



SAT 29 FEB 2020
THE JACKIE CLARKE COLLECTION
BALLINA, CO MAYO

OTHER VOICES intel

**IRELAND'S
EDGE
BALLINA**

**AWAKENING
CREATIVITY**

PROFESSOR DIARMAID FERRITER
SAOIRSE MCHUGH
DR PATRICK COLLINS / NUIG
FARAH ELLE
NIGEL O'REILLY
DR RHETTA MORAN / RAPAR
ORLA HUGHES / PORTWEST
OLA MUSTAPHA
PIARAS MAC ÉINRÍ / UCC
TRACEY KEOGH / GROW REMOTE
PROFESSOR LAOISE MCNAMARA / NUIG
CAITLÍN NIC GABHANN

WITH MORE
TO BE ANNOUNCED

Sligo Edge
MAYO JE
Hollister
THE IRISH TIMES
Western People

Ireland's Edge Ballina Bios

Saoirse McHugh

Environmentalist Saoirse McHugh was the Green party candidate for Midlands - North - West in the recent European elections. As a complete unknown running a campaign with limited resources, Saoirse was the surprise package of the election winning 64,000 votes. She is currently running as a candidate for the Green Party in Mayo for the upcoming general elections. A native of Achill Island, Saoirse has been an environmentalist for as long as she can remember, has worked on agricultural projects in the developing world, volunteered with environmental NGOs and holds a masters in sustainable agriculture from the University of Lancaster. She has become an advocate for agricultural and social reform in the transition to a low carbon economy and she is currently working with leading academics to develop a more ambitious climate action plan for our government.

Diarmaid Ferriter

Diarmaid Ferriter is Professor of Modern Irish History at UCD. His books include *The Transformation of Ireland 1900-2000* (2004), *Judging Dev: A Reassessment of the life and legacy of Eamon de Valera* (2007), *Occasions of Sin: Sex and Society in Modern Ireland* (2009) *Ambiguous Republic: Ireland in the 1970s* (2012) *A Nation and not a Rabble: The Irish Revolution 1913-23* (2015). His latest book *On The Edge: Ireland's Offshore Islands, A Modern History*, was published in October 2018. He is a regular broadcaster on television and radio and a weekly columnist with the *Irish Times*. He co-wrote the film *Keepers of the Flame* (2018) with Nuala O'Connor.

Owodunni Mustapha

Owodunni, known as Ola, is an asylum seeker living in the Old Convent – Direct Provision Centre in Ballyhaunis, County Mayo, for more than five years. Educated in Political Science in Nigeria but prohibited to engage in employment, she committed to give her skills, passion, potential and energy to volunteer for her fellow asylum seekers living in the Direct Provision Centre in Ballyhaunis. Thanks to

her passion for the life of the Centre's community, Ola has succeeded in setting up a Residents Committee in the Centre. This is a very hard task to mobilise people living in the diverse environment of Direct Provision to take on leadership roles. After several attempts she succeeded to bring together a group of women who took inspiration from Ola's commitment, drive and passion.

Farrah Elle

Farah Elle is a singer-songwriter whose distinctive music reveals something of the beauty in the ephemeral everyday. Farah has eclectic influences, including North African echoes from her Libyan background. Raised in Ireland, she moved to Dublin with her family as a newborn child. Her punk ethos as an artist is to encourage positive social change with her music. Farah also holds creative coaching sessions to empower people of minority groups through self-expression & music. While performing solo and full band shows regularly, Elle is currently putting the finishing touches on her debut album; due to be released in 2020. In the meantime, find her on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Youtube.

Nigel O'Reilly

Nigel O'Reilly is a Mayo based master Goldsmith. His approach was forged by his exposure to excellence. Nigel started his professional life in engineering but his creativity moved him in the direction of jewellery. Following his formal training he worked closely with, and learned from, the late master goldsmith & gemstone cutter Erwin Springbrunn. Internationally recognised and highly influential, Springbrunn believed in the mystery and potential of each individual gemstone and carried each one on his person until he designed a piece that reflected its inherent qualities. He has spent the past decade creating for some of the world's most luxurious jewellery houses. In 2009 he founded his studio in the West of Ireland.

Dr Rhetta Moran, RAPAR (Refugee and Asylum Seeker Participatory Action Research)

An action learning and researching praxivist and writer, Rhetta Moran was born in the depths of Somerset UK to parents who hailed from the East - Dundee in Scotland - and the West - Mayo in Ireland. Living in a caravan shelter until she was four, she wondered if her love of music to move to, the outdoors, and all things natural originated in those ovarian days. Her, her-story has concentrated on developing initiatives and projects that interrogate - in a good way! – what we may share and grow together to ensure that our constructive human potential becomes realised. She is completely wedded to making positive things happen, in the good company of many other people who have no illusions about how much there is for us to do.

Orla Hughes

Orla Hughes is Commercial Manager for Europe at Portwest, an international workwear company that specializes in the design and manufacture of protective clothing, safety footwear, work gloves and personal protective equipment.

Portwest was founded in 1904 by Charles Hughes, Orla's great-grand-uncle. Currently led by the third generation of the Hughes family, Portwest has transformed from a local drapery to a global manufacturer. Prior to joining the business in 2017, Orla spent over 4 years in Germany working for Irish trade and in the European chemical industry. Joined by her cousins James and Cathal, her brother Henry and sister Stephanie, they make up the fourth generation to join the family business. Portwest, who trades in over 130 countries, continues to grow at over 20% per annum and now employs over 4,000 people.

Dr. Patrick Collins,

Dr. Pat Collins is an Economic Geographer at NUIG. As an economic geographer he is interested in spatial distribution of wealth. More specifically his work is concerned with how different places offer different opportunities, by the financial, social or cultural. How we 'make' places is a key determinant of our quality of life. His research extends from analysis of the location decisions of foreign direct investments in the technology sector to how we make the places we live in unique.

Piaras Mac Einri

Piar Mac Einri a Lecturer in the Department of Geography in UCC. After graduating from UCD, he held diplomatic postings for the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs in Brussels, Paris and Beirut. He subsequently examined the Irish in Paris in the late 1980s for his postgraduate work at the Sorbonne University in Paris before arriving at UCC. He was the Director of the Irish Centre for Migration Studies at UCC between 1997 and 2003 and was involved in several of their key projects, including 'Breaking the Silence', which examined the lives of young people who did not emigrate from Ireland in the 1950s. He has published widely on immigration into and emigration out of Ireland.

Tracey Keogh

Tracy is cofounder of Grow Remote - a community project making remote work local in 113 local communities and 17 countries. She is a global facilitator with Techstars Startup Weekend tapping into startup ecosystems across Europe. Previously, Tracy was an early employee in two technology startups, Ex Ordo and Desposify, looking after everything from finance to pitches and tech support. Tracy currently works in Bank of Ireland having set up their innovation programmes in the west.

Professor Laoise McNamara

Professor Laoise McNamara is a personal professor in Biomedical Engineering at the National University of Ireland, Galway. She is the Vice Dean for Recruitment and Internationalisation in the College of Engineering and Informatics at NUI Galway and a member of the Executive board and Platform Lead for the Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) funded Centre for Research in Medical Devices (CURAM). She was the Program Director for the Masters in Biomedical Engineering (MSc) at NUI Galway. She established the Mechanobiology and Medical Device Research team at NUI Galway in 2009, and her research group use multidisciplinary approaches to understand mechanobiology and how this process contributes to bone development, osteoporosis and cancer metastasis. She collaborates with Stryker, Boston Scientific and Medtronic applying her expertise in computational and experimental biomechanics to the pre-clinical assessment of surgical and minimally invasive medical devices. Her research has been awarded the European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Award (2019) and an ERC Starting Independent Researcher Award (2011), a Science Foundation Ireland Investigators Grant(2016), the Irish Research Council (IRC) Laureate Award (2018) and various other Health Research Board, SFI and Irish Research Council funding. Her research group have published widely, and have been awarded numerous presentation prizes and travel awards. She was awarded the Irish Research Council "Researcher of the Year" award in 2019.

Caitlín Nic Gabhan

Three time All-Ireland champion on concertina, Caitlín is a regular performer at festivals and in concert halls from North America all the way to Asia. She is also an accomplished dancer and has toured the world with Riverdance as a troupe dancer. Writing tunes since the age of ten, her compositions have been performed in the Cork Opera House and The National Concert Hall, Dublin and recorded by renowned musicians in Ireland and abroad. Caitlín teaches concertina annually at summer and winter schools in Ireland, Europe and USA and has performed with the RTÉ Vanbrugh Quartet, Paddy Keenan, Liam Ó Maonlaí, for Presidents and Royalty around the world, most recently at 'Ceiliúradh' in the Royal Albert Hall, London as a guest of President Michael D. Higgins. Her debut

solo CD release, Caitlín wa voted the 2012 'CD of the Year' award by tradconnect.com as well as being labelled the 'top Irish traditional album of 2012' by The Wall Street Journal.