



# Freelance Forum Autumn 2024

Photographers/Writers/PR

Supported by Coimisiún na Meán

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**Venue:** Connolly Hall, Siptu, Dublin 1.

**Date:** Monday **21 OCTOBER** 2024

**Cost:** €5 (tax-deductible) to NUJ members, non-members €20.

**Spaces are limited so book early**

Book online now at <https://dublinfreelance.org/freelance-forum-autumn-2024>

Enquiries Gerard Cunningham [dublinfreelancenuj@gmail.com](mailto:dublinfreelancenuj@gmail.com) 086-6073060

All sessions open to writers, photographers, PR practitioners

**NOTE: All speakers appear in a personal capacity.**

**Registration:** 9.30AM- 10.00AM

**Opening Address:** 10.00AM – 10.30AM

**Fran McNulty**, RTÉ broadcaster and joint vice president, NUJ

**Session 1:** 10.30AM – 11.45AM

**The Oncoming Storm: Climate Change and Environment Coverage**

**Speakers:** **Caroline O'Doherty**, Irish Independent  
**Rosalind Skillen**, freelance writer and activist  
**Elaine Walsh**, Climate Editor in TV and film

**Chair:** **Priyanka Borpujari**, freelance journalist

The environment and climate change impacts affect everything from holiday plans to food production, housing and flood insurance. A look at the issues, and the openings for reporting beats.

**Session 2:** 11.45AM – 1.00PM

**Publish or Perish? Books and e-publishing**

**Speakers:** **Jonathan Williams**, Literary Agent  
**Gerald M Kilby**, author

**Chair:** **Kieran Fagan**, freelance journalist and author

A look at the world of book publishing, from anthology and true crime works to special interests, biography, genre fiction and other topics.

**Lunch 1.00PM**

Lunch is available in nearby cafes and coffee shops.

Wherever you go, take the time to introduce yourself to someone new, and catch up with old faces.

*Networking is also a key aim of the Freelance Forum.*

**Session 3:** 2.00PM – 3.15PM

**The Editors: Pitching to The Press**

**Speakers:** **Jillian Bolger**, Weekend/food & travel editor, Irish Examiner  
**Karen Morgan**, Ireland Visuals editor, The Sunday Times

**Chair:** **Fiona Kenny**, copywriter

The session will cover pitching in the current newspaper environment, and the art of the pitch, with particular emphasis on popular news media.

**Session 4:** 3.30PM – 4.30PM

**This Freelancing Life**

**Speakers:** **Brian D'Arcy**, NUJ life membership recipient  
**Peter Murtagh**, NUJ life membership recipient  
**Pat Ruddy**, NUJ life membership recipient

**Chair:** **Stephanie Costello**, freelance journalist

Recipients of NUJ life membership look back on a career in journalism – and other careers.

*Additional brief modules and speakers may be added if time permits*

**We understand that as working journalists everyone may not be able to attend all sessions.**



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**Fran McNulty** is a multi award winning television presenter with *RTÉ*. He has worked across television, online and radio with *RTÉ* and often reports from overseas on major international stories. Since 2021 he has presented *Prime Time*. He is currently NUJ joint vice-president along with Gerry Curran.

**Caroline O'Doherty** is the environmental correspondent at the *Irish Independent*

**Rosalind Skillen** works in marine policy for an Irish environmental NGO and she writes about the environment for multiple UK and Irish media outlets, including the *Belfast Telegraph* and *Irish News*. Rosalind was selected as *BBC* Young Climate Reporter for Northern Ireland and worked with the digital team at *BBCNI* to produce coverage of COP26.

**Elaine Walsh** has twenty five years editorial experience elevating, emerging and established, diverse and disabled screenwriters including ten years on RTE's Fair City and the past two years with Virgin Media Television. She specialises in Climate Editorial since graduating a Climate Leadership Program at Trinity College. Elaine also had a parallel career in business writing on responsible investment and ESG funds.

**Priyanka Borpujari** is an independent journalist based in Dublin. She has reported on issues of human rights and justice from Japan, Argentina, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Indonesia, El Salvador, and India. Her work has appeared in the *British Medical Journal*, *Columbia Journalism Review*, *The Guardian*, *BBC*, *Al Jazeera*, *The Boston Globe*, *The New York Times*, *TRT World*, and others. Between 2018 and 2019, she walked 1,200km across India with Pulitzer-winning journalist Paul Salopek, on his 33,000-km Out of Eden Walk

**Gerald M. Kilby** is one of Ireland's best selling indie authors. His latest novel, *Brain Gain*, is very much in the old-school techno-thriller style while his sci-fi series, *Moon Base Delta*, *Colony Mars* and *The Belt*, are all best sellers, topping the Amazon charts. He lives in the city of Dublin, Ireland, in the same neighbourhood as Bram Stoker and can be sometimes seen tapping away on a laptop in the local cafe with his dog Loki.

**Jonathan Williams** was born and raised in Briton Ferry, Wales. He worked as a literary agent in Canada for six years before moving to Dublin in 1986. To his amazement, he was the first literary agent ever in Ireland. He has taught postgraduate courses at Trinity College Dublin and the University of Galway.

**Kieran Fagan** is a freelance journalist and author.

**Jillian Bolger** is Food & Travel Editor of the *Irish Examiner*. An award-winning magazine editor and travel writer, each week she is responsible for 16+ pages of *Weekend* magazine. A freelancer for over 20 years, with bylines in major national and international publications, she's a member of the Irish Food Writers Guild and a sucker for a well crafted pitch.

**Karen Morgan** is the Visuals Editor *Sunday Times Ireland* and Director of *Pieces of Me -The Irish Britney Spears fans Documentary*. She is an Experienced press, public relations, and commercial videographer and photographer.

**Fiona Kenny** is a copywriter and content strategist, following a post grad in Digital Media production from TU Dublin. She's also produced and presented arts and politics programmes for *Dublin South FM*. She's an MA in Politics from UCD, where she tutored, and has also been active in political campaigns for many years.

**Peter Murtagh** worked with *The Irish Times*, having been Security Correspondent, Foreign Editor, Opinion Editor and a Managing Editor of the newspaper. He co-authored, with Joe Joyce, *The Boss*, an investigation of the 1982 government of Charles Haughey. He has also worked for *The Sunday Times*, *The Guardian* and *The Sunday Tribune*. He has written and co-authored a number of other books.

**Brian D'Arcy** has been an Irish Passionist priest for 62 years, and a journalist since 1966, when he began writing for music magazines. From 1970 to 1975, he was editor of *The Cross*, a religion magazine, and taught journalism at the Catholic Communications Centre in Booterstown for 15 years. Since 1976, he wrote a weekly column in the *Sunday World* and published 17 books. He has been a broadcaster for *RTÉ* and *BBC* since 1980.

**Pat Ruddy** got his first big break at Muirfield in 1959 when 23-year-old Gary Player won his first major and *South African Golf* magazine gave him over 20 pages to celebrate the arrival of a new Bobby Locke. What a great start for a teenage scribe! After a few years on staff at the *Evening Herald*, writing four pages of golf weekly at the peak, he retired in the early 1970s to set-up *Golfer's Companion* and start a new activity as a golf course designer.

**Stephanie Costello** is a journalist, PhD candidate, and assistant lecturer at TU Dublin's School of Media. She currently covers the jobs beat for the *Dublin Inquirer* and previously served as Editor-in-Chief. Her work can be found in national and international media outlets, such as *The Irish Times*, *RTÉ*, *UTV*, *Dazed Digital*, and *Hot Press*. Her research concerns trust and transparency in Irish media through the lens of social class.