



THE POET IN QUESTION  
**WB YEATS**

THURSDAY 21 MAY OR TUESDAY 2 JUNE

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of his birth, our Poet in Question this summer is W.B. Yeats. Yeats is the poet of raw yet complex energy, the gateway to other worlds than this. Son of the painter John Butler Yeats and brother of the painter Jack Yeats, he was bound to pursue the creative life. His career moved through chapters of ritual magic, to his unrequited love for the fiery Irish nationalist Maud Gonne, to his wife's 4000 pages of automatic writing, to Irish nationalism itself through his work for the Abbey Theatre, to the cause of Ireland through his support for the Irish Free State, to his beliefs that civilisation reached its heights in the Byzantium of 500 AD and the Italy of 1500AD. He believed that life operates in gyres, opposed yet linking spirals, (DNA before its time?) and that happiness consists in living behind masks. His genius lay in his poetry being at once local and general, personal and public, Irish and universal. How did he write poems of such genius and lyric power when sleepless with terror of the guns?

MEET 10.30 am coffee for 11 am lecture at Pushkin Society

ENDS 3.30 pm Pushkin Society

COST £85 members, £95 non-members, including coffee, light lunch with wine

FROM DUBLIN TO INNISFREE  
**THE IRELAND OF YEATS**

TUESDAY 9 TO MONDAY 15 JUNE

Please note that at the time of writing there are a few places available on our epic journey to Yeats' Ireland, led by Nicholas Friend.