**Offaly Arts Alert – Issue One**

**Arts in Action - March & April Events**

Welcome to your new dedicated space for Offaly Arts events, updates and news from the Arts community. Offaly Arts Office is a service of Offaly County Council and aims to broaden and deepen access to the Arts in Offaly.

Based in Áras an Chontae, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, you can contact the Arts Office by emailing arts@offalycoco.ie or calling +353 57 935 7400 during office hours; Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm

Visit our website www.offaly.ie and social media @Offaly Arts for further information. The purpose of Offaly Arts Alert is to provide a listing of arts events and opportunities in the County. As a special feature of this pilot issue, we have included two special features,

’ Venue View’ and ‘Creative Conversations’ While the listings will be the basis of Offaly Arts Alert, as a pilot issue other content will be under review and may change.

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**Listings – What’s On?**

**MODERN JIVE CLASS**

**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS**

**TULLAMORE RUGBY CLUB**

Modern Jive Classes are taking place weekly in Tullamore Rugby Club, Spollanstown Road from 8pm - 10pm.

Booking : 083 39644712

**CREATIVE PLACES EDENDERRY INFO SESSION**

**TUES 14 MARCH**

**THE COMMUNITY CABIN, EDENDERRY**

Creative Places: Edenderry is an ambitious project aiming to put creativity and community at the heart of the town. Come along to an information session on micro grants available for suitable projects.

Email: [info@creativeplacesedenderry.ie](mailto:info@creativeplacesedenderry.ie)

**SUNSHINE ON LEITH**

**14 - 18 MARCH**

**BIRR THEATRE & ARTS CENTRE**

A Birr Stage Guild Production. Follow the highs and lows of Ally and Davy, as they negotiate families, friendships and love in this funny and moving story, featuring songs from the Proclaimers.

Booking: [057 9122911](tel:057%209122911) <https://www.birrtheatre.com/>

**ST. PATRICK’S DAY PARADES**

**FRI 17TH MARCH**

**ACROSS OFFALY**

Tullamore’s St Patrick’s Day parade will commence at 11:30am from the car park of the Bridge Centre Shopping Centre. See [www.visitoffaly.ie](http://www.visitoffaly.ie) for further parade updates in other locations.

**CYANOTYPE WILDFLOWER PRINTING WORKSHOPS**

**10am – 1pm Saturday 18th March & Saturday 1st April**

A fun and creative 3-hour workshop where you will be introduced to the incredible 19th century Cyanotype printing technique, a non-toxic alternative photo process that uses the sunlight and/or UV light to produce the distinct cyan blue images.

Veronica Nicholson will guide you through preparing the paper, picking the wildflower, and after exposure and washing you will have beautiful print to take home with you.

Cost: €60 per person. All materials are provided. Max 6 participants. Suitable for ages 7+

To book either workshop or for more information email Veronica Nicholson [vnicholson108@gmail.com](mailto:vnicholson108@gmail.com)

**FIGURE DRAWING**

**FROM MON 20TH MARCH 12 – 2PM**

**BIRR THEATRE & ARTS CENTRE**

The first of a six week session of self – directed figure drawing practice, instigated by local Artist Hazel Greene. The sessions aim to offer, you the artist an opportunity to practise observation and drawing skills.

Booking: [057 9122911](tel:057%209122911) <https://www.birrtheatre.com/>

**FILM: AFTERSUN**

**THURS 23RD MARCH 8PM**

**BIRR THEATRE & ARTS CENTRE**

The extraordinary debut feature from Scottish writer/director Charlotte Wells is an achingly tender portrait of a father-daughter relationship. Magnificent performances from young Frankie Corio and Ireland’s Paul Mescal.

Booking: [057 9122911](tel:057%209122911) <https://www.birrtheatre.com/>

**CREATIVE PLACES EDENDERRY: COMMUNITY SOCIAL**

**FRI 24TH MARCH**

**EDENDERRY LIBRARY**

Come along to take part in these weekly Arts Based Workshops led by Nesrin and supported by the Communities Integration Fund.

Booking: Register at [info@creativsplacesedenderry.ie](mailto:info@creativsplacesedenderry.ie)

**SCENE OF THE RHYME**

**FRI MARCH 24TH**

**JOHN LEE’S BAR TULLAMORE**

A mix of up and coming Spoken Word, Stand Up Comedy and Music.

Booking: David Mallaghan 086 2758333

**LOUGH BOORA WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY WALK**

**SAT 25TH MARCH 10.30 AM**

**LOUGH BOORA DISCOVERY PARK**

Join local photographer, **Aidean Ryan** for a walk through some of the parkland’s many wildlife hotspots. You are welcome to bring along your own camera!

**€22 per person**

Booking:[info@loughboora.com](mailto:info@loughboora.com) [087 990 4234](tel:087%20990%204234)

**NEIL DELAMERE**

**SAT 25TH MARCH**

**TULLAMORE COURT HOTEL**

Neil Delamere, star of BBC’s The Blame Game, Fighting Talk and the Newsquiz, hits the road again with his riotous new stand-up show, Liminal.

Expect an evening perhaps best described as Schrodinger’s chat as our wisecracking comedic hero struggles to figure out this strange new world.

Booking: ['Liminal' at Tullamore Court Hotel — Neil Delamere](https://www.neildelamere.com/gigs/2022/3/5/liminal-at-tullamore-court-hotel)

**KIDS ON FIRE – SEATTLE PUNK ROCK BAND**

**MON 27TH MARCH**

**JOHN LEE’S BAR & VENUE TULLAMORE**

Kids On Fire is Punk Rock from Seattle and joining us here on their UK & Ireland tour.

Booking: [www.leesbar.ie](http://www.leesbar.ie)

**MIKE DENVER**

**THURS MARCH 30TH**

**TULLAMORE COURT HOTEL**

With his excellent backing band Mike presents a two and a half hour high energy concert show which features all his hits.

Special Guest is the legendary **Brendan Shine.**

Booking: <https://www.ticketmaster.ie/mike-denver-tullamore-court-hotel-co-offaly-tickets/venueartist/197428/1411021>

**TULLAMORE TRADFEST**

**MARCH 31st – APRIL 2ND**

**VENUES ACROSS TULLAMORE**

An action packed weekend of entertainment is in store including concerts, instrument workshops, recitals, festival club, family entertainment and of course the monster session trail.

Booking: [www.tullamoretradfest.com](http://www.tullamoretradfest.com)

**DAMIEN DEMPSEY**

**FRI 31ST MARCH**

**BRIDGE HOUSE HOTEL TULLAMORE**

Irish singer-songwriter Damien Dempsey is bringing his traditional Irish folk with contemporary lyrics to Tullamore! Renowned for his searing live shows, this isn't one to miss!⠀

Booking:[057 9325600](tel:057%209325600) [Tickets for Damien Dempsey @ Bridge House Hotel | Ticketmaster IE](https://www.ticketmaster.ie/damien-dempsey-bridge-house-hotel-co-offaly-tickets/venueartist/198443/1052116)

**SHASKEEN – TRAD BAND**

**SUN 1ST APRIL**

**BIRR THEATRE & ARTS CENTRE**

SHASKEEN, happy custodians of Irish Music for half a century, come to Birr!

Between the jigs, the reels, the songs and the banter, you will not find a contemporary, traditional Irish traditional band to engage with and entertain an audience as brilliantly as *SHASKEEN*.

Booking: [057 9122911](tel:057%209122911) <https://www.birrtheatre.com/>

**FEVER105**

**SAT 8TH APRIL**

**JOHN LEE’S BAR, TULLAMORE**

5 piece from Dublin playing Classic rock and power ballads.

**CASH RETURNS**

**SAT 8TH APRIL**

**TULLAMORE COURT HOTEL**

The award winning Cash Returns takes to the stage to celebrate Johnny Cash’s first ever Irish tour back in 1963. 60 years later the love for the Man In Black’s music is now as strong as it ever was.

The exceptional 8 piece show will commemorate that very special debut tour that cemented Cash’s place in Irish people’s hearts all those years ago.

Booking: <https://www.tullamorecourthotel.ie/things-to-do/concerts-events-packages/>

**DUBLIN WELSH MALE VOICE CHOIR**

**FRI 14TH APRIL**

**ESKER ARTS CENTRE TULLAMORE**

Presented by Tullamore Lions Club. Dublin Welsh Male Voice Choir is a male choir singing in four-part harmony, based in Dublin but who sing in the great tradition of Welsh male voice choirs.

Booking: Online via Tullamore Lions Club. [info@eskerarts.ie](mailto:info@eskerarts.ie) for more information.

**DECLAN NERNEY**

**FRI 14TH APRIL**

**BIRR THEATRE & ARTS CENTRE**

Join Irish country music star, **Declan Nerney** and special guests **John Hogan** and **Owen Mac** accompanied by his super live band, for a nostalgic night of music, song and laughter.

Booking: [057 9122911](tel:057%209122911) <https://www.birrtheatre.com/>

**BREAKING GROUND EXHIBITION**

**SAT 15TH APRIL – 27TH MAY**

**ESKER ARTS CENTRE TULLAMORE**

The exhibition will be presented in the venue’s two gallery spaces, featuring works from the Arts Council Collection, and will comprise a diverse range of works by over 40 artists. The exhibition is free to attend.

Booking: [info@eskerarts.ie](mailto:info@eskerarts.ie)

**TULLAMORE RUGBY CLUB SESSIONS**

**FRI 21ST APRIL**

**TULLAMORE RUBBY CLUB**

Chris Newman & Máire Ní Chathasaigh performing in the latest in this concert series. Doors open at 7.30pm. Concert starts at 8.00pm. Supported by Offaly Arts and Dept. of Tourism, Culture and Arts.

ADM: €15 (Cash Only)

Bookings at 086 1677330

**MICHAEL COLLINS – A MUSICAL DRAMA**

**29TH APRIL – 6TH MAY**

**ESKER ARTS CENTRE TULLAMORE**

Tullamore Musical Society present Bryan Flynn’s Musical masterpiece - *Michael Collins, A Musical Drama.* Founded in 1954, Tullamore Musical Society is a thriving society affiliated with AIMS and has been at the centre of the arts in the Midlands for over 65 years.

Booking will be opening soon and available through [Gr8 Events](https://www.gr8events.ie/)

**GLASS FUSING AND ENAMMELING CLASS**

**RHODE, CO. OFFALY**

**THROUGHOUT MARCH & APRIL**

Fused glass and enamelling class for beginners or advanced. Half Day €100 Full Day €200 Includes all materials and lunch Time 10-4 p.m. or 10- 1 p.m.

Booking: Call -0872747504

[www.glasshammer.ie](https://glasshammer.ie)

**CARBURY PLAYERS** **PRESENT** ‘**THE FIELD’BY JOHN B. KEANE**

St. Mary's Primary School Edenderry. From April 14th to 16th. John Maguire directs this classic Irish drama.

**Arts in Action - March & April**

Please note that the purpose of the listings page is to share information of Arts events happening County wide and information is accurate at the time of receipt. The Arts Office is not the booking agent or host of the events listed and bears no responsibility for same. Please contact all venues listed for any queries relating to the events. Many thanks for reading this pilot edition and trust you have a joyful Arts experience this coming season!

**Next issue: May & June**

If you have an Arts event taking place in Offaly in May - June period, please [email arts@offalycoco.ie](mailto:arts@offalycoco.ie) for a template. All details must be received by April 17th.

**THE VENUE VIEW – News from Offaly’s Arts Centres**

In this slot, hear from Offaly’s venues about what is coming up, for audiences to enjoy!

**Birr Theatre & Arts Centre**

“As we come into the spring we already see an increase in activity and a grá from our patrons for a variety of events. On our BIG screen, the Spring season of our weekly film club comes to a close with two Oscar nominated Irish titles: An Cailín Ciúin and Aftersun. On Stage, we'll enjoy sessions with Frankie Gavin and Shaskeen which are sure to be lively toe-tapping events! And the Birr Stage Guild comes back from the pandemic hiatus with the highly anticipated musical, Sunshine on Leith! Off the stage, we are starting a new Artist Drawing Group on Monday mornings from March 20th. They'll be looking for models so get ready. Finally, we are looking forward to establishing an Artist Network for the region. So get in touch and get involved!”

Emma Nee Haslam – Birr Theatre & Arts Centre Manager.

**Esker Arts Centre Tullamore**

“Greetings from Ireland’s newest arts centre! Esker Arts Centre will be opening in Tullamore in mid-April. We will be bringing the best in theatre, music, cultural cinema, dance and visual art to the town and surrounding area. We have a wonderful building and big plans. Coming in April, we can look forward to the Dublin Welsh Male Voice Choir, along with some special guests. Wales has a long tradition of male voice choirs and the concert on the 14th April promises to be a special occasion.

Another important date for the diary will be Saturday 15th April, when our first exhibition Breaking Ground: Works from the Arts Council Collection will be officially opened. That’s also a big day for us and for many people it will be a first chance to see the building as well as a great exhibition featuring work from many twentieth century and contemporary Irish artists.

Tullamore Musical Society will be with us at the end of April with their production of Michael Collins: A Musical Drama, looking at the life of one of Ireland’s most iconic heroes. All of this is just the start of an incredible new chapter for the arts and culture in Tullamore and Co Offaly. We hope to see you soon!!” Séan Walsh – Esker Arts Artistic Director.

**CREATIVE CONVERSATIONS WITH OFFALY ARTISTS**

**TINA CLAFFEY – NATURE PHOTOGRAPHER**

Tina Claffey is an award-winning Irish nature photographer and author of 'Tapestry of Light-Ireland's bogs & wetlands as never seen before' released in October 2017, and  ‘Portal-Otherworldly Wonders of Ireland’s Bogs, Wetlands and Eskers’ in 2022.

Her observations and unique perspective through her macro lens of the flora and fauna of the raised bogs and wet woodlands of the Irish midlands are celebrated in her work.

She has exhibited in group shows in the US, Botswana, Zambia and has had solo exhibitions throughout Ireland.  Her work is part of many art collections, permanent exhibitions, including the permanent collection at Áras an Uachtaráin, home of the Irish President.

She has presented her work on many worldwide online platforms including the Wildlife Habitat Council Online Conference in the US and the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26) to promote the importance of the Irish bog wilderness.

**Question: How does the place you are from impact on your work?**

I am fascinated with wild nature, especially within our bogs, wetlands and environments surrounding them. I am blessed to be here in the midlands, as I am surrounded by bogs! I specialize in macro, extreme close up photography, inspired by a walk with botanist John Feehan in 2012. On that walk, he gave each of us a small hand lens and encouraged us to look through this little magnifier at the flora and fauna he was showing us. It was inspirational to discover that there was a whole otherworldly existence with the bog's living carpet. It inspired me to get a macro lens, and I started to explore bogs all over the midlands.

**Question: Who are your biggest artistic influences?**

I have many photographers/artists that I admire, some not hugely well known. One of the lesser well known is Oliver Barnett, an English photographic artist based in Capetown South Africa. He uses fragments of his images of macro nature, and combines them using mirroring techniques that give his finished images an almost 3d appearance that convey a sense of peace and intelligence of the natural world. Martin Podt, a Dutch photographer that specialises in nature & landscapes, forests in particular. So atmospheric and powerful, his images draw me in as though I am in that forest of landscape at that moment in time. Both Magda Wasiczek and Sandra Bartocha Sandra Bartocha |are masters of light. Magda specialises in otherworldly macro of nature's fauna, while Sandra is a lover of forests and the sea, combining still images and images with movement that evoke an emotion and transient feel.

**Question: Where do you find inspiration for your work?**

I'm endlessly inspired by wild nature. I am inspired every time I explore a bog. Each bog has it's own 'presence' It is only when I free my mind, and slow down to the pace of nature that those magical 'other worlds' are revealed to me.

**Question: What time of day is your favourite time to create?**

The joy of macro is that it is possible to venture out at any time of the day. The scene or species I am photographing is such a tiny area, that I can control the light. If sunny, I can use my pop up diffuser to soften the light. I do love early mornings though, that morning few, or frost always a joy to look at through the lens. Evening light is also wonderful as the low sun extends shadows and is golden. Species flourish & die, there's beauty in every stage that changes by the season, the month, the week, the day and the hour.

**Question: When did you know you wanted to be a professional artist?**

I always knew that I wanted to go to art college. I had it in my mind that I was going to be a painter. I went to the Crawford college in Cork, and loved every nanosecond in there. When I was introduced to photography as part of the module-the old fashioned kind-no digital then!, rolling our own film, printing in the darkroom...I was immediately hooked. I never looked too far down the line. As long as I was doing what I loved, I knew I was on the right track. Lots of twists and turns on the way, but a good path nonetheless.

**Question: What do you consider to be your proudest artistic achievement to date?**

I was invited to give a visual presentation of my images on behalf of the Irish Peatlands Gathering at the online conference of COP 26 to highlight the values of Irish peatlands and their importance. It was a huge honour for me to present my images on such a global platform, and to know that my images were casting a positive light on the value of our wonderful bogs. Another huge highlight for me was to receive a hand written letter from Sir David Attenborough commending my new book 'Portal', in which he also acknowledged my first book 'Tapestry of Light' too.

**Question: If your house was on fire, and you could save one item related to your practice, what would you save?**

It would have to be my precious hard drive that has my entire bank of images over the last 10 years!

**Question: What motivates you to create?**

I'm forever learning about the ancient language of nature, and I think that that this incessant curiosity is what keeps me motivated.

**Question: What are you working on at the moment?**

I had a very busy year promoting my new book Portal. I'm now venturing in to and exploring new habitats within bog woodlands at the edges and fringes of the bog. Very exciting! I have been filmed as part of an RTE documantary that delves deep into the wonder of our bogs and art of nature, this will be aired in the Summer/Autumn. I have lots of presentations lined up, including the RHSI Garden show in May. I hope to start leading walks for small groups of photography/wildlife enthusiasts later in the year too.

**Question: Why do you think art is important for society?**

Art is a powerful tool that conveys thoughts, emotions and ideas in a way that words cannot. It allows us to express our creativity and communicate, and understand different perspectives. It gives us joy, both in the creation of it, and in exhibiting it in whatever form it takes, to the public. It brings us together and creates meaningful connections. It feeds the soul!

**Question: What advice would you give to your teenage self?**

I think that I would just say, live in the moment. Don't look too far ahead, Always listen to your gut feeling. Do what you love, love what you do.

**Question: Can you offer one tip, for managing your wellbeing as an artist, that you think other artists might benefit from?**

I think for me, it is to live in the moment. Slow down to truly 'see'. When I initially started to explore the bogs, I was trying to find everything at once, and found nothing. It was only when I stopped, deflated, and sat down in the bog to have a sandwich one particular day, and let my mind wander, that I began to 'see'. Where I was sitting was all alive. Little creatures came out of hiding. This experience taught me to slow down, follow my gut, free the mind. Only then could I get truly 'lost' in the best possible way with my camera.

**NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES**

**Poetry Day Ireland 2023** will take place on **Thursday 27 April**. Now in its ninth year, Poetry Day Ireland is an annual island-wide celebration of poetry which invites the nation to read, write, and share a poem on the day. All are welcome to get involved, with participation encouraged from artists, venues, schools, hospitals, community groups, poetry-lovers, and more. Individuals and organisers can register their Poetry Day event on poetryireland.ie with registration closing on**Sunday 19 March**. Stay tuned to Offaly Arts Social Media for updates on events happening locally.

**COMMUNITY FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

Bord na Móna is pleased to announce the opening of a new Community Benefit Fund for communities near to Cloncreen Wind Farm in Co. Offaly. The fund will distribute €150,000 to community and voluntary groups, non-profit groups, clubs and societies, or organisations with a charitable status which aim to deliver community good and services within 10km of the wind farm. Groups and organisations can now apply for grants between €1,000 and €40,000 to deliver projects before the end of 2023. See

[www.cloncreenwindfarm.com](http://www.cloncreenwindfarm.com) for more information or email [communitybenefitfund@mco.ie](mailto:communitybenefitfund@mco.ie).

**CREATE SUMMER SCHOOL**

The Summer School on Collaborative Practice and Social Change will take the form of a six -day residency enabling a ‘think and do’ approach, utilising a combination of skills training workshops, critical and comparative case studies, a creative group challenge, one-to-one mentoring and reflection. The Summer School is delivered in partnership by Create and Counterpoints Arts with funding support from The Arts Council of Ireland.

The school will take place over six days: 12 – 17 June 2023, at Killary Lodge, Co Galway.

The deadline for submission is 5pm, Wednesday 5 April 2023. See www.create.ie or contact

info@create-ireland.ie and +353 (0)1-473 6600 for details

**FILM OFFALY SHORT FILM AWARD 2023**

This funding initiative aims to foster creative and resourceful filmmaking in Co. Offaly. We are looking for original, entertaining stories by talented filmmakers, who – if selected – must set and shoot their entire film in Offaly.

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The winning applicant will receive **€10,000** towards the cost of their production.

Application Forms and Guidelines available at [www.filmoffaly.ie](https://www.filmoffaly.ie/shortfilmaward)

**Closing date 12 noon Monday 13th March 2023**

**Artist Residency Award: CREATE & NWC**

Create and The National Women’s Council (NWC) are delighted to announce this important opportunity for a collaborative socially engaged artist(s) to engage with the membership of the NWC during 2023 via an Artist Residency Award.

The Residency is intended to run from April 2023 for 9 months and has a fixed artist’s fee of €15,000 (inclusive of insurance and VAT). There is an additional budget of approximately €5,000 to cover expenses, travel, materials and production. The closing date for receipt of Expressions of Interest is 5pm, 15th March 2023.

The residency is part-funded by The Arts Council / An Comhairle Ealaíon.

See [www.createireland.com](https://www.create-ireland.ie/projectsubpage/artist-residency-award-create-and-national-womens-council/) for details.

**CLOSING DATE 15TH MARCH**

**EMERGING ARTIST AWARD:**

**AGE & OPPORTUNITY**

As part of continuing work to support older artists at every stage of their career, Age & Opportunity Arts launched the Emerging Artist Bursary in 2022 to encourage those at an early stage in their career. There can be many barriers preventing people to take up artistic practice at a younger age, and Age & Opportunity Arts recognises that there is no age limit on ‘emerging’. This award is also important in how it promotes the concept of lifelong learning and the ability we all have to grow at any age.

Through this award Age & Opportunity Arts would like to celebrate an exciting, up-and-coming artist aged 50+ who shows dedication and determination as they embark on a new path to becoming a professional artist. This award can be put towards activities that develop their practice further or help them create new work.

One award of €1000 will be made to the successful applicant.

Deadline: 5pm, Friday March 24th 2023.

[More Info: www.bealtaine.ie](https://bealtaine.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Emerging-Artist-Award-2023-guidelines.pdf?utm_source=Arts&utm_campaign=b7221bbf85-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_09_12_11_21_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_243877177d-b7221bbf85-126868457)

**ARTS COUNCIL FUNDING DEADLINES**

SEE [WWW.ARTSCOUNCIL.IE/FUNDING](https://www.artscouncil.ie/available-funding/) FOR AWARDS - VARIOUS STRANDS CLOSING MARCH 23RD

**LISTOWEL WRITERS WEEK: NILSSON LOCAL HERITAGE WRITING AWARD**

This Award is for the best book on Local Heritage and History by an Irish author/authors published between the 1st March 2022 and 28th February 2023. It has a total prize fund of €1,400. The winning author/authors prize is €1,000 and the 2nd prize is €400.

CLOSING DATE: Monday 20th March 2023

See [www.writersweek.ie](https://writersweek.ie/nilsson-local-heritage-writing-award/) for details.

**CREATIVE IRELAND TRAVELLER WELLBEING THROUGH CREATIVITY SCHEME**

Creative Ireland are seeking applications for their Traveller Wellbeing through Creativity Scheme. The scheme is to support creative projects by groups and organisations that will have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the Traveller community. The projects will commence on 1st May 2023 and will run until 31 November 2023. Grants of €30,000-50,000 are available. **Closing date: 31st March**.

An information webinar will take place on Friday 10th March at 2:30pm.

For full details please see [www.artsinhealth.ie](https://www.artsandhealth.ie/2023/02/24/invitation-for-proposals-traveller-wellbeing-through-creativity-2023/?fbclid=IwAR3nbPlKyE52-uJJfjoCSVtTmSyBmOfrxAnFEfZ7FlNVygXUpiF7NtqfOhs)

**JOB OPPORTUNITY -**

**BIRR FESTIVALS COLLECTIVE**

**Birr Festivals Collective is now inviting applications for the role of Festivals Support Officer to work with three of its Festivals:**

* [**Birr Festival of Music**](https://www.birrfestivalofmusic.com)
* [**Birr Vintage Week & Arts Festiva**](https://www.birrvintageweek.com)[**l**](https://www.facebook.com/BirrVintageweek?__cft__%5b0%5d=AZXmsy34IPPak2ZQju34XGeu2c0OGQCu9RZdZYx_NfOerdflM9kjXloQOOdQXmzcwwxPJ6FdmPFmH6V7j7o-q0r5jDrigB4fz8iOfNCkUmOsAQgW1rb1dgfWQBqPBPCUEkCsVX8ctfmFw8rHp3cp80BnfIJ3qEM7U5KJKKk86MRQG4FTgdpHotLL69Sky0WL6YM&__tn__=-%5dK-y-R)
* [**OFFline Film Festival**](https://offlinefilmfestival.com)

**All the details:** [**https://bit.ly/3SXsaMi**](https://www.birrfestivalofmusic.com/birr-festivals-collective-vacancies?fbclid=IwAR3wm7DEuFSJvWOZFI19fwKiFJpNzwWWS5TPBdztLyLc1plSoJwx9iP3z9M)

**Deadline | Wednesday 29 March | 3pm**

**PATRICIA LEGGETT PLAYWRITING SCHOLARSHIP 2023**

The Patricia Leggett Playwriting Scholarship is now open. This offers a fully paid scholarship for a place on the MFA in Playwriting degree at the Lir Academy

**Closing date: 7th April 2023**

For details on how to apply, please see [www.thelir.ie](https://www.thelir.ie/news/patricia-leggett-playwriting-scholarship-2022-3?fbclid=IwAR1AL2zRpLg_yw5i7yZYAxCJ2CRCVUBhB7cecXwFweqqZKmZqVJXlrIwFbU)

**SOUTHWORD LITERARY JOURNAL SEEKS SHORT STORIES**

Southword Literary Journal, based in Cork, are accepting submissions country and world wide for the above.

Fiction submissions are open until 31st March.

Southword pays contributors €250 per short story of up to 5000 words and welcome submissions of one short story per submission period. For details visit [www.munsterlit.ie](http://www.munsterlit.ie)

**NATIONAL LOTTERY GOOD CAUSES AWARD**

This is the 5th year of the Awards that aim to celebrate extraordinary organisations and projects, who are doing inspirational work in communities throughout Ireland.Art projects are eligible to enter the 2023 Awards, having received funding through the Arts Council of Ireland, that is part-funded by the National Lottery.

There are category winners (receive €10,000 prize) and overall winner (receiving an additional €25,000 prize)

You’ll find more information on the Awards and apply online at [www.lottery.ie/goodcausesawards.](http://www.lottery.ie/goodcausesawards)

Email [goodcausesawards@lottery.ie](mailto:goodcausesawards@lottery.ie) or call Emmanouela on +353 1 9204 394 if you have any questions or need help with your application.

**Deadline for applications is Friday 31st March.**

**CULTURE IRELAND - IRELAND IN GERMANY 2024:**

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

Culture Ireland and the Department of Foreign Affairs are seeking expressions of interest from artists, ensembles and cultural organisations to participate in an Irish season in Germany in 2024. This initiative aims to showcase, across Germany, the richness of talent in contemporary Irish arts and culture. There are two strands of funding. Strand 1: Funding provided by Culture Ireland will support the presentation/touring of work by Irish professional artists usually based in Ireland covering all artforms at German venues, festivals, galleries and institutions. Irish and German organisations (programming touring Irish artists) are both eligible to submit for this strand.. You can access all details at [www.cultureireland.ie](https://www.cultureireland.ie/news/article/ireland-in-germany-2024-calls-for-expressions-of-interest?fbclid=IwAR2fWxSYazkncXMaUG9qmrtuyLJYShfuzKe3oN1Ttr3PHBT7_T2LfQEZ3gQ) or email [irelandingermany@cultureireland.gov.ie](mailto:irelandingermany@cultureireland.gov.ie)

**Deadline is 5pm Irish time on Friday 14th April 2023.**

**Artist Wellbeing**

The Irish Artist community is a rich eclectic tapestry of people, constantly striving to achieve excellence. The passion and commitment that fuels Artists can sometimes offset the balance of wellbeing. Minding Creative Minds is an organization established to specifically address and support wellbeing for those working in the creative world.

Visit [www.mindingcreativeminds.ie](https://mindingcreativeminds.ie) to learn about the offerings, which include dedicated counselling services and a 24/7 helpline. The MCM counselling service is delivered in conjunction with Spectrum Life.

**THANK YOU FOR READING!**

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