National Heritage Week

A **Heritage Council** programme

13-21 August 2022

Laois Event Guide

www.heritageweek.ie
www.laois.ie/heritage

An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Laois Heritage publications

GARDENING FOR BIODIVERSITY
By Juanita Browne with illustrations by Barry Reynolds, this series (book, colouring book and book as Gaeilge) will help you to help wildlife in your garden no matter how big or small.

GEOLOGY OF LAOIS AND OFFALY
John Feehan's book on the geology of Laois and Offaly contains a natural history of the landscape, rocks and ecology of these two counties and how these have shaped human development over the centuries.

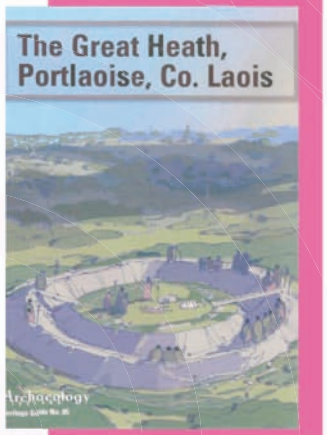
SAVINGS SWIFTS
Guidance to make our towns and villages more suitable for swifts, produced by BirdWatch Ireland in partnership with the Heritage Officer Network and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

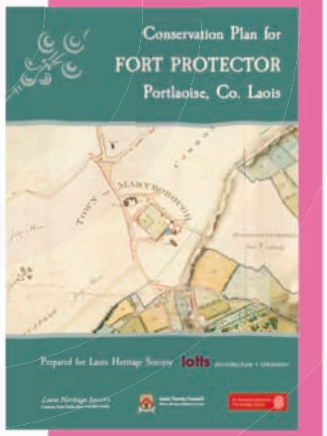
MAPPING LAOIS
Arnold Horner's masterwork "Mapping Laois" is available from bookshops and online from the publisher Wordwell Books.

HERITAGE GUIDE TO THE HEATH
Written by local Archaeologist Dr Eoin Sullivan, this guide describes the Bronze Age landscape of the Heath, featuring wonderful reconstructions of Ring Barrows by Dave Pollock.

FORT PROTECTOR CONSERVATION PLAN
Recently launched, this plan details the significance of the 16th Century Fort at the heart of Portlaoise, and outlines policies to ensure its conservation.

These and many other publications on the built, natural and cultural heritage of Laois are available at the website of Laois County Council. www.laois.ie/heritage.





ALL EVENTS ARE FREE, UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

Suitable for Children | *Accessible Event* | *Parking Available* | *Booking Required*

FÁINNE GEAL AN LAE!
Date and Time: Saturday 13th August 2022, 7am - 11am
Organiser: Stradbally Woodland Railway/Irish Steam Preservation Society
Venue: Abbeyleix Bog, Car Park, Abbeyleix Manor Hotel R32 VE24
Description: A basic photography session (very) early in the day, held while walking in the scenic location of Abbeyleix Bog, before most everyone else is even awake yet! Your local Guide, will show you around the Killamuck Loop, a looped walk, popular with locals and visitors alike! Weather dependant, wear appropriate footwear. Loop walk is c 8km.
Contact: E sandymount.heritage@gmail.com T 087 1737852

HERITAGE STEAM AND DIESEL TRAINS AT THE STRADBALLY WOODLAND RAILWAY
Date and Time: Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th August 2022, 11am - 4pm
Organiser: Stradbally Woodland Railway/Irish Steam Preservation Society
Venue: Stradbally Hall, Main Street, Stradbally
Description: Steam and diesel passenger trains celebrating the industrial heritage of Co Laois, running through the beautiful grounds of Stradbally Hall. Diesel trains 11am-12pm, steam trains 12pm-4pm.
Contact: stradballyrailway@gmail.com

PENS, PARCHMENT, PIGMENTS AND PATIENCE!
Date and Time: Saturday 13th and Thursday 18th August 2022, 7pm-9pm
Organiser: Sandymount Heritage
Venue: Columbanus Room, Church Of The Most Holy Rosary, Abbeyleix R32 KN53
Description: Step back in time, to the age of Monastic Ireland and have a go at using a Quill-Pen to write in the style of our ancestors. Learn about Zoomorphic and Anthropomorphic Art, that was used in such priceless treasures as the Book of Kells, as well as the ancient Ogham Alphabet. Numbers limited, so early booking is advised.
Contact: E: sandymount.heritage@gmail.com T: 087-1737852

HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY TALK ON THE RIVER ERKINA (AN TOIRCÍN) SPA SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA
Date and Time: Saturday 13th August 2022 at 11am
Organiser: Durrow Tidy Towns
Venue: Meeting at the River Erkina, Durrow, Laois
Description: Talk on heritage of Durrow.
Contact: E emerdurrow@gmail.com

A NIGHT OUT WITH THE STARS!

Date and Time: Saturday 13th and Saturday 20th August 2022, 11pm
Organiser: Sandymount Heritage
Venue: Abbeyleix Bog, Manor Hotel Car Park, Abbeyleix, R32 VE24
Description: Come and look upwards and outwards, into the great unknown amid the natural dark sky setting of Abbeyleix Bog in County Laois. Learn about how to spot stars, planets, galaxies, nebulae plus other objects in the night sky over the course of this two-and-a-half hour workshop. Aimed at family groups. Numbers are limited, so early booking is recommended. Event is dependent on weather. Please wear appropriate clothing and bring a torch.
Contact: E sandymount.heritage@gmail.com T 087-1737852

GUIDED WALKS OF ABBEYLEIX BOG

Date and Time: Sunday 14th August and Friday 19th August both from 10.30am to 12.30pm.
Organiser: BirdWatch Ireland Laois Branch/Abbeyleix Bog Project
Venue: Abbeyleix Bog, Manor Hotel Car Park, Abbeyleix, R32 VE24
Description: A guided walk around Abbeyleix Bog to observe the wide range of biodiversity present in August including plants, insects, butterflies and birds.
Contact: E desfinnamore@eircom.net T 086 2291637

OPEN DAY AT TENAKILL HOUSE

Date and Time: Sunday 14th August, 2pm
Organiser: Lalor Tenakill House Restoration Committee
Venue: Tenakill House, Raheen, Mountrath R32 X4W7
Description: Tenakill House, Raheen, Abbeyleix, the ancestral home of one of the most prominent nationalist political families in Ireland, was built about 1770 and is now in the fifth year of restoration. The conservation to date has seen reconstruction of the exterior walls with further work planned for 2022. There will be an open day at Tenakill House, with a video of the house restoration project and tours of the house from 2 pm to 5 pm.
Contact: carmodys@gmail.com

DONAGHMORE WORKHOUSE OPEN DAY

DATE Changed to 21st August, 2pm - 5pm

Date and Time: Sunday 21st August, 2pm - 5pm
Organiser: Donaghmore Workhouse Committee
Venue: Donaghmore Workhouse, Donaghmore, Co Laois R32 PC58
Description: Donaghmore Workhouse will hold an open day on Sunday 14th August from 2pm to 5pm for all to learn about the famine, with a short pageant during the afternoon. The day is free to all with tea and coffee available. The Workhouse and Agricultural Museum will be open all week, with 20% reduction on usual admission cost for Heritage Week.
Contact: E trevorstanley92@gmail.com T 086 - 8296685

Water Heritage Day celebrates the heritage and history connected to our magnificent rivers, lakes, and coastline. This water-themed day is organised through collaboration between the Heritage Council and the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO).

This National Heritage Week, you can get involved and enhance your local water body and biodiversity, participating in events or in citizen science projects that record and monitor nature and biodiversity in your locality.

TO FIND WATER HERITAGE DAY EVENTS OR PROJECTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY VISIT WWW.HERITAGEWEEK.IE

Laois Heritage on Youtube

Check out Laois Heritage on Youtube for free videos on Gardening for wildlife, Wildlife in Buildings and the Laois series of stories

The story of a plane built and flown in Portlaoise in the early part of the twentieth century by the Aldritt Brothers, who ran a garage and engineering works in the town.

A story of three women from Laois and how they are inspired by the natural world, with a message for all of us to value biodiversity and the world around us.

The story of two communities in County Laois, and how they care for the heritage of their local place, through their care for the medieval graveyard and church in the centre of each parish.

A short series on how to improve your garden for biodiversity. Based on the book "Gardening for Biodiversity" written by Juanita Browne and published in 2020 by Laois County Council. To download a free copy of the book go to laois.ie/gardening-for-biodiversity/

GUIDED TOUR OF HISTORIC PORTLAOISE

Date and Time: Sunday 14th August, 3pm - 4.30pm

Organiser: Laois Heritage Office

Venue: Meet at JFL Statue, County Hall, Portlaoise, R32 EHP9

Description: Guided tour of the history and heritage of Portlaoise Town, led by Michael Parsons of Laois Heritage Society, former chair of the Heritage Council of Ireland. This will be a walking tour at a gentle pace. The event is weather dependent.

Contact: E ccasey@laoiscoco.ie T 057-8664129

GRAMOPHONE MUSIC AT EMO COURT

Date and Time: Sunday 14th August, 2pm

Organiser: OPW

Venue: Tearooms, Emo Court, Emo R32 DTP8

Description: Come along and hear some lovely gramophone music at the Emo Court Tearooms.

Contact: emocourt@opw.ie

VICIOUSLY VEXING VEXILLOLOGY

Date and Time: Sunday 14th and Friday 19th August 2022, 7pm - 9pm

Organiser: Sandymount Heritage

Venue: The St. Columbanus Room., Church Of The Most Holy Rosary, Abbeyleix R32 KN53

Description: Come along and enjoy learning all about flags from throughout history and the modern age, all while designing and making your very own pin-on badges from safety pins and different coloured seed-beads! All materials are provided on the night!

Contact: E sandymount.heritage@gmail.com T 087-1737852

ABBEYLEIX ARTS AND HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Date and Time: Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th August

Organiser: Irish Heritage Towns

Venue: Abbeyleix

Description: Music in Morrissey's on Saturday 13th August featuring Abbeyfolk, Beats Working and Revelation. Showcase of Laois Artists,in celebration of the strong ties Abbeyleix has to artists Francis Bacon and Launt Thompson. Check out Irish Heritage Towns Facebook page

Contact: E andy@irishheritagetowns.com

VINTAGE GAMES EXHIBITION

Date and Time: Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th August 2022, 10am - 4pm

Organiser: Abbeyleix Heritage House

Venue: Abbeyleix Heritage House, Ballyroan Rd, Rathmoyle, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois, R32 H244

Description: V.I.N.T.A.G.E. is an event for kids and adults to experience a range of fun and historical toys and board games! Featuring classics such as chess, to the oldest board games known to exist, V.I.N.T.A.G.E. will have something for everyone! Perfect for families, couples or groups of children.

Contact: E heritagehouseabbeyleix@gmail.com T 057 - 8731653

PREP - MELT - POUR - PRISE - TRIM!

Date and Time: Monday 15th and Saturday 20th August 2022, 7pm-9pm

Organiser: Sandymount Heritage

Venue: Columbanus Room, Church Of The Most Holy Rosary, Abbeyleix R32 KN53

Description: Have a go at metal-casting your very own Toy Soldier or Chess Piece from a wide range of choices! Learn how to prepare the mould; melt and pour the metal into it and apply the finishing touches to your masterpiece! Early booking is advised. All participants should be aged nine or older on the day of the Workshop. All materials and full instruction will be provided.

Contact: E sandymount.heritage@gmail.com T 087-1737852

GUIDED WALKS OF BYRNE BIODIVERSITY FARM

Date and Time: Tuesday 16th August 2022, 10.30am - 12.30pm and 2pm - 4pm

Organiser: Patrick Byrne

Venue: Patrick Byrne's Farm, Killabban Co Laois

Description: Guided walking tour of Patrick Byrne's farm, which is managed to benefit biodiversity. The farm walk will include information on planting and managing native hedgerows, managing for pollinators, beetle banks and other farm biodiversity management. Suitable for farmers, tidy towns groups, communities and individuals. Parking is limited on site, please car pool if possible. The event is free but booking is required. Please email Pat to book and for exact location details.

Contact: E pat@byrnebiodiversity.ie T 086-1952373

FURNITURE UPCYCLING DEMO

Date and Time: Tuesday 16th August 2022, 11.30am

Organiser: Laois County Library Service

Venue: Mountrath Library, Shannon Street, Mountrath, R32 D576

Description: Furniture Upcycling demonstration for adults – learn how to prep, paint and decorate your furniture. Booking required.

Contact: E mountrathlibrary@laoiscoco.ie T 057-8756378

heritage in schools

Encourage greater awareness in your school of Ireland's rich natural and cultural heritage with an engaging and stimulating visit from one of our Heritage in Schools Experts

LAOIS-BASED SPECIALISTS

Trudy Carmody:
trudycarmody@gmail.com

Edel Heeran:
info@outdoorlearning.ie

Vincent O'Sullivan:
voscullahill@gmail.com

For further information go to heritageinschools.ie
or email: heritageinschools@heritagecouncil.ie

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

The Heritage Council, Áras na hOidhreachta, Church Lane, Kilkenny.
t: 056 777 0777 w: heritagecouncil.ie

DOTS, DASHES, CODES AND CIPHERS

Date and Time: Tuesday 16th August 2022 and Sunday 21st August 2022, 7pm - 9pm
Organiser: Sandymount Heritage
Venue: The St. Columbanus Room., Church Of The Most Holy Rosary, Abbeyleix R32 KN53
Description: Ever fancied yourself as a bit of a Secret Agent? Why not dip your toe into the oft-times murky waters of Spies and Secret Agents and find out all manner of interesting facts about codes and ciphers throughout history. All materials will be provided. This is a very entertaining Workshop and although aimed at "Junior Agents", adults get a lot of fun out of it as well so don't be shy!
Contact: E sandymount.heritage@gmail.com T 087-1737852

DOING LOCAL HISTORY IN LAOIS

Date and Time: Tuesday 16th August 2022, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Organiser: Rua Research
Venue: Bloom HQ, Mountrath
Description: Doing Local History in County Laois is a two-hour workshop that will look at ways for local communities to find historical sources and information to aid them in identifying historical, and archaeological projects to preserve and protect in their community.
Contact: E ruaresearch@gmail.com

THE STORY OF THE ABBEYLEIX FOUNTAINS

Date and Time: Tuesday 16th August 2022, 7pm-9pm
Organiser: Abbeyleix Tidy Towns
Venue: Heritage House, Rathmoyle, Abbeyleix R32 H244
Description: Abbeyleix Tidy Towns in conjunction with Abbeyleix Heritage House will present a "walk and talk" event to tell the fascinating story of the five public fountains which grace the streets of this heritage town. We will start with a slideshow in Heritage House followed by a guided walk through the heritage town to see the fountains and hear an update on our fountain restoration plan currently being undertaken by Richard McLoughlin of Lotts Architecture with the support of the Heritage Council. We will also launch our innovative GPS-led self-guided heritage trail which has been developed by Andy Kinsella of Winfopoint.
Contact: E info@abbeyleixheritage.com T (057) 873 1653

MOUNTMELLICK EMBROIDERY AND HERITAGE MUSEUM OPEN DAY

Date and Time: Wednesday 17th August 2022, 10am - 4pm
Organiser: Mountmellick Embroidery and Heritage Museum
Venue: Mountmellick Museum, Irishtown, Mountmellick R32A0PK
Description: We invite you to enjoy our museum visitor experience, free of charge, including a welcome video and guided tours at 10am, 12 noon, 2pm, and 4pm. Hear the stories of Mountmellick's rich Quaker history, the Famine, Mountmellick Workhouse and the girls transported to Australia, Mountmellick Embroidery's original and contemporary exhibits and the dynamic women involved since 1825, and much more! Enjoy our refurbished museum and view the latest additions to our collections. We will have information and booking forms for embroidery classes and workshops for the coming season, promoting it as a 'living craft'. Here at the museum, our origins are deeply rooted in the past, but our vision is firmly set on the future.
Contact: E mountmellickmuseum@gmail.com T 057 8624525

Laois Heritage Trails Audioguides and App

Welcome to the heritage of Laois, a part of Ireland's Ancient East. With our new Laois Heritage app as your guide, you're ready for a real life journey through this mystical place.

These audio trails tell the story of Laois, from the early Christian monks who built monasteries at Aghaboe and Clonenagh, to the Norman knights who defended the Castle on the Rock of Dunamase and from the desperate people who found refuge in Donaghmore Workhouse to the modern-day gardeners who create havens for wildlife within their walls.

The app will help you to discover the Laois Heritage Trail, Laois Monastic Trail and Laois Garden Trail, with maps, audio, pictures and film. It's available in English, Irish, French, German, Spanish, Italian and Mandarin. The audio was created by Abarta Heritage and the app was created by Acoustiguide, with the support of Laois Tourism, and funding from Failte Ireland.

Download Now!

You can download this free app directly to your smartphone from the App store or the Google Play Store: just search for "Laois Heritage" in your chosen store.

Find out more at www.laois.ie/heritage
or www.irelandsancienteast.ie

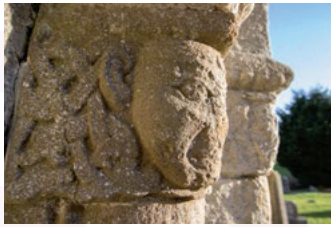
Audioguides to the Heritage of Laois

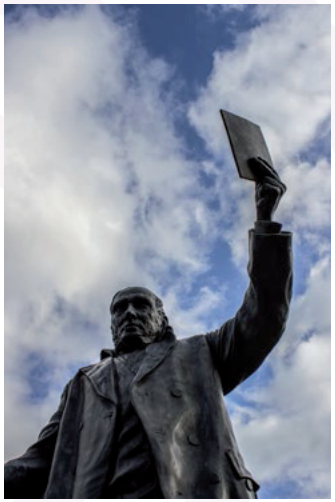
With the help of Laois Partership, a number of audioguides to various sites in Laois were commissioned from Abarta Heritage. These guides can be downloaded for free from the website of Abarta, and include guides to the Rock of Dunamase, the Laois Heritage Trail, the Laois Monastic Trail, Abbeyleix Heritage Town, and the stories of Portlaoise and Portarlington.

www.abartaheritage.ie/county-laois-audio-guides/

NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK

IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST® Wander Through Time





HANDS ON HISTORY - MAKING PREHISTORIC POTTERY

Date and Time: Wednesday 17th August, 10am

Organiser: Laois County Library Service

Venue: Mountrath Library, Shannon Street, Mountrath, R32 D576

Description: A special hands on workshop for ages 4 to 13 years. Booking required.

Contact: E mountrathlibrary@laoiscoco.ie T 057-8756378

HANDS ON HISTORY - MAKING PREHISTORIC POTTERY

Date and Time: Wednesday 17th August 2022, 12.15pm

Organiser: Laois County Library Service

Venue: Abbeyleix Library, Market House , Main Street, Abbeyleix, R32CY65

Description: A special hands on workshop for ages 4 to 13 years. Booking required.

Contact: E abbeyleixlibrary@laoiscoco.ie T 057-8730020

BIODIVERSITY GUIDED TOUR, EMO COURT

Date and Time: Wednesday 17th August, 2pm, Daily guided tours in period costume.

Organiser: OPW

Venue: Emo Court Gardens, Emo Court, Emo R32 DTP8

Description: Join our guides in period costume for a variety of daily tours highlighting external features and history of the house. On 17th August, join our gardener in period costume for a guided tour highlighting the biodiversity of the Emo Court estate.

Emo Court and parklands is open daily from 8:30 am - 9:00 pm. Tours are every day during National Heritage Week, at 10:30 am, 12:00 pm, 3:00 pm.

Contact: E emocourt@opw.ie

HANDS ON HISTORY - MAKING PREHISTORIC POTTERY

Date and Time: Wednesday 17th August 2022, 3pm - 4pm

Organiser: Laois County Library Service

Venue: Durrow Library, Chapel Street, Durrow, Co. Laois, R32 EP94

Description: A special hands on workshop for ages 4 to 13 years. Booking required.

Contact: E durrowlibrary@laoiscoco.ie T 057-8736090

BIRDS, BEES AND BIODIVERSITY IN LAOIS WITH ÉANNA NÍ LAMHNA

Date and Time: Wednesday 17th August 2022, 6pm

Organiser: Laois County Library Service

Venue: Portlaoise Library, Lyster Square , Portlaoise, R32X702

Description: Join biologist, environmentalist, author and broadcaster Éanna Ní Lamhna for a no-nonsense but humorous talk on the importance of local biodiversity and wildlife in Co. Laois. This is a free event, but places are limited, so booking is essential.

Contact: E portlaoiselibrary@laoiscoco.ie T 057-8622333

HISTORICAL NOTES

Date and Time: Wednesday 17th August 2022, 7pm-9pm

Organiser: Sandymount Heritage

Venue: Columbanus Room, Church Of The Most Holy Rosary, Abbeyleix R32 KN53

Description: March through time and discover how crucial the roles of musicians were in civilian and military life. Get your hands on a reproduction, historical, “Rope-Tensioned” Drum and learn some authentic period drum beats, while your Guide accompanies you on his Fife and eventually - His set of Píobmhór! Very hands on - Very interactive - Very Loud! Numbers are limited so early booking is highly advised.

Contact: E sandymount.heritage@gmail.com T 087-1737852

FAMINE COMMEMORATION

Date and Time: Wednesday 17th August 2022, 7.30pm

Organiser: Errill Tidy Towns

Venue: The Square, Errill

Description: Unveiling of commemorative plaque and seat at the village centre, to mark the 175th anniversary of the establishment of a soup kitchen in Errill at the height of the Great Famine.

Contact: E patrickcleary1507@gmail.com

BALLINTUBBERT GARDEN OPEN DAY

Date and Time: Thursday 18th August 2022, 10am – 3pm

Organiser: Ballintubbert Gardens and House

Venue: Ballintubbert R14 E954

Description: To celebrate becoming Ireland’s First Organic Certified Ornamental Garden, we are flinging the gates open on the 18th August for Heritage Week. Come and spend the day in this place of wellness and peace. Wander through the formal organic gardens, run wild in the long meadow, play hide and seek in the woodlands and perhaps play skittles in the Orchard. The good cups are out and we will be offering teas and coffees and sumptuous cakes from the pop up tea shop. Jenifer the head gardener will tell the story of the organic journey and how you can do the same at home. It does involve spraying but only with nettle and comfrey tea. Last visitors accepted at 3pm. Pre booking is essential www.ballintubbert.com/experiences

Contact: E events@ballintubbert.com T 087 3981191

LITERATURE AT 11

Date and Time: Thursday 18th August 2022, 11am

Organiser: Laois County Library Service

Venue: Portlaoise Library, Lyster Square, Portlaoise, R32 X702

Description: A Special Heritage week edition of this regular series will feature local authors and writers

Contact: E portlaoiselibrary@laoiscoco.ie T 057-8622333

National Heritage Week
A Heritage Council programme

WHAT'S ON IN LAOIS

Date and Time	Saturday 13th August	Sunday 14th August	Monday 15th August	Tuesday 16th August	Wednesday 17th August	Thursday 18th August	Friday 19th August	Saturday 20th August	Sunday 21st August
Morning	Stradbally Heritage Trains; River Erkina Talk, Durrow; Fáinne Geal an Lae, Abbeyleix Bog	Stradbally Heritage Trains; Guided walk, Abbeyleix Bog	Vintage Games Exhibition Abbeyleix	Guided Walks of Byrne Biodiversity Farm; Furniture Upcycling Demo Mountrath	Mountmellick Museum Open Day; Hands on History, Mountrath Library	Literature at 11 Portlaoise Library; Ballintubbert Garden Open Day	Guided walk at Abbeyleix Bog	Meadows for pollinators, Abbeyleix; PPN Tour Portlaois Plane; Gash Gardens Tours	Picnic and Heritage Music at the Heath; PPN Guided Tour, Rocks of Dunamase
Afternoon	Stradbally Heritage Trains	Stradbally Heritage Trains; Tenakill House Open Day; Gramophone Music at Emo Court; Portlaoise Guided Walk	Vintage Games Exhibition Abbeyleix	Guided Walks of Byrne Biodiversity Farm	Mountmellick Museum Open Day; Hands on History, Abbeyleix and Durrow Libraries; Biodiversity; Guided Tour, Emo Court	Ballintubbert Garden Open Day; Swift Talk, Mountmellick; Fruitlawn Gardens tours	Fruitlawn Gardens tours	Ballykilcavan Sustainability Tour; Fitz and the Famous Flag presentation	Wetlands of Laois, Capard; Donaghmore Workhouse Open Day;
Evening	Pens, Parchment, Pigments and Patience!; Abbeyleix, A Night Out With The Stars!	Flags workshop Sandymount Heritage Abbeyleix	Prep - Melt - Pour - Prise - Trim! Workshop Sandymount Heritage, Abbeyleix	The Story of the Abbeyleix Fountains; Code breaking workshop Abbeyleix; Doing Local History in Laois, Mountrath	Biodiversity talk, Éanna Ní Lamhna, Portlaoise Library; Historical Notes, Abbeyleix; Errill Famine Commemoration	Historian Talk, Mountrath; Ivo De Vesci Collection, Abbeyleix; Lucy Franks and Helen Roe Talk Portlaoise; Ronnie Mathews Collection Talk Portarlington; Writing Workshop, Abbeyleix; Bridges of the Nore, Castletown; Fadó Faces opening, Dunamaise Arts Centre	Bats about Rooks, Portlaoise Town Park	Toy Soldier Moulding, Abbeyleix; Astronomy Walk, Abbeyleix Bog	Code Breaking Workshop, Abbeyleix; Grand Canal Walk, Vicarstown
Festivals	Abbeyleix Arts and Heritage Festival					Twin Trees Heywood Arts and Culture Festival August 18th to 21st			
All Week	Laois Garden Trail members tours; Stradbally Hall House Tours (daily, mornings); Mountmellick Heritage Display (Mountmellick Library opening hours); Laois Cumann na mBan Exhibition (Mountmellick Library opening hours); Donaghmore Workhouse Open Days (Check opening times on website); Emo Court Guided Tours (Check opening times on website). Please check main entry for details of all opening times.								

For full details of all events see www.laois.ie/heritageweek

European Heritage Days
Journées européennes du patrimoine

50 countries • 30 million visitors • 70 000 events

Did you know that National Heritage Week Is part of a wider European Initiative?

The European Heritage Days (EHD), a joint action of the Council of Europe and the European Commission, are the most widely celebrated participatory cultural events shared by people living in Europe. 50 States, signatories of the European Cultural Convention, take part in European Heritage Days each year.

Thousands of events are organised to help raise awareness of Europe's common heritage and the continuous need for its protection, as well as to create shared cultural heritage experiences, promote inclusiveness and foster creativity and imagination.

Sustainable Heritage is the shared pan-European theme for the 2022 European Heritage Days. The theme invites event organisers to explore what steps can be taken to protect our rich and diverse European cultural heritage in the context of climate change and environmental degradation. There will be a focus on the active role of communities and heritage in the process of building a more sustainable and resilient future. It also offers an opportunity to begin a conversation about how we imagine that future will look. The 2022 European Heritage Days present many opportunities for event organisers and visitors to reflect on how we can identify and protect our tangible, intangible and natural heritage, promote sustainable tourism, consider our use of resources, and ask how these questions relate to heritage, art, and the preservation of landscapes, wildlife and biodiversity.

European Commission

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

europeanheritagedays.com

MOUNTMELLICK SWIFT PROJECT

Date and Time: Thursday 18th August 2022, 3pm

Organiser: Creative Ireland Laois

Venue: Mountmellick Library, O'Moore Street, Co Laois

Description: Launch of the Mountmellick Swift project with a talk on swifts from Ricky Whelan of BirdWatch Ireland and a presentation on the planned public mural from Creative Ireland Laois.

Contact: E alawlor@creativelaois.ie

THE IVO DE VESCI PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION

Date and Time: Thursday 18th August 2022, 6pm - 8pm

Organiser: Laois County Library Service

Venue: Abbeyleix Library, Market House , Main Street, Abbeyleix, R32CY65

Description: The Ivo De Vesci Collection documents the De Vesci family and landed estate in Laois from 1900-1957 and is a collection of local, social and national historical significance. Digitisation will have long term impacts by creating a preservation copy of a collection that is vulnerable and opening public access to a private collection. This two part event will feature presentations from Sinead Holland Local Studies Librarian on the digitising of the collection (supported by the Heritage Council), followed by a talk by Tom De Vesci on Lady Emma De Vesci, her work and legacy.

Contact: E abbeyleixlibrary@laoiscoco.ie T 057-8730020

CATTLE DRIVES, CRIME WAVES AND REPUBLICAN POLICE, LAOIS IN THE 1920S

Date and Time: Thursday 18th August 2022, 6.30pm

Organiser: Laois County Library Service

Venue: Mountrath Library, Shannon Street, Mountrath, R32 D576

Description: A local history talk by Terry Dunne, Laois Local Historian in Residence. Booking required.

Contact: E mountrathlibrary@laoiscoco.ie T 057-8756378

BRIDGES OF THE NORE –A LAOIS PERSPECTIVE

Date and Time: Thursday 18th August 7pm

Organiser: Nore Vision

Venue: Castletown Community Centre, Castletown R32 F624

Description: Talk on the Nore with Fred Hamond, industrial rchaeologist, who has carried out surveys of the mills and bridges of the county.

Contact: E mags.morrissey@cklp.ie

Laois Garden Trail

Laois Garden Trail is a group of 12 gardens in Laois that open to visitors. As gardeners we are all involved in increasing biodiversity and support for wildlife in our gardens. On the Guided Tours of our gardens during Heritage Week we will offer advice to visitors on how to improve the biodiversity of their gardens.

Free Tours, booking required

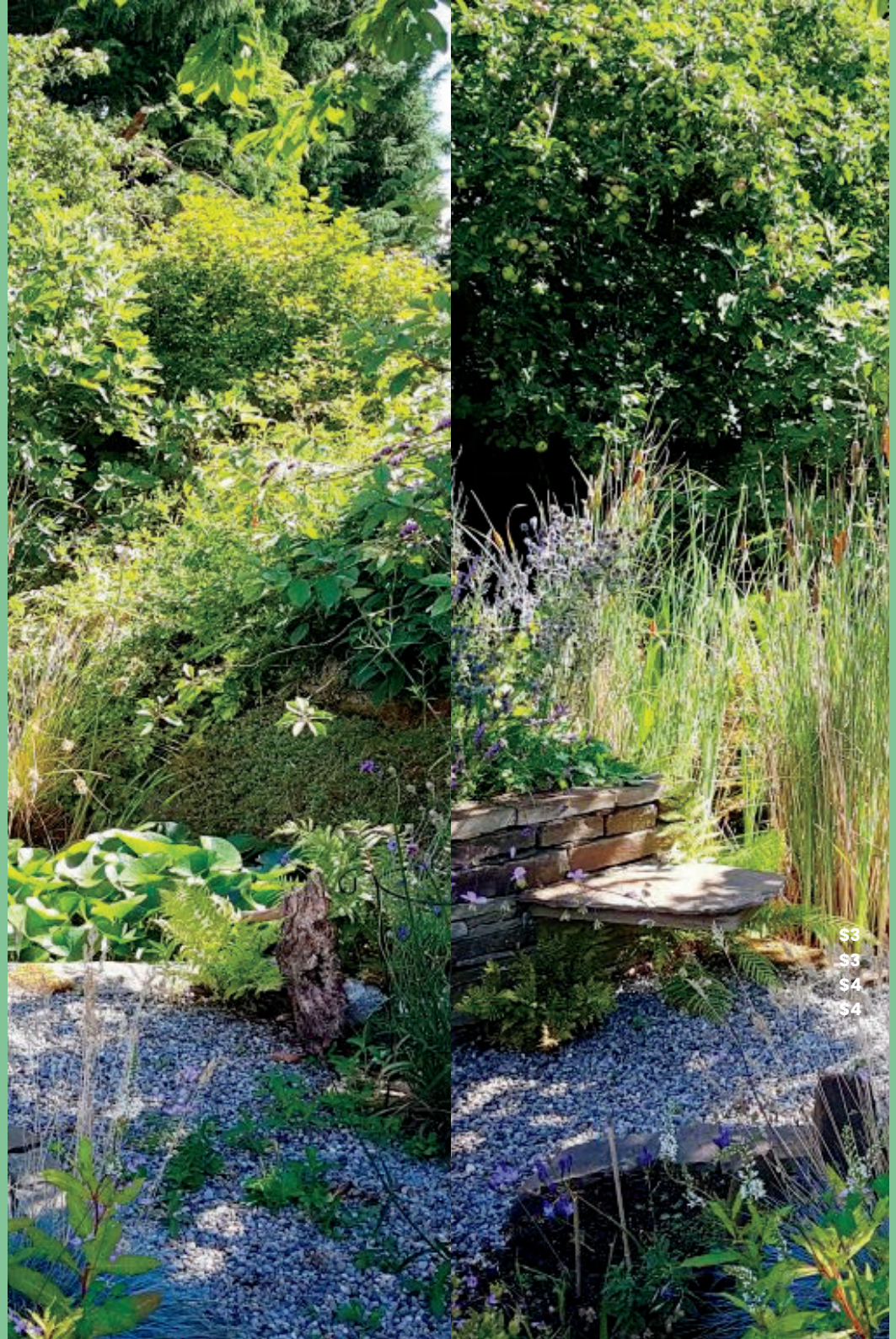
Places on these tours must be booked as space is limited.
Selous Lodge R32 PK19
Dunmore Country School R32 HC93
Clonohill Gardens R32 NF80
Charis Gardens R14 TC61
Gortnalee Gardens R32 C8 K0

Booking Link:
https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/laois-garden-trail-heritage-week-2022-730099

Free Tours, booking not required

Emo Court R32 C44V has tours every day at 10.30am, 12 noon and 3pm. The tour includes the walled garden.

Heywood Garden R32 K4V6 has tours on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 1pm.



Gash Gardens Castletown

Guided tours available
Saturday 20th August, 11am - 12pm and 2pm - 3pm

Gash Gardens is a large garden developed by a farmer with a love of all plants! The tour can accommodate a maximum of 25 people. the charge is €7 pp.

Book at gashgardens.ie

Fruitlawn Garden, Abbeyleix

Guided tours available
Thursday 18th August and Friday 19th August, 11am – 12pm and 2pm – 3pm

Tours can be booked by phone or email and can accommodate a maximum of 15 people. The admission fee is €10 pp.

Email arthurshackleton9@gmail.com, Telephone 057 – 873 0146.

Other Garden Trail Members

Ballintubbert Gardens and House open day 18th August-see event listing for details.

Castle Durrow Gardens Eircode R32 EA02 are open every day but no tours are available.

Sensory Gardens at Dove House Abbeyleix is not currently open to visitors due to Covid.

LUCY FRANKS AND HELEN ROE - PIONEERS OF SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE PROJECTS IN IRELAND

Date and Time: Thursday 18th August 2022, 7pm
Organiser: Laois County Library Service
Venue: Portlaoise Library, Lyster Square, Portlaoise, R32 X702
Description: Portlaoise Library, Lyster Square, Portlaoise, R32 X702
Description: A talk by local historian and former Laois Historian in residence Regina Dunne on the lives and achievements of two Laois ladies, Helen Roe of Mountrath and Lucy Franks of Castletown.
Contact: E portlaoiselibrary@laoiscoco.ie T 057-8622333

OPENING OF FADÓ FACES EXHIBITION

Date and Time: Thursday 18th August, 7pm
Organiser: Dunamaise Arts Centre
Venue: Dunamaise Arts Centre, Portlaoise
Description: An exhibition celebrating the lives and stories of older people in Laois through a series of traditional portrait paintings and digital art by a selection of local artists, supported by Creative Laois as part of the Creative Ireland Programme (2017-2022) in partnership with Laois County Council.
Contact: E info@dunamaise.ie T 057 - 8663355

RONNIE MATHEWS ARCHIVE COLLECTION

Date and Time: Thursday 18th August 2022, 7pm
Organiser: Laois County Library Service
Venue: Portarlington Library, Main Street, Portarlington, Co. Laois, R32 PY58
Description: The archive collection of Portarlington historian Ronnie Mathews was acquired by Laois County Council in 2021. Ronnie Mathews, a well-known historian and author of several books on Portarlington, had collected documents, maps and artefacts relating to the town over his whole life, and the collection also includes some items collected by his father. The material was carefully archived and catalogued by the Laois County Library Service, and arrangements made for any necessary conservation. Funding was made available through the Creative Ireland Programme (2017 - 2022). Orla Connaughton, Archivist will give a presentation on the project and overview of the collection
Contact: E portarlingtonlibrary@laoiscoco.ie T 057-8643751

BATS ABOUT ROOKS

Date and Time: Friday 19th August 2022, 8.30pm - 10pm
Organiser: Laois Heritage Office
Venue: People's Park, Car Park, New Road, Portlaoise.
Google Maps: 53.029504, -7.291302
Description: Join Irish Wildlife Trust Laois Offaly Branch, BirdWatch Ireland and Kildare Bat Group for a walk through the People's Park, Portlaoise. We will hear from Ricky Whelan about the Rookery just outside the park at the Downs, now known to be the largest roost in County Laois, and then walk through the park along the Triogue to hear about bats from Anna Collins of Kildare Bat Group. A free, family friendly event. As we will be out after dark along the river bank, children must be accompanied by adults. Wear suitable clothing and footwear, it may be wet underfoot.
Contact: E ccasey@laoiscoco.ie T 087-9470778

National Heritage Week
A Heritage Council programme

Wild Child day Saturday 20thAugust 2022

National Heritage Week 2022 celebrates the full return of in person events, with Wild Child Day encouraging children and young people all over Ireland to get involved and explore their heritage. This year National Heritage Week is looking at sustainable heritage and biodiversity.

The Heritage Council is encouraging children to look at the world around them differently, to open their eyes to the diverse beauty of the landscape in their area and to get out and explore their locality or even farther afield.

This Wild Child Day, why not visit somewhere you haven't been before or go somewhere you know well and look at it differently?

Above all get outdoors, involve your family and friends and have some fun.

Why not be a wild child in the woods, or go on a bug hunting event in a park, find these and other Wild Child Day events and digital projects at: www.heritageweek.ie

BALLYKILCAVAN TOUR - SUSTAINABILITY IN NATURE, HERITAGE AND BUSINESS

Date and Time: Saturday 20th August 2022, 2pm - 3.30pm

Organiser: David Walsh-Kemmis

Venue: Ballykilcavan Farm, Stradbally, Co. Laois R32 YoPK

Description: Tour of Ballykilcavan, the 13th generation Walsh family farm just outside Stradbally. Co. Laois, with a particular focus on the efforts being taken to preserve natural and built heritage, and also on sustainably creating and running the on-farm craft brewery. Ballykilcavan has just been named small sustainable business of the year in the national PwC / Sunday Business Post sustainability awards, and also won the sustainability award in this year's national Small Firms Association awards. On this fully guided tour, owner David Walsh-Kemmis will explain the sustainability measures being undertaken at the brewery, and highlight the restoration of the 18th century farmyards and the regenerative agriculture practices used on the farm, including efforts to promote biodiversity. The tour is fully outdoors and involves 800m of walking on flat ground.

Contact: E david@ballykilcavanbrewing.com T 086-3484128

FITZ AND THE FAMOUS FLAG

Date and Time: Saturday 20th August 2022, 3pm-4pm

Organiser: Col Fitzmaurice Commemoration Committee

Venue: Midlands Park Hotel, Jessop Street, Portlaoise,R32KV20

Description: Presentation to Laois County Council by Mr B. Ross MacMahon of a US Flag which was presented to Col James Fitzmaurice during the tour of the United States undertaken by the three aviators following their successful crossing of the Atlantic from Europe to America, in April 1928. This priceless artefact is a tangible link to the enormous celebrations all across the US following the flight, which opened up air traffic between Europe and the US. The presentation will be followed by a talk on Fitzmaurice and the US Tour by Teddy Fennelly, Chair of the Col Fitzmaurice Commemoration Committee.

The event will also feature the launch of the Col Fitzmaurice Digital Archive, featuring original archive material collected by Teddy Fennelly, conserved and digitised with the help of Heritage Council funding, and now made available online through the Laois Local Studies Digital Archive **www.laoislocalstudies.ie**

Please let us know of any specific accessibility needs and we will do our best to meet them.

Contact: E heritage@laoiscoco.ie T 087-9470778

PICNIC AND HERITAGE MUSIC AT THE HEATH

Date and Time: Sunday 21st August 2022, 11am - 5pm

Organiser: Heath House

Venue: Heath House, The Heath, Portlaoise R32 VH28

Description: A family event among the sunflowers with teddy bears picnic and traditional Ukrainian music. Donation entry, all proceeds to Laois Offaly Families for Autism and Ukrainian Charities. Weather dependant.

Contact: E roisinoconnellhussey@gmail.com

Booking: Online booking required for this event.

POWER OF MEADOWS FOR POLLINATORS

Date and Time: Saturday 20th August, 10.30am - 11.30am

Organiser: Abbeyleix Tidy Towns

Venue: Grounds of St Michael and All Angels, Church Of Ireland, Abbeyleix R32 AW62

Description: Description: Abbeyleix Tidy Towns will host an outdoor event for Heritage Week on the grounds of St Michael and All Angels to tell the story behind this project. Dr Fiona MacGowan, our resident botanist, will be on hand to set the scene and to identify some of the key species in the grassland swards. Our partners in the Laois Offaly Wildlife Trust will showcase their power scythe which will be used to cut the meadow in this beautiful location in the shadows of the church. We will also bring along one of our Austrian Scythes to give a flavour of how the hay would have been cut in the old days. Finally, as a nod to the Power of Words Poetry Festival that is happening in Abbeyleix that weekend, we will aim to recite a verse or two in celebration of biodiversity.

Contact: E info@abbeyleixtidytowns.net T 087 2181429

WETLANDS OF LAOIS

Date and Time: Sunday 21st August 2022, 3pm

Organiser: Wetland Surveys Ireland/ Laois Heritage Office

Venue: Ridge of Capard Car Park.

Description: Join the team from Wetland Surveys Ireland to hear about the Wetland survey of Laois to date, and visit one of the sites that is part of the survey. Supported by the Local Biodiversity Action Fund of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Contact: E patrick@wetlandsurveys.ie

HERITAGE WALK ON THE GRAND CANAL

Date and Time: Sunday 21st August 2022, 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Organiser: Sean Murray

Venue: Meet at Crean's Vicarstown

Description: Come along and identify some flowering plants along the canal edge and explore some of the built heritage of the canal which was operational in 1791.The walk is approximately 8km, loop to start at Crean's in Vicarstown

Contact: E laoisarchaeology@gmail.com T 086-2102397

TWIN TREES HEYWOOD FESTIVAL

Date and Time: Thursday 18th to Sunday 21st August 2022, Daily

Organiser: Twin Trees Festival Committee

Venue: Heywood Gardens, Ballinakill, R32 FE04

Description: The Twin Trees Heywood, Art & Culture Festival 2022, takes place in the beautiful setting of Ballinakill Village & Heywood Gardens, Co. Laois. The event as always is a celebration of the history and heritage of the former Charter village, and the exquisite Lutyens designed formal garden, at Heywood Demesne. The main event this year is our Three Day Tutored En Plein Air Painting, which is suitable for beginners and established artists alike with painting in Heywood Gardens, Heywood Demesne, and Ballinakill Village. Tickets can be purchased for all three days, or for any individual day. The tutors for our En Plein Air event, are renowned artists, Jock Nichols and Bridget Flannery. Other festival events will include a Guided Historical Walk, a Fishing Competition, and Yoga In Heywood Gardens, with Simon Rogers, of Blackhill Woods Retreat.

Contact: E andywalsh99@yahoo.com T 083 - 4554040

STRADBALLY HALL HOUSE TOURS

Date and Time: All Week, 9am- 1pm daily on the hour.

Organiser: Thomas Cosby

Venue: Stradbally Hall, Stradbally R32 YC5X

Description: Stradbally Hall is a historic house located on a 500-acre estate in Stradbally, Co. Laois. House tours are available throughout Heritage Week 2022: 9 am, 10 am, 11 am, 12 pm. No advance bookings are necessary. Please come to the main gate on Main Street, Stradbally, 15 minutes before the start of the tour.

Cost: adults - 10 euro, children - free.

Contact: E thomascosby1974@gmail.com T 086-8519272

MOUNTMELLICK HERITAGE DISPLAY

Date and Time: All Week, open during library opening hours

Organiser: Mountmellick Heritage Society

Venue: The Gallery, Mountmellick Library, O'Moore Street, Mountmellick R32 PX61

Description: Mountmellick Heritage Group will curate an exhibition for Heritage Week 2022 on the rich and long history of Mountmellick its town and environs and will include documents, photographs, memorabilia and other artefacts

Contact: E mountmellicklibrary@laoiscoco.ie T 057 8644572

I-SPY GARDEN TRAIL

Date and Time: All Week, open during library opening hours

Organiser: Laois County Library Service

Venue: Mountmellick Library Sensory Garden, O'Moore Street, Mountmellick R32 PX61

Description: Call into Mountmellick library Sensory garden and complete an "I-Spy garden nature trail". Return the completed garden trail to the desk and get a small prize!
Take the opportunity to enjoy the summer blooms and sensory features

Contact: E mountmellicklibrary@laoiscoco.ie T 057-8644572

LAOIS CUMANN NA MBAN EXHIBITION

Date and Time: All Week, open during library opening hours

Organiser: Laois County Library Service

Venue: Mountmellick Library, O'Moore Street, Mountmellick R32 PX61

Description: The exhibition was curated by Mountmellick native Bernadette Dunne with the support of Laois County Library as part of its Decade of Centenaries Programme. The stories of the Laois women that feature in the exhibition are compiled from official records housed in the Military Archives and the oral histories gathered by Bernadette. The Cumann na mBan exhibition and related events are part of a long-term and on-going engagement by Laois Local Studies in projects bringing back into the light women's experience of the revolutionary period. It is hoped that the exhibition will encourage the public to share and record for posterity more stories relating to the forgotten women of revolutionary Laois.

Contact: E mountmellicklibrary@laoiscoco.ie T 057-8644572

EMO COURT GUIDED TOURS

Date and Time: All Week, 10:30 am, 12:00 pm, 3:00 pm.

Organiser: OPW

Venue: Emo Court Gardens, Emo Court, Emo R32 DTP8

Description: Join our guides in period costume for a variety of daily tours highlighting external features and history of the house. Emo Court and parklands is open from 8:30 am - 9:00 pm. Tours are every day during National Heritage Week, at 10:30 am, 12:00 pm, 3:00 pm. ISL Guided Tour August 13th at 3.30pm.

Contact: E emocourt@opw.ie

Booking Required: E emocourt@opw.ie

PORTLAOISE PLANE

Date and Time: Saturday 20th August 11am

Organiser: Laois Public Participation Network

Venue: Portlaoise

Description: Description: Guided tour of the Portlaoise Plane which was the winner of the Community & Voluntary Awards 2021 for the Arts, Culture & Heritage Category. The Portlaoise Plane which was the first aeroplane built and flown in what is now the Republic of Ireland was constructed in Portlaoise. The Portlaoise Plane has a close connection with Ireland's most famous aviation pioneer. The event will commemorate the achievements of Colonel James Fitzmaurice on the first east west transatlantic flight.

According to his memoirs, Mr Fitzmaurice worked on the plane as a young boy and was present for the first flight. It was this that helped to inspire him in his career as an aviator.

Contact: T 0860352107, E PublicParticipationNetwork@laoiscoco.ie

ROCK OF DUNAMASE TOUR

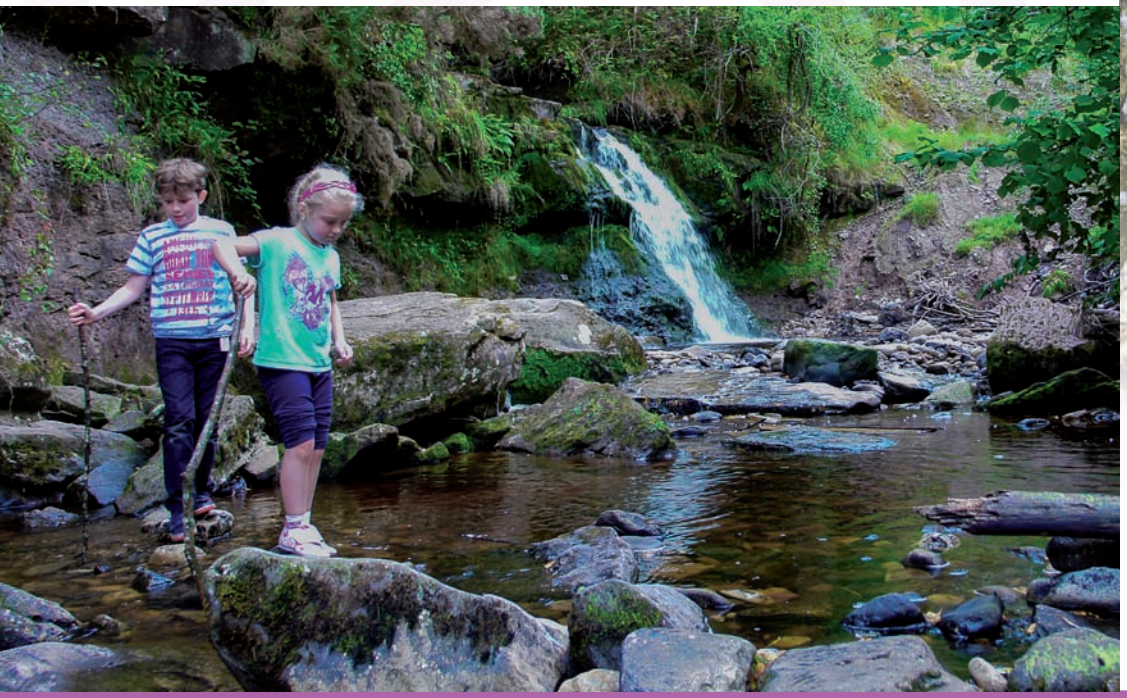
Date and Time: Sunday 21st August 11am

Organiser: Laois Public Participation Network

Venue: Rock of Dunamase

Description: Guided tour of the Rock of Dunamase for Laois PPN Members by Trudy Carmody of Experiencing Ireland Tours. Booking required.

Contact: T 0860352107, E PublicParticipationNetwork@laoiscoco.ie



LAOIS PASSPORT

Laois Passport has been published to encourage everyone to explore the wonderful heritage of Laois this summer. The passport details seven of the heritage sites of Laois, with a space for a passport stamp each time a site is visted.

Stamps are available at Timahoe Heritage Centre (and the Corner shop in Timahoe), Mountmellick Museum, Donaghmore Workhouse, Dunamaise Arts Centre and Portlaoise Tourist Ofice (for historic Portlaoise and the Rock of Dunamase), Abbeyleix Heritage House and Emo Court.The passport grew out "Unravelling Laois", a Portlaoise-based family learning project, which aimed to capture some of the hidden gems of the county. The Laois Passport can be picked up for free from any of the heritage sites featured, and the Portlaoise Tourist Office.

Unravelling Laois was funded by DEIS and Creative Ireland Laois, in collaboration with the Home School Community Liaison in Scoil Bhríde and the Adult Literacy Service in Laois Offaly ETB. The Laois Passport was produced in a collaboration between Laois Offaly Education and Training Board and Laois County Council with the support of the Heritage Council.

Laois County Council is committed to providing accessible events. If you have specific accessibility or other requirements, please contact us and we will try to ensure your needs are met. Every effort has been made to ensure that the details listed here are accurate. However Laois County Council does not have control over changes to events planned by other organisations and you are advised to check with the organisers before attending any events. Regular updates will be available on the Laois Heritage Facebook page and Twitter feed. Please note that children must be accompanied at all events unless otherwise indicated.

Please be aware that photography and video recording may be taking place at all events during Heritage Week for local and national media, and for future promotion of heritage events and projects. If you do not wish to be recorded, please alert the event organiser in each case before the event commences, in order that you (or your child) can be excluded.

Details of Laois County Council's data protection and privacy policies are here: **www.laois.ie/data-protection/**

Photos courtesy Laois Tourism

For more on Heritage in Laois contact:

Catherine Casey, Heritage Office, Laois County Council, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

057 866 4129 | ccasey@laoiscoco.ie | www.laois.ie/heritage

Heritage Officer Programme

Celebrating 20 Years in Local Authorities