

~~HUMANISM,~~ ~~FREETHOUGHT~~ AND CENSORSHIP

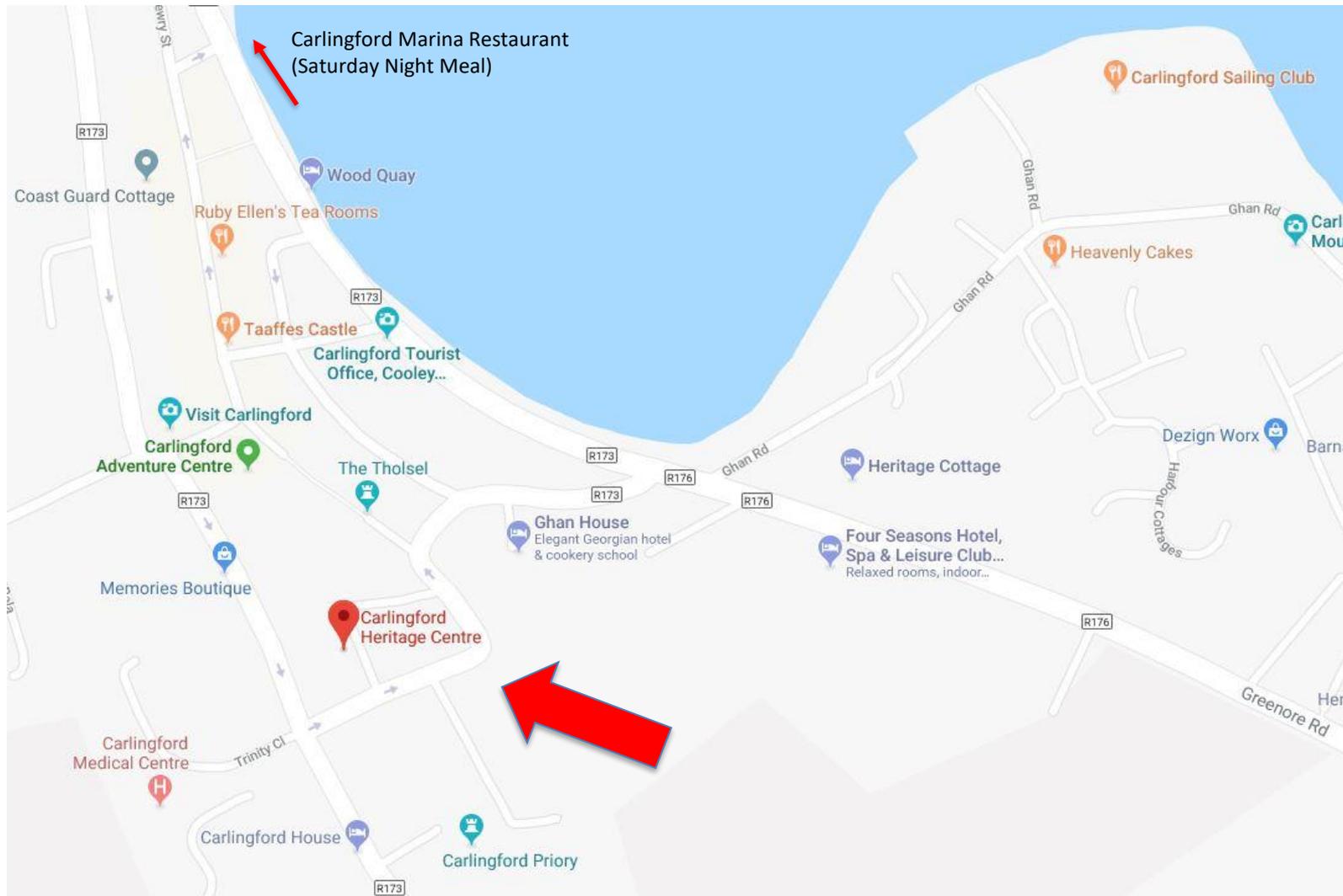
Exploring the history of ~~free thought~~
in Ireland, and how political, religious
and cultural orthodoxies have stymied
~~freethinking~~ and ~~progress.~~

All Ireland Humanist
Summer School 2018

The Heritage Centre, Carlingford, Co. Louth
Saturday & Sunday, 25-26 August 2018
#carlingford18 



Location of the Heritage Centre in Carlingford village



The theme for 2018 is: *Humanism, Freethought and Censorship*

Freethought is the rejection of opinions based on authority, tradition, faith, revelation or dogma.

The freethinker thinks freely and independently of these forces and instead holds that truth is based upon logic, reason and empirical evidence. Freethought often leads to the adoption of a Humanist philosophy, which is based not only on these principles but also on the positive values of love, sympathy, happiness, human welfare and our common humanity.

The development of Freethought and Humanism have frequently been hindered by irrational influences, often encouraged and imposed by states and religious authorities.

This conference will explore more fully the meaning of freethought and Humanism and consider the ways in which they have been thwarted in Ireland and elsewhere through censorship of opinion by church, state, and other influences.

It will also ask whether a more liberal Ireland is dawning, whether there are other, newer forces impeding freethought, and what restrictions, if any, should be imposed on freedom of speech.

The All Ireland Humanist Summer School is entering its 16th year, and will return to the beautiful surrounds of Carlingford, Co. Louth.

The Carlingford Heritage Centre will host the event over the last weekend of August, 25th and 26th.

This is a two-day theme-based event with guest speakers and discussions, as well as social activities. This year's theme is **Humanism, Freethought and Censorship**.

Tickets are now available for the full weekend, for individual days, and for the Saturday night meal (three courses) which will take place at Carlingford Marina restaurant. (*Note the change of venue from previous years*).

Concessions (half-price) for Saturday and Sunday are available for students, OAPs and the unwaged. (Unfortunately we cannot offer a reduction on the Saturday night meal).

For residents of the Republic of Ireland, see more information on how to book tickets here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/all-ireland-humanist-summer-school-tickets-45391727880>

Those from Northern Ireland who are interested in attending can contact Brian McClinton on 07962122038.

For further information, contact Eamon Murphy (in the south, +353879608295) or Brian McClinton (in the north, +447962122038)



Humanist Summer School 2018 - *Humanism, Freethought and Censorship*

Timetable for the weekend (*Friday-Sunday, August 24-26 2018*)

Friday Night: Informal gathering for drinks for any early arrivals at the Carlingford Arms

Saturday Morning: Registration from 9.15, with Summer School to kick off at 10.00

Saturday Afternoon: Summer School to resume at 14.45, after breaking for lunch from 13.25

Saturday Evening: Meeting from 18.30 in the bar of the Carlingford Marina Restaurant, with dinner from 19.00

Note the change of venue for dinner from last year: this is not the Carlingford Sailing Club

Sunday Morning: Summer School resumes at 10.00, with three final speakers of the weekend

Sunday Afternoon: The event concludes at 13.00, and is traditionally followed by an afternoon ramble up Slieve Foy

Informal gathering at **The Carlingford Arms** in the village for drinks on Friday evening

Saturday 25th August 2018

09.15

Registration & Bookshop

10.00

Welcome & Introductions – Roger Kelly (Chair, Irish Freethinkers)

10.10

Opening Address – Gary McLelland (CEO, IHEU)

10.30

The Irish Contribution to Freethought – Fergus Whelan (Author and Historian)

11.20

Break – Tea, Coffee & Scones

11.45

Diversity in Media Ownership - Anne Marie McNally (Politician)

12.35

Humanism, freedom and equality: lessons in 'Jimmy's Hall' - Dr. Harry Browne

13.25

Lunch in the Village

14.45

Censorship of Working Class Voices in the Media – Kitty Holland (Journalist)

15.45

Censorship and the Catholic Church – Dr. Anthony Keating (Lecturer in Psychoanalysis)

Closing Remarks at 16:45

Social Evening and Dinner @ 7pm at **Carlingford Marina Restaurant**

The restaurant is located just outside the village, a short walk past St John's Castle, then down to the marina

Sunday 26th August 2018

09.30

Registration & Bookshop

10.00

Welcome & Introductions – Roger Kelly (Chair, Irish Freethinkers)

10.05

Dealing with Literalism: Thoughts of a Freethinking Christian –
Chris Hudson (Unitarian Minister and Peace Process Negotiator)

10.55

Break – Tea, Coffee & Scones

11.20

Censorship and Art in Ireland – Isabella Evangelisti (Art Historian)

12.10

Self-censorship in the Media – Roy Brown (Human Rights Activist)

Closing Remarks at 13.00

The Summer School will be followed, as is now tradition, by an afternoon ramble up Slieve Foy



Roy Brown is an engineer, author and human rights activist.

He was President of the International Humanist and Ethical Union (IEHU) from 2003 to 2006, and is formerly their ambassador to the United Nations. In 1984 he founded the World Population Foundation with his wife Diana to promote family planning, and remained chair of the organisation until 1998.

He has worked at the UN Commission on Human Rights and its successor, the Human Rights Council, at which he has spoken on topics as diverse as female genital mutilation, slavery, and freedom of expression.

Roy will speak on the topic of *Self-Censorship in the Media*, as well as introducing his new book on humanism.



Dr. Harry Browne is Senior Lecturer in the School of Media at Dublin Institute of Technology and co-ordinator of the Centre for Critical Media Literacy there.

Raised in the United States by activist parents – his father a Catholic priest – he has worked as a journalist for many publications and is the author of three books: *Hammered by the Irish*, about Catholic Worker activists who disabled a US navy plane at Shannon Airport, *The Frontman: Bono (in the Name of Power)* and *Public Sphere*.

Harry's talk is entitled *Humanism, freedom and equality: lessons in 'Jimmy's Hall'*



Dr. Isabella Evangelisti is a freelance art historian, based in Dublin and Belfast.

She was educated at Trinity College Dublin, where she completed her PhD thesis on the subject of *The Nude in Irish Art*.

She has taught art history at third level and has been widely published in the Irish Arts Review magazine.

Her talk is titled *Censorship and Art in Ireland*.



Kitty Holland is Social Affairs Correspondent with the Irish Times, with whom she has worked for 20 years.

She has reported on issues as diverse as homelessness, drug addiction, poverty, women's rights, Travellers, asylum seekers and immigrant rights, domestic violence, and gay, lesbian and transgender rights. She is the author of *Savita: The Tragedy That Shook A Nation*.

Her talk is titled *Censorship of Working Class Voices in the Media*.



Reverend Christopher Hudson MBE is minister for All Souls' Church, a non-subscribing Presbyterian Church in Belfast. He previously worked as a trade union official in Dublin.

He has received the Dublin Lord Mayor's award for his work with Oxfam, the Irish Anti—Apartheid movement, and The Peace Train, as well as an MBE for his work on the Northern Irish peace process where he acted as a conduit between the Irish Government and the Ulster Volunteer Force. He has also received a number of awards from the LGBT community for his work in support of their advancement.

He describes himself as a Christian Unitarian. His talk is titled *Dealing with Literalism: Thoughts of a Freethinking Christian*



Anthony Keating is a senior lecturer in Psychosocial Analysis of Offending Behaviour at Edge Hill University in Lancashire.

A former social worker, and former Government of Ireland post-doctoral Research Fellow where he researched the history of sexual crime in Ireland, he has published widely on the abuse of children in Irish institutions, crime reporting, and censorship in the Irish Free State.

He will speak on *Censorship and the Catholic Church*



Gary McLelland is Chief Executive of the International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU) and will give the opening address at the Summer School on Saturday morning.

Before joining the IHEU in February 2017, he worked for the Humanist Society of Scotland for four years as Head of Communications and Public Affairs. He has also previously served as a Board member of the European Humanist Federation based in Brussels, as well as a board member of the Scottish Joint Committee on Religious and Moral Education.

He has a BSc (hons) in psychology, a diploma in childhood and youth studies and a Masters in human rights law, in which he researched the approach of the European Court of Human Rights and the United Nations' approach to so-called 'blasphemy laws'.



Anne-Marie McNally is the Social Democrats representative for Dublin Mid-West.

A former journalist and community development worker in Dublin, she became political strategist for the Social Democrats after working with Catherine Murphy TD's Dáil Team. She is also the party's spokesperson on Consumer Affairs.

She writes a regular column for broadsheet.ie which has covered issues as diverse as housing, rights for women and asylum seekers, and the diversity of media ownership in Ireland and its effect on freedom of expression, a subject which forms the basis for her talk in Carlingford.



Fergus Whelan is an author and historian from Dublin.

His writing focuses on the history of freethought and philosophy in Ireland, particularly the history of radicalism, Protestant Dissent and the United Irishmen.

His published books include *Dissent into Treason: Unitarians King-killers and the Society of United Irishmen* and *God Provoking Democrat: The Remarkable Life of Archibald Hamilton Rowan*.

His talk is on *The Irish Contribution to Free Thought in the Early Eighteenth Century*.