

A FLAVOUR of the county's vibrant literary talent is currently on show at the County Library, Tallaght, each Monday evening from 7pm to 8pm.

A six part series of conversations and readings by prose writers and local and visiting poets is capturing the imagination of residents – and also the raw talent and flair for expressionism that is alive across the county.

Developed by Old Bawn resident and award-winning author and poet, Eileen Casey, the series boasts a mixture of work from writing groups such as Platform One in Rua Red, Lucan Writers, St Muirín's Writing Group and Virginia House Writers.

Each session will consist of three writers who together, will span a range of subjects – the majority of which draw from 'the now' – which makes their work more relatable for residents.

The series, which is free to attend, gives local writers the opportunity to read their work to an audience – providing them with a voice, through which they can build confidence and receive valuable feedback.

One of the writers attending is Old Bawn poet, author and historian, Michael Whelan – who was last week named the second place winner of the Prestigious 2011 Patrick Kavanagh International Poetry Award.

Michael received the accolade for his collection

Is there a large writing community in the county?

"Definitely, and it's also a very vibrant writing community. There are a lot of creative people around and this series aims to expose this talent. Even though we're in a recession, there's a great will for art in the county and organisations such as the library and Rua Red are great – they're very responsive and very positive towards promoting the work of writers."

How would you describe the work being promoted through the series?

"Local writers have shown tremendous strength in their work, they are very contemporary and draw from 'the now' – audience members will really be able to relate to their work. There's also a lot of humour across some of the writing, it's not all high end literature – it's very varied. Each week we will feature a selection of writers, the audience will hear different voices – and it won't just be poetry, there will be a mix of poetry and prose."

Any advice for people who want to start writing?

"I would certainly encourage people to take that next step and join a class, there is no need nowadays for writers to feel isolated – particularly in South County Dublin where there is an abundance of writing

Literary readings and conversations in six parts

By Mary Dennehy
mary@echo.ie

of poems titled, Against the Black Sky, We Listen: An Irish Peacekeeper's Poems – which were inspired by his experiences while serving as a peacekeeper in South Lebanon and Kosovo with the Irish Defence Forces.

Until Monday, December 5, three different writers will read their work to an audience each week, a glowing reflection of the talent and creative spirit alive across the county.

Encouraging residents to come along for an "enjoyable" evening of local literacy, Eileen told *The Echo* why promoting the county's creativity is important.

"It's very important that writers have an audience for their work and that they are not just writing in a vacuum or just for each other. Reading in front of an audience takes a writer's work to a whole new level plus when you're given the opportunity to read your work aloud, it gives it a whole new sound.

"It also builds confidence and encourages new writers to send their work off."

groups. I'm part of Platform One in Rua Red, which is a great facility, full of creative people and interesting groups."

The series of conversations will run at Tallaght Library for the next four weeks, from 7pm to 8pm. Booking is not essential and residents are invited to simply turn up on the evening for the free event. For further information, visit www.southdublinlibraries.ie.

Excerpt from Eileen Casey's short story Macaw - which won the Emerging Fiction Category in the 2011 Hennessy Literary Awards.

"Louise will wear hats she decides, she couldn't bear the thought of someone else's hair. Or she will buy a bright turban, the same shade as a scarlet macaw, its vivid colour startling the paleness of her skin. And, they have good insurance, treatments were more advanced now. Her heart beats wildly at the thought of telling Dave. If not today, then definitely tomorrow she decides. When he eventually comes in from the garden, the secateurs are gripped in his hand, stray wisps of green trailing from the blade."



WINNING WRITER: Eileen Casey

Faulty Towers- The Dining Experience

Join us at the Civic for a great night of fun.
 Thurs 13th Oct. 8pm
 Fri 14th / Sat 15th Oct. SOLD OUT
 Tickets €45 ... includes a 3 course meal served to you by Basil, Sybil and Manuel ...

Civic Theatre, Tallaght, Dublin 24
 Visit www.civictheatre.ie for more information
 Booking: 01 4627477

arts education | the arts | Community Centre, Arna Clark Theatre, South Dublin County Council

Register with the Promo Code **ECHO2011** and get €5 Free to play Bingo!

rehab Bingo.COM

Tell them Mary sent ya

find us on facebook

Offer applies to first 250 Registrants, must wager twice to withdraw, valid from 22nd Sept until 31st Oct 2011, T&Cs Apply