

# Athlone Literary Festival



## Press Release

BOOK LAUNCH SAT. 25 SEPTEMBER 2010

### **ATHLONE ATHLONE by Desmond Egan, with photographs by Noel Finnerty.**

Part One of this Collection was published in 1980 and quickly sold out. The new book reprints those poems and also has the poems from the new Limited Edition of 40 copies,. Included are Listening to John McCormack, hitherto available only in the poster form issued for the centenary of the Athlone tenor's birth, in 1984: In Athlone Athlone Desmond Egan both celebrates the town of his birth and a wide cross-section of its people – and laments the changes that have altered the character of the town where he was bred, born and reared: hence the double name in the title.

Egan recently described by Professor Brian Arkins of NUI Galway as 'a major poet: both midland poet but also universal one' – a description echoed by many commentators and critics, including Athlone's John Broderick, who wrote,

Padraic Fallon was the first of our poets and is at rest. Who will take his place? I would be prepared to lay a bet on Desmond Egan.

In October Egan travels to Italy to receive **The Serpillo Award**.

A poem of his has been commissioned to feature on the famous **Poetry Wall in Arpino**, Rome, next April – the first Irish writer so honoured.

The handsome A4 size of ATHLONE ATHLONE is well suited to feature the fascinating photographs of Noel Finnerty; these alone would make the book a must for all lovers of the town. There are a couple of especially evocative shots of Athlone in rain, from the lens of this noted photographer-cum-designer.

The book will be launched by Dr Paddy Murray. Dr Murray was born in Athlone and has Doctorates in English from the NUI and in Modern History from Trinity. His books on literary subjects include Milton: The Modern Phase and The Shakespearean Scene, studies of Maria Edgeworth, Eamon DeValera and Samuel Beckett.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September Prince of Wales Hotel Athlone 2p.m.**

**Launch by Dr. Patrick Murray.**

**72 pages A4 size Paperback price: €20**

To book email [literaryathlone@gmail.com](mailto:literaryathlone@gmail.com) or ring 086 367 1039.

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