claddagh Records. ‘People find Beckett sad,’ MacGowran observed. ‘Me, I find him very funny.’ MacGowran proved his point by creating Beginning to End, a hilarious one-man show assembled from monologues, scenes and poems in Beckett’s oeuvre that draws out the great dramatist’s unique sense of humour. The show premiered in 1965 and MacGowran went on to perform it all over the world.

For this new production, re-titled End of Day (and staged to great acclaim at the Commencez! Paris Beckett Festival), director Conall Morrison has trimmed and reshaped MacGowran’s original production. Cork actor Denis Conway makes MacGowran’s role his own, offering a wonderful opportunity to experience a performance that gathers some of Beckett’s funniest – and most profound – moments into one extraordinary show.

Denis Conway is a theatre, television and film actor whose films include Brooklyn, The Wind that Shakes the Barley and Oliver Stone’s Alexander.

Anna Pavord In Conversation

Saturday 3 December - 2pm

From Yeats to Kavanagh, many Irish poets have celebrated the landscape of their youth and, like much of his work, Seamus Heaney’s third collection, Wintering Out, is deeply embedded in place. For this ‘in conversation’ event, author and journalist Anna Pavord explores the many ways in which artists, writers and poets have responded to the rural landscape.

Anna Pavord is a journalist and Independent gardening columnist whose book The Tulip was an international bestseller. Her acclaimed new work, Landskipping, examines the changing ways in which the British landscape has been celebrated, managed and described over the centuries.

SEAMUS HEANEY LifeCycle Tour

With accredited tour guide and Seamus Heaney expert, Eugene Kielt
Sunday 4 December - 9.30am & 11.30am

Coach departs from HomePlace. (See p.8 for full details.)
James Kelman
In Conversation

Saturday 10 December - 2pm

Wintering Out is a collection fascinated by language: the language of place and landscape, of elsewhere and home, of plants and animals, of English and Irish and the connections between them. One of the foremost contemporary novelists who shares Heaney’s preoccupation with language is the great Scottish writer James Kelman. In works such as the Booker Prize-winning How Late It Was, How Late, Kelman celebrates the vernacular of his native Glasgow in all its earthy richness, while exploring the bond between fathers and sons (also a key theme in Heaney’s work). Join us as Kelman reads from his work, including his acclaimed new novel Dirt Road (another tale of father and son), and talks about the importance of language in his work.

£5

* CAN BE BOOKED TOGETHER (see At a Glance)
Patrick Deeley and Donal Ryan

Sunday 11 December - 5pm

This event pairs two writers whose work, like Heaney’s, maps the terrain of Irish rural life in luminous, heartbreaking prose.

Patrick Deeley is one of Ireland’s most respected poets whose latest book, The Hurley Maker’s Son, is an affectionate memoir of his County Galway childhood, and a tender portrait of his father, the hurley-maker.

Since his debut novel, The Spinning Heart, won a clutch of awards, including the Guardian First Book Award, Donal Ryan has established himself at the forefront of a new generation of Irish novelists, celebrated for his vivid portraits of rural Irish life.

‘The Hurley Maker’s Son (is) a courageous and heartfelt work, a lament and an act of recuperation, deceptively artless and engagingly plainspoken’
George O’Brien, The Irish Times

Patrick Deeley

SEAMUS HEANEY LifeCycle Tour

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Sunday 11 December - 9.30am & 11.30am

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£12

‘Ryan’s work has set a benchmark to which other writers will aspire’
John Boyne, The Irish Times

£5

‘All We Shall Know’ by Donal Ryan

Photo © Anthony Woods

www.seamusheaneyhome.com
Wintering Out: Closing Recital
Winterreise by Franz Schubert

Performed by Alice Coote & Julius Drake
Thursday 5 January 2017 - 8pm

Steeped in the rain-slashed winter landscape, the glow of lamplight, and soaked in foreboding, Wintering Out brilliantly captures the bitter days of winter. What more appropriate way, then, to round off our Wintering Out series than with that other great winter’s tale, Schubert’s Winterreise: one of the greatest song cycles ever written?

A setting of poems by the German lyric poet Wilhelm Müller, Winterreise was originally intended for a male singer, but Heaney’s collection is full of female voices and figures, like the narrator in ‘Mother of the Groom’, and for this truly special concert we are thrilled to welcome internationally acclaimed mezzo-soprano Alice Coote and accompanist Julius Drake. On their way to New York to perform Winterreise at Carnegie Hall, Coote and Drake are stopping in Bellaghy for an unmissable performance that brings the First Season HomePlace programme to an exhilarating close.

English mezzo-soprano Alice Coote is regarded as one of the great artists of our day. Equally celebrated for her operatic performances as for her concerts and recitals, she has won international acclaim for her performances of Winterreise at leading venues all over the world.

Pianist Julius Drake enjoys an international reputation as one of the finest instrumentalists in his field, collaborating with many of the world’s leading artists both in recital and on disc. His passionate interest in song had led him to devise song series for the Wigmore Hall, the BBC and the Concertgebouw, Amsterdam, and he has performed recitals with many of the outstanding vocal artists of our day, including Sir Thomas Allen, Lestyn Davies, Dame Felicity Lott and Sir Willard White.
OPERATION ‘HELL-BRIDE’ is an interactive game, led by performers, traders and volunteers, starting at Seamus Heaney HomePlace and using multiple locations across Bellaghy. The narrative is loosely based on Beowulf’s battle with Grendel’s mother from the acclaimed translation of Beowulf by Seamus Heaney, and the game includes other text from famous Seamus Heaney poems. Participants arrive in teams and are invited to dress in Hallowe’en costume. As part of the experience happens outdoors please bring appropriate footwear/clothing. No prior knowledge of Heaney’s work is required.

**How it works**

The audience books in advance, in group sizes of between four & eight, with each team given a time slot at ten-minute intervals. Each team starts their journey at the allotted time, from Seamus Heaney HomePlace. They then uncover a series of clues which take them on a journey through the village, in and out of shops, cafes and public areas. The experience lasts an hour.

**£4 (£2 child/concession)**
OCTOBER
Friday 7 October
6.30pm
Loss and Grief: Michel Faber
£5
Friday 7 October
8.30pm
Die Kindertotenlieder
£8
Saturday 8 October
11am
McCorrue String Quartet
£8
Saturday 8 October
3pm
Ireland: The Autobiography
£5
Saturday 8 October
7.30pm
Die Kindertotenlieder
£8
Sunday 9 October
9.30am & 11.30am
LifeCycle Tour
£12
Sunday 9 October
2pm
A Naturalist’s Lunch
£18
Saturday 15 October
At intervals throughout the day
Operation Hell-Bride with the Big Telly
Theatre Company
£4/£2
Sunday 21 October
7.30pm
Death of a Naturalist: Dramatic Reading
£10*
Saturday 22 October
2.00pm
‘Heaney, Sir’: St Columb’s Remembered
£5
Saturday 5 November
(see website for performance details and times)
Sparks Flying at The Forge
£3
Saturday 5 November
(see website for performance details and times)
Sparks Flying at The Forge
£3
Saturday 5 November
9.30am & 11.30am
LifeCycle Tour
£12
Sunday 20 November
9.30am & 11.30am
LifeCycle Tour
£12
Sunday 5 November
4pm
Death of a Naturalist: An Illuminations Introduction
£5*/Combined Price £12
Sunday 6 November
3pm
The Great Hunger by Patrick Kavanagh
£10
Saturday 6 November
9.30am & 11.30am
LifeCycle Tour
£12
Saturday 6 November
(see website for performance details and times)
Sparks Flying at The Forge
£3
Friday 18 November
7.30pm
Door into the Dark: Dramatic Reading
£10*
Saturday 19 November
(see website for performance details and times)
Sparks Flying at The Forge
£3
Saturday 19 November
9.30am & 11.30am
LifeCycle Tour
£12
Saturday 19 November
6pm
Door into the Dark: Dramatic Reading
£10*
Saturday 19 November
9.30am & 11.30am
LifeCycle Tour
£12
Saturday 19 November
8pm
Door into the Dark: Dramatic Reading
£10*
Saturday 19 November
6pm
Door into the Dark: An Illuminations Introduction
£5*/Combined Price £12
Saturday 19 November
8pm
Door into the Dark: A Place in the World: Belonging after Brexit
£8
Saturday 26 November
7pm
The Glass Shore: readings and panel discussion with Sinead Gleeson
£5
Sunday 27 November
10.30am – 3.30pm
Christmas Card Printmaking
£10
Thursday 5 January
8pm
Wintering Out Closing Recital: Winterreise by Franz Schubert
£12
NOVEMBER
Saturday 5 November
3pm
The Great Hunger by Patrick Kavanagh
£10
Saturday 15 November
At intervals throughout the day
Operation Hell-Bride with the Big Telly
Theatre Company
£4/£2
Sunday 20 November
9.30am & 11.30am
LifeCycle Tour
£12
Sunday 4 December
3pm
End of Day by Samuel Beckett & Jack MacGowran
£8
Friday 9 December
7.30pm
Wintering Out: Dramatic Reading
£10*
Saturday 10 December
2pm
James Kelman In Conversation
£5
Saturday 26 November
7pm
The Time of its Life: An Evening of Guitar Music
£6
Saturday 26 November
10.30am – 3.30pm
Christmas Card Printmaking
£10
DECEMBER
Saturday 3 December
2pm
Anna Pavord in Conversation
£15
Sunday 11 December
9.30am & 11.30am
LifeCycle Tour
£12
Saturday 3 December
4pm
Archbishop Eamon Martin
£5
Saturday 3 December
7.30pm
Fintan O’Toole, A Place in the World: Belonging after Brexit
£8
Sunday 4 December
9.30am & 11.30am
LifeCycle Tour
£12
Sunday 4 December
3pm
End of Day by Samuel Beckett & Jack MacGowran
£8
Friday 9 December
7.30pm
Wintering Out: Dramatic Reading
£10*
Saturday 10 December
2pm
James Kelman In Conversation
£5
Step into HomePlace

Immerse yourself in the extraordinary world of Seamus Heaney, and explore through his words and imagination the people and place that so inspired him.

Described by Michael Longley as “an echo chamber for the poet’s beautiful lines”, Seamus Heaney HomePlace features an interactive exhibition over two floors, filled with personal stories, images and the voice of the poet himself. An interpretation of his Dublin study will transport you back to 1995, when Seamus Heaney was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Previously unseen artefacts, transcripts and books kindly donated by the Heaney family are also on display, ensuring a truly unique and illuminating experience for all. You can also explore our gift shop, featuring bespoke ranges by local craft makers influenced by the surrounding landscape and, of course, the work of Seamus Heaney. Stocking delicious locally sourced produce, our café is the perfect place to begin or end your journey.

For more information and to book tickets contact the Box Office on 028 7938 7444 or visit www.seamusheaneyhome.com

Ticket Prices
Adult £7, child £4.50, concession £4.50, family £19.

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E: SeamusHeaneyHome@midulstercouncil.org

Monday–Saturday, 10am–5pm
Sunday, 1pm–5pm

BOX OFFICE T: +44 (0)28 7938 7444