Changed Utterly? Ireland 1967–2007
‘Mór idir na haimsearaibh’. Éire 1967 – 2007

19ú_–_25ú Lúnasa 2007.

Reachtáilfear Scoil Samhraidh Merriman na bliana seo i Lios Dúin Bhearna, Contae an Chláir ó Dhomhnach go Satharn, an 19ú go dtí an 25ú Lúnasa. Is í *Doireann Ní Bhriain*, craoltóir aitheanta agus comhairleoir ealaíne, Stiúrthóir na Scoile.

Tá daichead bliain ó bhunú Chumann Merriman i 1967 agus an 40ú Scoil Samhraidh as a chéile, á cheiliúradh ag Cumann Merriman i mbliana. Buíon cairde ardchumais a raibh a n_ainm in airde sa saol acadúil, sna meáin agus sa tseirbhís phoiblí in Éirinn, a raibh domhainspéis acu i ngach gné de shaol na nÉireann agus go háirithe sa Ghaeilge, agus a raibh dáimh ar leith acu le contae an Chláir, a bhunaigh Cumann Merriman. B'é a gcéad bheart, leacht álainn le Séamas Ó Murchú a chrochadh ar bhalla na reilige sa bhFiacail ina gceaptar atá Brian Merriman curtha. Ansin chuir na hOllúna Dáithí Ó hUaithne agus Séan Ó Tuama eagrán nua de Chúirt an Mheán Oíche ar fáil, agus b'é reachtáil Scoil Samhraidh Merriman in Inis sa bliain 1968 an tríú beart a rinne an Cumann. Reachtáladh an chéad Scoil Gheimhridh i 1969. Tá an dá Scoil á reachtáil go féiltiúil chuile bhliain ó shin.

Is iad na hathruithe a tharla in Éirinn ó 1968 i leith a bheidh faoi chaibidil ag Scoil Samhraidh na bliana seo. Is é an tOllamh Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh, Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh, a thabharfaidh léacht na hoscailte ar an ábhar seo. Beidh sraith de léachtaí agus de shiompóisiaim ar ábhair ghaolmhara ann i rith na seachtaine á tabhairt ag an Ollamh John Coolahan (forbairtí san oideachas), John Bradley agus Eithne Fitzgerald (an rachmas nua), Piaras Mac Éinrí agus Mary Hickman (cúrsaí imirce), Sean Ó Laoire (cúrsaí pleanála agus cónaí ar thalamh na hÉireann), Eugene Downes (ealaíon na hÉireann á chur chun cinn thar lear), Nuala O’Faolain, Anne Enright agus Marian Finucane (saol na mban), Sir Kenneth Bloomfield agus Noel Dorr (ar tharla ó thuaidh agus ó dheas den teorainn), agus Fintan O’Toole agus Diarmaid Ferriter, ag féachaint siar agus ag breathnú rompu.

Beidh ómós faoi leith á thabhairt i seisiún deiridh na scoile do Seán Mac Réamoinn, duine de bhunaitheoirí Chumann Merriman, a cailleadh i dtús na bliana.

Mar is gnách beidh seisiún in aghaidh an lae i nGaeilge ag an Scoil Samhraidh á dtabhairt ag Áine Uí Cheallaigh (an amhránaíocht thraidisiúnta), Máirín Nic Eoin (léann na Gaeilge), Regina Uí Chollatáin (iriseoireacht na Gaeilge), maille le Brian Ó Catháin ag trácht ar Ghaeilge an Chláir agus Árann. Beidh Cúirt an Mheán Lae ann gach lá Scoile, .i. léamha filíochta le Mary O’Malley, Liam Ó Muirthile, Paddy Bushe agus Leanne O’Sullivan.

Beidh cheithre sheisiún ar stair áitiúil an Chláir ann arís i mbliana chomh maith leis na seisiúin Renew your Irish le Eoghan Ó hAnluain; ranganna laethúla rince seite leis na Máistrí Rince, Betty Mc Coy agus Johnny Morrissey, agus seisiúin amhránaíochta, gan trácht ar Chlub Merriman gach oíche go maidin. Beidh turas timpeall na Boirne ann ar an gCéadaoin, le léacht i gColáiste Ealaíne na Boirne ar chaomhnú thimpeallacht na Boirne le Carol Gleeson.

Táthar ag súil le neart amhranaíochta, rince, cainte agus comhluadair ag Scoil Samhraidh Merriman seo an Dá Scór. Den chéad uair riamh ag an Scoil Samhraidh, beidh coirmcheoil le Cantairí Lismorohaun ó Thuaisceart an Chláir ann tráthnóna Dé Céadaoin le Naomi O’Connell, mar chantóir aonair.

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19 – 25th August 2007

This year’s Merriman Summer School will take place in Lisdoonvarna, County Clare. It begins on Sunday, August 19, and concludes on Saturday, August 25. The Director is *Doireann Ní Bhriain*, well_known broadcaster and arts consultant.

This year’s School, under the general title ***Changed Utterly? Ireland 1968_–_2007/'Mór idir na haimsearaibh***'. Éire 1968_–_2007 casts a look back at the intervening years and at some of the key changes that have shaped Irish life in the 21st century, as well as taking a look forward at some of the challenges to be faced.

The opening lecture, In time of Change: Ireland 1967_–_2007, will be given by eminent historian, Professor *Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh* of the National University of Ireland, Galway, setting the tone for a week of debate, discussion, music, poetry, set dancing and general good fun.

Among the topics for discussion in the symposia and lectures (held in the afternoons and evenings each day) will be a look at developments in educational policy and practice from the days of the primary school certificate to the era of lifelong learning, by educationalist Professor *John Coolahan*.

Our new_found wealth and the consequences for Irish society will be examined by economist, *John Bradley*, and social policy expert and former Minister of State, *Eithne Fitzgerald*. The demographic, social and political consequences of the dual phenomena of emigration and immigration over the last 40 years will be discussed by two academic experts in the field, Dr. *Piaras Mac Éinrí* of UCC and Dr. *Mary Hickman* of London Metropolitan University.

The ways in which we have chosen to build on and live in the land of Ireland is the theme of a lecture by architect, *Sean Ó Laoire*, while our promotion of Irish culture outside of Ireland will be examined by newly appointed Chief Executive of Culture Ireland, *Eugene Downes*.

The ways in which Irish women’s lives have changed in the 40 years since 1968 is the subject of a symposium chaired by *Marian Finucane* of RTÉ, who will be joined by prominent Irish women writers *Nuala O’Faolain* and *Anne Enright*.

In this year of miraculous change for Northern Ireland, two people close to the action on both parts of the island, Sir *Kenneth Bloomfield*, former head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service and the distinguished diplomat and former Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs, *Noel Dorr*, will reflect on what led to that change. As the week draws to a close, Irish Times journalist and commentator, *Fintan O’Toole* and historian *Diarmaid Ferriter* will take a look at how the lessons of the past might inform our future on the island.

But the School will not end before those gathered have paid a special tribute to *Seán Mac Réamoinn*, one of its founder members and greatest advocates and supporters, who died earlier this year.

Whilst most of the proceedings are in English, there is a vibrant Irish_language strand. Some of the morning seminars in Irish will also use the School's theme to examine the growth in popularity of Irish traditional music and song with *Áine Uí Cheallaigh*, the current state of scholarship in modern Irish with *Máirín Nic Eoin* of St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, and the development of Irish language journalism with Dr. *Regina Uí Chollatáin* of UCD. *Brian Ó Catháin* of the National University of Ireland, Maynooth will give a special seminar about the Irish language as spoken in North Clare and the Aran Islands.

A concurrent series of local history seminars will profile some outstanding personalities associated with the area at different periods of its history: these will be given by Dr. *Peter Harbison* (George Unthank McNamara_—_Clare's Medical Antiquarian), *Máire Ashe Fitzgerald* (Thomas Johnson Westropp, an Irish Antiquary), *Bernard Share* (One man in his time_—_Brendan O'Regan) and *Conor Keane* (Curious examples of Gaelic signage and placenames in County Clare). The School will also host a series of Renew your Irish classes with *Eoghan Ó hAnluain* every morning.

This year's series of mid_day poetry readings (***Cúirt an Mheán Lae***) feature poets *Mary O'Malley*, *Liam Ó Muirthile*, *Paddy Bushe* and *Leanne O'Sullivan* and are followed by the ever_popular daily set dancing classes under the expert tutelage of *Betty Mc Coy* and *Johnny Morrissey*.

The mid_week bus tour will include a lecture in the Burren College of Art by *Carol Gleeson* on the protection and management of the Burren's environmental heritage. There will also be a special concert by the renowned Lismorohaun Singers from North Clare, making their first appearance at a Merriman School, following the tour on the Wednesday evening, featuring soloist, *Naomi O'Connell*. It is anticipated that there will be plenty of informal singing and dancing.

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