

PRESS RELEASE

ANNUAL PATRICK KAVANAGH WEEKEND CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND WORK OF PATRICK KAVANAGH

FRIDAY 27th– SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2009.

The Annual Patrick Kavanagh Weekend is a celebration of the life and work of Patrick Kavanagh, Ireland's best loved poet.

This event has established itself as one of Ireland's most enjoyable cultural weekends. Taking its cue from Kavanagh himself, who was always engaged with aspects of Irish society and culture in its broadest meaning.

The excellent programme of events is full and varied to tempt all tastes and includes lectures, poetry, art, music, drama, storytelling and craic.

Friday 27th November at 7.00pm

The weekend gets underway at the Patrick Kavanagh Centre with a reception and a recital by local Uileann Piper Patrick Martin. At 7.15pm Brigid Brady will launch her art exhibition, entitled, 'Bluebells for Love'.

7.30pm The Annual Patrick Kavanagh Poetry Award will take place. This award which is organised by the Patrick Kavanagh Society is now in its 39th year. Much acclaimed poet Brian Lynch is the Judge for this year's competition.

7.45pm popular Irish Times columnist, Frank McNally will deliver the Keynote Address entitled 'A Stake in the Country'.

9pm Award winning poet and flute player Ciaran Carson, one of Ireland's most celebrated and prolific poets, will read from his own works and will be joined by local singer Pádraigín Ní Uallacháin, accompanied by internationally acclaimed harpist Helen Davies in a concert of words and music: "From Amergin to Kavanagh". A unique and very special event.

On **Saturday 28th November** proceedings get underway at 9.30am:

9.30am with a conducted walking tour of the Patrick Kavanagh Literary Trail in Carrickmacross with Larry McDermott.

11am Godfrey Graham who worked for forty years behind the lens of the RTE cameras will tell us of his days with Patrick Kavanagh.

12.15pm acclaimed poet John F. Deane will read from his recent collection 'A Little Book of Hours'

1pm Inniskeen Social Club will be the venue for lunch. The Poet's Rest Coffee shop will be open for light snacks etc.

2.15 pm Christine Dwyer Hickey will deliver her talk 'Patrick Kavanagh: The poet as friend'.

3.30pm to mark the 125th anniversary of the G.A.A., we have invited along former President of the Association, Sean Kelly, his talk is entitled 'The G.A.A culture and post Lisbon Treaty'.

7pm commemorative Mass for Patrick Kavanagh and deceased family members in the church of Mary Mother of Mercy. Celebrant: Fr. Martin Treanor, P.P. Homilist: Dr. Una Agnew.

9pm 'Kavanagh' written by Tom O'Brien and directed by John Dunne. A play based on the life and times of Patrick Kavanagh and his relationships with friends, family and foes – not to mention his doomed romance with one Hilda Moriarty – the inspiration behind the famous song 'On Raglan Road.'

On **Sunday 29th November** proceedings get underway at 10am

10am with a bus tour – visiting sites of local and historic interest with Art Agnew. The Annual Graveside commemoration is scheduled for 2pm.

2.15pm well known poet and novelist, Leland Bardwell will recall for us her memories of Patrick and Kathrine Kavanagh dating back to 1955 when they shared a flat in Soho, London.

3.15pm Fil Campbell will delight her audience with cherished Irish songs from her TV series 'Songbirds'.

4.30pm St. Daigh's N.S., will proudly launch their Poetry Anthology 'Garden of Golden Apples'. Produced by the pupils under the guidance of Noel Monahan (poet and playwright), Kate Beagan (artist) and school staff. This project was supported by Poetry Ireland's 'Writers' in School Scheme.

4.45pm The Annual Schools Poetry Award and Monaghan V.E.C., Junior Poetry Award will bring this year's celebrations to a close