Tullycarnet Yarnspinners
2016 - 17 Season Preview

Thursday 15 September at 7:30pm
Enjoy stories from Africa, the Caribbean, and Arabia with Guest Yarnspinner Jan Blake
Storyteller in Residence Liz Weir

Jan Blake
Thursday 15 September 2016 at 8:00pm

As one of the UK’s best known storytellers, Jan Blake has been performing stories for adults and children worldwide for over 30 years. Specialising in tales from Africa, the Caribbean, and Arabia, she has a well-earned reputation for dynamic and generous storytelling.

Roger Armstrong

My Mum would have been delighted to have known that the Tullycarnet Yarnspinners outlasted her and continues to thrive. This is now the 4th season without her and I would like to thank all of those involved at Libraries NI for their sterling efforts in keeping it going. Also a big thanks to the loyal audience members who turn out in numbers every month. A very special thanks has to go to Liz Weir for working tirelessly this past nine months on the Bursary set up in my Mum and Dad’s names.

Libraries NI
Storyteller in Residence
Liz Weir

Booking advisable Admission £4
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Access and facilities for people with disabilities
On behalf of Libraries NI, I am pleased to present the programme for the 26th season of Tullycarnet Yarnspinners. Storytelling is one of the oldest forms of communication and entertainment and what better way is there to spend an evening than to sit with friends listening to a good story, well told. The 2016 - 2017 Yarnspinners Programme offers the opportunity to do just that with a stimulating and exciting line-up of storytellers from a variety of traditions.

I want to thank Roger Armstrong for his generosity in funding the first Libraries NI Storyteller in Residence, Liz Weir, through the Peg and Jim Armstrong Bursary, set up in memory of his parents, who were the founding members of the Tullycarnet Yarnspinners. Over the past year Liz has shared her passion for storytelling with many new audiences of all ages in libraries across Northern Ireland and I am delighted that, as a result of Roger’s continuing generosity, Liz will continue in that role for a second year.

Jane M Knox
Chief Executive, Libraries NI

Joe Brennan
Thursday 19 January 2017 at 8:00pm

A Wexford man, living in Donegal, Joe Brennan will draw from his myriad of stories to delight, to amuse, to tease and lighten the dark winter nights. Joe has shared his stories across Ireland and beyond to India, Norway, Belgium, Austria and USA. He is the author of Donegal Folk Tales.

Ian Coalter
Thursday 16 February 2017 at 8:00pm

Ian has been involved in yarnspinning from his teenage years with Loughgall Young Farmers Club. His observations of life together with his quick Ulster wit combine to promise humour and entertainment. One of the original Yarnspinners, he has been a popular guest at Tullycarnet over the years.

Liz Weir and Ciaran Mulholland
Thursday 20 October 2016 at 8:00pm

All For the Dead Man’s Penny
A performance by Liz Weir, Libraries NI Storyteller in Residence and fiddle player Ciaran Mulholland. They will tell a story, in words and music, of a young Irish soldier fighting in World War 1 while his brother took part in the Easter Rising.

Daniel Morden
Thursday 7 November 2016 at 8:00pm

Daniel Morden has been telling stories for 25 years. Based in Wales, he has told tales from Australia to the Arctic. He is known for his dynamic, passionate retellings of traditional stories. He tells a huge range of tales, from ridiculous nonsense to wild fairy tales. His performances can be haunting, moving, charming, chilling and thrilling...

Aideen McBride
Thursday 16 March 2017 at 8:00pm

Born in County Carlow, Aideen grew up hearing her father tell and create stories for bedtime. In 1997 she discovered the Storytelling Community of Ireland on Cape Clear Island where Liz Weir was giving a workshop and since then she has been telling and collecting stories in schools, libraries and festivals across Ireland. Her publications include Carlow Folk Tales (which she wrote with her father) and Tipperary Folk Tales published by The History Press.

Simone Scheummelfeder
Thursday 20 April 2017 at 8:00pm

Simone grew up in Germany but gave up teaching German grammar to do what she really loves to do: telling stories. In 2011 she moved to Dublin, founded the storytelling theatre StoryGate and now enjoys the life of a 21st century storyteller. Simone likes to enchant her listeners with lesser known folk tales, love stories, wisdom tales and real life stories.

An Evening of Seasonal Cheer
Thursday 15 December 2016 at 8:00pm

An open night when Tullycarnet regulars can share tales and tunes of a seasonal nature. Look out for Sharon Dickson, Gloria Patton and other yarnspinners who will get together to celebrate this special time of the year. Contributions of stories, songs or poems from the audience are especially welcome!

Maria Whatton
Thursday 18 May 2017 at 8:00pm

From an Irish/Liverpudlian background, Maria Whatton is a storyteller and writer who has been telling stories for over twenty years. She says that her Dad, who told her stories as a child, could rub a couple of dry sentences together to create a fire of the imagination. She continues to carry that torch in all her work in schools, prisons, hospitals and universities.