



There's a jam-packed schedule of exciting events and activities happening in our libraries this May to kick start the summer - take a look at our What's On page to see a full listing! Please note all our branches will be closed on Saturday, 4th May - Monday, 6th May for the Bank Holiday weekend.



We are delighted to host a range of wonderful events in our libraries to celebrate the Bealtaine Festival this year! Bealtaine is Ireland's national festival which celebrates the arts and creativity as we age. The festival is run by Age & Opportunity and was established in 1995 as the world's first national celebration of creativity in older age!

The ancient festival of Bealtaine or Beltane (held on May 1),

marked the midway point between the spring equinox and the summer solstice, and heralded the start of summer. The word Bealtaine is still used in the Irish language and translates as the month of May.

The Festival brings together people from all over Ireland to foster and inspire creativity among older people and to promote the skills, experiences and exposure that can lead to a rich creative life for all older people.

Bealtaine at Laois Libraries

Bealtaine Festival Ireland

Books 'n' Bogs

Do you or someone you know have fond (or not so fond!) memories of days out cutting turf? Have you heard some folklore or stories passed down from your parents or grandparents about the bog? What do you think of the changes in relationship with bogs in Ireland today?

RE-PEAT are looking to interview Laois people about their memories and stories of local bogs for the Books 'n' Bogs project. The interviews will be audio recordings only and will be available as podcasts to be presented as a collection and exhibited in Abbeyleix Library over the summer.

Interviews will take place in Abbeyleix Library between Friday, 3rd May and Tuesday, 7th May with Sophie and Izzy from RE-PEAT. Email sophie_ocalaghan@re-peat.earth or pop into Abbeyleix Library to register your interest.



Books 'n' Bogs



**Do you have a story or memory you
would like to share about a local
Laois bog?**

We want to hear from you!

**Laois libraries and RE-PEAT are
recording audio interviews of local stories
and memories**

**These may be included as part of an exhibition in
Abbeyleix library**



**For more information contact:
sophie_ocallaghan@re-peat.earth
or pop into Abbeyleix Library**



Europe Direct Portlaoise

Did you know that Portlaoise Library is one of eight Europe Direct centres in Ireland, providing information on the European Union through talks, exhibitions, competitions and publications from EU institutions?

Celebrate Europe Week with us in Portlaoise Library! Tune in to Midlands 103 on Tuesday, May 7th from 9am to 12pm for a special broadcast outside Portlaoise Library with interviews from Fionnuala Croker of the European Parliament Liaison Office, and Regina Dunne the Just Transition Tourism Activator for County Laois.

Portlaoise Library and Europe Direct Portlaoise are delighted to welcome SEAI to Portlaoise Library for a free Home Energy drop-

#ReduceYourUse

Free Home Energy Clinic





Learn more about home energy efficiency and grants from SEAI

Why should you attend the drop-in clinic?
For everyone: Whether you are an energy efficiency pro or just getting started, these clinics are for everyone in the community.
Local and Accessible: No need for a long drive - these drop-in clinics will be right in your local library, making energy expertise accessible for all.
Practical Know-how: Learn simple and effective practices to make you daily life more energy aware and efficient.
Support tailored for you: Discover available grants and supports to meet your energy needs.
Energy Advisor: AN SEAI Energy Mentor will be on hand to answer any questions or guide you to the next step on your energy efficiency journey and supports available to you.

Portlaoise Library

Date: Thursday 9th May

Time: 6pm - 7.30pm

in clinic on Thursday the 9th of May. Call in if you have any questions about how to make your home or daily life more energy efficient, or to find out about grants that may be available to you. Drop in from 6pm on Thursday 9th May to speak to an SEAI Energy Mentor.

Europe Direct Portlaoise

Europe Direct Ireland

Spring Into Storytime

We had a wonderful time for Spring Into Storytime in all our branches this April! Take a look at some of the brilliant storytimes and activities below.

Some Easter crafts and a fun filled visit by Sarah Sparkles in Abbeyleix Library:



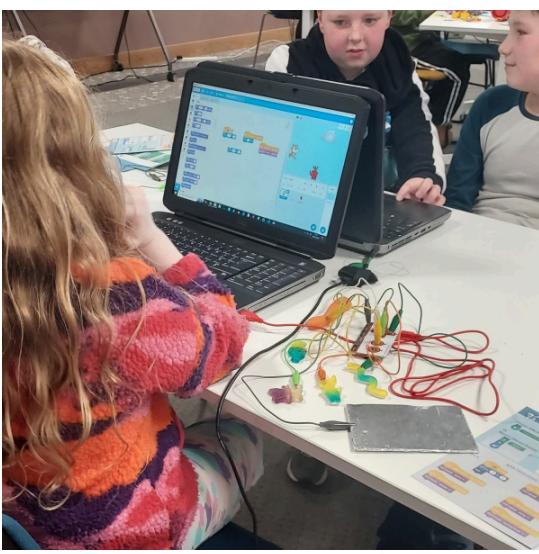


Sarah Sparkles visits Mountmellick Library for Spring Into Storytime and some lovely crafting by pupils of Scoil Phadraig Naofa:



There was a wonderful Spring Into Storytime session with Erika and Elemente delivered a great STEAM workshop with some children in Portlaoise Library:





The Ladybirds group visited Catherine in Rathdowney Library to gain their reading badge and had a lovely time reading, colouring and learning about the library! Children from Scoil Bhride Rathdowney had a great time with Emer Conlon, author of Vroom-Town for a special storytime!



Just in time for summer, Mountrath Library has had a lovely new lick of paint, to brighten up the street!





If you're a fan of the online newspapers and magazines available through your library, we have some great news – they're now available on BorrowBox! This means that you can get eBooks, audiobooks, newspaper and magazines all in one place.

The Libby and PressReader apps are no longer available through the library but, don't worry, BorrowBox has you covered instead.

If you're already a BorrowBox user, you'll see a new ePress section in the app, and that's where you'll find magazines and newspapers.

If you're not already using Borrowbox, it's really easy to start and you'll love it! Just download the app, log in with your library details and start to browse, borrow and read.

BorrowBox

Laois Libraries Top Titles in April

Top 5 Adult Fiction

- Small Things Like These**
Claire Keegan
- Traitor's Gate**
Jeffrey Archer
- After That Night**
Karin Slaughter
- Shrines of Gaiety**
Kate Atkinson
- The Girl from Donegal**
Carmel Harrington

Laois County Library Service

Top 5 Adult Non-Fiction

- Born to Be a Footballer**
Liam Brady
- One Pot Feeds All**
Darina Allen
- Poetry Unbound: 50 Poems to Open your World**
Pádraig Ó Tuama
- A Short History of Ireland**
John Gibney
- Becoming Your Real Self**
Eddie Murphy

Laois County Library Service

Top 5 Child

Cat Kid Comic Club: Collaborations
Dav Pilkey

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days
Jeff Kinney

Bunny vs Monkey
Jamie Smart

Bunny vs Monkey: and the Human Invasion
Jamie Smart

Cat Kid Comic Club
Dav Pilkey



Top 5 Young Adult

Girl in Pieces
Kathleen Glasgow

Chain of Gold
Cassandra Clare

Heartstopper: Vol 1
Alice Oseman

Check & Mate
Ali Hazelwood

Cinder: The Lunar Chronicles
Marissa Meyer



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

Eircode: R32 CY65

[Opening Hours](#)



Portarlington Library

Phone: 057 8643751

Email: portarlingtonlibrary@laoiscoco.ie

Eircode: R32 PY59

[Opening Hours](#)

Durrow Library

Phone: 057 8736090

Email: durrowlibrary@laoiscoco.ie

Eircode: R32 EP94

[Opening Hours](#)

Portlaoise Library

Phone: 057 8622333

Email: portlaoiselibrary@laoiscoco.ie

Eircode: R32 N7EP

[Opening Hours](#)

Mountmellick Library

Phone: 057 8644572

Email: mountmellicklibrary@laoiscoco.ie

Eircode: R32 PX61

[Opening Hours](#)

Rathdowney Library

Phone: 0505 46852

Email: rathdowneylibrary@laoiscoco.ie

Eircode: R32 DXP5

[Opening Hours](#)

Mountrath Library

Phone: 057 8756378

Email: mountrathlibrary@laoiscoco.ie

Eircode: R32 D576

[Opening Hours](#)

Stradbally Library

Phone: 057 8641673

Email: stradballylibrary@laoiscoco.ie

Eircode: R32 DT28

[Opening Hours](#)



If you need any assistance or for general queries about Laois Libraries, contact Library HQ on 057 8689338 or email 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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