

**Michael Gorman** was born in Sligo and educated at Summerhill College and University College Galway. He has taught Creative Writing and worked as a literary editor and community playwright. His poetry collections include *Postcards from Galway*, *Waiting for the Sky to Fall* (Lighthouse) and *Up She Flew* (Salmon). He now lives in Barna, Co. Galway.



**Mary O'Malley** was born in Connemara and educated at University College Galway. Her poems have been translated into several languages. She is a popular reader of her own work. Mary O'Malley has written seven books of poetry. She is an essayist and broadcaster, and lectures in literature and poetry at home and abroad.



**Theo Dorgan** is a poet, novelist, prose writer, screenwriter, editor and translator. Among his recent works are *Time on the Ocean*, *A Voyage from Cape Horn to Cape Town*, the novel *Making Way*, the collection of poems *Greek*, and the libretto *Jason and the Argonauts*. A new collection of poems is forthcoming in late 2014. He is a member of Aosdána.



**Eva Bourke** is a poet and translator. She was born in Germany but has lived for much of her life in Galway. She has published six collections of poetry, several books of translations of Irish and German poetry, as well as together with Borbála Faragó an anthology of poetry by immigrant poets in Ireland. She is a member of Aosdána.



**Rita Ann Higgins**, a native of Ballybrit, Galway, has published ten collections of poetry, her most recent being *Ireland is Changing Mother* (Bloodaxe 2011), a memoir in prose and poetry *Hurting God* (Salmon 2010). Her poems chronicle the lives of the Irish dispossessed in ways that are both provocative and heart-warming. She is a member of Aosdána.



**Joan McBreen** is from Sligo. She divides her time between Tuam, Co. Galway and Renvyle in Connemara. She has published four collections of poetry and edited two anthologies. Her CD *The Long Light on the Land* was released in 2004. She has worked with the RTÉ ConTempo Quartet and composer Glen Austin on her new CD *The Mountain Ash in Connemara*. The CD features selected poems read to new arrangements of traditional Irish airs and original classical music.



**Louis de Paor** was born in Cork in 1961. He now lives in Connemara and is Director of the Centre for Irish Studies at NUI Galway. A selected poems in Irish, *Rogha Dánta* was published by Coiscéim in 2012 and his latest bilingual collection *The brindled Cat and the Nightingale's Tongue* includes recordings of some of the poems with musical settings by Ronan Browne.



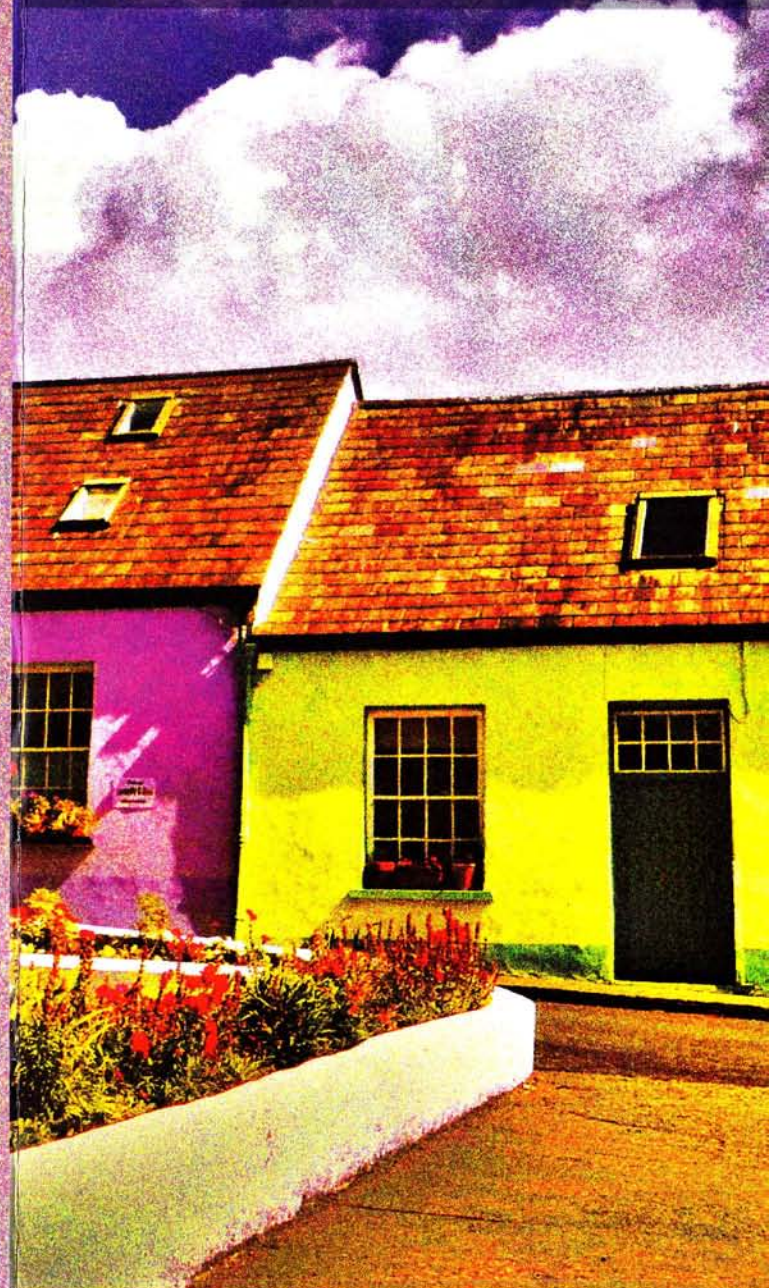
**Moya Cannon** has published four collections of poetry. Her most recent collection *Hands* (Carcanet Press, Manchester) was short-listed for the 2012 Irish Times/Poetry Now award. Her work reflects preoccupations with music, landscape, archaeology and with language itself. Her forthcoming collection *Keats Lives on the Amtrak* will be published by Carcanet Press in 2015.



**Paula Meehan** was born and reared in the north inner city of Dublin. She studied at Trinity College, Dublin and at Eastern Washington University. She has published six award winning collections of poetry including *Dharmakaya* and *Painting Rain*. Dedalus Press have recently republished *Mysteries of the Home*, seminal poems from the 1980's and the 1990's. She is currently Ireland's Professor of Poetry.



# Letterfrack Trail Poetry





Connemara Environmental Education and Cultural Centre was set up in the Quaker Village of Letterfrack in North West Connemara in 1984 by three local school teachers Clare O'Toole, Leo Hallissey and Aingeal Ni Chonghaile.

2014 is the 30th birthday of the CEECC and to mark the occasion they are putting in place *The Letterfrack Poetry Trail* consisting of nine plaques in various locations. The poems will explore the theme of place and are located in the Connemara National Park, the Connemara West Centre and the village of Letterfrack thus linking the three places together and making a very pleasant thought provoking walk for our local community as well for our many visitors.

The poets involved are Paula Meehan, Theo Dorgan, Moya Cannon, Rita Ann Higgins, Joan McBreen, Louis de Paor, Mary O'Malley, Michael Gorman and Eva Bourke. Some of the poems are site specific, others are more general in nature.

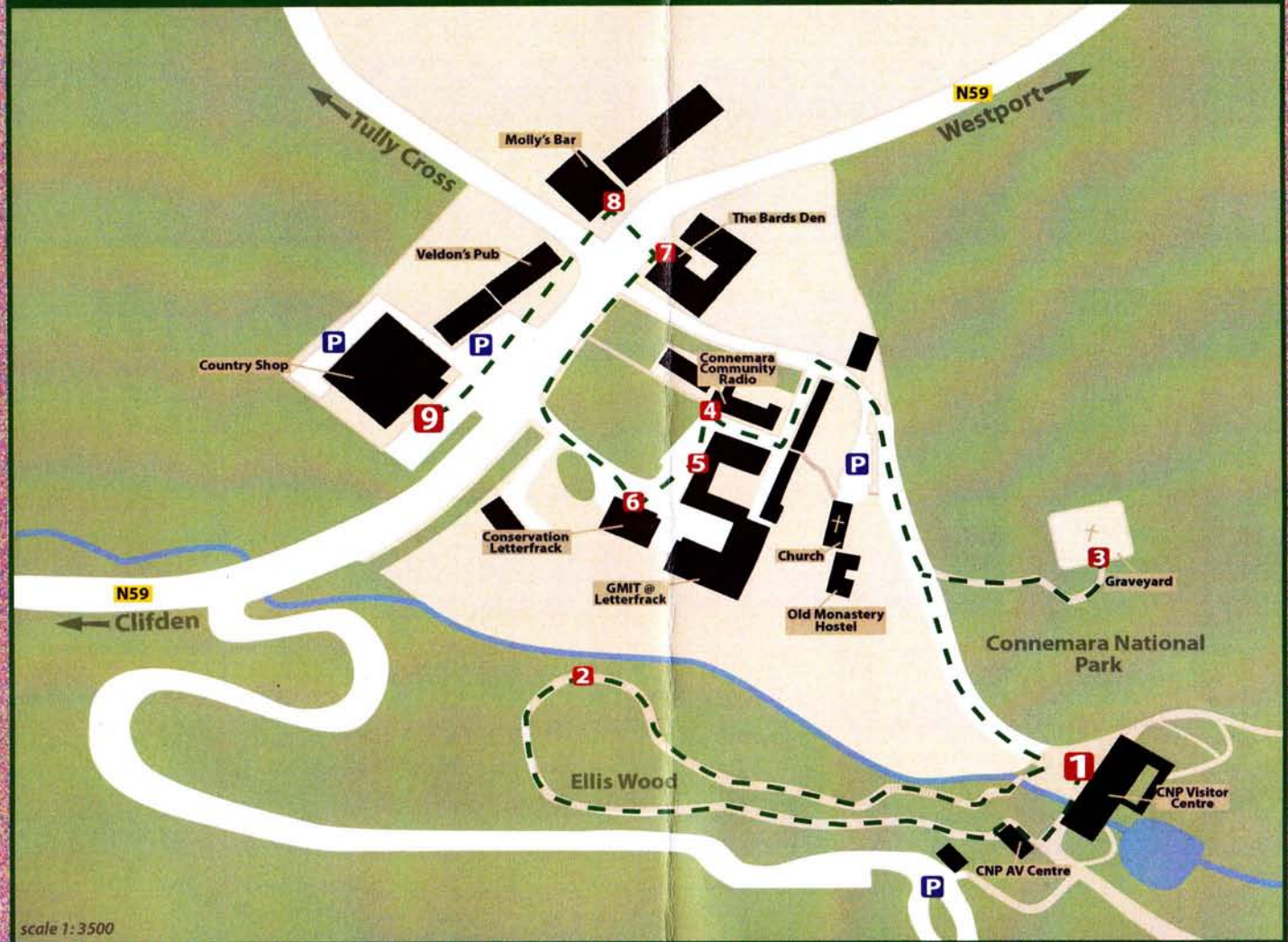
The plaques are designed by Conservation Centre Letterfrack and consists of larch wood on slate - the slate in question comes from the old roof of the Connemara West Centre - the former industrial school and the larch is a native timber well used in the boat building tradition of Connemara.

Today Letterfrack is a centre of excellence with over 500 people involved in education. But it is important to acknowledge our troubled history - moving from famine to the turbulent awful days of the industrial school to today where we mark the fact that our village is a vibrant working optimistic place - full of possibilities.

The climate of possibility that now abounds is due to the pioneering spirit of Connemara West who purchased the old industrial school building and gave it a new purpose and vision. Connemara West are now in community development for over 40 years.

Thanks to Inez who designed the brochure and maps and a special thanks to Rosie who advised on trail layout. Without the great support of Forum and Leader this project would not have happened - mile buíochas.

# Letterfrack Poetry Trail



Poetry Trail: - - - -  
 Start trail: 1  
 End trail: 9  
 Distance: 1.3km

Time: 1-1½ hours  
 Grade: Easy - Moderate  
 Dogs: Allowed on lead only

*The Letterfrack Poetry Trail officially opened by President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins on Oct. 17th 2014*



A CEECC project  
[www.ceecc.org](http://www.ceecc.org)

