



ST. PATRICKS DAY PARADE 2016

ALICE IN WONDERLAND



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SIGNAL ARTS SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP OFFERS YOU:

A 10% discount

- On any purchase of artwork on sale in Signal Arts Centre
- On life drawing and other art courses
- On the hire of darkroom and ceramics facilities

Participation in the

Annual Signal Arts Society Exhibition

(subject to selection)

Reduced commission on sales of your work from 25% to 15%

Our **quarterly newsletter** will keep you in touch with what is happening in the arts community. You have the opportunity to publish a profile of your work, advertise your upcoming shows or projects, write about your favourite artist or review an exhibition that impressed you.

The opportunity to display images of your work and an artist's statement on **a page of the Signal website**. See links on the SAS page on the Signal website for examples

Invitations to exhibition openings and other cultural events organised by the Centre.

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Stephanie Burke
Andrea Paul
Brian Smith
Aidan Lombard
Patricia Allison
Silvia Zanella Gabbert

OFFICE HOURS
Mon to Fri 9.00 - 1.00 and 2.00 - 5.00

GALLERY HOURS
Monday to Friday 10 - 1 and 2 - 5
Sat and Sun 10 - 5

Signal Arts Centre, 1 Albert Avenue,
Bray, Co. Wicklow

Tel: 01 2762039 - Fax: 01 2869982
Email: info@signalartscentre.ie
Web: www.signalartscentre.ie

Signal Art Centre is represented on the following: Bray Partnership,
Wicklow Arts Network, Bray Chamber of Commerce.
Contact Signal Arts Society: signalsociety@gmail.com

Opinions expressed in this magazine will not always be those of Signal Arts Centre and of course we reserve the right to edit all submissions where necessary.

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Noticeboard

Please address all
Newsletter correspondence
to Claire Flood
at Signal Arts Centre

New Staff



Stephanie Burke has studied Performing Arts at the Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFE). She is currently appearing as a Shield Maiden on the hugely popular 'Vikings' TV series. Stephanie loves Celtic and Pre-Raphaelite Art and she also has a passion for photography, film and any creative avenues of expression exploring what it means to be human. Stephanie's interests include fitness, yoga, English, animal

welfare, nature & wildlife, reading, poetry, dance and music.

Aidan Lombard has studied Graphic Design in Wales and has a BA Honors in Graphics. He has worked in the print industry, designing and creating banners and various printed media. Most recently he finished a post Grad in Mobile App Design in DIT. Aidan wants to use his time here at Signal to explore the creative process through traditional and digital means.



News from Claire



In this edition we have amazing photos of the St Patricks Day Parade and I would just like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff in Signal who embraced the challenge. I would particularly like to acknowledge the sterling work that Silvia did preparing all the flowers with various classes and a lot on her own – this is Silvia's first St Patricks Day and we are delighted with her input and long may it continue. Gill delivered amazing signs for the side of the truck – which we are loathe to throw out so if there is any school/community group or individual that would like them please contact me soon or they will hit the bins. Mary and Ger's amazing costumes for Tweedle Dee and Dum made by them – second to none. Patricia as the Caterpillar on the float, brilliant. Of course the Queen of Hearts, portrayed beautifully by Andrea and her March Hare, Dan! Brian played a blinder as The White Rabbit and he was irreplaceable as a helper on the day. Alice and the Mad Hatter could not have been played by anyone other than Dave and Annette Flynn. There is no other person on Earth that could have played the Cheshire Cat better than Greg Murray and of course all of this would not have been possible without the organisational skills of Aoife Patterson.

I am sorry if I did not name everyone that was involved in the day but suffice it to say that there are a lot of people that stay in the background but are essential to events such as the parade. Lots of people walked and got involved on a voluntary basis and that included a parent of one the childrens class, Vincent Tighe, who gave us his truck and his time for the parade, thank you Vincent.

HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL THAT MADE ST PATRICKS DAY SUCH A MEMORABLE EVENT

Claire Flood

SIGNAL OPEN 2016

Signal Arts Centre is delighted to invite submissions from Artists for its 4th Annual "Signal Open" exhibition, to be held in the Signal gallery from the 2nd - 14th of August 2016.

**Closing date for submissions
Friday 22nd July 5pm 2016**

Submission guidelines

€9 per work entered

2-D work only (photography/paintings etc)

Maximum size 92 x 92 cm

forms available on www.signalartscentre.ie

The show will have a formal opening on

Friday 5th of August 7-9pm

€1000

to the Artist whose piece is selected as best in show.

Previous winners of the Signal Open



Winner 2015

Brian Manning

'Drowning out the Imp
of the perverse'



Winner 2014

Donal Geheran

'Psychosis'



Winner 2013

Olivia Bartlett

'Old woman with 2 pearl
earrings'

SIGNAL ARTS CENTRE ST. PATRICKS DAY PARADE 2016



ALICE IN WONDERLAND

An appropriately coloured purple truck supplied by Greenstar arrived at 10.00am sharp; at that stage the staff artists were already working hard at assembling all the artwork that had been created for the float over the previous weeks. As the gallery space piled higher and higher with extravagant flowers, colourful foam cakes and pastries, pink papier mache flamingos, gigantic mushrooms and wonderfully oversized cards and quotes to decorate the float for the parade, the excitement and anticipation grew.

Over the following few hours the float began to take shape. Piece by piece the artwork was carefully arranged, tweaked and hoisted into place and Signal Arts Centres interpretation of the magical story of 'Alice in Wonderland' began to unfold.

More and more people started to arrive to assemble their costumes, have their faces painted and do some last minute finishing touches to their handmade costumes. The workroom at Signal was filled with people in a frenzy of productivity to ensure their costumes were finished and ready for the parade. Once they were ready the assortment of characters to include Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee, the White Rabbit, the Queen of Hearts, the March Hare, the impressive Queens Armed Guard, the Bumble Bee, the Duchess with the crying baby, the Cheshire Cat, Absolem the Caterpillar, Alice of course, and the Mad Hatter to name but a few of the many fantastic costumes and characters that were represented on the day. The rabble departed Signal with their props and assembled on the Vevay Rd to take their place in the line for the parade.

Once the parade started, our entry was complete when the float and the characters merged for their long walk down through Bray to the seafront. As they walked they entertained and excited the crowd with their jokes and antics surrounding the theme of the Mad Hatters tea party all the time, while Absolem the caterpillar cheered and waved to the crowd from the giant mushroom on the float. The Mad Hatters tea party escalated to a truly hysterical affair at the judging panel as the tea party took full flight with Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee running amok, the grinning Cheshire Cat and the Queen of Hearts dancing a merry dance and the March Hare leading ring-a-ring-a-rosie. Our performance evidently impressed the judges as we scooped the Arts and Entertainment Award much to our delight. We would like to thank all of the Signal staff for all their hard work and commitment, and to all our enthusiastic volunteers who joined us on the day.



Signal Arts Centre receiving the Art & Entertainment award for the Alice in Wonderland themed float, a big thank you to everyone who helped and participated in making it a big success. (back row l-r) Greg Murray, Aoife Patterson, Brian Smith, (front row l-r) Andrea Paul, Claire Flood, Sylvia Zanella Gabbert.





EXHIBITIONS PROGRAMME APRIL - JUNE 2016

Gallery Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 10 - 1 and 2 - 5 | Saturday and Sunday 10 - 5 | For more information please check: www.signalartcentre.ie



ANTHONY WEYER BROWN

'Spirings Eternal'

Tuesday 29th March - Sunday 3rd April

Opening Reception:
Friday 1st April 7-9pm



JOHN COONEY

'Memoirs of a Wasteland Balladeer'

Monday 4th April - Sunday 10th April

Opening Reception:
Friday 8th April 7-9pm



BRAY CRAFTERS

'The thread that binds us'

Monday 11th April - Sunday 24th April

Opening Reception:
Sunday 17th April 3-5pm

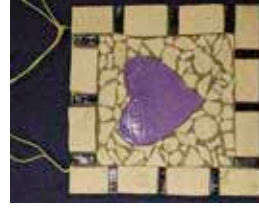


PURPLE HOUSE

'Expressions of life'

Monday 25th April - Sunday 8th May

Opening Reception:
Thursday 28th April 7-9pm



GREG MURRAY

'Drawings by Bray Primary school students'

Monday 9th May - Sunday 22nd May

Opening Reception:
Sunday 15th May 3-5pm



SAS MEMBERS 16TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION

Monday 23rd May - Sunday 5th June

Opening Reception:
Sunday 29th May 3-5pm



MARK LAWLOR

'Traffic'

Tuesday 7th June - Sunday 19th June

Opening Reception:
Friday 10th June 7-9pm



FRANK MCGRATH MARTIN MCCORMACK

'Interventions from Landscape'

Monday 20th June - Sunday 3rd July

Opening Reception:
Friday 24th July 7-9pm



Views and Reviews

Older than Ireland Documentary review by Lauren Rose



This beautiful documentary from Snack Box films was shown at Mermaid Arts Centre late last year. Funny, moving, and at times astonishing, it simply consists of a jigsaw of extracts from interviews with thirty Irish centenarians, and takes its name from the fact that they are all older than the Irish state.

Some of them remember the Black and Tans, and Croke Park. Their memories

and reflections run from the most mundane, but fascinating, details of everyday life to the most profound; why are we here?

Dolly, (100), holding the tiny leather boots her father had in his pocket for her when he died in a horse-and-cart accident when she was one; the stylish and direct Bessie Nolan (103); the two sisters, Margaret (100) and Mary (101), who comes from a family in which five siblings have lived to 100 or over...

these people seem like benevolent grandparents speaking directly to us.

"If you only dug a hole in your back garden today and filled it in again tomorrow, you're doing yourself a good turn," advises Michael (101), and still driving.) And Dorothea, (105) and still tending her own garden: "Keep doing what you always did. Don't sit back and say "I can't", just go on doing it. There's no full stop mark. Just go on."

The Dublin Trad Fest 2016 Music review by James Nolan

The Dublin TradFest, now in its 11th year, is a real treat for music lovers, with people traveling from far and wide and from abroad, to attend some of the numerous and varied concerts. These concerts are held in pubs, clubs, state buildings, conventional venues and churches, along with many free events and exhibitions too.

I was very fortunate to attend three concerts this year, and each was very special and unique in its own way.

First up was the mighty duo of Leo O Kelly and Sonny Condell, collectively known as Tír na nÓg, who have been playing music together for over 45 years. The band, who released three seminal albums in the 70s are now riding high on the back of their first studio album in 43 years called 'The Dark Dance'. This is a fantastic record that you must seek out, if you have not done so already.

It was a magnificent concert and a wonderful set list with each song intercut by hilarious banter from our two heroes. The Gig was played in front of a large, cosmopolitan, and ecstatically jubilant gathering in the plush surrounds of City Hall.



The following evening I went along to see Scottish singer extraordinaire Julie Fowlis and her 3-piece band in the gorgeous St Patrick's Cathedral, a building that is steeped in 800 years of history. Julie's voice lends the beautiful songs she sings in Scots Gaelic a spellbinding quality and as she tells us the story of each song beforehand, the language barrier is totally irrelevant. Midway through the gig she sang a stunning version of The Beatles' Blackbird. She also played beguiling tin whistle and

finished her concert by playing the Bagpipes to the delight of the already rapturous crowd.



Lastly, I went to see Master fiddle player Martin Hayes & Friends, again in the spectacular St Patrick's Cathedral. Martin, from Co. Clare, began the concert by playing solo, creating melodies so powerful that they caused me to be swept up and away with the music. His sister also sang a song, before concertina player Mary McNamara, also from Clare, and his long-time Bostonian guitarist Dennis Cahill joined him for some exuberant reels and jigs. They were then joined by Liz Knowles on fiddle and Doug Weissman on tenor clarinet for a sensational finale of uplifting tunes.



I am already looking forward to the next Dublin TradFest at the end of January 2017!

James Nolan (photos: JN)

Views and Reviews

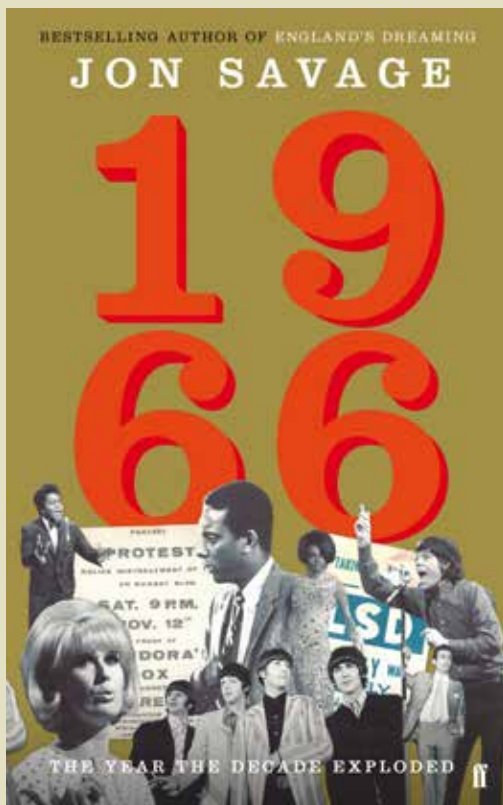
Sunbeam House Mural by Andrea Paul & Aoife Patterson

One of Signal Arts Centres current community outreach projects is an outdoor mural for Sunbeam House Services on the Dargle Road. Andrea and Aoife will be working with a small group of people over the coming weeks to create a floral themed mural. The theme of the mural project compliments the centres plan to transform the courtyard area into a multi-sensory garden. The multi-sensory garden is going to be a colourful and engaging space for the clients at Sunbeam House Services to enjoy.

The first phase of the project is the creation of a large scale wall mural; with plans to further develop the project when we begin painting a ground mural to further enhance the space over the coming months. The clients and staff at Sunbeam House Services have painted the garden furniture with bright pinks and greens to tie in with the vibrant feel good atmosphere of the garden.



1966 Book review by Dave Flynn



As soon as I read (I think in Shindig magazine) that this book existed late last year, I knew I had to get it. This is a proper 653 page hardcover tome, and perfect for dipping in and out of, btw. However, I'd recommend just reading it from start to finish. He covers every important mid – 60s issue (and of course many are still important now) from CND, Vietnam, Civil Rights, Feminism, Gay Rights, the growing San Francisco scene compared to LA, Ready Steady Go, London including Mods, Twiggy and Carnaby Street, New

York, Warhol and Pop Art, the Factory and Velvet Underground, LSD and it's influence on music and youth culture generally and on and on and on. This guy knows his stuff.

It's packed with great photos of various people, issues and fashion (including great pix of bands and 45rpm single picture sleeves!!), many of which I've never seen and it's held together by an important golden thread, man! It's the music, of course. He makes 12 essays on the year, month by month, starting with particular songs and the music continues as reference points scattered throughout the book. Why '66 and not '67 you might ask? Because in '66 culture was on the cusp from Pop to Rock, and so much more.

The Beatles were wrapping up live performance, being misunderstood by the press and public and burying the mop top image for good, recording Strawberry Fields Forever and beginning tracks for Sgt Pepper, we have Pet Sounds, Blonde on Blonde, Dylan's controversial live gigs, The Stone's Paint It, Black and Have You Seen Your Mother, Baby, Ike and Tina Turner's River Deep – Mountain High, Zappa and the Mothers of Invention's Freak Out, Jimi Hendrix's Hey Joe, the first Cream album, recording of the Velvet Underground's first album (not released until '67 due to ahem, worry re subject matter), James Brown's first real Funk workouts, fabulous music both from Atlantic/Stax and Motown.

Then, let's not forget rather more obscure stuff such as Love's 7 and 7 Is, the Thirteenth Floor Elevator's Your Gonna Miss Me, The Wimple Winch's Save My Soul and the Craig's I Must Be Mad, to mention but a few Garage-Punk and Freebeat classics.

If you've not heard 'em, check them out on YouTube and prepare to be thrilled, promise. Finally, there is a companion double CD of the same name, including famous and more obscure nuggets. Anyway, get this book, now!

Exhibiting Artists about their Work

Purple House

'Expressions of life' - Monday 25th April - Sunday 8th May

My name is Veronica O'Leary and I am the Founder and Director of Services for Purple House Cancer Support (formerly Bray Cancer Support Centre).

I had a vision 26 years ago following my own experience of cancer. I identified a huge gap in the psychological and psycho-social supports for the cancer patient and their families. So I went about setting up a cancer support Centre in Bray that would be at the heart of the community and accessible to all regardless of their social, economic or financial background. Our Services were intended to cater for the whole family as our experience taught us that a cancer diagnosis affects the entire family in different ways and that all need support and help during a difficult and stressful time.

At that time there was no support Centre in the community of this kind so I had a hard task ahead of me. However, within a week of telling my story I was contacted by 7 people who felt as I did, that our community needed a service like this. Little did I realise that our Services would attract people from all over the county who were willing to travel to avail of this special group. Very soon people from other counties wanted to set up a similar service to the one in Bray and Brendan and I travelled to other counties in Ireland to pass on our experience. There are more people living with cancer in the world today than at any other time in the history of the world. This, in turn, means that Centres like ours

are vital to the quality of life for thousands of people and families in our community.

We are an extension of the clients existing medical treatment and we provide a broad range of services from our drop in Centre on Parnell Road, in Bray and our Outreach Clinic in Dun Laoghaire. Our classes in the creative arts include Painting and Drawing, Pottery and Ceramics, Knitting and Crochet, and Children's workshops in Sugar Craft and other crafts. We are delighted to be working in partnership with Signal Arts Centre and look forward to holding our Exhibition here in April.



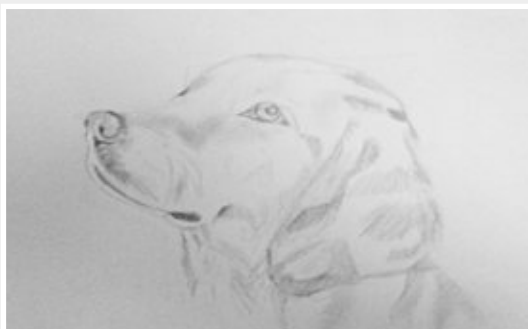
Greg Murray, Students Exhibition

'Drawings by Bray primary school students - Monday 9th May - Sunday 22nd May

This exhibition is a collaboration of work by students from two schools in Bray, St. Philomena's (Ravenswell) located on the North side of Bray, and St. Andrews on Bray South side. Both schools are working with art teacher Greg Murray, of Signal Art Centre, to bring this rather large body of work together. Greg has been teaching drawing techniques to the 3rd, 4th and 5th class students at Ravenswell for a number of years through the School Completion Programme and teaching 4th, 5th and 6th class students at St. Andrews through the PTA.

Both groups have been selecting their own choice of subject matter for each one hour class once a week. The content of the exhibition of drawings includes a varied selection of animals, still life, portraits, cartoon characters and superheroes. The variety of content is equally matched by the wonderful variety of styles chosen for exhibition by the students themselves.

For these young artists this will be the first time they exhibit their work in a public gallery space so this is a fine opportunity to pick up a very affordable piece of original artwork by the talented future of Irish art. We at Signal Arts Centre are delighted to bring these two schools together and host their joint exhibition. Please come and support this event, as it would be great to give these young people your support!



Exhibiting Artists about their Work

Mark Lawlor 'Traffic' Installation - Monday 6th June - Sunday 19th June

I'm not an inmate of the Industrial School but I have my studio here. It's the place where I make shoes out of cardboard and maps. Are ghosts snickering to each other as PVA glue is put out? I have read that shoemaking was one of the subjects taught at the school. Or are they ghosts of 100 years ago when the place was converted into a Military Orthopaedic Hospital? Because my sketchbooks are full of artificial limbs.

While these roots may have had their influence the shoes materialised from current events. In a Philosophy of Walking, Frederic Gros suggests that "...by walking you escape from the very idea of identity..." This may be good for the high flown few. I wonder about the people who have no choice but to walk. Refugees, for example. They are leaving behind their identities, walking hundreds of miles, in a zone that is identity-less, that comes down to people, moving out of desperation. And the traffickers, who are always there, "to help".

When I was 28 I had a stroke. I remember, later on, going out at night in the wheelchair and looking out on Howth, I was in Dun Laoghaire, and wondering would I ever walk again, and thinking about the people over in Howth and the lights burning. That's when I decided I would walk again. Many old favourite writers were there to help me, Dante, Rilke, Mandelstam, Beckett, Rousseau, Sebald, Kafka. Famous walks sprang into my head, Chaplin, other comics. But I must admit that a picture that went all round the world in the

newspapers and online hit at something strong for me. It was the picture of Alan Kurdi by the sea. There are shoes in that photograph and I think that shoes can be fixed on while the mind goes numb. I know that refugees are dying as I write this; they have been dying for a long time. There was something about that picture. That is when I decided to make shoes. Fake shoes, with maps. I can't do anything else until I can get over that. And I know that I will never get over it. It has pushed me into action.

"How beautiful are your feet in sandals, o prince's daughter..."



Frank McGrath & Martin McCormack

'Interventions from Landscape' - Monday 20th June - Sunday 3RD JULY

The intervention of the landscape produces responses in the soul which then permeates into the fabric of the art.

The exhibition explores who or what we are...The land we live in has an influence on our beings, and consequently on our art. Therefore our Art reflects back these influences. In a way, the physical land, as well as social and spiritual influences, make us what we are. This exhibition looks at the land in a number of ways. Using the physical material of the land to create images brings the landscape itself into our homes.

We literally are physically engaging with the landscape. Also, the land speaks a message of its history and use, which the artist then tries to pass on through his work. Martin McCormack's work takes the material of the landscape, namely Peat, and creates images that reflect the spirit and character of the people of the land of Ireland. Character molded from the physical connection

of making a physical living from the land, as well as the social and spiritual influences that continue to influence the character of the Irish people. The rawness of the Peat medium and the subjects of the images, convey a sense that the human soul is created from a number of influences that are often outside of our control.

Frank McGrath works with acrylic paint and experimental photographic processes. As a painter he experiences a tension within concerning what he feels is expected of landscape painting compared to his response to what the landscape is saying. This conflict of influences takes place during the process of painting, but generates respect for the landscape for both its history and present use.





Signal Book Club 2016

First Tuesday of every month
at 5 pm in the gallery

Tuesday 5th April

The Widow by Fiona Barton

Tuesday 3rd May

13 Ways to Look by Colum McCann

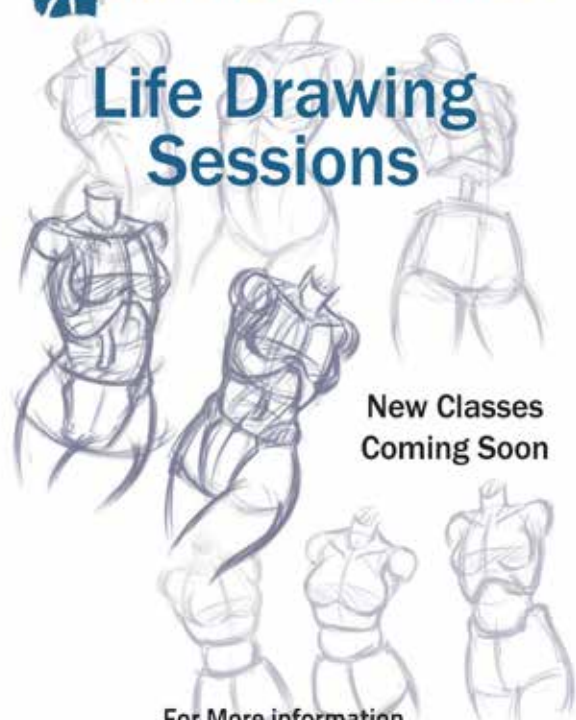
Tuesday 7th June

The Paying Guests by Sarah Waters



SIGNAL ARTS CENTRE

Life Drawing Sessions



New Classes
Coming Soon

For More information
Contact Suzanne 01-2762039

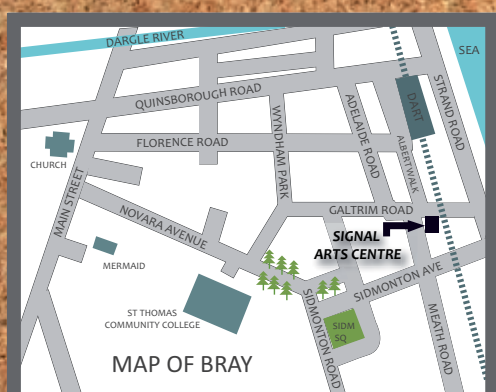
Closing date for submissions for the next
Newsletter: 27th May 2016

Bray Arts Club

Performance Nights

Mondays 8 pm at the Martello

Monday April 4th 2016



Signal Arts Centre

1 Albert Avenue,
Bray, Co. Wicklow.

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Fax: 01 2869982

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info@signalartscentre.ie

Gallery Hours

Monday to Friday 10 - 1 and 2 - 5
Saturday and Sunday 10 - 5

Office Hours

Monday to Friday 9 - 1 and 2 - 5



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by the Department
of Social Protection