

The Book: *Triggs, The autobiography of Roy Keane's dog*, Paul Howard
Championed by: **Mary Malone**

Mary Malone lives in Templemartin, Bandon, Co. Cork, with her husband, Pat and sons, David and Mark. As well as being a novelist and freelance journalist, she works full-time in the Central Statistics Office. Her novels include *Love match*, *All you need is love*, *Never tear us apart*, *Love is the reason* and *Where there's a will*.

The Book: *Cork rock: from Rory Gallagher to the Sultans of Ping*, Mark McAvoy
Championed by: **John Spillane**

John Spillane is a musician, songwriter, performer, recording artist, storyteller and poet. His career spans from singing the Irish national anthem before 45,000 people attending the Australia v. Ireland Ozzie Rules Football to singing by invitation for the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese. John is a native of Cork, the county he lovingly describes as "the centre of the universe", and it has been a huge creative influence on him. He effortlessly flits between beautiful poetry tinged with melancholy to roguish, irreverent Cork humour. Who better to be a champion for Cork's Favourite Book.

The Book: *Pride and prejudice*, Jane Austen
Championed by: **Irene Kelleher**

Irene received a first class honours BA in Drama & Theatre Studies and a first class honours Masters in Advanced Performance Practice, at UCC. She also completed intensive training with *Shakespeare and Company*, Lenox, Massachusetts in Winter of 2009. This year she was cast as 'Clarrisa' in the pilot of a new tv series 'Reign' for CBS which is based on the life of Mary Queen of Scots. Irene's latest role was as Pegeen Mike in Kilmeen's RTE All-Ireland Winning production of 'The Playboy of the Western World' which performed in the Peacock at the Abbey Theatre and in the Cork Opera House. She is currently in rehearsal for 'Bedbound' which will tour nationwide in 2014.



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The Book: *The ghost of Shandon*, Alan Corbett
Championed by: **Sheelah Moloney**

Sheelah Moloney has a Diploma in Film Studies from St John's College, Cork, and has a BA (Hons) degree in Art History from UCC. She worked in a variety of galleries including the Lewis Glucksman Gallery at University College Cork. Sheelah set up the 2020 Gallery in July 2009. This started out as a small gallery in Ballydehob in West Cork. Sheelah moved the gallery to the North Mall in Cork city in 2010. For Sheelah sharing and homing Irish artwork with the people of Cork and beyond is a wonderful, exciting thing to do every day.

The Book: *History's daughter*, Máire MacSwiney Brugha
Championed by: **Mairín Quill**

Mairín Quill is a former teacher of English and history. She has served as a member of Cork City Council, Dáil Éireann, and Seanad Éireann. In 2009 she was conferred with an NUI Honorary Doctorate at UCC in recognition of her work for culture and the arts.

The Book: *Praise in which I live and move and have my being*, Paul Durcan
Championed by: **Afric McGlinchey**

A Hennessy Emerging Poetry Award winner (2010), Afric McGlinchey grew up in Ireland and Africa. She was also shortlisted in the Bridport poetry competition, nominated for the Pushcart (USA), and highly commended in the Magma, North West Words, and Dromineer poetry competitions in 2012. She won the Northern Liberties Poetry Prize (USA) in 2013. Her début collection, *The lucky star of hidden things*, was published in 2012 by Salmon. Afric lives in West Cork.

The Book: *The Hobbit*, J.R.R. Tolkien
Championed by: **Mairín-Rua Ní hAodha**

Mairín-Rua is an avid reader and lists her favourite writers as Truman Capote, William S. Burroughs and John W. Sexton. She is an emerging poet and writer and a member of the Bishopstown Library Teen Writing Group. Her poem *A Very Satisfying Meal* was published in *The Unfinished Book of Poetry* and her story *Swine* won Cork City Libraries Short Story Competition 2013.

The Book: *The Lobby Bar*, Monica McNamara
Championed by: **Conal Creedon**

Conal Creedon is an award-winning novelist, playwright and documentary film maker. His short stories have won recognition in the George A Birmingham Awards, the Francis McManus Awards, and the One Voice Monologues Awards on BBC. His plays have been produced in Ireland, Britain, America, and China, and have represented Ireland at the World Expo Shanghai 2010. He was awarded best direction at the New York Theatre Awards in 2008. His film documentaries were also represented in the World Expo Shanghai in 2010 and his novel and radio drama have also received international acclaim.

The Book: *My flirtation with international socialism*, Gerry Murphy
Championed by: **Billy Ramsell**

Poet Billy Ramsell was born in Cork in 1977 and educated at the North Monastery and UCC. *Complicated pleasures*, his first collection, was published by Dedalus Press, Dublin, in 2007. He has been shortlisted for a Hennessy award and a Strong award. He has been invited to read his work at many festivals around the world, most recently in Shanghai and in San Francisco. He lives in Cork where he co-runs an educational publishing company.

The Book: *Stone mad*, Seamus Murphy
Championed by: **Johnny Hanrahan**

Johnny was artistic director of Meridian Theatre for twenty years and Visual Arts officer in UCC in the late 80s. His plays include *Volpone*, *Castle Rackrent*, *Craving*, *Crystal*, *Madam T*, *Goodnight Irene*. He was the first chair of the Theatre Forum and founder member of Cork Arts Development Committee and the National Sculpture Factory. The writer of plays, stories and recently two novels, *Berlin by Night* and *The Mayor* (a boy-band bodice ripper), Johnny is now creative director of Chameleon, a cultural projects company which he describes as promoting elitism for all. He adapted *Stone Mad* for the stage in 2007.