



THE IRISH ASSOCIATION
for cultural, economic and social relations

Dialogue & Reconciliation on the Island of Ireland

– the Role of the Summer School?

Wynn's Hotel, Abbey St., Dublin 2

12.30 for 1.00pm, Saturday 16th September 2017

Summer Schools have been an element of the Irish cultural, political and social landscape for the last half a century – and even across a number of centuries, if one looks to their origins in the Hedge School phenomenon. These fora for public discussion and adult education have developed across the entire island, reflecting a wide variety of local, national and international themes and focusing attention on important topics of current and more general interest. Issues of peace and reconciliation as well as relations between peoples and jurisdictions have been featured and avenues for discussion and understanding have been offered in an accessible way.

Guest Speaker: Joe Mulholland; Director, MacGill Summer School

The MacGill School is held annually in Glenties, Co. Donegal. The principal contribution of the School has been in the area of public policy but there is also a focus on cultural figures and activities. It draws politicians, policy-makers and interested attendees from Dublin, Belfast and across the Island.

Joe Mulholland, a Donegal native, founded the School in 1981 and has been Director ever since. Joe was a distinguished television producer in RTÉ where he was also Managing Director, Television.

Respondent: Hilary Copeland, General Manager, the John Hewitt Society

It is 30 years since the poet's death & the establishment by the Society of an International Summer School in his honour. The 2017 School has just taken place in Armagh City. The John Hewitt Society actively promotes cross-community and cross-border links with the aim of reinforcing the peace process in Northern Ireland.

Hilary has been General Manager of the Society since 2014. She is Vice-Chair of the Integrated Education Alumni and a board member of the Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival.