

There's still plenty of time to sign up for the Summer Stars reading challenge before the end of the month with lots of great events, activities and prizes up for grabs in all libraries! Please note that all our branches will be closed from Sat, 3rd Aug - Mon, 5th Aug inclusive for the Bank Holiday weekend. 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



Have a look at some of the fun that's been had so far for Summer Stars across our libraries! 😎

🧸 The sun was out for the annual Teddy Bear's Picnic at Portlaoise Library:





 Let's go fly a kite... at Mountrath and Abbeyleix Libraries!





🥰 Picking up their FREE Summer Stars bags in Stradbally Library:



🦋 Disco Girl had a dance party at Rathdowney and Durrow Libraries:



🦎 Some scaly and slimy friends visited Portlaoise Library from the National Reptile Zoo:





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.



National Heritage Week

A Heritage Council programme

National Heritage Week, an initiative by the Heritage Council, celebrates all things heritage. It brings together communities, families, organisations, cultural institutions, academics and enthusiasts, to build awareness about the value of heritage and support its conservation. This year, Heritage Week takes place between 17th-25th August with the theme *Connections, Routes & Networks*. We have special events taking place in all our libraries throughout the week - have a browse at what's on offer!

Heritage Week at Laois
Libraries

National Heritage Week

LIFE IN THE MOUNTMELICK MALT FACTORY

MOUNTMELICK LIBRARY &
ART GALLERY

By Seán O'Driscoll

supported by Mountmellick Heritage Society



**AUGUST
2024**

A collection of documents, photographs & stories from the Mountmellick Malt Factory.

Also photos & documents from the life of Dr Werner Schwarz who fled Nazi Germany and found love in the Malt Factory.

National
Heritage Week
A Heritage Council Programme

 **Laois**
Library Service

FOR MORE INFORMATION @ MOUNTMELICKLIBRARY@LAOISCOCO.IE ☎ 057 8689382



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!



Books 'n' Bogs Competition Details

Here's some inspiration taken from children in Camross from the Schools Collection of the National Folklore Collection available at duchas.ie:



Books 'n' Bogs!


Stories from the National Folklore Collection

Killamuck is a small town's land about 2 1/2 miles from Abbeyleix. Killamuck means the "Wood of the Pigs". There is a bog on the De Vesci estate. It starts at the North side of the Clonking Church yard. At the entrance of the bog there is a road leading down to an old historical place known as "Paul Reddys". The railway line runs over this road where there was a bridge built, known as the "Two hole bridge. The railway line divides the Killamuck bog from the Clonking bog.

Abbeyleix Convent


The Schools' Collection, Volume 0832, Page 026 by Dúchas © National Folklore Collection, UCD is licensed under CC BY-NC 4.0.




Books 'n' Bogs!

Stories from the National Folklore Collection

Johnny Carroll [from] Shrahane Camross was coming with turf from Lacca Bog. He was passing by a field owned by Tynan then (now owned by a man named Cordial) when a [sic] saw what he firmly believes to be - the Good People in this said field. They appeared as if they were playing. The field he said was alive with them, they were about one foot high.



🎂 Portlaoise Library First Birthday Celebrations



Portlaoise Library celebrated it's first full year of opening on Wednesday, 17th July with lots of music, chat and cake, of course! Poet Pat Boran provided some wonderful poetry readings and reminiscences on growing up in Portlaoise, and the very talented Kiêu Conroy accompanied with a beautiful harp recital.





Earlier on, we had a fun-filled day of children's events to celebrate the birthday party with face painting, storytimes and lots of entertainment from the Mad Professor! 🎉



The staff of Laois Libraries would like to thank everyone for their support and kind words over the

past year as we transitioned to the new library on Main Street, Portlaoise. Click below for a recap of our first year! 🙌



📖 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

- Dog Man: Fetch-22**
Dav Pilkey
- Dog Man: The Scarlet Shredder**
Dav Pilkey
- Dog Man: 20,000 Fleas Under the Sea**
Dav Pilkey
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid: No Brainer**
Jeff Kinney
- Dog Man: A Tale of 2 Kitties**
Dav Pilkey



Top 5 Young Adult

- The Reappearance of Rachel Price**
Holly Jackson
- Heartstopper: Vol. 5**
Alice Oseman
- One of Us is Back**
Karen McManus
- Fake Red**
Yusuke Osawa
- The Agathas**
Kathleen Glasgow





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 Laois 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](#)

Durrow Library

Phone: 057 8736090



Portarlington Library

Phone: 057 8643751

Email: portarlingtonlibrary@laoiscoco.ie

Eircode: R32 PY59

[Opening Hours](#)

Portlaoise Library

Phone: 057 8622333

Email: durrowlibrary@laoiscoco.ie

Eircode: R32 EP94

Opening Hours

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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