

Look  
North



The North Belfast

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23 - 25

FEBRUARY 2024

[northbelfastfestival.com](http://northbelfastfestival.com)



Belfast  
City Council



the John Hewitt  
Society

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It's a great pleasure to welcome the third annual Look North! multi-arts and heritage festival, presented by The John Hewitt Society in partnership with many other North Belfast organisations. This is the part of Belfast where the great poet and polymath, John Hewitt, was born and grew up. It shaped his early views on life and the influential poetry he would go on to write, just as its rich cultural and artistic heritage continues to shape the lives of its current residents and inspire whole new generations of writers and artists.

Look North! celebrates North Belfast's important place in the history of Belfast and beyond, from its fine historic buildings and important cultural figures to its frankly remarkable seam of internationally-acclaimed creative talent - the likes of Brian Moore, Ciaran Carson, Bernard MacLaverty, Anne Devlin and Anna Burns, to name but a few!

That vibrant artistic scene remains very much alive today and is helping to define the character of North Belfast. The Arts Council is delighted to support Look North! and the tremendous opportunity this festival offers everyone to discover more about such an historic and culturally significant part of our city.

**Roisín McDonough**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Arts Council of Northern Ireland**

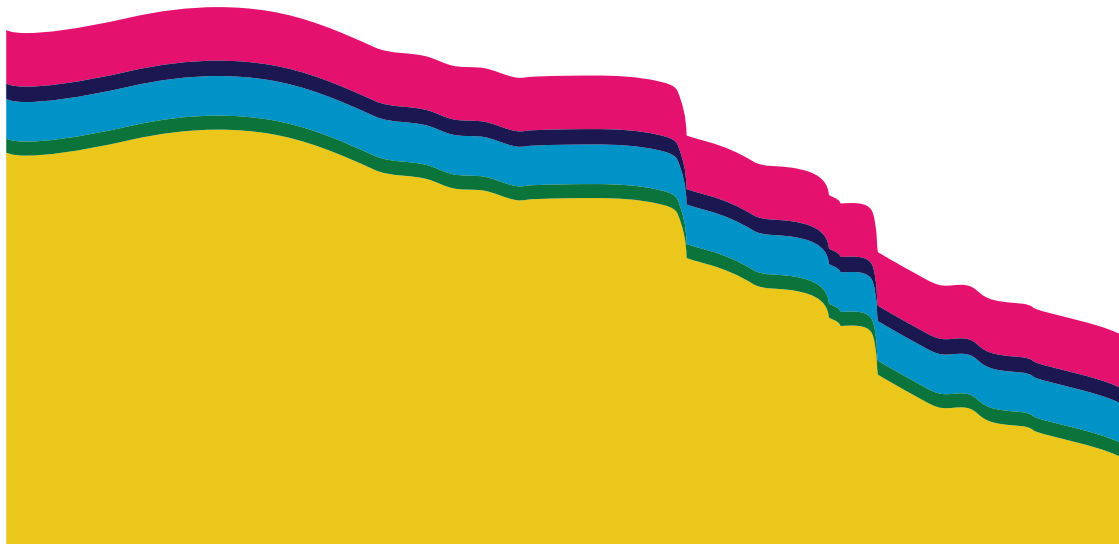
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# WELCOME!

We are delighted to invite you to join us for the third Look North! The North Belfast Festival for a weekend of literature, heritage, entertainment, discussion and collective celebration over three days from Friday 23 to Sunday 25 February 2024. Our jam-packed programme not only showcases and celebrates North Belfast's rich cultural heritage but the creativity and quality of work from local artists, authors, musicians, poets and young people, though they are not all limited to the area. To this end our programme reflects a wide range of activities and interests, with something for everyone.

We are grateful to all our supporters, in particular to the principal festival sponsors, the National Lottery Community Fund, Belfast City Council Community Festivals Fund, Belfast Charitable Society, Belfast Harbour, Cathedral Quarter and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

If you enjoyed our Festival last year, we do hope you will come along and join us once again. Your continued support is much appreciated at this time.



**9.30am – 11.00am**

**Walking Tour: A social history of North Belfast**



**Where:** Writers' Square

**Tickets:** £5

This walking tour will showcase the unique heritage of inner north Belfast, telling the stories of the hidden history associated with the area. In association with the North Belfast Heritage Cluster based at Clifton House, this is a partnership of 15 heritage organisations within inner North Belfast with a focus on placemaking, regeneration, sustainability and collaboration.

Your host, Niall McSperrin, will meet you at Writers' Square before passing some of the most historically important buildings in Belfast, while also gaining an insight into the work of the Cluster. North Belfast Heritage Cluster members include places of worship, work and education.

*In association with North Belfast Heritage Cluster and its Re-create Great Place North Belfast Project.*

**10.30am – 11.30am**

**Guided Tour: The Secrets of our Library**



**Where:** Belfast Central Library

**Tickets:** Free. Register online

Join us for a tour of one of Belfast's most iconic buildings. Find out the history (and the secrets!) of Northern Ireland's oldest public library. Come along to view the impressive architecture, take a look at the prestigious first floor reading room, hear about the damage caused by the Belfast Blitz and see some of the library's special collections as well as a few hidden treasures.

*In association with Libraries NI and Belfast Central Library.*

# Friday 23th February 2024

11.00am – 4.00pm  
Art Exhibition: I Am?



**Where:** Atypical Gallery  
**Tickets:** Free – drop in

An exhibition exploring the theme of 'I Am' by artists Wendy Kelly, James Stewart, Stephen Gifford, Rene Boyd, Leah Batchelor, Lesley McClune, Kathryn Clarke and Lisa Forsythe.

Taking the theme of 'I Am' as a starting point or catalyst, the exhibition showcases a range of art works representing each artist's interpretation of I am, I wonder, I see, I want, I pretend, I cry, I feel, I worry, I say, I try, I hope and I dream using a range of mixed media and materials from drawings to paintings and art works with 3-dimensional elements.

One of the core themes of the exhibition is for the artists to represent themselves and their work in a neutral space rather than being pre-determined or predefined by disability or other preconceptions.

The exhibition will run until 15 March.

*In association with University of Atypical for Arts and Disability with the participation of Brain Injury Matters.*

11.00am – 5.00pm  
Exhibition: Now & Then: 40 Years of Belfast Exposed



**Where:** Belfast Exposed Gallery  
**Tickets:** Free – drop in

Celebrating 40 years since the first photography exhibition bearing its name took place, Belfast Exposed has put together a celebration of photography that will showcase the breadth of talent from across Northern Ireland.

Welcoming works from various artists that all incorporate photography into their practice, 'Now & Then: 40 Years of Belfast Exposed' kicks off the gallery's Spring season.

Just one of the many exciting exhibitions and experiences that Belfast Exposed has on its anniversary calendar, 'Now & Then' will provide a snapshot into life in Northern Ireland through the lenses of those who have lived and worked here.

This exhibition will run until 23 March.

**11.30am – 1.00pm**

**Panel: The Immediate and Long-term Impacts of Cuts on North Belfast's Education Sector**



**Where:** Clifton House

**Tickets:** By invite only

The panel discussion will centre around the current state of education in North Belfast, how schools are dealing with unprecedented levels of poverty, and the terrifying predictions recent cuts will have, and longer-term, on an education system already under pressure.

For centuries, The Belfast Charitable Society has been to the fore of educating the city's impoverished, providing greater opportunities for them to build a better life. This session will take a very brief look back at what education was like in the Poor House in the 18th Century before concentrating on the outcomes of following two key *reports*\* on the education system in Northern Ireland, particularly in areas of disadvantage. (\**The Consequences of the Cuts to Education for Children and Young People in Northern Ireland, and A Fair Start*).

Hosted by the President of Belfast Charitable Society, Sir Ronnie Weatherup, the debate will centre on thoughts for the future, and what organisations such as the Society can do to help. Opportunities for wider input into this discussion will be made available following the event.

*In association with the 250th Anniversary of Clifton House and the North Belfast Heritage Cluster.*

**12noon – 1.00pm**

**Performance Art: Bbeyond Live**



**Where:** Writers' Square

**Tickets:** Free

Bbeyond invites you to an open performance space for unconventional dialogue through action. This performance acts as a living concept of encounter which exists through practice and belongs not only to those who join in but also to those who witness it.

Bbeyond is committed to promoting the practice of performance art and artists in Northern Ireland and further afield. Their aim is to raise people's consciousness of live performance art as being integral to the world in and around us, inspiring reflection and enriching the lived experience. Bbeyond strives to encourage greater access to and appreciation of this visually based art form through facilitating private and public participation and allowing people from all sectors of society, not just the traditional arts, to experience and enjoy live performance art directly.

# Friday 23th February 2024

1.00pm – 2.00pm

Talk: Visual Artist Joseph Beuys in Belfast



**Where:** Ulster University

**Tickets:** £5

On this, the fifty-year anniversary of sculptor and performance artist Joseph Beuys lecturing at the former Belfast School of Art, **Robert McDowell** returns to the city for a talk and discussion on his work and the legacy he left behind.

McDowell founded the inter-disciplinary Troubled Image Group of artists (TIG) in 70's Belfast. From it came Art & Research Exchange (ARE) and other groups up to and including Bbeyond.

It included the Irish members of the Free International University founded by Joseph Beuys and Heinrich Boll. TIG presented complex often surreal truths to belie or satirise stereotyping by news media or propaganda such as that of sectarian muralists.

Director and founder of Summerhall Edinburgh, he has studied at Belfast, Slade, and Hamburg Art Schools & Cambridge University, and worked over 10 years with Beuys and 40 with Ricky Demarco.

1.00pm – 2.00pm

Art from Brain Injury Matters



**Where:** University of Atypical

**Tickets:** Free – register online

Ciara O'Malley, curator of the I Am? exhibition, will be joined at this talk by some of the artists.

Since 2019 Ciara has been Creative Arts Manager of the Adult Arts Programme at Brain Injury Matters. Her role is to give everyone who attends the adult programme the opportunity to explore and develop their potential creatively as artists, writers, and as performers, through the arts, and to showcase the work created on the same level and footing as others operating in the public art arena.

Ciara is a practising visual artist creating socially engaged public art works and a member of the Vault Studios, Belfast. She has initiated, facilitated, managed and curated a range of art projects and public exhibitions in Northern Ireland and beyond.

*In association with University of Atypical for Arts and Disability, with the participation of Brain Injury Matters.*

# Launch: Look North! Schools Poetry Anthology

2.00pm – 3.30pm  
Launch: Look North! Schools Poetry  
Anthology



**Where:** Royal Belfast Academical Institution

**Tickets:** By Invite only.

*Look North! Schools Poetry Anthology* celebrate the launch of their anthology with a reading of poems focusing on themes related to identity.

Young people from the twelve participating post-primary schools in the North Belfast Area Learning Community (NBALC) will read some of their own poems from the book to an invited audience, including the Right Honourable, the Lord Mayor, Councillor Ryan Murphy.

*In association with schools from The North Belfast Area Learning Community and Ulster University*



2.00pm – 3.00pm  
3.30pm – 4.30pm  
Tour: Belfast Orange Hall



**Where:** Belfast Orange Hall (Clifton Street)

**Tickets:** £5

Established in 1885, Belfast Orange Hall is the largest purpose built Orange Hall in the world and houses a vast array of artifacts linked to Orange culture and practices spanning centuries.

Led by Frank McDowell, the Museum's Curator, this tour will give you an insight into various periods of history including the Battle of the Boyne, World Wars 1 and 2, the stories of the people who have brought life to the Hall and the multiple artifacts, rituals and regalia associated with Orange culture and traditions.

*In association with Great Place North Belfast Project.*



# Friday 23th February 2024

2.30pm – 3.30pm  
Discussion: Shared Reading  
Group with Sue Donaghy



**Where:** Belfast Central Library  
**Tickets:** Free – register online

Be part of a Reading Revolution!

Belfast Central Library invites you to be part of this shared reading group discussion. Hosted by Sue Donaghy you will enjoy listening to a great story or poem, with no pressure to talk or read. Libraries NI wants everyone to experience and enjoy great literature, a tool for helping humans survive and live well.

*In association with Libraries NI.*

 **The  
Reader**

3.30pm – 4.45pm  
Reading Group Discussion: *Lies of Silence* by  
Brian Moore Led by writer Sharon Dempsey



**Where:** Grove Library  
**Tickets:** To register, contact the Library with your library card

Brian Moore was a novelist, screenwriter and son of North Belfast. He was acclaimed for the descriptions in his novels of life in Northern Ireland during and after the Second World War, in particular his explorations of the inter-communal divisions of The Troubles, and has been described as, 'one of the few genuine masters of the contemporary novel.' Writer Sharon Dempsey will lead this literary discussion of his novel, *Lies of Silence* (1990).

**Dr Sharon Dempsey** is a well-known crime fiction writer, the author of five novels and three non-fiction books with numerous short stories published in anthologies, literary journals magazines. She is one of the Seamus Heaney Centre's inaugural Ciaran Carson Writing and the City Fellows for 2024-2025. Her new novel, *After the Party*, will be published later this year.

*In association with Libraries NI, and Grove Library.*



3.30pm – 4.45pm

Reading Group Discussion: *The Good Son* by Paul McVeigh Led by the author Paul McVeigh



**Where:** Chichester Library

**Tickets:** To register contact library with library card.

Paul McVeigh is an author and writer of plays, short stories, comedy performed on stage, radio and television. His debut novel, *The Good Son*, won The Polari First Novel Prize, The McCrea Literary Award and was shortlisted for many others including the Prix de Roman Cezam.

*'The Belfast author's spirited debut delivers a real sense of a broken family living in a broken society... well drawn and affecting... poignant... convincing... alarmingly real.'* **The Irish Times**

*'A first novel of beautiful generosity, poignant in the delicate manner in which he evokes the brutality of an era. A striking fresco, mixing historical upheavals and hardships of a family shattered.'* **Le Monde**

*In association with Libraries NI, and Chichester Library.*

6.00pm – 7.15pm

Community Meal: *The Big Long Table*



**Where:** Redeemer Central

**Tickets:** Free – register online

As part of Look North! the community at Redeemer Central Church will be hosting a special sitting of their weekly community meal. The Big Long Table will be open to everyone on the streets of Belfast, neighbouring communities and Look North! festival attendees. A warm welcome and a free nutritious meal will be offered in a safe and inclusive space. The meal (both vegan/meat options available) will be prepared by a small team of volunteers who will share the food with all who attend. This will be an opportunity for you to participate in the act of building relationships and community in one of North Belfast's most beautiful venues.

Everyone is welcome. We look forward to meeting you!

*In association with North Belfast Heritage Cluster and its Re-create Great Place North Belfast Project.*

# Friday 23th February 2024

6:30pm – 7.30pm

Talk: Peas Park: Growing Together with Callie Persic



**Where:** Ulster University

**Tickets:** £5

**Peas Park** is a community space located in the Skeogniell and Glandore area of North Belfast, situated on what once would have been considered an interface. The project emerged out of a guerrilla gardening event in 2010 and is often described as a creative growing space. It is a shared space place for people from different backgrounds to meet, create and plant seeds of change.

This talk will explore what a, 'shared space,' means, the challenges and practical ways we can connect people and create places together.

**Dr Callie Persic** works in urban regeneration in Belfast City Council leading the new city vision and various placemaking initiatives. She brings innovation and creativity to projects by working collaboratively across sectors and communities to find solutions to the challenges facing Belfast. She is interested in the gendered nature of urban design and works with and for people to develop inclusive and diverse urban spaces.

7.30pm – 8.30pm

Panel: North Belfast is Best Belfast with Slugger O'Toole



**Where:** Ulster University

**Tickets:** £5

Who has a vision and the influence to realise the full potential of the North of the city?

Power is never just vested in politicians. Activists across community, voluntary, education, faith and business sectors also have ideas and the means to influence change. At this event our panel will share their ideas and reflect on your suggestions.

Joining host **David McCann** around the table are **Paul Carlin** and **Hilary Woods**.

**Paul Carlin** is the chair of the Cavehill Business Association and the 'no audition' Cavehill Community Choir. He runs a popular hair salon on the Cavehill Road.

**Hilary Woods** has been principal of Belfast Royal Academy since 2017. Her guiding mantra in life is, '*do what is right not what is easy*'.

**David McCann** (Chair) is a political commentator, deputy editor of Slugger O'Toole, lecturer in politics and government, and an election nerd.

# Friday 23th February 2024

**Doors open 8.00pm to late**  
**Belfast Meets Brazil – Beat Carnival Music**



**Where:** Oh Yeah Music Centre  
**Tickets:** £8 (Over 18s only)

Join us for a vibrant night of 'craic' and 'alegria' with music traditionally performed in informal social settings of Brazil and Belfast.

Samba musicians of BEATnDRUM spring lively rhythms from their Roda de samba – samba circle; seasoned members of the Irish traditional music scene, Lonesome George, assembled by Joe Campbell-McCardle, quicken the heartbeat that is the sound of Belfast; and together, both will blend Belfast and Brazil in a unique-experience, fusion set.

Whether you're a fan of Irish folk music or the infectious rhythms of Brazil, this event has something for everyone. Dance, sing along and let the music transport you to a world where boundaries disappear and alegria takes centre-stage! Our Carnival DJ continues into the late zone.

*See you there!*

# Saturday 24th February 2024

9.30am – 11.00am

**Guided Tour: Experience The Belfast Poor House**



**Where:** Clifton House  
**Tickets:** £5

From the moment you step through our 250 year old doorway you will be transported back in time to the Belfast Poorhouse – opened in 1774 – which provided sanctuary to thousands of people. With our augmented reality, visitors can now fully immerse themselves in what life was like in the late eighteenth century.

Our experienced guides will share the history of this unique Georgian building and the people who have used it across 250 years. Set up by the philanthropic merchants of the town, the Belfast Charitable Society and its home at Clifton House, has survived rebellions and revolutions, while taking responsibility for the welfare of Belfast's inhabitants.

Today, the Society continues to address disadvantage and support those in greatest need, aided by the proceeds from our tours.

*In association with North Belfast Heritage Cluster and its Re-create Great Place North Belfast Project.*

10.00am – 12.00 noon

**Workshop: Poetry taster with Ruth Carr**



**Where:** Girdwood Community Hub  
**Tickets:** Free - register online

## **A Gentle Poetry Writing Workout...with Ruth Carr**

You don't need to have experience of creative writing, be good at spelling or worry about getting things right in this workshop. Here you can try out various activities and approaches to set you off on your journey into writing your own poetry for yourself.

**Ruth Carr** has practised as a tutor, editor and poet for several decades. She has edited many community publications and various larger scale anthologies. Her three collections are: *There is a House*, *The Airing Cupboard and Feather and Bone*.

# Saturday 24th February 2024

10.00am – 12noon

Workshop: Short Story taster with  
Bernie McGill



**Where:** WOMEN'S TEC

**Tickets:** Free - register online.

## Focus on Short Story...with Bernie McGill

In this short participative creative writing workshop, you will get various prompts and writing exercises to help get you started on (or help you to develop) your own short story. So come with an open mind, prepared to write.

**Bernie McGill** is the author of two novels (*The Watch House* and *The Butterfly Cabinet*) and two short story collections (*This Train is For and Sleepwalkers*). In 2023 she was the winner of the Edge Hill Short Story Prize for her collection *This Train is For* (No Alibis Press).

[www.berniemcgill.com](http://www.berniemcgill.com)

10.00am – 12.00 noon

Workshop: Memoir taster with  
Malachi O'Doherty



**Where:** Lower Oldpark Community Association

**Tickets:** Free - register online.

## Writing from Memory...with Malachi O'Doherty

This beginner's workshop will help you focus on how to write from your own life experiences and will include discussions on the ethics and practicalities of memoir writing, with short samples showing how you can create vivid and meaningful stories from our own life.

**Malachi O'Doherty** is a prolific writer of memoir, political commentary, history and fiction. Published memoir books include *I Was A Teenage Catholic* (2003), *The Telling Year* (2008) and *Under His Roof* (2009). His most recent books are *The Year of Chaos* (2021), *Can Ireland Be One?* (2022) and *How to Fix Northern Ireland* will be published in paperback in May.

11.00am – 12.15pm

Talk: The Poetry of Padraic Fiacc,  
with Tara McEvoy



**Where:** Clifton House  
**Tickets:** £5

Irish-American poet and editor Padraic Fiacc (Patrick Joseph O'Connor) 1924 - 2019, was a writer whose work retains its visceral, troubling power—characterised by its experimentalism, its intensity, and its darkness. A century on from his birth, this talk will consider a new Fiacc's poetry, and his lasting influence on Irish poetry.

**Tara McEvoy** graduated from Queen's University Belfast with a PhD in English Literature in 2020, and in 2022 was a Ciaran Carson Writing and the City Fellow at the Seamus Heaney Centre, Queen's. She currently works for Faber & Faber, London.



12.30pm – 13.30pm

Poetry Reading: New Writings with poets  
Leonita Flynn, Dane Holt and Dawn Watson.



**Where:** Clifton House  
**Tickets:** £5

**Leonita Flynn** is one of Ireland's leading poets with five collections from Jonathan Cape, the latest being *Taking Liberties* (2023). She teaches at the Seamus Heaney Centre, Queen's University, and is the recipient of the Forward Prize, the Rooney Prize, the Irish Times Poetry Now Award, and shortlisted twice for the T. S. Eliot Prize.

**Dane Holt** is a poet and editor. His pamphlet *Many Professional Wrestlers Never Retire* was published by The Lifeboat Press and was the Poetry Book Society Autumn 2023 selection.

**Dawn Watson** is a writer from North Belfast. Her debut poetry collection *We Play Here* (Granta Books) was launched in June 2023. The author of pamphlet, *The Stack of Owls is Getting Higher*, her work has appeared in Granta magazine, The Manchester Review, Blackbox Manifold and on BBC Radio 4.

# Saturday 24th February 2024

1.00pm – 2.00pm

Walking Tour: Sailortown through the Ages



**Where:** Meet - St. Joseph's Church

**Tickets:** £5

Sailortown is an inner City Community based in Belfast Docks. It was Belfast's first waterfront village with over 5,000 people packed into the small, cobblestoned streets of terraced houses between the docks and York Street. The men worked on the docks or went to sea. The women looked after large families and found work in the mills.

Devastated by the building of the M3 Urban Motorway 50 years ago, it is slowly coming back to life. With the iconic St Joseph's Church now at its heart, it epitomises the indomitable spirit of Belfast people. Immortalised through story and song it is working towards helping to build a better future for those in the surrounding area in North Belfast.

This guided walking tour by members of the Sailortown Regeneration Group will start inside St. Joseph's Church, before continuing outside to learn about the area's rich culture and heritage.

Wear your walking shoes and come dressed for the weather!

2.00pm – 4.00pm

Family Workshop: Carnival with The Beat



**Where:** Beat Carnival Centre

**Tickets:** Free – drop in

## LOOK! CARNIVAL!

Have you ever wondered what magic happens in a place where carnivals are made? Come along for an unforgettable experience at "Look! Carnival!" Immerse yourself in the vibrant world of Carnival as you witness dazzling floats, colourful costumes, and incredible props. Family fun for all ages with hands-on Carnival Arts activities including drumming, dance, face painting and storytelling. Don't miss this chance to visit Belfast's Carnival wonderland – mark your calendar and join us for an afternoon of pure joy!

[beatcarnival.com/](http://beatcarnival.com/)

See you!





2:30pm – 3.45pm

Talk: Religion and diversity in schools in Northern Ireland with Professor Tony Gallagher



**Where:** Ulster University

**Tickets:** £5

There are a number of ways in which greater opportunities for engagement between young people through schools can be enhanced, including each school attracting a more religiously diverse enrolment. The presentation examines whether this has actually happened since the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement.

**Tony Gallagher** is an Honorary Professor at Queen's University Belfast and has previously held a number of leadership roles in the University. His main research interests lie in the role of education in divided societies and the civic role of higher education.

4.00pm – 5.15pm

In Conversation: Writer Tara West in conversation with Glenn Patterson



**Where:** Ulster University

**Tickets:** £5

When Tara's West's novels were first published, she allowed people to believe she was middle class, rather than reveal she grew up in working-class housing estate Rathcoole. Through this discussion she will explore the complexities of being Protestant, working class, and a writer, and the myth that working-class 'Prods' don't write.

**Dr Tara West** is a Lecturer in Creative Writing at the Seamus Heaney Centre at Queen's University Belfast. Her first novel, *Fodder*, was published by Blackstaff Press in 2002 and her second novel, *Poets Are Eaten as a Delicacy in Japan* was published by Liberties Press in 2014. Her memoir of depression and recovery, *The Upside of Down*, was published by Dalzell Press in 2020. Tara has recently completed writing her third novel, *Inventionland*, due for publication in 2025.

# Saturday 24th February 2024

7.00 pm – 10.30pm

Poetry: Poetry Slam with host Niamh McNally



**Where:** Cassidy's Bar

**Tickets:** £5

Join us for a poetry reading platform for new and inspiring writers from North Belfast and beyond!

John Hewitt (born in Cliftonpark Avenue) beautifully describes why we put pen to paper in his infamous poem 'I WRITE FOR...'

Invited local poets will take inspiration from this poem for their readings and tell us what/why/who they write for!

We will then open up the floor for an Open Mic not to be missed & performances from local musicians! Cannot wait to see you there!

*I write for my own kind,  
I do not pitch my voice  
that every phrase be heard  
by those who have no choice:  
their quality of mind  
must be withdrawn and still,  
as moth that answers moth  
across a roaring hill..*

# Sunday 25th February 2024

11am – 1pm

Walking Tour: Clifton Street Cemetery



**Where:** Clifton House

**Tickets:** £5

Opened by The Belfast Charitable Society in 1797, this guided walking tour will take you around one of the oldest burial grounds in Belfast, where you will hear tales of bodysnatching and of the thousands of souls who lie in unmarked graves.

You will visit the graves of many notable Belfast families, including Mary Ann McCracken, the noted abolitionist, philanthropist and reformer; the Artists' plot, and the final resting places of many of the industrial giants who helped to shape Belfast into the global powerhouse of the last century.

Assemble at Clifton House where your guide James Cromey will meet you. Please arrive at least 10mins before. Parking available. Dress for the weather!

*In association with North Belfast Heritage Cluster and its Re-create Great Place North Belfast Project.*

11.30am – 1.30pm

Walking Tour: John Hewitt: A Belfast Boyhood



**Where:** Meet - Girdwood Community Hub

**Tickets:** £5

John Hewitt, the renowned poet, curator, critic and political activist, was born in and spent his early years living at 96, Cliftonpark Avenue, North Belfast, where his father was principal of the local Agnes Street National School.

On this guided tour, your host Tony Kennedy will retrace his childhood journey from his home to the primary school while reciting the poetry of Hewitt's life and times, both as a boy and young man, and discuss the continuing relevance of his writings today. Tony Kennedy is a member and former Chair of The John Hewitt Society.

Dress for the weather and wear your walking shoes!



# Sunday 25th February 2024

1.00pm – 2.00pm

Talk: A Portrait of the Artist: Sir John Lavery (1856-1941)



**Where:** Belfast Jesuit Centre  
**Tickets:** £5

ULSTER  
MUSEUM

Born in north Belfast, Sir John Lavery was, throughout his long career, a highly successful and acclaimed portraitist. Yet, beyond the fashionable world of his salon and studio he travelled widely and recorded his impressions in a remarkable series of paintings.

To coincide with the Ulster Museum exhibition Lavery on Location this illustrated talk by Anne Stewart, Senior Curator of Art, National Museums NI, gives an introduction to Lavery's world.

Following the talk, you are invited to visit St Patrick's Church, Donegall St., next door to view Lavery's triptych, Madonna of the Lakes, which he gifted to the church where he was baptised. The work depicts St Brigid, St Patrick and the Madonna. Lavery's models were the three women in his life: his daughter, his step-daughter and his wife.

**Exhibition:** Lavery on Location  
Ulster Museum  
23 February to 9 June 2024  
**Exhibition tickets:** [ulstermuseum.org](http://ulstermuseum.org)

2.00pm – 4.30pm

Walking Tour: Experience Belfast's Street Art & Music



**Where:** Meet - Gaol House (Joy's Entry)  
**Tickets:** £10

Join me for the ultimate experience to hear and see Belfast's Music and Street Art. We will take in some great venues that host live music and share the musical history of Belfast from its origins and how they have influenced change in Northern Ireland. As we go on a dander through the streets of Belfast you will view some pretty cool Street Art, sample the local atmosphere and take in a beverage, if you choose to do so in this fascinating city of the Future.

Meet your host Marti at the Gaol House (Joy's Entry)

Please come dressed for the weather on the day and wear suitable walking shoes.

[belfastology.com/](http://belfastology.com/)

2.00pm – 3.00pm

Talk: It Happened on Frederick Street



**Where:** Frederick Street Quaker Meeting House  
**Tickets:** £5

A reminiscence of activity with Felicity McCartney on the Frederick Street Quaker Meeting site during the Troubles.

In August 1969, women and children whose homes in North- and West Belfast had been firebombed, sheltered in the meetinghouse. This was the first of a multi-level response by Quakers, in Belfast and throughout Ireland, during the Troubles. The web of connections and practical service that had been developed during the Famine, and the level of trust built up at that time, was a foundation for the response to a different crisis, a century later.

**Felicity McCartney** was a community worker with the Centre for Neighbourhood Development when it was based in Frederick Street Meeting's Institute building. She is co-editor of *Coming From the Silence: Quaker Peacebuilding Initiatives in Northern Ireland 1969-2007* (Sessions of York, 2009).

2.00pm – 3.15pm

In Conversation: Francis J. Bigger: A Man of Many Talents with Myrtle Hill and Ruth Taillon



**Where:** Ulster University  
**Tickets:** £5

**Francis Joseph Bigger** (1863-1926) was surely worthy of Roger Dixon's label – '*Ulster's Don Quixote*'. From his home on Belfast's Antrim Road, surrounded by major figures of Ireland's cultural and political revival, he enthusiastically promoted all aspects of his country's Celtic heritage. We will consider the life of this Antiquarian, conservationist and author who passionately endorsed traditional festivals, literature, art and music. **Dr Myrtle Hill** will be in conversation with **Ruth Taillon**.

**Dr. Myrtle Hill** was formerly a Senior Lecturer and Director of the QUB's Centre for Women's Studies. She has published widely on Irish Women's, Religious and Social History. Having retired from academia, she remains active in the wider women's and community relations sectors in the North of Ireland.

**Ruth Taillon** was Chair of the Mary Ann McCracken Historical Society from 1992 until 2002 and a former Director of the Centre for Cross Border. The author of, *When History Was Made: The Women of 1916*, she is currently working on a biography of Mary Alice McNeill.

# Sunday 25th February 2024

3.30pm – 4.45pm  
Remembering Baroness May Blood



**Where:** Ulster University  
**Tickets:** £5

**Baroness May Blood** (1938 - 1922) was regarded as a community worker, trade unionist, activist for integrated education and promoter of the needs of the people. She grew up in a working-class community before leaving school early to work in the Blackstaff Linen Mill where she learned her politics and her vocation in the vanished world of the mills of Belfast, a harsh environment of long hours with many lives shortened by unsafe working conditions.

A former president of the Labour Party in Northern Ireland and involved with the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition, in 1999 she became the first woman from Northern Ireland to receive a life peerage. Involved in community work throughout her life, she was also associated with the Greater Shankill Partnership.

Joining **Professor Duncan Morrow** (Chair) around the table are **Avila Kilmurry**, **Betty Carlisle** and **Paul Caskey** who will reflect on their memories of her and the enduring legacy she has left behind.

**Avila Kilmurry** is director of the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland.

**Betty Carlisle** is Manager of the Shankill Women's Centre.

**Paul Caskey**, OBE, is Head of Campaign at the Integrated Education Fund.

**Duncan Morrow** is a Professor in Politics and Director of Community Engagement at Ulster University Belfast.

3.30pm – 5.00pm

Guided Tour & Talk: Indian Community Centre and Belfast Hindu Temple



**Where:** Indian Community Centre  
**Tickets:** £5

The Indian Community Centre and Hindu Temple is housed in the former Carlisle Memorial Church Hall which was built in 1888. In this guided tour through the centre and temple you will learn about the Centre's rich culture and heritage. Following the tour, you will hear a talk on the history of Indian migration to Northern Ireland and observe Henna and Sari demonstrations by the members.

This guided tour will be led by **Dr Satyavir Singhal**, Chairperson of the Belfast Indian Community Centre.

5.00pm – 6.30pm

Talk: The Life and Times of David Manson with Mary Alice Clancy



**Where:** American Bar  
**Tickets:** £5

Educated by his mother at home in Cairncastle, David Manson understood the value of engaging children through play rather than coercion. Opening a brewery in Belfast in 1752, his ale soon became very popular, and he convinced customers like Henry Joy and John McCracken to educate their sons – and daughters – at his school. As a teacher, inventor, and educational theorist, Manson left a lasting impact upon generations of Belfast children, including Mary Ann and Henry Joy McCracken. In this event, you'll learn about Manson's life and legacy, and how his ale was taxed out of existence for being so strong!

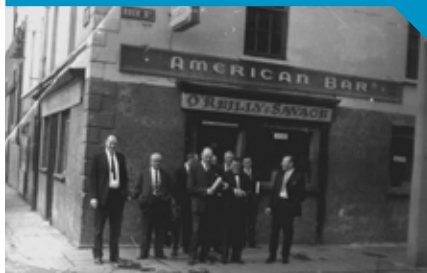
**Mary Alice Clancy** is the Development Coordinator of the Mary Ann McCracken Foundation. Educated in Boston and Belfast, she is the author of two books and several articles on Northern Ireland. Her latest book, co-edited with John Nagle, examines the legacy of the Ta'if Agreement in Lebanon.

*In association with the Mary Ann McCracken Foundation*

# Sunday 25th February 2024

7.30pm to late

Pub Quiz: with quizmaster Tony Kennedy



**Where:** American Bar

**Tickets:** £5 each

Whether you are a group, or flying solo, if you and your pals are looking for something to wind down the weekend, then join us for a fun quiz night in the American Bar one of Belfast's finest authentic old style pubs.

With some unique prizes up for grabs, see if you can put your knowledge to the test across a series of the usual themed rounds with our MC for the night Tony Kennedy. Are you up for the craic!



## HOW TO BOOK TICKETS

To book visit [northbelfastfestival.com](http://northbelfastfestival.com)

- Follow the link for your event/workshop
- Register with your name and email address
- You **must** register for all events (including free) unless stated otherwise.

Any queries regarding your booking please email: [festival@johnhewittsociety.org](mailto:festival@johnhewittsociety.org)

**Cancellation** - Please let us know as soon as possible **and no later than 24 hours before your event.**

**Conditions of sale** – Please visit [northbelfastfestival.com](http://northbelfastfestival.com)

**Access** – If you have any special access requirements, please contact [festival@johnhewittsociety.org](mailto:festival@johnhewittsociety.org).  
Please note - some heritage venues have restricted access.

## CONTACTS

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**Email:** [festival@johnhewittsociety.org](mailto:festival@johnhewittsociety.org)

**Web:** [northbelfastfestival.com](http://northbelfastfestival.com)



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Graphic Design: [paperrocket.org](http://paperrocket.org)

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Printers: [instant-print.com](http://instant-print.com)

# WHERE TO GO

**Writers' Square**  
Donegall Street, Belfast BT1 1DL

**Belfast Central Library**  
Royal Ave, Belfast BT1 1EA

**Atypical Gallery**  
109-113 Royal Ave, Belfast BT1 1FF

**Belfast Exposed Art Gallery**  
23 Donegall Street, Belfast BT1 2FF

**Belfast Orange Hall**  
Clifton Street, Belfast BT13 1AB

**Grove Library**  
120 York Road, Belfast BT15 3HF

**Chichester Library**  
109 Salisbury Avenue, Belfast. BT15 5EB.

**Redeemer Central Church**  
101 Donegall St, Belfast BT1 2FJ

**Ulster University, Conor Lecture Theatre,**  
25-51 York Street, Belfast BT15 1ED

**Oh Yeah Centre**  
Gordon Street, Belfast BT1 2LG

**Girdwood Community Hub**  
10 Girdwood Avenue, Belfast BT14 6EG

**Women's Tec**  
29 Chichester Ave, Belfast BT15 5EH

**Lower Oldpark Community Association**  
Avoca St, Belfast BT14 6EN

**Clifton House**  
North Queen Street, Belfast BT15 1ES

**Sailortown Regeneration, St. Joseph's Church,**  
9 Princes Dock St, Belfast BT1 3AA

**Beat Carnival Centre**  
11 - 47 Boyd St, Belfast BT13 2GU

**Cassidy's Bar**  
347 Antrim Rd, Belfast BT15 2HF

**Belfast Jesuit Centre**  
193-195 Donegall Street, Belfast BT1

**American Bar**  
65 Dock St, Belfast BT15 1LF

**St. Patrick's Church**  
199 Donegall St, Belfast BT1 2FL

**Gaol House**  
Joy's Entry, Belfast BT1 4DR

**Frederick Street Quaker Meeting House**  
45 Frederick St, Belfast BT1 2LW

**Indian Community Centre**  
Clifton Street, Belfast BT13 1AB

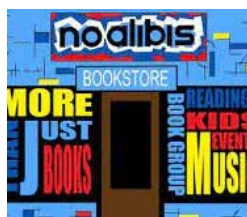
# North Belfast Festival Supporters



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# Programme at a glance

Friday 23th Februrary

<b>When</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>Where</b>
<b>9.30am - 11:00am</b>	Walking Tour: A Social History of North Belfast	<b>Writers' Square</b>
<b>10:30am - 11:30am</b>	Guided Tour: The Secrets of Our Library	<b>Belfast Central Library</b>
<b>11:00am - 4:00pm</b>	Art Exhibition: I Am?	<b>Atypical Gallery</b>
<b>11:00am - 5:00pm</b>	Art Exhibition: Now & Then: 40 Years of Belfast Exposed	<b>Belfast Exposed</b>
<b>11:30am - 1:00pm</b>	Panel: Impact of the cuts on North Belfast's Education Sector	<b>Clifton House</b>
<b>12 noon - 1:00pm</b>	Performance Art: Bbeyond Belfast Live	<b>Writers' Square</b>
<b>1:00pm - 2:00pm</b>	Talk: Visual Artist Joseph Beuy in Belfast with Robert McDowell	<b>Ulster University</b>
<b>1.00pm - 2.00pm</b>	Talk: Art and Brain Injury Matters	<b>Atypical Gallery</b>
<b>2:00pm - 3:30pm</b>	Launch: Look North! Schools Poetry Anthology	<b>RBAI</b>
<b>2:00pm - 3:00pm</b>	Guided Tour: Belfast Orange Hall	<b>Clifton Street</b>
<b>2:30pm - 3:30pm</b>	Discussion: Shared Reading with Sue Donaghy	<b>Belfast Central Library</b>
<b>3:30pm - 4:30pm</b>	Guided Tour: Belfast Orange Hall	<b>Clifton Street</b>
<b>3:30pm - 4:45pm</b>	Group Discussion: Lies of Silence by Brian Moore	<b>Grove Library</b>
<b>3:30pm - 4:45pm</b>	Group Discussion: The Good Son by Paul McVeigh	<b>Chichester Library</b>
<b>6:00pm - 7:15pm</b>	Community Meal: Belfast Long Table	<b>Redeemer Central</b>
<b>6:30pm - 7:30pm</b>	Talk: Peas Park, Growing Together with Dr Callie Persic	<b>Ulster University</b>
<b>7:30pm - 8:30pm</b>	Panel: North Belfast is Best Belfast hosted by Slugger O'Toole	<b>Ulster University</b>
<b>9:00pm - 11:00pm</b>	Music: Belfast Meets Brazil	<b>Oh Yeah Music Centre</b>

# Programme at a glance

Sunday 24th February

<b>When</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>Where</b>
<b>9.30am - 11:00pm</b>	Guided Tour: Experience the Poor House	<b>Clifton House</b>
<b>10.00am - 12noon</b>	Taster Workshop: Poetry with Ruth Carr	<b>Girdwood Hub</b>
<b>10.00am - 12noon</b>	Taster Workshop: Short Story with Bernie McGill	<b>Women's Tec</b>
<b>10.00am - 12noon</b>	Taster Workshop: Memoir with Malachi O'Doherty	<b>LOCA</b>
<b>11:00am - 5:00pm</b>	Art Exhibition: Now & Then: 40 Years of Belfast Exposed	<b>Belfast Exposed</b>
<b>11:00am - 12:15pm</b>	Talk: The Poetry of Padraig Fiacc with Tara McEvoy	<b>Clifton House</b>
<b>12:30pm - 1:30pm</b>	Poetry Readings with Leonita Flynn, Dane Holt, Dawn Watson	<b>Clifton House</b>
<b>1:00pm - 2:00pm</b>	Walking Tour: Sailortown Through the Ages	<b>St Joseph's Church</b>
<b>2:00pm - 4:00pm</b>	Drop-in Workshop: Carnival with the Beat	<b>Carnival Centre</b>
<b>2:30pm - 3:45pm</b>	Talk: Religion and diversity in NI schools by Prof. Tony Gallagher	<b>Ulster University</b>
<b>4.00pm - 5:15pm</b>	In Conversation: Writer Tara West talks with Glenn Patterson	<b>Ulster University</b>
<b>7:00pm - 10:30pm</b>	Poetry Slam: Hosted by poet Niamh McNally & guests	<b>Cassidy's Bar</b>

# Programme at a glance

Sunday 25th February

<b>When</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>Where</b>
<b>11.00am - 1.00pm</b>	Walking Tour: Clifton Street Cemetery	<b>Clifton House</b>
<b>11.30am - 1:30pm</b>	Walking Tour: John Hewitt, A Belfast Boyhood	<b>Girdwood Hub</b>
<b>1.00pm - 2.00pm</b>	Talk: A Portrait of the Artist Sir John Lavery	<b>Belfast Jesuit Centre</b>
<b>2.00pm - 5.00pm</b>	Drop in: View Lavery's triptych, <i>Madonna of the Lakes</i>	<b>St Patrick's Church</b>
<b>2:00pm - 4:30pm</b>	Walking Tour: Experience Belfast's Street Art & Music	<b>Gaol House</b>
<b>2.00pm - 3.00pm</b>	Talk: It Happened on Frederick Street	<b>Quaker Meeting House</b>
<b>2.00pm - 3.15pm</b>	In Conversation: Francis Bigger with Myrtle Hill & Ruth Taillon	<b>Ulster University</b>
<b>3:30pm - 4:45pm</b>	Panel: Remembering Baroness May Blood	<b>Ulster University</b>
<b>3:30pm - 5.00pm</b>	Guided Tour: Indian Community Centre	<b>Indian Community Centre</b>
<b>5:00pm - 6:30pm</b>	Talk: Life & Times of David Manson with Mary Alice Clancy	<b>American Bar</b>
<b>7:30pm - 9.30pm</b>	Pub Quiz: with quiz master Tony Kennedy.	<b>American Bar</b>

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## **Look North! The North Belfast Festival**

North Belfast has a vibrant and diverse community with a rich cultural history and unique built heritage landscape. In just over one mile, fifteen such historic buildings and sites sit side by side collectively telling a fascinating story of the city's past. These buildings make up the North Belfast Heritage Cluster group, whose goal is to use these vital assets to help deliver heritage-led regeneration in the area through the Great Place North Belfast project.

This area of Belfast was also the cultural roots and creative influences of celebrated writers John Hewitt, Padraic Fiacc, Ciaran Carson, Brian Moore, Helen Waddell, Frank Ormsby, Anne Devlin, Gerald Dawe, Bernard MacLaverty and Anna Burns. Additionally, the prolific visual artist Sir John Lavery was born in North Belfast.

Now in its third year, once again this Festival was planned and organised through a network of organisations and individuals who reside in, work in or are associated with the area, including members of the North Belfast Heritage Cluster group.

Network members include:

- **Beat Carnival Centre - [beatcarnival.com](http://beatcarnival.com)**
- **Belfast Charitable Society - [belfastcharitablesociety.org](http://belfastcharitablesociety.org)**
- **Imagine Belfast Festival - [imaginebelfast.com](http://imaginebelfast.com)**
- **North Belfast Heritage Cluster – [greatplacenorthbelfast.com](http://greatplacenorthbelfast.com)**
- **St Patrick's Parish (Donegall Street) - [stpatricksbelfast.org](http://stpatricksbelfast.org)**
- **The Duncairn - [theduncairn.com](http://theduncairn.com)**
- **The John Hewitt Society (Chair) - [johnhewittsociety.org](http://johnhewittsociety.org)**
- **Ulster University – [ulster.ac.uk](http://ulster.ac.uk)**

### **North Belfast Heritage Cluster [greatplacenorthbelfast.com](http://greatplacenorthbelfast.com)**

members include:

- **Annesley Street Synagogue**
- **Belfast Charitable Society**
- **Belfast Orange Hall**
- **Carnegie Oldpark Library**
- **174 Trust/Duncairn Centre for Culture & Arts**
- **Dunlewey Addiction Services**
- **Frederick Street Quaker Meeting House**
- **Indian Community Centre**
- **North Belfast Working Men's Club.**
- **Redeemer Central (Donegall Street Congregational Church)**
- **St Anne's Cathedral**
- **St Malachy's College**
- **St Patrick's Church and Presbytery**

Look  
**North**



The North Belfast

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**23 - 25  
FEBRUARY 2024**

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