

Our Summer Stars programme is in full swing this month with lots of great events, activities and prizes up for grabs in all our branches! Sign up at your local library to start the summer reading adventure. Our annual summer history talk series in Portlaoise Library is also back, with a varied range of topics on offer. Take a look at the What's On section for a full listing of everything happening this month! ✨



✨ ✨ Summer Stars 2024 ✨ ✨

Summer Stars is the free national reading programme for children that takes place in all public libraries in Ireland over the summer. It runs from 7th June to 31st August this year for children up to 12 years. All you have to do is register at your local library and read

8 books over the summer. When you register, you will get a reading card and Summer Stars drawstring bag. Everyone who completes the challenge will receive a Summer Stars certificate and medal. If you think you can read another 8 books, you can try our Super Star Reading Challenge. There is so many events and activities taking place in all our libraries to celebrate - click below to browse the Summer Stars brochure!

### Summer Stars Brochure



We had a fantastic launch for Summer Stars in Portlaoise Library with Leona Forde, bestselling author of the Milly McCarthy series, and students from Portlaoise Educate Together School!







# There's a Little Library Bag for every child!

Pick up their **FREE** Little Library Book Bag at your local library



We are delighted to invite every child who will start primary school or home school this September to come to the library to collect their Little Library Bag to mark this special occasion. Each bag contains a beautiful book and a wallet to hold your library card.

The Little Library Bag initiative is a collaboration between libraries, the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First 5 Strategy.

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# Books 'n' Bogs Kids & Teens Creative Writing Competition



Are you interested in the history or science behind local boglands? Or maybe you have an idea for a fictional story set on the bog?

Laois Libraries want to hear **YOUR** story!  
Anyone under the age of 15 years old can submit a piece of writing (max. 500 words) on the theme of *The Bogs of Laois*!

Prizes will be awarded in 2 categories: 8-11 years and 12-15 years. First prize will be a €50 voucher!

Whatever your interest or writing style, let your imagination run wild - we want to read them all!



Scan the QR code for competition rules and entry details!



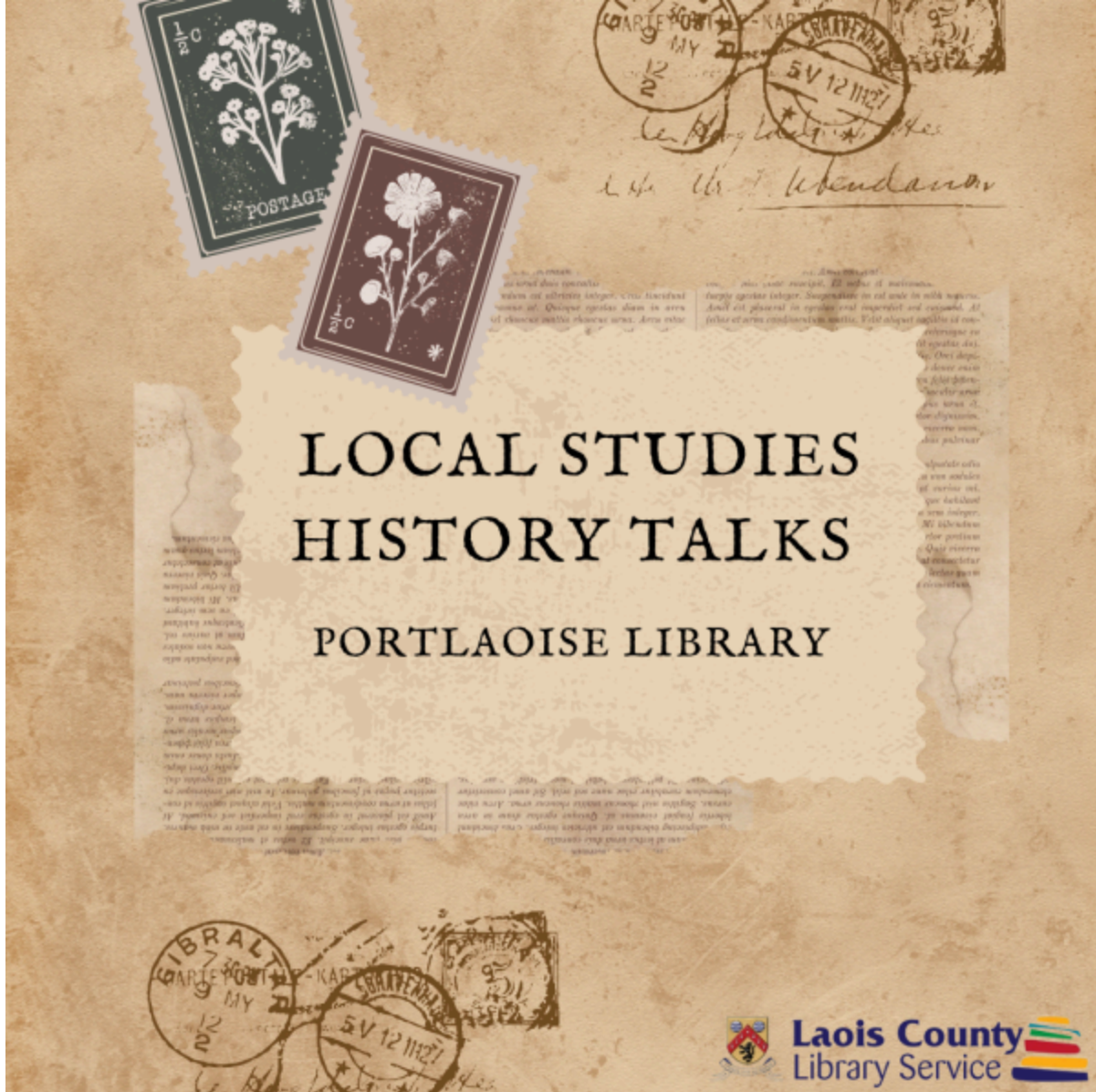
European Cultural Foundation



**Laois County**  
Library Service







## Laos Local Studies History Talks Return!

Portlaoise Library is delighted to announce the return of its summer series of local history talks. The talks will take place in Portlaoise library at 7pm on Wednesday evenings throughout the month of July. The series will cover a broad range of local history topics from cricket in Laos to controversial Laos man Kevin O'Higgins. Click below for more information and to book a spot!

Local History Talks

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Cruinniú na nÓg

Cruinniú na nÓg, the national day of free creativity for children, took place on Saturday, 15th June with Creative Ireland Laois and what a fantastic day it was! Take a look at some of the wonderful events and activities from around the county:

🎪 Trying out some circus skills like plate spinning and peacock feather balancing at Mountrath Library:



📖 Boys from St. Fintan's B.N.S. viewing the Laois Schools Interactive Folklore exhibition on display in Portarlington Library:



🛠️ The Big Dig and some messy play at Portlaoise Library:





🎵 A beautiful harp recital in Abbeyleix Library:







🦎 Some animal magic in Mountmellick Library:



👩‍🎨 Facepainting in Portarlington Library:





We celebrated Refugee Week (17th - 23rd June) with a number of open events in libraries and had the opportunity to meet people from all over the world who have made Laois their home. Portlaoise Library was designated as the first Library of Sanctuary in Ireland, and played host to a *Human Library*. Visitors engaged in conversations with real people, celebrating the diversity of being human. Many thanks to the Integration Office of Laois County Council for their collaboration on this lovely project!





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Some of our lovely Laois librarians had the opportunity to visit Áras an Uachtaráin and have tea with president Michael D. Higgins last month for a very special Bloomsday! 🌸



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📖 Top Laois Library Loans in June 📖



## Top 5 Adult Fiction

**The Trail**  
Jo Spain

**In Her Place**  
Edel Coffey

**My Favourite Mistake**  
Marian Keyes

**The Bee Sting**  
Paul Murray

**You Are Here**  
David Nicholls



## Top 5 Adult Non-Fiction

**Emotional Resilience**  
Harry Barry

**Four Shots in the Night**  
Henry Hemming

**Until Victory Always**  
Jim McGuinness

**Dirty Linen**  
Martin Doyle

**Happy Mind, Happy Life**  
Rangan Chatterjee



## Top 5 Childrens

**No Brainer**  
Jeff Kinney

**A Tale of Two Kitties**  
Dav Pilkey

**On Purpose**  
Dav Pilkey

**The Deep End**  
Jeff Kinney

**The Girl Who Wasn't There**  
Jacqueline Wilson



## Top 5 Young Adult

**Where the Heart Should Be**  
Sarah Crossan

**Heartstopper: Vol. 1**  
Alice Oseman

**Heartstopper: Vol. 2**  
Alice Oseman

**Anna K**  
Jenny Lee

**Black Friday**  
Robert Muchamore



There are lots of free events and activities taking place in all our libraries every day in addition to many regular groups that meet weekly or monthly. For more details about what's on currently at your local library, click below.

[What's On?](#)

You can visit the Laos Libraries online catalogue to browse, renew or order items for pickup at your nearest branch. Login to your account with

your library card number and your  
PIN.

Online Catalogue



**Abbeyleix Library**

Phone: 057 8730020

Email: [abbeyleixlibrary@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:abbeyleixlibrary@laoiscoco.ie)

Eircode: R32 CY65

[Opening Hours](#)

**Durrow Library**

Phone: 057 8736090

Email: [durrowlibrary@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:durrowlibrary@laoiscoco.ie)

Eircode: R32 EP94

[Opening Hours](#)

**Mountmellick Library**

Phone: 057 8644572

Email: [mountmellicklibrary@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:mountmellicklibrary@laoiscoco.ie)

Eircode: R32 PX61

[Opening Hours](#)

**Mountrath Library**

Phone: 057 8756378

Email: [mountrathlibrary@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:mountrathlibrary@laoiscoco.ie)



**Portarlington Library**

Phone: 057 8643751

Email: [portarlingtonlibrary@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:portarlingtonlibrary@laoiscoco.ie)

Eircode: R32 PY59

[Opening Hours](#)

**Portlaoise Library**

Phone: 057 8622333

Email: [portlaoiselibrary@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:portlaoiselibrary@laoiscoco.ie)

Eircode: R32 N7EP

[Opening Hours](#)

**Rathdowney Library**

Phone: 0505 46852

Email: [rathdowneylibrary@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:rathdowneylibrary@laoiscoco.ie)

Eircode: R32 DXP5

[Opening Hours](#)

**Stradbally Library**

Phone: 057 8641673

Email: [stradballylibrary@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:stradballylibrary@laoiscoco.ie)





If you need any assistance or for general queries about Laois Libraries, contact Library HQ on 057 8689338 or email [library@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:library@laoiscoco.ie)

Follow along on social media to keep up to date on everything happening in our libraries, our staff book reviews, event photos and much more!



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