

National Heritage Week

A Heritage Council programme

16th-24th August 2025

Offaly Event Guide





Welcome to National Heritage Week 2025

Welcome to your guide to the events happening during National Heritage Week 2025! This year's theme, Exploring Our Foundations, invites us to reflect on the many ways our heritage shapes and connects us – through landscapes, family roots, traditions, and shared experiences.

We're grateful for the commitment of heritage and biodiversity officers in local authorities, as well as the passionate volunteers from communities across the country. Their dedication has brought together the events you'll find in this guide, helping to keep our heritage alive and accessible for future generations.

New events are being added right up to the beginning of National Heritage Week, so be sure to check heritageweek.ie regularly for updates. There, you can also put together your own customised calendar and discover projects happening near you and online.

Virginia Teehan

CEO, Heritage Council



A Message from Offaly Heritage Office

Heritage Week is a unique opportunity to discover the rich history and culture of county Offaly. Many sites that are normally closed to the public will open their doors, and guided tours will offer fresh insights into familiar places.

This year, there are 61 different events happening across the county, giving you plenty of ways to get involved. While the week is coordinated by the Heritage Office at Offaly County Council, most events are hosted by local communities and property owners who are passionate about sharing their heritage.

Over 57 events are free to attend, making it easy for everyone to take part.

We extend our sincere thanks to all the event hosts whose enthusiasm and commitment make Heritage Week possible.



THURSDAY 14th AUGUST, Exhibition Launch

SATURDAY 16th – SATURDAY 23rd AUGUST, Library Opening Hours




CULTURAL HERITAGE **Storytelling Homes Exhibition**



The Tullamore Chatters and Matters Group will present their *Storytelling Homes* Exhibition at Tullamore Library this August, including National Heritage Week. The exhibition features miniature wooden models created by the group, reflecting their culture, homes, childhood memories and ancestors. Writer Oein De Bhairduin will launch it on August 14th. The project, led by Teresa Doyle and supported by the Travellers Men's Shed, is funded by Offaly County Council's Creative Ireland programme.

Venue: Tullamore Library

Organiser: Offaly Libraries

Telephone: 057 9346832   

Email: tullamorelibrary@offalycoco.ie



SATURDAY 16th AUGUST, 9am - 5.45pm

BUILT HERITAGE **Open Day Clonmacnoise Monastic Site**



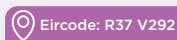
Clonmacnoise, an ancient ecclesiastical site founded by St. Ciarán in the 6th century, offers free access to its ruins, including a cathedral, round towers, high crosses, churches and Pre-Norman graveslabs. The site was a renowned university of its time. The Visitor Centre features original high crosses, an audio-visual presentation on its history, and an exhibition on local flora and fauna. Free guided tours run at 10am, 2pm and 4pm, with special events during Heritage Week.

Venue: Clonmacnoise Visitor Centre

Organiser: OPW

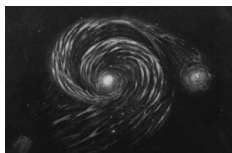
Telephone: 090 96 74195  

Email: clonmacnoise@opw.ie



SATURDAY 16th – SUNDAY 24 AUGUST, 9am - 5.30pm





CULTURAL HERITAGE **The Rosse Drawings Exhibition**



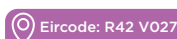
For Heritage Week 2025, the Copper Tree Gallery at Birr Castle Demesne is hosting a captivating exhibition of historic astronomical drawings by William Parsons, 3rd Earl of Rosse. These sketches, created between 1845 and 1866 using the Great Telescope, offer stunning depictions of spiral nebulae. The exhibition highlights the intersection of science and art, showcasing early astronomy before astrophotography, and is part of the Astronomical Observatories of Ireland partnership.

Venue: Birr Castle Demesne

Organiser: Birr Castle Demesne

Telephone: 057 9120336    

Email: mail@birrcastle.com



SATURDAY 16th – THURSDAY 21st AUGUST, 10am – 4.30pm
(with exception of Wednesday 20th August)

NATURAL HERITAGE **Nature Arts & Crafts at Clara Bog**



Celebrate Heritage Week at Clara Bog Nature Reserve & Visitor Centre with a variety of activities for all ages, including arts and crafts like dragonfly models and colouring. Learn about wetlands, wildlife and the importance of raised bogs. Clara Bog, the best-preserved raised bog


in Ireland, offers an award-winning Visitor Centre with interactive exhibits on peatlands, biodiversity, history, and archaeology. The drop-in event is open to all; children must be accompanied. No booking required.

Venue: Clara Bog Visitor Centre

Organiser: Clara Bog Visitor Centre

Telephone: 057 9368878 [f](#) [@](#)

Email: claraguides@npws.gov.ie

 Eircode: R35 T621



SATURDAY 16th – SATURDAY 23rd AUGUST, Library Opening Hours

CULTURAL HERITAGE **Unstitching the Shinrone Gown**



The Shinrone Gown, a well-preserved 17th-century Irish dress found in Cangort Bog in 1843, will be on display at Edenderry Library from August 16th. Commissioned by the Shinrone Heritage group and recreated by craftswomen Rosalind Fanning and Bernie Stapleton, the exhibition will include a documentary on the gown's history and creation. Fashion historian Laura Fitzachary will also give a talk on Irish dress history on August 27th at 6.30pm. All are welcome.

Venue: Edenderry Library

Organiser: Offaly Libraries

Telephone: 046 9731028 [f](#) [@](#) [v](#)

Email: edenderrylibrary@offalycoco.ie

 Eircode: R45 RX48



SATURDAY 16th – SATURDAY 23rd AUGUST, Library Opening Hours

CULTURAL HERITAGE





Leinster Regiment Memorabilia Exhibition




For the month of August, Birr Library will host this exhibition commemorating the colourful history of the Leinster Regiment housed at Crinkill Barracks from 1881 and covers many aspects from this time. Come and view a piece of Birr's history.

Venue: Birr Library

Organiser: Offaly Libraries

Telephone: 057 9124950    

Email: birrlibrary@offalycoco.ie

 Eircode: R42 KD37



SATURDAY 16th AUGUST, 10.30am – 2pm

NATURAL HERITAGE **Our Woodland Heritage with the Native Woodland Trust: Forelacka-Camcor Wood**



Join us for a guided walk through the Camcor-Forelacka Woodland Reserve, Ireland's ancient riparian woodland. Explore old-growth trees, tufa springs, and river islets, while learning about conservation. The family-friendly

event ends with a picnic lunch. Note: Uneven terrain, wellies required. Free event, all nature enthusiasts welcome!

Venue: Kinnitty Looped Walks Trailhead

Organiser: Native Woodland Trust

Telephone: 087 1953629    

Email: jeremy.casey@nativewoodlandtrust.ie

Booking: eventbrite.ie



SATURDAY 16th AUGUST, 11am - 12pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE **Carrigeen Crochet Morning**




Crochet in Carrigeen invites visitors to try their hand at crochet or bring along their own crochet pieces and share their stories while the bread is cooking on the hearth of the open fire. Booking essential.

Venue: Carrigeen Farmhouse

Organiser: Carrigeen Farmhouse

Telephone: 087 6989650

Email: annemaria.egan@gmail.com

 Eircode: R42 A372



SATURDAY 16th – FRIDAY 22nd AUGUST, 11am – 12pm & 1pm – 2pm
(with exception of Sun 17th, Mon 18th August)

BUILT HERITAGE Guided Tours of Esker Arts Centre



Esker Arts is a state-of-the-art, visual, performance and community arts centre in Tullamore, Co. Offaly. Esker Arts was previously the site of Kilroy's, a well-known hardware store in the town. Join us on a guided tour where you will have access to the old part of the building where the Kilroy family once lived and which we plan to convert into artist studios.

Venue: Esker Arts Centre, Tullamore

Organiser: Esker Arts

Telephone: 057 9383801

Email: marketing@eskerarts.ie

 Eircode: R35 NY50



SATURDAY 16th – SUNDAY 24th AUGUST, 11am-2.30pm

BUILT HERITAGE Guided Tours of Birr Castle




A rare opportunity to visit Birr Castle, home of the Parsons family for 400 years, and explore five reception rooms filled with art and artifacts. Discover their remarkable achievements in science, astronomy and more. After the guided tour (€22, pre-booking required), enjoy free time to explore the Great Telescope, ILOFAR, the Science Centre and 120 acres of gardens and parklands.

Venue: Birr Castle Demesne

Organiser: Birr Castle Demesne

Telephone: 057 9120336

Email: mail@birrcastle.com    

 Eircode: R42 V027



SATURDAY 16th AUGUST, 2pm – 2.45pm & 4pm – 4.45pm

SUNDAY 17th AUGUST, 2pm – 2.45pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE Carrigeen Farmhouse Tours



The 2019 Heritage Hero Award winners are delighted to welcome visitors back to this uniquely surviving vernacular family home with a fantastic range of well preserved fixtures and fittings each with their own story. The tour will feature bread making on the hearth of the open fire. Booking essential.

Venue: Carrigeen Farmhouse

Organiser: Carrigeen Farmhouse

Telephone: 087 6989650

Email: annemaria.egan@gmail.com

 Eircode: R42 A372



SATURDAY 16th AUG, 2pm - 6.30pm | **SUNDAY 17th AUG**, 11am - 9pm
MONDAY 18th AUG, 11am - 2pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Celebrating the Brontë connection with Banagher



During Heritage Week, the Banagher Brontë Group will host events in Banagher, Tullamore, and on the Shannon, celebrating the connection between Offaly and the Brontë family. Highlights include a Gala Garden Party on August 16th to launch *Let*

Me In: The Brontës in Bricks and Mortar. Other events include a film screening, a boat trip, talks and music. Tickets for the Garden Party are limited and must be pre-booked.

Venue: Charlotte's Way


Organiser: Banagher Bronte Group

Telephone: 085 7107569  

Email: banagherbrontegroup@gmail.com

Booking: eventbrite.com

Register: banagherbrontegroup.com

 Eircode: R42 RY82



SATURDAY 16th AUGUST, 2 - 4pm

NATURAL HERITAGE

Exploring the Foundations of Rahan Monastic Site



You are cordially invited to an engaging session with Archaeologist Caimin O'Brien, exploring the foundational elements of the Rahan Monastic Site, which includes the Ancient Church and Graveyard of St. Carthage.

Venue: Rahan Monastic Site, Rahan Demesne, Rahan, Co. Offaly

Organiser: COI – Tullamore Union of Parishes St. Carthage Church & Graveyard Rahan Heritage Interpreter

Telephone: 087 7095937 

Email: annaorman@yahoo.com



SATURDAY 16th & SUNDAY 17th AUGUST, 2.30pm - 4.30pm

BUILT HERITAGE

The Mini-Museums of Birr Creative Workshops



Join the Mini Museums of Birr workshop at Tin Jug Studio during Heritage Week! Design your own miniature museum exhibit, which will be displayed during Heritage Week and Birr Vintage Week. The Saturday session is for families, while the Sunday session is for individuals. Booking


is essential. Don't miss this fun, hands-on creative experience!

Venue: Tin Jug Studio

Organiser: Rosalind Fanning

Telephone: 087 6681783

Email: info@tinjugstudio.com

 Eircode: R42 PX22



SUNDAY 17th AUGUST, 10.30am – 3pm




NATURAL HERITAGE Exploring the Silver River



Explore the landscape of the Silver River upstream of Cadamstown guided by John Feehan. This will be a four hour walk over uneven terrain. Bring lunch/ refreshments and dress for the weather. Booking essential!

Venue: Cadamstown Car Park

Organiser: Offaly County Council

Telephone: 057 9346839   

Booking: heritage@offalycoco.ie



SUNDAY 17th AUGUST, 11am – 12pm

**BUILT HERITAGE Discover the Past:
Guided Tour of a Conserved Cart House**



Step back in time on a guided tour that explores the history, architecture and phase one of the restoration of a conserved cart house. Learn about its role in the agricultural heritage of the area and the efforts taken to preserve it for the future. Parking is very limited.

Booking essential.

Venue: Venue will be confirmed upon booking

Organiser: Offaly County Council

Telephone: 086 0828313

Email: kgray@offalycoco.ie



SUNDAY 17th AUGUST, 2pm – 3pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE Launch of Killoughey Graveyard Map



You're invited to the unveiling of a new layout map at Killoughey graveyard near Mountbolus, Co. Offaly. The map helps visitors locate graves, especially where headstones are weathered or missing. A book with documented headstones will also be available.

A plaque honoring the "Killoughey Martyrs" of 1651 will be unveiled, following a prayer service and graveyard blessing at 2pm.

Venue: Killoughey Graveyard, Church & Ruins

Organiser: Breda & Odran Condron

Telephone: 086 3434012

Email: odiecondron1@gmail.com



SUNDAY 17th AUGUST, 5pm – 7pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Carrigeen Farmhouse Traditional Music Evening



Enjoy traditional Irish music in this uniquely surviving vernacular family home. Everyone is welcome to bring an instrument, story or song and join the craic agus ceol. Booking essential.

Venue: Carrigeen Farmhouse

Organiser: Carrigeen Farmhouse

Telephone: 087 6989650

Email: annemaria.egan@gmail.com



Eircode: R42 A372



MONDAY 18th – WEDNESDAY 20th AUGUST, 11am – 12pm

BUILT HERITAGE

Guided Historical Tour of Tullamore Courthouse



Take a guided tour of Tullamore Courthouse, an architectural gem completed in 1833, rebuilt in 1925 after being burned in 1922. Designed by J.B. Keane and later T.F. McNamara, the courthouse holds deep historical

and social significance. Learn about its design, key events and notable trials. Booking is essential as places are limited.

Venue: Tullamore Courthouse (side door entrance)

Organiser: Offaly County Council

Telephone: 086 0828313

Email: kgray@offalycoco.ie



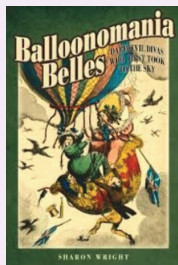
Eircode: R35 R7W9



MONDAY 18th AUGUST, 11am – 2pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Balloonmania Belles & the Brontes



Enjoy a morning of Brontë-themed events in Tullamore, including a music recital by the Banagher Brontë Ensemble, the second launch of *Let Me In: The Brontës in Bricks and Mortar* by James Scully, an illustrated talk by Sharon Wright on early female

balloonists, and a screening of Dr Maebh O'Regan's film on Charlotte Brontë's marriage settlement.

Venue: Offaly Heritage Centre

Organiser: Offaly Heritage Centre

Telephone: 057 9321421

Email: info@offalyhistory.com



Eircode: R35 Y5V0



MONDAY 18th AUGUST, 2 - 4pm

THURSDAY 21st AUGUST, 11am - 1pm | 2 - 4pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE **Offaly Heritage Centre Open Day**







Visit Offaly Heritage Centre to learn more about Offaly Historical & Archaeological Society and what we do. Our team are delighted to show you our shop, wonderful library and much

more with exhibition of books on the 2025 heritage theme 'Exploring our foundations' and blogs for the week on the same topic.

Venue: Offaly Heritage Centre

Organiser: Offaly Heritage Centre

Telephone: 057 9321421    

Email: info@offalyhistory.com

 **Eircode: R35 Y5V0**



MONDAY 18th AUGUST, 2.30 - 3.30pm

BUILT HERITAGE

The Stained Glass Heritage of St. Brendan's R.C. Church, Birr





Local Historian and author Brian Kennedy will give a guided tour of the historic stained glass windows of St. Brendan's R.C. Church, Birr. The windows include examples of the work of noted designers A.W.G. Pugin, Richard King, Patrick Pollen, Michael Dunne, Hardman's of Birmingham and Earley and Powell. The Pugin sanctuary window is the oldest stained glass window in Killaloe Diocese dating from 1842. All are welcome to this free event.

Venue: St. Brendans R.C. Church

Organiser: Birr Parish Pastoral Council

Email: btkenedy9@gmail.com

Telephone: 086 3701145 
Church office 057 9122028

 **Eircode: R42 XY51**



MONDAY 18th AUGUST, 3 - 4pm

BUILT HERITAGE Guided Tour of Tullynisk House, Birr



Tullynisk House was built in 1820, by two younger brothers of the 2nd Earl of Rosse of Birr Castle. The Bachelor brothers engaged Bernard Mullens to design a new house on the site of two earlier houses. The tour will continue to Woodfield yard where evidence of the earlier houses survive with the oldest structures dating from 1667 onwards. Member of Historic Houses of Ireland. Booking essential as spaces limited.

Text in advance to reserve a space. €5 per person.

Venue: Tullynisk House Birr

Organiser: Alicia Clements

Email: clements888@gmail.com

Telephone: 086 8167233



MONDAY 18th AUGUST, 7 - 8pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Voices of Geashill - A Walk through Time



To celebrate our recently launched Audio Guide you are invited to join us on a walk around the village highlighting its unique architecture, social history and rich mythology. Meet outside the Old Schoolhouse. Parking available by the green.

Venue: The Old Schoolhouse

Organiser: Geashill Tidy Towns

Address: Geashill Village

Email: geashilltowns@gmail.com



TUESDAY 19th AUGUST, 10am - 12pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE Stitching Heritage and Innovation



Join us at The Old Bank in Clara during Heritage Week to view an embroidery exhibition inspired by Anne Jellicoe and the Goodbody family, linking Mountmellick Work to Clara. Funded by a 2025 Creative Ireland Community Grant, the project features work by textile artists Dolores Dempsey and Teresa Doyle in collaboration with Clara Historical Society. Visitors can meet the artists and participants and learn about Jellicoe's cultural legacy.

Venue: Bank House, Clara

Organiser: Clara Heritage Society

Email: claraheritagesociety@email.com



TUESDAY 19th AUGUST, 10am - 12pm

NATURAL HERITAGE **Nature Walk at Tullamore Town Park**



Enjoy a casual nature walk with biodiversity officer Ricky Whelan. Come explore the wild plants and wildlife found at Tullamore Town Park and along the Tullamore River. This slow paced event will cover a short return route between Tullamore Town Park and the Tullamore Wetland. Dress

for expected weather. No booking required, however if you have any queries, please email biodiversity@offalycoco.ie.

Venue: Tullamore Town Park (meeting in the car park)

Organiser: Offaly County Council

Email: biodiversity@offalycoco.ie

Telephone: 086 1672210



TUESDAY 19th AUGUST, 3.30 - 5.45pm

NATURAL HERITAGE

Bellefield House and Gardens Guided Tour



Bellefield House and Garden, here you step into a wonderful private walled garden experience in the Heart of Offaly just outside Shinrone Village. Enjoy a guided tour of the gardens with head Gardner Paul Smyth. Visitors are invited to explore the gardens winding paths and hidden corners but also to gain insider insight in conversation with Paul. There will be time for questions and answers and this year you also will have the opportunity to tour the ground floor of the beautiful historic house. Afterwards join us for refreshments in the Coach House. Admission €15pp.

Venue: Bellefield House and Garden

Organiser: RHSI Bellefield House and Gardens

Email: Bellefield@rhsi.ie

Telephone: 087 0515295

Booking: Bellefield@rhsi.ie

 Eircode: R42 NW82



TUESDAY 19th AUGUST, 6 - 8pm

NATURAL HERITAGE **Tree ID Walk Doory Wood**



This event, led by education staff from Clara Bog Visitor Centre, offers a nature walk along the Doory Wood Loop. Participants will learn about tree ecology, tree identification, and explore tree myths, folklore and other species encountered. The walk is suitable for all ages (7+), on mostly flat ground. It starts at Mulligans Car Park at 6pm. Dogs are not allowed. To attend, book a free spot by emailing.

Venue: Doory Wood Loop

Organiser: Clara Bog Visitor Centre

Email: claraguides@npws.gov.ie

Telephone: 057 9368878



 Eircode: R35 K650



TUESDAY 19th 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. No dogs allowed.

Venue: Gloster House

Organiser: Tom Alexander

Email: alexander@glosterhouse.com

 Eircode: R42 CH02



TUESDAY 19th AUGUST, 6.30 - 7.30pm

**CULTURAL HERITAGE Our Musical Heritage:
Folksongs with Ruairí Ó Sé**






Our Musical Heritage: Folksongs with Ruairí Ó Sé. Reflecting the themes of landscape, nature and climate, join Irish folk artist Ruairí Ó Sé for a performance that will entertain, soothe and

refract thoughts and conversations through the prism of live music.

Venue: Tullamore Library

Organiser: Offaly Libraries

Email: libraryhq@offalycoco.ie

Telephone: 057 9346832   



Eircode: R35 X226



TUESDAY 19th AUGUST, 6.30 - 8.30pm

**BUILT HERITAGE Marconi Dickensian Mile:
Presentation & Walking Tour**



Clara Heritage Society is hosting an evening event focused on Clara's Industrial Heritage and its connection to Guglielmo Marconi, the pioneer of modern wireless technology. The evening will feature a presentation followed by a walking tour of Clara's Marconi Dickensian Mile, showcasing stories linked to the town's historic buildings and homes. The event will also include an exhibit of handmade lace and dolls crafted by women from Creative Ireland's Lace Making Workshops, as well as a tapestry rug created by participants in a Collaborative Creative Ireland Workshop. Light refreshments will be provided. The event is open to all and celebrates the town's shared heritage.


Venue: The Old Bank, Church Street

Organiser: Clara Heritage Society

Telephone: 085 2534711 

Email: claraheritatesociety@email.com

Booking: eventbrite.ie

 **Eircode:** R35 FW72



WEDNESDAY 20th AUGUST, 11am - 12pm & 3.30 - 4.30pm

**CULTURAL HERITAGE Heritage Week themed Stories
and Craft in Tullamore Library**



Join us in Tullamore Library on Wednesday August 20th for Heritage Week themed Stories and Craft in Tullamore Library.

Wednesday Wobblers Storytime at 11am
Arts and Crafts: 3:30 - 4:30pm.
(Suitable for 6-9 year olds).

Venue: Tullamore Library

Organiser: Offaly Libraries

Email: tullamorelibrary@offalycoco.ie

Telephone: 057 9346832   

 **Eircode:** R35 X226



WEDNESDAY 20th AUGUST, (see times below)

CULTURAL HERITAGE **Finding Your Roots Workshop**

Finding Your Roots workshop with Genealogist Martin Curley.

Organiser: Offaly Libraries

Venue: Tullamore Library

Times: 1 - 2pm

Email: libraryhq@offalycoco.ie

Telephone: 057 9346832


 **Eircode:** R35 X226

Venue: Clara Library

Times: 3.30 - 4.30pm

Email: libraryhq@offalycoco.ie

Telephone: 057 9346832

 **Eircode:** R35 NW63

Venue: Banagher Library

Times: 6.30 - 7.30pm

Email: libraryhq@offalycoco.ie

Telephone: 057 9346832

 **Eircode:** R42 XY40



WEDNESDAY 20th - SUNDAY 24th AUGUST, 2 - 6pm daily

CULTURAL HERITAGE **Exploring The Auld Haggert**



Step back in time at the Auld Haggert where you will discover up to 100 items of farm machinery on display. There are various forms of transport ranging from horse drawn to vintage motorised vehicles with lots of interesting stories behind each item in the collection.

Venue: The Auld Haggert

Organiser: James Larrigy

Email: kgray@offalycoco.ie

Telephone: 086 1290906

 **Eircode:** R37 EW96



WEDNESDAY 20th AUGUST, 6 - 8pm

**BUILT HERITAGE Camcor and Syngefield
Looped Heritage Walk**






This unique two-hour looped walk will start at Camcor River Park, where walkers will explore the riverbanks, town park, and the newly maintained river walk to Syngefield Demesne. At Syngefield, participants will visit Clonoghil Castle, where the Irish

Heritage School is conducting a 2025 research project. The tour will include a look at the castle and surrounding earthworks, along with insights into recent archaeological excavations. The walk and site involve uneven terrain, so sturdy footwear and possibly waterproofs are recommended. After the castle visit, the group will return to Birr town via Syngefield Lane.

Venue: Departing from Camcor River Park, Birr

Organiser: Irish Heritage School/Irish Archaeology Field School

Email: info@irishheritageschool.ie

Telephone: 089 4276912   



WEDNESDAY 20th AUGUST, 6.30 - 8pm

SATURDAY 23rd AUGUST, 1.30 - 3pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Guided Tour of Tullamore Masonic Lodge



Discover the rich history and warm community spirit of Freemasonry in Tullamore by visiting our Masonic Lodge. Freemasonry has been an integral part of Tullamore's cultural fabric since 1797, fostering friendship, charity and personal development. We invite you to come and learn more about our traditions, meet our members and see

firsthand the values that have guided us through generations. Whether you're seeking a new community or just curious, we welcome you to discover what gives our Lodge a special place in heritage of Tullamore.

Venue: Tullamore Masonic Lodge (side gate), O'Moore Street

Organiser: Iain Murray

Email: stjohnslodge321@gmail.com



WEDNESDAY 20th AUGUST, 7 - 8.30pm

SATURDAY 23rd AUGUST, 3 - 4.30pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Guided tour of the Daingean Heritage Trail




Guided tour of Daingean's historic sites focusing on the QR codes at each historic location. These QR codes reveal video information giving details of Daingean's past from the era when Daingean was the capital town in Offaly, the building of the canal, the Erasmus School, Daingean Fort Castle, to

our magnificent Town Hall/Court House.

Venue: The Town Hall Daingean

Organiser: Daingean Development Association

Email: malachy.keating@gmail.com

Telephone: 086 2641232 

 Eircode: R35 W027



WEDNESDAY 20th AUGUST, 7 - 9pm

NATURAL HERITAGE

The Brosna River: Past, Present & Future



The Brosna River, Offaly's fastest flowing river, has shaped communities, powered industry, and sustained ecosystems across its journey from Lough Owel to the Shannon. This evening event will explore its impact on Clara, including its hydro-industrial legacy, ecological role and potential as a future community asset.


Venue: The Old Bank

Organiser: Clara Heritage Society

Email: claraheritagesociety@email.com

Telephone: 085 2534711  

Booking: eventbrite.ie

 Eircode: R35 FW72



WEDNESDAY 20th AUGUST, 8.30 - 9.30pm

BUILT HERITAGE

History of the Canal Store in Daingean





The Canal Store at Molesworth Bridge in Daingean has on its timber beams, written in pencil, a unique human history of the canal from 1790 to its closure in the 1970's. Following photography of the pencil writings this summer, Daingean Development Association are holding a public display of these records. They tell the local history of the Grand Canal, display of photographs on Canal Store.

Venue: Daingean Town Hall

Organiser: Daingean Development Association

Email: malachy.keating@gmail.com

Telephone: 086 2641232  

 Eircode: R35 W027



THURSDAY 21st AUGUST, 11 - 11.30am

BUILT HERITAGE The 1830's Crotty Schism of Birr



A brief history of the Crotty Schism which took place in the town of Birr during the 1830's. Father Michael Crotty broke away from the Catholic Church to form their own church and convinced the majority of parishioners to follow him.

Venue: Crotty's Church

Organiser: The Maltings & Crotty Co-Ownership Group

Email: office@garryproperty.ie

Telephone: 086 3286277



Eircode: R42 DH90



THURSDAY 21st AUGUST, 11am - 12pm & 2 - 3pm

BUILT HERITAGE Tour of Loughton House



Welcome to one of Ireland's finest historic Georgian residences. Loughton House was built in 1777. Set in one hundred acres of park and woodland, the house - one of the largest in the county, was re-modelled in 1837. Loughton

has a very rich history. Booking essential. Adults €5 | Concessions: OAP/School-goers €4 | Family Group €10.

Venue: Loughton House, Moneygall

Organiser: Dr. Michael Lyons

Email: loughtonhouseireland@gmail.com

Telephone: 089 4319150



Eircode: E53 WK16



THURSDAY 21st AUGUST, (see times below)

NATURAL HERITAGE

Pollinator Workshops with Edel Heeran



To celebrate Heritage Week, Offaly Libraries will be hosting Pollinator Workshops in Clara, Ferbane and Kilcormac Libraries. This workshop is aimed for children, eight years old and above. The workshop consists of an interactive presentation where children become beekeepers with an educational

honeybee. Exploring elements including hive pollen and handling beekeeping equipment.

Organiser: Offaly Libraries



Venue: Clara Library, 11.30am - 12.30pm

Email: claralibrary@offalycoco.ie

Telephone: 057 9331389



Eircode: R35 NW63

Venue: Ferbane Library, 2pm - 3pm

Telephone: 090 6454259



Eircode: R42 WF59

Venue: Kilcormac Library, 3.45pm - 4.45pm

Telephone: 057 9135086



Eircode: R42 PN53

THURSDAY 21st AUGUST, 6.30 - 7.30pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE

To and Fro, from Chicago to Offaly



Join us at Tullamore Library for a performance by Midland Strings, a string ensemble from Tullamore, as they play music by Irish fiddler and composer Liz Carroll. Born in Chicago to Irish parents from Mucklagh, Liz Carroll is a Grammy-nominated artist and the first American-born composer to receive the prestigious Cumadoir TG4 award. Many of her tunes are inspired by childhood memories of visiting family in Offaly. Laois composer William Troy, has adapted these tunes for Midland Strings.

Venue: Tullamore Library • **Organiser:** Midland Strings

Email: majahurley@gmail.com

Telephone: 087 6288115



Eircode: R35 X226

THURSDAY 21st AUGUST, 7 - 9pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE The History of Clara's Colourful Educational Journey



The presentation will explore Clara's diverse educational history, from hedge schools to religious and training institutions. It will include a discussion where attendees can share personal memories. There will also be an exhibition showcasing handmade lace, dolls, and a tapestry rug, created by women who participated in Creative Ireland workshops.

Venue: The Old Bank

Organiser: Clara Heritage Society

Email: claraheritagesociety@email.com

Telephone: 085 2534711

Booking: eventbrite.ie



Eircode: R35 FW72



FRIDAY 22nd AUGUST, 2 - 3pm

SUNDAY 24th AUGUST, 3 - 4pm

BUILT HERITAGE Tour of Springfield House



Welcome to Springfield House. Dating back to approximately 1750, Springfield House situated within extensive grounds, was built for the third son of the Lucas family who lived at the nearby Mount Lucas estate. Booking essential.

Venue: Springfield House

Organiser: Muireann Noonan

Email: muireannnoonan@gmail.com

Telephone: 087 2204569



Eircode: R35 NF89



FRIDAY 22nd AUGUST, 4 - 5pm

BUILT HERITAGE

Conservation of the Railings at Liss Cemetery



Boher-Liss Cemetery Group are hosting a talk on the conservation of the railings at Liss Cemetery located just outside Ballycumber. Conservation of the railings are being supported by the Heritage Council 2025. Conservation architect, Richard McLoughlin and blacksmith, Brendan St. John will describe the challenges

involved in repairs completed on the western side in 2024, and in ongoing repairs to the eastern side. Please bring your umbrella. As there is limited parking at the cemetery, parking will be provided across the road. Please allow time to walk back to the cemetery. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Venue: Liss Cemetery

Organiser: Angela Kelly

Email: boherlissgroup@gmail.com

Telephone: 087 7788431 



Eircode: R35 Y306



FRIDAY 22nd AUGUST, 6.30 - 8pm

NATURAL HERITAGE Photography Walk at Killaun Bog



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. Booking essential. Places are limited.

Venue: To be confirmed upon booking

Organiser: Offaly County Council

To book your place Email: kgray@offalycoco.ie

Telephone: 086 0828313

BOOK

FRIDAY 22nd AUGUST, Exhibition Launch 7 - 9pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE "And Who Were They?" - Faces of the Past: Uncovering Shinrone and Ballingarry's Story in The DeRoe & Griffin-Hough Photographic Archive



This powerful exhibition invites you to rediscover the forgotten faces captured in the DeRoe and Griffin Photographic Archives—images spanning from the 1890s to the 1950s. Each photograph holds a mystery. Each face once belonged to someone who lived, loved and left their mark on our community.

Venue: Cloughmoyle School House,
Main Street, Shinrone, Birr, Co. Offaly.

Email: clareenhouse@hotmail.com • **Telephone:** 087 1015991



Eircode: R42 YN97

FREE

FRIDAY 22nd AUGUST, 7.30 - 10.30pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE **Rambling House**



Join us for a special Rambling House evening as part of Heritage Week, where stories, songs and laughter fill the air just as they did in times gone by. Come and celebrate the rich cultural heritage of rural

communities in the spirit of the old Rambling Houses.

Booking essential as places are limited.

Venue: Rambling House (venue & directions will be confirmed upon booking)

Organiser: Offaly County Council

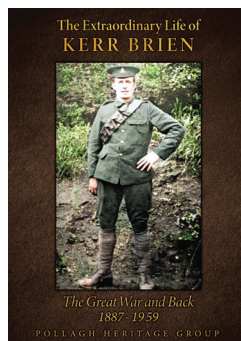
Email: kgray@offalycoco.ie

Telephone: 086 0828313



FRIDAY 22nd AUGUST, 8 - 9.30pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE **Book Launch: The Extraordinary Life of Kerr Brien - The Great War and Back**



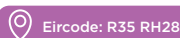
Join Pollagh Heritage Group for the launch of our new book about the life of Kerr Brien, which tells his story from the theatre of World War 1 to his life back in Offaly in the aftermath of that bloody conflict. Losing his left arm in the course of the war did not deter Kerr Brien getting on with life and the book contains many stories of his colourful life. This book invites the reader to turn the pages and understand what makes Kerr Brien's life story deserving of the title Extraordinary!

Venue: The Pull Inn Pub, Pullough

Organiser: Pollagh Heritage Group

Email: caitriornadevery@gmail.com

Telephone: 087 0933705



SATURDAY 23rd AUGUST, 11am - 1pm

BUILT HERITAGE **Bench Marks and Post Boxes**



Richard Jack on 'Bench Marks, Post Boxes and more'. A 6km walk around Tullamore looking at some of the small features of interest to be seen around the town. Start and finish in O'Connor Square. Approx time 2 hours.

Venue: O'Connor Square, Tullamore

Organiser: Offaly Heritage Society

Email: info@offalyhistory.com

Telephone: 057 9321421



SATURDAY 23rd AUGUST, 11am - 12pm

BUILT HERITAGE Guided Tour of the Memorials of Seir Kieran Graveyard



Join historian Stephen Callaghan for a guided tour of the memorials of Seir Kieran graveyard. The graveyard boasts some of the counties finest and historically significant memorials. Learn about the symbols adorned on the headstones and some of the interesting people buried in the graveyard. Meet at the graveyard car park. Sturdy footwear is essential. Booking essential.

Venue: Seir Kieran Graveyard, Clareen
Organiser: Stephen Callaghan
Email: kgray@offalycoco.ie
Telephone: 086 0828313

 **Eircode:** R42 X033

SATURDAY 23rd AUGUST, 12 - 2.30pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE Bog Guardians






Meet at the level crossing on R436 which is just before Lemanaghan Church and Graveyard/ Schoolhouse.

Walk into the Bog: Archaeology in the Landscape
A guided walk into the bog to

explore archaeological features and hear stories embedded in the landscape. **Talks in the Old School House.** Return indoors for a series of short talks on local heritage, industrial peatlands and the Deeptime Agency project: IPEAAT and Deeptime Agency **Kite Event in the Bog.** A kite flying event which will bring the community together to reflect on the potential impacts of the proposal to alter the archaeological landscape — from its past as an industrial peat bog to a proposed large-scale wind farm. Walk into the bog for a participatory kite-flying event—a symbolic engagement with landscape, time, and sky. www.iai.ie / www.ucc.ie/en/peatlands. Leisurely return to the Old School House for final reflections, tea and closing remarks.

Venue: Lemanaghan. Co. Offaly
Organiser: Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland; Irish Peatland Archaeology Across Time; Lemanaghan Heritage and Conservation Group

Email: archaeology@iai.ie
Telephone: 087 7767054
Booking: eventbrite.ie   

 **Eircode:** R35 HR61

SATURDAY 23rd AUGUST, 12.45 - 1.45pm

BUILT HERITAGE **Irish Sign Language Tour of Clonmacnoise Monastic Site**



Free Irish Sign Language tour of Clonmacnoise Monastic Site. The remains of the ancient ecclesiastical site of Clonmacnoise, on the banks of the river Shannon, are among the most extensive of their kind in Ireland.

Pre booking essential as places are limited, please e-mail; clonmacnoise@opw.ie to reserve your free place. ISL Tour of Clonmacnoise Monastic site. Public transport available via Local Link from Athlone (Route 850). Limited car parking available.

Venue: Clonmacnoise Visitor Centre

Organiser: OPW

Email: Clonmacnoise@opw.ie

Telephone: 090 9674195  



Eircode: R37 V292



SATURDAY 23rd & SUNDAY 24th AUGUST, 1 - 5pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE **History in Bottles**







History in bottles used by the Williams and Egan firms of Tullamore Exhibitions from Noel Guerin and Pat Doherty, Offaly History Centre.

Venue: Offaly Heritage Centre

Organiser: Offaly Heritage Centre

Email: info@offalyhistory.com

Telephone: 057 9321421    



Eircode: R35 Y5V0



SATURDAY 23rd AUGUST, 2 - 5pm

NATURAL HERITAGE **The Brosna River Festival**



Part of Heritage Week and the Brosna Relay – Connecting Communities Initiative, the event will feature local musicians, poets, historians, river-themed crafts and children's activities. Light refreshments will be available,

and attendees are encouraged to bring reusable cups. The festival is free and supported by Creative Ireland and Offaly County Council.

Venue: An Siolán Community Garden

Organiser: Ferbane Tidy Towns

Email: ferbanetidytowns@gmail.com 



Eircode: R42 E090



SATURDAY 23rd AUGUST, 3 - 4.30pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE **Explore Saint Manchan's Shrine with Expert Insight**





Explore Ireland's largest surviving reliquary - Saint Manchan's Shrine, a stunning example of 12th-century Irish monastic metalsmithing that blends Irish, Viking/Urnes and Romanesque styles. Join renowned metalsmith Kevin O'Dwyer, co-author of *'St Manchan's*

Shrine - Art and Devotion in Twelfth-century Ireland', for a guided visit offering unique insights into the shrine's creation, artistry and cultural significance.

Venue: St. Manchan's Shrine

Organiser: Offaly County Council with Lemanaghan Heritage Group

Email: heritage@offalycoco.ie

Telephone: 057 9346839   



Eircode: R35 NX30



SATURDAY 23rd AUGUST, 7 - 8.30pm

CULTURAL HERITAGE **The Disbandment of the RIC in South Offaly & North Tipperary**



A talk by Dr. Brian Hughes of Mary Immaculate College will explore the disbandment of the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) in 1922, focusing on the impact on Irish-born members—


especially in south Offaly and north Tipperary. It will examine the disbandment process, its immediate consequences, and the post-1922 experiences of ex-RIC officers and their families.

All are welcome, and light refreshments will be served.

Venue: Cloughmoyle School House

Organiser: Shinrone Heritage Centre

Email: clareenhouse@hotmail.com

Telephone: 087 1015991 



Eircode: R42 YN97



SATURDAY 23rd & SUNDAY 24th AUGUST 2 - 5pm


CULTURAL HERITAGE **"And Who Were They?" - Faces of the Past: Uncovering Shinrone and Ballingarry's Story in The DeRoe & Griffin-Hough Photographic Archive**



This powerful exhibition invites you to rediscover the forgotten faces captured in the DeRoe and Griffin Hough Photographic Archives—images spanning from the 1890s to the 1950s. Each photograph holds a mystery. Each face once belonged to someone who lived, loved, and left their mark on our community.

Venue: Cloughmoyle School House,
Main Street, Shinrone, Birr, Co. Offaly.

Email: clareenhouse@hotmail.com

Telephone: 087 1015991 



Eircode: R42 YN97

FREE

SUNDAY 24th AUGUST, 10am - 12pm

NATURAL HERITAGE

Derrycastle Lakes and Walkways Explored






Join biodiversity officer Ricky Whelan for a leisurely nature walk at Derrycastle Lakes to explore local wildlife, including wildflowers, birds and insects. The walk is suitable for all nature lovers and will proceed at a relaxed pace. No booking is needed—just dress appropriately for the weather. For questions, email: biodiversity@offalycoco.ie.

Venue: Derrycastle Lakes and Walkways, Portarlinton

Organiser: Offaly County Council

Email: rwhelan@offalycoco.ie

Telephone: 086 1672210   



SUNDAY 24th AUGUST, 2 - 5pm

BUILT HERITAGE For the Love of Bats



Hosted by Ballycumber Tidy Towns, this community event at Ballycumber Bridge celebrates local built heritage and biodiversity—especially bats! The historic bridge, notable for having the second widest arch in County Offaly, sets the stage for a fun and educational day for all ages.

Venue: Ballycumber Bridge

Organiser: Ballycumber Tidy Towns & Freshwater Ballycumber Brosna

Email: emercdoherty@gmail.com

Telephone: 089 4048200  



SUNDAY 24th AUGUST, 2.30 - 5pm

NATURAL HERITAGE Grassroots, What's in a Name




Bracknagh Heritage Society is launching a community project called "Grassroots, What's in a Name" to collect and preserve the names and stories of local fields. The initiative aims to document the area's natural landscape and explore the historical, cultural, and familial significance behind field names—many of which exist only in oral tradition.

Community members are encouraged to share any information, big or small, to help create a rich historical record. Tea and conversation will be part of the process.

Venue: Bracknagh Community Hall

Organiser: Bracknagh Heritage Society

Email: bracknaghheritagesociety@gmail.com

Telephone: 086 3750521 

 Eircode: R52 CD85



**Thank you to all the
National Heritage Week partners**



THE IRISH TIMES



This brochure was compiled by the Offaly Heritage Office in Offaly County Council with events registered by 14 July 2025.



Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
Offaly County Council

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**

A **Heritage Council** programme