

National Heritage Week

A Heritage Council programme

12th-20th August 2023



Offaly Event Guide





Welcome to National Heritage Week 2023

I am delighted to welcome you to this guide for events taking place during National Heritage Week 2023. It is exciting to see events taking place exploring the theme of Living Heritage which celebrate the traditions, skills and practices passed down through generations.

I want to acknowledge the work of local authority Heritage Officers but also the large pool of dedicated volunteers from a variety of communities working in heritage who have created the events listed in this guide. Their efforts ensure not only that our heritage is preserved, but that new generations can explore and learn about our heritage.

Remember, events will still be added up until the start of National Heritage Week on heritageweek.ie, so make sure to visit the website to view all events and online projects for your area. You can also create your own events trail from the website with a personalised calendar of events.

Virginia Teehan

CEO, Heritage Council



A message from your local Heritage Officer

Heritage Week is a very special nine days in Offaly where people share what is special about their heritage with the wider community. It is an opportunity to see places which are not always open to the public or to explore areas with experts sharing their knowledge.

We work with a wide range of communities, individuals and organisations who plan their events for many months to highlight them during Heritage Week.

Heritage Week in Offaly is supported enthusiastically by management and elected representatives alike as it highlights the many fascinating and important sites and projects throughout the county. This year the arrival of Ricky Whelan as Offaly County Council's biodiversity officer has provided great momentum to developing and progressing a range of projects. Together with Rachel McKenna as senior executive architect and Karen Gray we have a broader team to support the range of activities planned. Our colleagues in the library service have enthusiastically embraced the week too with a range of events county wide.

We really hope that you will enjoy planning which sites to explore in Offaly this Heritage Week and perhaps you may be involved in hosting an event in future years!

Amanda Pedlow

Heritage Officer, Offaly County Council

SATURDAY 12th AUGUST, 7.30-9.30am

NATURAL HERITAGE **Discover the Wonder of Moths**



Experience the wonderful world of moths and witness moth traps being opened (following their operation overnight). Discover the diversity of these beautiful nocturnal creatures. Join Philip Strickland as he identifies the night's catch before releasing them. This event is suitable to anyone interested in nature and wildlife or who may be curious about moths and moth trapping. Directions to be emailed when booking is made. Booking essential in case of weather changes.

Venue: Between Birr and Roscrea

Organiser: Offaly County Council

Telephone: 057 9346800 [f](#) [t](#) [v](#)

Booking: biodiversity@offalycoco.ie



SATURDAY 12th AUGUST, 10am-1pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE **Ciorcail Cómhra Biorra**



Join in our Pop up Gaeltacht at Birr Library to enjoy our living language in a beautiful historic building.

Venue: Birr Library

Organiser: Offaly Libraries

Email: birrlibrary@offalycoco.ie

Telephone: 057 9124950



SATURDAY 12th AUGUST, 10.30-11.15am

SUNDAY 13th AUGUST, 10.30-11.15am | 1-1.45pm | 4.30-5.15pm

BUILT HERITAGE **Carrigeen Farmhouse Tours**



Visit the traditional farm cottage, learn about the traditional cooking methods and share in the stories of the house and family.

Venue: Carrigeen Farmhouse, Five Alley, Birr

Organiser: Carrigeen Farmhouse

Email: annemaria.egan@gmail.com

Telephone: 087 6989650



SATURDAY 12th AUGUST, 1-3pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE **Céilí Workshop**



Refresh your one, two, threes in a traditional farm cottage. Craic agus Ceol.

Venue: Carrigeen Farmhouse, Fivealley, Birr

Organiser: Carrigeen Farmhouse

Telephone: 087 6989650

Email: annemaria.egan@gmail.com



SATURDAY 12th AUGUST, 4-6pm

INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE **Architectural Guided Tour**



A Guided Industrial Heritage Architectural Tour of Clara's Dickenson Mile, an industrial heritage stretch along the Brosna River, once a hive of industry. The area between two industrial chimneys is awash with old mills, hydro engineering, mill races and dwellings

that tell the story of life in Clara during those years where Clara was one of the busiest industrial towns in Ireland. Clara is well served by train and the River Park is but a few minutes walk from the station.

Venue: River Park, Clara

Organiser: Clara Heritage Society

Email: claraheritagesociety@email.com

Telephone: 085 2534711  

Booking: See eventbrite.ie

 Eircode: E35 F6K8



SATURDAY 12th AUGUST, 7.15-8pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE **Voices of Lemanaghan:
An Evening Walk, Words and Melodies**



Join us for a remarkable event where history and local talent intertwine. Embark on 150 metre stretch of the pilgrim path and discover the hidden treasure of Lemanaghan, St. Mella's Cell. Enjoy the power of words and the artistry of local performers as they recite tales and verses, evoking the essence of Lemanaghan's past, connecting you

with the vibrant tapestry of this remarkable site. Let the music carry you away as you listen to songs echo through the surroundings. This event promises to be an extraordinary fusion of history, literature and local talent. The event will start at 7.15pm immediately after the annual blessing of the graves in Lemanaghan graveyard. Mass at 6.30pm for anyone wishing to attend.

Venue: Lemanaghan Monastic Site, Ballycumber

Organiser: Lemanaghan Bog Heritage & Conservation Group

Telephone: 086 3320269  

Email: lemanaghanboghcg@gmail.com

 Eircode: R35 HR61



SUNDAY 13th-SUNDAY 20th AUGUST, 10am | 11.30am | 1pm

BUILT HERITAGE Guided Tour of Birr Castle




Enjoy a rare opportunity to visit the magnificent interior of Birr Castle, home to the Parsons family for over 400 years. Visit five main reception rooms with their exquisite craftsmanship and vast art and artefact collection. Also hear about the incredible legacy including phenomenal achievements in science, astronomy, photography, engineering and botany. There will be free time to explore the Great Telescope, ILOFAR, the science centre and 120 acres of gardens and parklands. Entrance fee €20 per person. Suitable for ages 12+.

Venue: Birr Castle Demesne, Rosse Row

Organiser: Birr Castle Demesne

Booking: <https://birrcastle.com/castle-tours/>

Telephone: 057 9120336 [f](#) [t](#) [i](#)

 Eircode: R42 V027



SUNDAY 13th AUGUST, 10am-12pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE Foraging with Wild Food Mary



A walk with Wild Food Mary opens the door not only to edible wild plants but also to a holistic view of nature and our connections with it. Pre-booking essential. Email or phone Mary to reserve a place

Venue: Meeting point finalised upon booking

Organiser: Wild Food Mary

Email: contact@wildfoodmary.com

Telephone: 087 7418536



SUNDAY 13th AUGUST, 2-3pm, 3-4pm, 4-5pm

BUILT HERITAGE Tour of St. Anne's, Kilcormac



St. Anne's is a detached four-bay two-storey over basement house, built prior to 1809. Set back from the road, but appearing to be overlooking the street over its half basement, this house forms a prominent feature in the streetscape of Kilcormac and is a fine example of a heritage property refurbished to new energy standards. Strictly booking only.

Venue: St. Anne's, Main Street, Kilcormac

Organiser: Michael Hanna

Booking: michael.hanna4@gmail.com



MONDAY 14th AUGUST, 10-11am




NATURAL HERITAGE **Discover Tullamore Wetland**



Come along on this short walk to see how this engineered wetland has developed since its creation and what is planned for the future. Once a greenfield site on the edge of the Tullamore River, the area has been engineered to develop a wetland to help improve water quality and aid biodiversity. The land has been managed to provide new freshwater and terrestrial habitats to become a haven for nature. Parking available at Tullamore fire station with the wetland accessed directly across the road.

Venue: Tullamore Wetland, Kilcruttin, Tullamore

Organiser: Offaly County Council

Telephone: 057 9346800   

Email: biodiversity@offalycoco.ie



<https://goo.gl/maps/htVKFbZkh5n5vpAW8>



MONDAY 14th AUGUST, 6.30-8pm

NATURAL HERITAGE


Ponds & Pig Iron: A Walk Through Geashill



Join us on a walk and talk through the creation of our new raingarden and wetland ponds in Geashill. Discover how our raingarden helps to filter untreated water and help biodiversity. Along the way we will visit some of our community's recently installed sculptures including the Battle of Geashill Sculpture and Lady Muc, our Pig on the Green.

Venue: Seating area in the village green, Geashill

Organiser: Geashill Tidy Towns

Email: geashilltowns@gmail.com 



MONDAY 14th AUGUST, 7-8pm

BUILT HERITAGE Toberdaly Castle & Folly Conservation Management Plan – Online Presentation



Though Toberdaly House is now a ruin, Toberdaly Folly survives as a reminder of its impressive past and is located on a height with spectacular views over the surrounding area. Howley Hayes Cooney Architects have been appointed by Offaly County Council to undertake Toberdaly Castle and Folly Conservation Management Plan which is being funded under Heritage Stewardship Fund 2023. You are invited to an online presentation by Lucy O'Connor, Howley Hayes Cooney Architects who will give an update on works progressed. Booking essential.

Organiser: Offaly County Council

Telephone: 086 0828313

Email: kgray@offalycoco.ie



MONDAY 14th AUGUST, 9-11pm

NATURAL HERITAGE Bat Walk



Join specialists from Kildare Bat Group to learn about our native bat species before taking a short walk along a stretch of the Grand Canal to see and hear them for yourself. Family friendly event, no booking required. This event is a collaboration between Offaly County Council Heritage Office and Kildare Bat Group.

Venue: George's Bridge
(Tullamore Road),
Grand Canal, Edenderry

Organiser: Offaly County Council

Telephone: 086 1672210 [f](#) [t](#) [v](#)

Email: biodiversity@offalycoco.ie



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FREE

TUESDAY 15th AUGUST, 10-11.30am

NATURAL HERITAGE **Tour of the Derries Bog – Exploring the biodiversity benefits of Bord na Móna’s Peatlands Climate Action Scheme (PCAS)**



A guided walk through Derries Bog by a member of the Bord na Móna Ecology Team. This event will discuss the rehabilitation of the former industrial

peatland via Bord na Móna’s Peatlands Climate Action Scheme (PCAS). We will explore the biodiversity value of the bog, discussing the establishing habitats and colonising species. The tour will also discuss the wider benefits of peatland rehabilitation. Bord na Móna has committed to ambitious enhanced peatland decommissioning, rehabilitation and restoration measures, targeting circa 33,000 hectares in over 80 bogs, of which Derries bog is one. Numbers limited.

Venue: Turraun Nature Park Car Park, Blueball

Organiser: Bord na Móna

Booking: pcasinfo@bnm.ie

Telephone: 087 3779841 Conor Feighery, Community Liaison Officer

Car park grid reference: 53.254685, -7.742644



TUESDAY 15th AUGUST, 10am-2pm

BUILT HERITAGE

Fancroft: An Old Mill with a New Lease of Life



Visitors will be welcomed to an introductory illustrated talk outlining the history of this fine old mill complex, taken on a guided tour of the conservation project and treated to refreshments with home baked scones

and Fancroft preserves. Those who so wish will have an opportunity to explore to the extensive Gardens at Fancroft. Booking is essential for this event as access is strictly limited for the safety, comfort and enjoyment of participants. Email or phone to reserve spaces.

Venue: Fancroft Mill, Roscrea, Co. Offaly

Organiser: Marcus & Irene Sweeney

Telephone: 0505 31484

Email: millgardens@gmail.com

Eircode: E53 ET72



TUESDAY 15th AUGUST, 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm

BUILT HERITAGE **Tour of Tullanisk House**



Enjoy a tour with the owner. Tullanisk, formerly known as Woodville, was built in about 1810 as the dower house for Birr Castle. Its interior is partly classical and part gothic. Not suitable for children under 6.

Lots of steps also. Adults: €5. U16s: €2.50

Venue: Tullanisk House, Tullanisk, Birr

Organiser: Tullanisk House

Telephone: 0868167233

Email: clements888@gmail.com

Eircode: R42 KR89



TUESDAY 15th AUGUST, 12-4pm

BUILT HERITAGE Open Day at Charleville Castle



Explore the beauty of Charleville Castle, admire its unique architectural detail, discover its Ghosts and uncover its role in Peace with Tibet and the Conquest of Everest. The community-owned Charleville Castle Heritage Trust was formed in 1997, its story alone is remarkable and well worth hearing. Why not bring a picnic. This is a very popular event so come early.


Venue: Charleville Castle

Organiser: Charleville Castle Heritage Trust

Email: dudcastle@gmail.com

Telephone: 087 9092593    

Booking: charlevillecastle.ie

 Eircode: R35 RP77



TUESDAY 15th AUGUST, 6-8pm

NATURAL HERITAGE

Photography Walk at Killaun Bog with Tina Claffey



Tina Claffey, author of photography book 'Portal', has gained much inspiration at Killaun Bog near Birr. She will lead a walk for a small number of photographers who would like to explore this site through Tina's macro-lens perspective. This event is supported by Creative Ireland.

Venue: Meet at entrance of Syngfield Industrial Estate, Kinnitty Road, Birr

Organiser: Offaly County Council

Booking: kgray@offalycoco.ie

Telephone: 086 0828313



TUESDAY 15th AUGUST, 7.30-8.30pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Putting the Tick Tock back, St. Mary's C of I, Shinrone




Nigel Barnes (a fifth-generation horologist!) will explore the history of time and the clock's conservation journey. High up in the Tower of St. Mary's C of I is Offaly's oldest example of an intact turret clock. Installed around 1823. A project was commenced in 2023 to put the 'Tick-Tock Back Into The Community Clock'. With the support of


Creative Ireland and Clare based horologist Nigel Barnes, the clock underwent a sensitive conservation of works based on minimal intervention. The talk includes a short video which captures some steps in the conservation of what is rightly a wonderful part of our 'time keeping' heritage. Light refreshments afterwards.

Venue: Shinrone Community Centre

Organiser: St. Mary's Church of Ireland & Shinrone Heritage Group

Email: clareenhouse@hotmail.com

Telephone: 087 1015991 

 Eircode: R42 KD51



WEDNESDAY 16th AUGUST, 10-11am | 11am-12pm | 12-1pm

BUILT HERITAGE Tour of Acres Folly, Tullamore



Take a guided tour of the recently conserved Acres Folly to see repair works carried out in 2020. The installation of a new staircase in 2021 allows for magnificent views from the top once more, as designed by property developer, Thomas Acres in 1814 within the gardens of his townhouse (Tullamore Municipal District). Strictly booking only - Three tours on the hour 11am to 1pm with a maximum 12 people per hour.

Venue: Meeting point to be issued upon booking

Organiser: Offaly County Council

Telephone: 086 0828313

Email: kgray@offalycoco.ie



WEDNESDAY 16th & Friday 18th AUGUST, 2-4pm

BUILT HERITAGE Visit St. Carthage's Church, Rahan



Situated in a field that was at one time the site of a 6th century monastery, the current Church of St Carthage dates from the 12th century and is one of the oldest churches in Ireland still used for worship. This is a drop-in event with information for all.

Venue: St. Carthage's Church, Rahan

Organiser: Anna Orman

Email: annaorman@yahoo.com



WEDNESDAY 16th AUGUST, 6-7.30pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Preserving your Photographic Heritage



This event is inspired by the legacy of Countess Mary Ross who was a pioneer of early photography. Jeff Harvey, a local professional photographer, will lead an interactive presentation, which aims to demonstrate how to preserve and archive your photographs - both digital, and the old-fashioned printed version.

Venue: Birr Library, Wilmer Road, Birr

Organiser: Offaly Libraries

Telephone: 057 9353005

Email: mmoran@offalycoco.ie



 Eircode: R42 KD37



WEDNESDAY 16th AUGUST, 6-8pm

BUILT HERITAGE Tour of Gloster House & Gardens



Nestling at the foot of the Slieve Bloom Mountains is the stunningly beautiful and unique 300-year-old Gloster House. It is surrounded by extensive gardens incorporating terraces, water features, woodland and lakes. Gloster House is a magical place. Gloster House is referred to in many architectural and historical publications. The house has been extensively and sensitively restored in recent years, and has now retained its former glory. This tour will provide a unique insight. Booking essential.

Venue: Gloster House, Brosna, Birr, Co. Offaly

Organiser: Tom Alexander

Email: alexander@glosterhouse.com

Telephone: 087 2342135

 Eircode: R42 CH02



WEDNESDAY 16th AUGUST, 6.30-7.30pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE Edenderry Workhouse & the Earl Grey Orphan Scheme to Australia during the Great Famine



During the course of the Great Irish Famine some 4,414 young Irish girls between the ages of 13 and 18 were shipped to Australia as part of what was known as the 'Earl Grey Orphan Scheme'. In total, 163 workhouses were built in Ireland in the 19th Century and Edenderry Workhouse was amongst them. As part of the Earl Grey scheme sixteen young girls from Edenderry Workhouse were sent to Australia. This lecture will tell their story. Dr Ciarán Reilly is an historian of 19th and 20th Century Irish History based at the Department of History, Maynooth University. He is author of a number of books on the Great Famine, including 'The Irish Land Agent, 1830-1860' and 'Strokestown and the Great Irish Famine'.

Venue: Edenderry Library

Organiser: Offaly Libraries

Email: edenderrylibrary@offalycoco.ie

Telephone: 046 9731028



Eircode:
R35 NW63



WEDNESDAY 16th AUGUST, 7.30-8.30pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE A Photographic History of Hurling & the Conservation of the 19th Century Shinrone Hurl



Join us for an evening with Prof. Paul Rouse as we explore the history of hurling from before the foundation of the GAA until the end of the 20th century. The illustrated talk will draw on a collection of rare photographs. We will also explore the story of the Shinrone Hurl. Believed to be one of Offaly's oldest examples, it was made in the 1880s by Martin Fennel. The Hurl forms part of the Shinrone National Schools

Museum Collection and its conservation was generously funded by Creative Ireland. All are very welcome. Light refreshments afterwards.

Venue: Shinrone Community Centre

Organiser: Shinrone Heritage Group

Email: clareenhouse@hotmail.com

Telephone: 087 101 5991 

 Eircode: R42 KD51



THURSDAY 17th AUGUST, 10.30am-4pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE Offaly Archives Open Day






This is a guided tour of the archives facilities with our Archivist, Orla Connaughton, with viewings of various items from the collections. Two guided tours to take place at 11am and 2pm with open house to browse from 10.30am-4pm. Our documentary heritage

is the archival memory of the community and Offaly Archives endeavours to identify, preserve and make these materials available for research purposes. Offaly Archives is the jointly managed archives services of Offaly History and Offaly County Library. Collections in the care of both repositories are housed in this facility, providing a comprehensive service for users of archives


Venue: Offaly Archives, Axis Business Park, Tullamore

Organiser: Offaly Archives

Email: archivist@offalyhistory.com

Telephone: 057 9339968   

Booking: offalyhistory.com/contact-us

 Eircode: R35 KF58



THURSDAY 17th AUGUST, 11-11.45am | 3-3.45pm

BUILT HERITAGE Visit Loughton House & Gardens



Welcome to one of Ireland's finest historic Georgian residences and gardens. Loughton House was built in 1777. Set in one hundred acres of park and woodland, there are several acres of stunning formal gardens. Booking essential.


Adults €5 | Concessions: OAP/School-goers €4 | Family Group €10

Venue: Loughton House, Moneygall, Co. Offaly

Organiser: Dr. Michael Lyons

Email: loughtonhouseireland@gmail.com

Telephone: 089 4319150

 Eircode: E53 WK16



THURSDAY 17th AUGUST, 6.30-7.30pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE **The local historian as detective:
New Insights into Banagher History**



Local historians Kieran Keenaghan and James Scully will give a fascinating presentation on Banagher's history. They will explain the origins of the town's current name Banagher, and the well-known phrase "Well!! That Beats Banagher, and Banagher beats the devil". The speakers will focus on the Irish writings of Mathew De Renzy, who lived at Clonony Castle, near Banagher in the 1620s. They will also discuss De Renzy's wife Anne and her wonderful castle. This is sure to be a most enjoyable and informative evening in Banagher Library.

Venue: Banagher Library
Organiser: Offaly Libraries
Email: banagherlibrary@offalycoco.ie
Telephone: 057 9151471



THURSDAY 17th AUGUST, 6.30-7.30pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE **Preserving Living Agricultural Heritage**



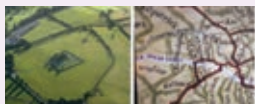
Local farmer Joe Deverell will give a short fascinating presentation on his restoration of his vintage 1962 Nuttfield 460 tractor. Joe will have the tractor with him at the talk and will lead a hands-on Q&A afterwards. A treat for all who love tractors!

Venue: Tullamore Library
Organiser: Offaly Libraries
Email: tullamorelibrary@offalycoco.ie
Telephone: 057 9346832



THURSDAY 17th AUGUST, 8-9.30pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE **An Illustrated Talk:
Moving St. Carthage to The Island, Rahan?**



Our Research begs the question – Was St. Carthage ever on Churchland, Rahan Demesne? But rather on the townland of Kilpatrick, The Island, Rahan. A

change of location would not invalidate anything written about Carthage in "The Lives of the Saints". Our research focused on an excerpt from "Rahan Monastic Site – A Conservation Plan" (2008 - page 26). A Google search will find Conservation Plan.

**See follow up Tour of Kilpatrick - "Walk and Talk - Kilpatrick"
Sat 19th August 2023**

Organiser: Rahan & The Island Heritage Research Group
Venue: Rahan Hall
Email: darrell@hooper.ie
Telephone: 087 7599667



FRIDAY 18th AUGUST, 10.30am-4pm




CULTURAL HERITAGE **Offaly Heritage Centre Open Day**



This is a guided tour of our Library, Paintings, Prints and Photos. Feel free to browse our facilities and book shop and learn about Offaly History's objective to promote Offaly's rich history, heritage and culture while making it known throughout the County, Ireland and internationally.


Venue: Offaly Heritage Centre, Bury Quay, Tullamore

Organiser: Offaly Heritage Centre

Telephone: 057 9321421   

Email: info@offalyhistory.com

Booking: offalyhistory.com/contact-us

 Eircode: R35 Y5V0



FRIDAY 18th AUGUST, 6-7.30pm

NATURAL HERITAGE **Ballylin Bog Boardwalk**



Join Ferbane Tidy Towns for a walk on the boardwalk. This short walk reveals the expanse and beauty of Ballylin Bog, through native woodland and out on to the bog. Bring binoculars, magnifying lenses and sketchpads if you wish, and be inspired by Mary Ward, the marvellous scientist and illustrator who was born and lived in Ballylin.

Venue: Ballylin Bog Boardwalk, Ferbane

Organiser: Ferbane Tidy Towns

Email: tidytownsferbane@gmail.com



SATURDAY 19th AUGUST, 10-11.30am | 11.30am-1pm | 2-3.30pm | 3.30-5pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Walk & Talk - Guided Tour of Kilpatrick



A "Walk and Talk" tour to view a possible site of an Early Christian Church founded by Camelacus, as instructed by Patrick, and later refounded by Carthage, on the townland of Kilpatrick, The Island, Rahan. **This is a follow up "Walk and Talk" to an illustrated talk in Rahan Hall on Thursday 19th August, entitled "Moving Carthage to Kilpatrick?"**

For more details see a connected event on 17th August titled - An illustrated talk "Moving St. Carthage to the Island, Rahan?" Over the next year, it is intended to continue this research, especially with Landscape Archaeology at the local level and to expand our Research Group. We hope to develop a website and include new findings in an event for Heritage Week 2024.

Venue: St. Patrick's RC Church Car Park

Organiser: Rahan & The Island Heritage Research Group

Email: darrell@hooper.ie

Telephone: 087 7599667



SATURDAY 19th AUGUST, 2-4pm

BUILT HERITAGE **Visit Ballybrittan Castle**



Ballybrittan Castle is a cluster of buildings of which the oldest is the now semi-ruined tower or keep from which the property takes its name. The earliest records relating to the property date from in or about the Tudor Plantation of Laois and Offaly in the middle of the 16th Century. Booking essential.

Venue: Ballybrittan Castle, Edenderry

Organiser: Rosemarie Manning

Email: rosemariemanning@gmail.com



SATURDAY 19th AUGUST, 4.30-6.30pm

NATURAL HERITAGE

Brosna River Literary & Music Festival



The Brosna River Literary & Music Festival is a cross community intergenerational festival, celebrating the Brosna River. Inspired by the Brosna Relay Initiative the festival provides opportunity for the towns and villages along the banks of the river to share their music, poetry and stories, in the magnificent surrounds of the tree lined auditorium in Clara House Demesne watching the river flow past. Performances include Carole Nelson, musician and composer, Clara's All-Ireland winning ballad group, poets and storytellers from local towns and villages. The festival is funded by Creative Ireland and light refreshments will be served, encouraging opportunity for social interaction. Clara House is a three minute walk from the train station.

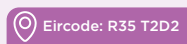
Venue: Clara House

Organiser: Clara Heritage Society

Email: claraheritagesociety@email.com

Telephone: 085 2534711 **f**

Booking: eventbrite



SUNDAY 20th AUGUST, 10-11am

BUILT HERITAGE The Crotty Schism – A Brief History



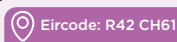
A look back at the Ireland of 1820 to 1850, when the people of Birr took part in the largest ever Schism in the Catholic Church and 99% of Birr Catholics changed their religion. Advance registration by email required.

Venue: Crotty's Church and Malt Store, Castle Street, Birr, Co Offaly

Organiser: The Maltings & Crotty Co-Ownership Group

Email: crottyscoownership@gmail.com

Telephone: 086 3286277



SUNDAY 20th AUGUST, 2-3.30pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE

St Brochan's Well, Bracknagh



Join us at the site of St. Brochan's well to celebrate the existence of a major historical site in our locality, St Brochan's Well and Monastery. In celebrating this site, we will reinstate a statue of St. Brochan and plant whitethorn trees in keeping with the tradition of each tree representing one of the twelve apostles. A brief history of St Brochan will be presented, giving an overview of his work and time here in Bracknagh. It is claimed that the monastery of St Brochan was substantial and on a par with that of Clonmacnoise or Glendalough. This day will be the starting point of our journey to explore this historical site and bring to light the importance of St Brochan's Well and Monastery, as part of not only local heritage but also Ireland's heritage. We welcome all to come share in our celebrations on the day.

Venue: St Brochan's Well, Clonsast, Bracknagh

Organiser: Bracknagh Heritage Society

Email: bracknaghheritagesociety@gmail.com

Telephone: 086 3750521



SUNDAY 20th AUGUST, 4-8.30pm

NATURAL HERITAGE

Ballycumber River Brosna Heritage Fest




Hosted by Ballycumber Freshwater Brosna Group in association with the local Tidy Towns this event will start with a citizen science kick sampling event in the river in conjunction with a catchment scientist we will be inviting locals (especially children) to participate. A nature walk with a local ecologist - to include river heritage. A river/heritage themed treasure hunt for the local kids. An evening of local entertainment to include local poems, heritage and history of the village

and river, recitations, scéals and music.

Venue: Ballycumber Brosna River

Organiser: Ballycumber Tidy Towns & Freshwater Ballycumber Brosna

Email: emergcdoherty@gmail.com

Telephone: 089 4048200  



SUNDAY 20th AUGUST, 5.30-7.30pm

NATURAL HERITAGE

The Trees of Syngefield Demesne







Join Arborist Dermot Ward to identify and explore the trees at Syngefield Demesne. Explore the historic trees and the riparian woodland that skirts the River Camcor which forms the boundary of the old estate.

Venue: Meet outside Atkins Farm Machinery, Syngefield Ind. Est.

Organiser: Offaly County Council

Email: biodiversity@offalycoco.ie

Telephone: 057 9346800   

 eircode: R42 K193
<https://goo.gl/maps/2TJ7tNFBDRkvmAj8>



SUNDAY 20th AUGUST, 8-9.30pm

NATURAL HERITAGE The Camcor River in the landscape of Kinnitty and its own special blue dot!




Celebrate Water Heritage Day near an important water body in Kinnitty! John Feehan will discuss how the Camcor river shaped the landscape around the village, the river of his home town in Birr. The famed geoscientist released his excellent book on the Camcor in March. An important stretch of the river flows through Kinnitty Castle and is one of fewer and fewer water bodies in Ireland awarded Blue Dot status for water quality indicating pristine ecological conditions.

Venue: Kinnitty Community Centre

Organiser: Local Authority Waters Programme

Email: cfllood@lawaters.ie | **Telephone:** 085 8541258   

Booking: eventbrite.co.uk

 Eircode: R42 EK57



SUNDAY 20th AUGUST, 8.30-10.30pm

NATURAL HERITAGE Swallow Ringing at Pallas Lake






Join licensed bird ringer Declan Manley to observe the techniques of safely catching and ringing swallows at Pallas Lake. The swallows are safely caught when they come to settle in the reedbed surrounding Pallas Lake to roost for the evening.

Flocks of swallows gather annually at the site before heading south to Africa for the autumn and winter months. Declan will fit birds successfully caught with inscribed rings to help track the birds and monitor their movements. Meet at car park.

Venue: Pallas Lake, Hollimshill, Blueball, Tullamore

Organiser: Offaly County Council

Email: biodiversity@offalycoco.ie

Telephone: 057 9346800   

 <https://goo.gl/maps/QjExYetamWXcepj59>



**Thank you to all the
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THE IRISH TIMES



This brochure was compiled by the Offaly Heritage Office in Offaly County Council with events registered by 14 July 2023.



WWW.HERITAGEWEEK.IE

Please check our website searching under 'What's On - Offaly' for any new postings since going to press.

OFFALY HERITAGE FACEBOOK PAGE

See for updates. **f**

HERITAGE@OFFALYCOCO.IE

Email us with any queries.

DISCLAIMER

All events in this guide have been arranged by the individual promoters. Responsibility for all aspects of the events listed lies with the individual promoters. Details of the individual events should be verified in advance of visits by contacting the promoter.

For all outdoor events please be mindful of Health and Safety issues, the weather and the ground conditions. Wear appropriate footwear and clothing. Stay with the group at all times. Children are the responsibility of the parent/guardian and must be accompanied at all events unless otherwise indicated. Please be aware that photography and video may be taking place at all events during Heritage Week for media and marketing purposes. We advise checking with the event promoter if the weather is variable.

For event listings visit
heritageweek.ie



**National
Heritage Week**

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