Proust QUESTIONNAIRE

BRIAN COUGHLAN - WRITER

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
The moment after you jump from the top of the Blackrock diving tower.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?
Archimedes – we have similar backgrounds, ie, physics and invention.

Which living person do you most admire?
The man who gives out grants to writers in Galway city and county... James Something or other?

Which trait do you most deplore in yourself?
My humility.

What is your greatest extravagance?
A lifelong apple tart addiction.

What is your favourite journey?
That inner journey towards self-enlightenment.

On what occasion do you lie?
I wouldn’t know how.

Which living person do you most despise?
I couldn’t narrow it down to just one person.

What or who is the greatest love of your life?
Urban axe throwing.

When and where were you happiest?
I won’t be happy until Riverdance has been banned.

Which talent would you most like to have?
X-Ray vision so that I could direct people to the nearest hospital.

What is your current state of mind?
A reasonable state.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?
Running a sub-one-hour New York City marathon and never telling a soul.

If you were to die and come back as a person or thing, what do you think it would be?
Light patchy rain.

What is your most treasured possession?
Four Bronze Age rings I found buried in the back garden.

What do you regard as the lowest depth of misery?
The Late Late Toy Show.

What is your favourite occupation?
Office administrator grade II.

What is the quality you most like in a man?
Manliness.

What is the quality you most like in a woman?
Womanliness.

Who are your favourite writers?
Alan McMonagle; Billy O’Callaghan; Tadhg Coakley – the holy trinity...

What is your motto?
Si quieris pennisiam amoenam circumspice (If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you).

Brian Coughlan is a writer based in Galway city. His debut collection of short stories, Wattle & Daub, is published by Etruscan Press and is available at Charlie Byrne’s Bookshop and Kenny’s Bookshop.