



# THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

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Contributors pictured during the North Coast Writers Irish Hares and Sea Horses book launch at the Royal Court Hotel, from left, Brendan Magee, Sinead Coxhill, Brenda McAteer, Geraldine Fleming, Mary Farrell, Robin Holmes, Jim Simpson, Orla McFaul, Rhona Stephens, and Jimmy Milliken. WK19-13TM



Mary Farrell, holding the North Coast Writers, Irish Hares, and Sea Horses book during the launch at the Royal Court Hotel. WK19-12TM

## Diversity is the word as North Coast Writers launch their first anthology

*Event hosted by Causeway u3a*

by Julie Magee

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**NORTH Coast Writers were delighted to launch their first Anthology 'Irish Hares and Seahorses' at the Royal Court Hotel, Portrush, on Wednesday (May 4).**

Frank Sewell, Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing and Irish Literature in English at Ulster University, was the guest speaker, and the event was officially hosted by Causeway u3a.

With writing styles as distinctive as the Irish Hares of the title, each of the 12 contributors read a piece of their work to an enthusiastic audience.

North Coast Writers met for the first time on Wednesday, January 9, 2019, in Agherton Church Hall, Portstewart.

The number of writers involved proved to be so talented, prolific and enthusiastic that a second group was formed in September of that year.

Meeting weekly since then, initially face-to-face and more recently on Zoom, both

groups have been going from strength to strength.

Four individual collections written by group members have already been published, and six more are in the planning stage.

The Anthology, published by Impsired Press, is for sale in No 6 Queen Street, Coleraine, in The Bookshop, Society Street, Coleraine and at The Bookcase at 12 Dunluce Avenue, Portrush. It can also be purchased online from Amazon.

Mary Farrell, who edited 'Irish Hares and Seahorses,' said: "The group wishes to thank everyone in the North Coast community for their continued encouragement and assistance."

Geraldine Fleming, Co-Leader of the Thursday Group, added: "On the surface writing appears to be a solitary pursuit. Nothing could be further from the truth.

"If it takes a village to raise a child it takes a community to foster a writer."

Irish Hares and Seahorses is North Coast Writers' first anthology, and it is their intention to launch one annually, in the first week of May in the Royal Court Hotel. A note for future diaries!



### North Coast Writers

*The stunning and atmospheric logo of North Coast Writers.*

## World renowned abstract artist opens new exhibition at Roe Valley arts centre

**AN exhibition by an artist whose work has been shown across the world is now open at the Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre.**

'Overland and Borders' by Diane Henshaw, will be on display at the Limavady venue until May 28th.

Diane Henshaw is a founding member of Outland Arts and a member of Floating World Books. Her work is in many private collections both nationally and internationally.

The artist's abstract work is known for its paired down lines and formulated composition, and visitors to the exhibition can enjoy a series of works created during lockdown, along with a small selection of large drawings about people, place, memory, experience, and history.

Originally from Islandmagee in County Antrim, Diane Henshaw practised at Queen Street Studios,

Belfast for just under a decade, before moving to Tempo in Fermanagh where she has been based for 19 years.

Over the past three decades, she has exhibited throughout the world in Europe, North America, Asia and Indonesia.

Diane has held numerous international artist residencies in Antwerp, New York, Kerala, New Delhi and Orissa, South India, and has been artist-in-residence in Ireland at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig, Monaghan, Ballinglen Arts Foundation, Mayo, and The Model in Sligo.

Additional recent exhibitions include: Boyle Arts Festival invited artist for King House 2021; 44 The Quay Artforum Waterford invited artist for their annual exhibition in December 21; and the Fenderesky Gallery, Belfast Changing show.

Most recently, she has curated online studio visits and an international touring expo for the

Drawing Box during lockdown.

Diane has also exhibited virtually with the Sasse Museum in California in a group show curated by Maurice Quillinan entitled, Irish Art.

Diane is currently represented by Hambly and Hambly in Enniskillen and I am of Ireland in Cork.

The Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Councillor Richard Holmes, stated: "It is a real privilege to bring Diane's fantastic work to one of our arts centres and I hope as many people as possible enjoy the opportunity to visit 'Overlands and Borders' for themselves."

The exhibition is free to visit during the centre's opening hours. You can find out more by going to [www.roevalleyarts.com/exhibitions/diane-henshaw](http://www.roevalleyarts.com/exhibitions/diane-henshaw)



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