58th Annual

BIRR VINTAGE WEEK &

ARTS FESTIVAL

31 JULY–8 AUGUST 2026

birrvintageweek.com

DAILY PLANNER

FRIDAY 31 JULY

TIME	EVENT	VENUE	PAGE NO.
All Day	Open Garden & Art Exhibition	St. Brendan's Rectory	32
Early	Birr GAA Golf Classic & Peter Pardy Memorial Cup 2026	Birr Golf Club	15
10.30am	Breakfast Art Talk with Carol O'Neill	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre	28
3.30pm	Vintage Week Crafty Friday	Birr Library	7
7.00pm	Yoga Workshop & Cacao Circle	Align Health Store	15
7.00pm	Dancing at the Cottages	Burke's Hill	7
7.30pm	Visual Arts Trail Launch	The Old Cinema	28
8.00pm	Luke Thomas & the Swing Cats	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre	27

SATURDAY 1 AUGUST

TIME	EVENT	VENUE	PAGE NO.
All Day	Vintage Cup	Birr Golf Club	15
11.00am	Food & Craft Market	Green Street	8
	Yoga with the Buddha Lounge		15
11.00am	Milk & Motherhood	Methodist Church	8
11.00am	Birr Rugby Club Family Fun Day	Birr Rugby Club	8
12,3,6pm	Distillation	John's Hall	24
2.00pm	Mick Egan Busking Competition	Main St/Green St	8
3-5pm	Insect Workshop	Tin Jug Studio	18
6.00pm	The Great Ruckin' Duck Race	Camcor River Path	8
8.00pm	Republic of Silence	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre	24

SUNDAY 2 AUGUST

TIME	EVENT	VENUE	PAGE NO.
All Day	Vintage Cup	Birr Golf Club	15
12.00pm	Festival Mass	St Brendan's RC Church	9
3.00pm	Vintage Sunday Parade	Main St/Green St	9

SUNDAY 2 AUGUST (CONTINUED)

TIME	EVENT	VENUE	PAGE NO.
4.00pm	The Big Birr Street Fest	Green Street	20
4.30pm	Now and Then Aerial Show	Green Street	20
4.30pm	Vintage Costume Competitions	Emmet Square	7

MONDAY 3 AUGUST

TIME	EVENT	VENUE	PAGE NO.
11.00am	Hibernian Antiques Fair	Marian Hall R42 FX03	10
11.00am	Slack Rope at the Heronry	Birr Castle	22
2.00pm	Birr Garden Trail	Emmet Square	10
2.00pm	The Yarn Garden	Oxmantown NS	18
2pm-6pm	Insect Workshop	Tin Jug Studio	18
2.30pm	Out of the Blue	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre	21
7.00pm	Laughter Workshop for Adults	The Old Cinema	18
8.30pm	Late Night Art Walk	The Old Cinema	28

TUESDAY 4 AUGUST

TIME	EVENT	VENUE	PAGE NO.
10am, 11.15am 12.30pm	Early Years Workshop	Oxmantown NS	18
10.00am	Birr GAA Vintage Summer Camp	Birr GAA	11
11.00am	Hibernian Antiques Fair	Marian Hall R42 FX03	10
12.00pm	The Rambling House Project	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre	19
2.30-3.30pm 4.30-5.30pm	Fanzini Spailp	Market Square	21
2.30pm	A Town Reads Mitchell	Old Post Office	
2.00pm	The Yarn Garden	Oxmantown NS	18
2.30pm	Safe & Seen	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre	19
3.30pm	Children's Pavement Art	St. Brendan's Boys School	11
7.00pm	Connaught Street Capers	Connaught Street	11
8.00pm	Drag Queen Bingo	The Chestnut	22

WEDNESDAY 5 AUGUST

TIME	EVENT	VENUE	PAGE NO.
10.00am	Birr GAA Vintage Summer Camp	Birr GAA	11
10.00am	Yoga	The Space Above	15
11.00am	Teddy Bears' Picnic	Birr Library	12
11.00am	Connect Café	Memory Lane	12
11.00am	Slack Rope Workshop	Mill Island Park	22
11.00am	Sensory Treasure Hunt	Scout Hall	12
1.30pm	Vintage Week Swim Gala	Birr Leisure Centre	15
2pm	Offaly's Longest Vintage Afternoon Tea Table	County Arms Hotel	12
2pm-6pm	Insect Workshop	Tin Jug Studio	18
2.00pm	The Yarn Garden	Oxmantown NS	18
2.30pm 7.00pm	Bed Among the Lentils	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre	23
3.00pm	Children's Treasure Hunt	Scout Hall	12
6.00pm	Tabletop Museum	Birr Library	12
7.00pm	Book Launch	Dooly's Hotel	12
8.00pm	The Best of Broadway	The Chestnut	25
8.30pm	Late Night Art Walk	The Old Cinema	28

THURSDAY 6 AUGUST

TIME	EVENT	VENUE	PAGE NO.
10.00am	Birr GAA Vintage Summer Camp	Birr GAA	11
11.00am	Children's Printmaking Workshop	The Old Cinema	18
12.00pm	Castle Brunch	Kinnitty Castle Hotel	13
2.00pm	Ceardlann Spraíúil do Dhaoine Óga	Gaelscoil na Laochra	13
2.30pm	C'mere 'til I Tell You a Good One	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre	25
2.30pm	*Belinda* A Costumed Reading	Birr Library	19
3.00pm	Patrick Rafter & Dida Condria	Birr Castle	26
7.00pm	The Song Cycle	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre	23
7.30pm	Fireworks Night & Gig Rig	Birr Rugby Club	13

FRIDAY 7 AUGUST

TIME	EVENT	VENUE	PAGE NO.
10.00am	Dwell in Love	Adomnan Lodge	14
10.00am 7.00pm	Yoga with the Buddha Lounge	For details see buddha_lounge.ie	15
11.00am	Social Walk	Birr Castle	14
11.00am	Be a Passing Artist	Tin Jug Studio	18
12.00pm	Vintage Sale & Wellbeing Vibes	Adomnan Lodge	14
1.05pm	Lunchtime Concert	St. Brendan's COI	26
2.00pm	Vintage Week Awards Ceremony	Birr Library	14
2.00pm	Slack Rope	Emmet Square	22
3.30pm	Vintage Week Crafty Friday	Birr Library	14
7.00pm	Vintage Tennis Tournament	Wilmer Tennis Club	15
7.00pm	Lughnasa Sacred Circle	Align Health Store	15
8.00pm	The Muddy River Band	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre	27

SATURDAY 8 AUGUST

TIME	EVENT	VENUE	PAGE NO.
9.00am	Immersive Chakra Dance Flow & Sound Bath	Adomnan Lodge	14
10.00am	Birr Festival of Hurling	Birr GAA	15
10.30am	Leinster Regiment AGM & Talk	Birr Civic Offices	14
1pm	Wreath Laying	Crinkle	14
12.00pm	Vintage Sale & Wellbeing Vibes	Adomnan Lodge	14

ALL WEEK

EVENT	VENUE	PAGE NO.
Leinster Regiment Exhibition	Birr Library	7
Open Garden & Art Exhibition	St. Brendans Rectory	32
Tom's Motorworks Open Days	Emmet Street	7
Open House	Emmet Street	7
Visual Arts Trail		28

Venues

1. The Old Cinema
2. Tin Jug Studio
3. The Space Above
4. Birr Castle Demesne
5. Masonic Hall
6. Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
7. Oxmantown NS
8. St. Brendan's Hall
9. John's Hall
10. Marian Hall/Scout Hall
11. Memory Lane
12. Align Health Store
13. Methodist Church Hall
14. Tom's Motorworks

Pubs

1. The Chestnut
2. County Arms Hotel
3. Craughwell's Bar
4. Coach House Bar, Dooly's Hotel
5. The Fighting Cocks
6. Haverty's Pub
7. Kelly's
8. Market House Tavern
9. Molloy's
10. Nolan's Pub
11. The Palace Bar
12. Pilkington's
13. The Thatch
14. Whelahan's

Parade Route - The Festival Committee would appreciate it if the parade route as outlined on the map could be left free of cars from 10am - 6pm and the Marian Hall Car Park left free for parade participants only from 12-4pm on Sun 2nd August.

Parking Restrictions - To provide space and to enhance your enjoyment of some festival events, parking restrictions will be in place throughout the week. Please obey the temporary notices. Thank you.

Traffic Diversions- with special thanks to Birr Gardaí In the interest of safety and enjoyment of the festival, local traffic diversions will be in operation during the festival week. Disruption will be kept to a minimum and cooperation is appreciated..

NO HAWKERS - We urge the public to only purchase goods from official Festival sellers.
Whilst every effort is made to ensure the information contained herein is correct, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omissions.
Children must be accompanied by an adult at all Festival events. Thank you.

VINTAGE COMPETITIONS

Bikes & Barrows

Vintage Sunday 2nd August 3pm, Main Street
Go simple or completely spectacular, the more creative, the better!
Everyone is welcome to take part, including families, clubs, businesses, schools and groups of friends. Plus, there are cash prizes to be won!
Register **HERE**

WE INVITE ALL ENTRANTS TO THE COSTUME COMPETITIONS TO WALK IN THE PARADE, ASSEMBLE AT MARIAN HALL 2.45pm

Children's & Babies Vintage Costume Competition

Vintage Sunday 2 August 4.30/ Emmet Square

Ann's Best Dressed

Sunday 2 August Emmet Square 5pm
In memory of Ann O'Meara. Perpetual Shield for Best Dressed Lady and Best Dressed Gentleman

Shop Window Display

Dress your window in Vintage Style and be in with a chance of winning the Perpetual Shield kindly donated by R J Barber & Sons

Pub Competitions

Singing and Swinging pubs, Bullseye, charades,
see birrvintageweek.com/ pubs

FUNDERS

PARTNERS

WELCOME to the 58TH Birr Vintage Week & Arts Festival!

It's another fantastic team effort to bring the 58th festival to life, with beloved favourites returning alongside some exciting new surprises.

Super Saturday is packed with events from morning to night! From the Market, buskers, exhibitions and theatre performances to the ever-popular Duck Race it's one of the highlights of the week.

Vintage Sunday introduces a new addition to the Parade of Bikes and Barrows, and we're encouraging everyone to get involved - with a cash prize adding extra incentive to take part! After the parade, stay awhile and enjoy a fantastic line-up of performers and entertainment as part of the Big Birr Street Fest.

Firework Night returns to Birr Rugby Club this year, with extra games and entertainment to keep the whole family busy before the night sky bursts into colour.

A huge thank you to our valued public funders, local businesses, and the wonderful people of Birr. Your continued support keeps the spirit and magic of the Festival alive year after year.

If you'd like to help keep the celebrations going, please support the businesses that support us, donate at our many free events, or sign up to volunteer through our website, we'd love to welcome you to the team.

Here's to celebrating old traditions, creating new memories, and enjoying one unforgettable week together.

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Board of Directors: Janine Wilson, Emma Nee Haslam, Cyril Stanley, Cailin Keaveny
Community Chair Amy Harvey
Arts Coordinator Caroline Conway
Secretary Garrett Kelly
Pub Liaison Eoin Kelly
Volunteer Coordinator Rachel Alexander
Health & Safety Officer Fintan O'Dwyer
Production Manager Amelia Lown
PR & Marketing Dara Lenihan, Malcolm Mc Donagh
Committee: Derek Harvey, Fergus Kelly, Molly Kavanagh, Callum Doonan, Madeline Corboy, Gabijela Casic, Bill Schleicher, Reuben Noyce
Vintage Interns Erin Cordial,Saoirse Jane Egan, Cameron O'Sullivan , Jack Marshall , Carmina Viegas

CONTENTS

Day by Day Events
Wellbeing and Sport
Pub Entertainment
Arts
Workshops
Community Arts Events
Spectacle and Family Events
Theatre & Film
Music
Visual Arts
Sponsors

ALL WEEK

VISUAL ARTS TRAIL
See pages 29- 32

LEINSTER REGIMENT EXHIBITION
Birr Library
Library opening times
Step into local history with our annual exhibition dedicated to the Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians). Running throughout August to coincide with Vintage Week and National Heritage Week, this display explores the regiment's connection to nearby Crinkill Barracks from 1881 to 1922. Visitors can discover a fascinating collection of artefacts and memorabilia, bringing the past to life.

OPEN HOUSE
Number 1 Cumberland Terrace on Emmet Street / 11am- 6pm
Beautiful Georgian House with Sun House and the only remaining Georgian Wash House in Ireland

OPEN GARDEN & ART EXHIBITION
Keeping A Clear Mind
St Brendan's Rectory, Ballindarra, Birr R42PY68
Friday ,Saturday 10.30-5.30. Weekdays from 2pm-4pm
MORE

TOM'S MOTORWORKS OPEN DAYS
Tom's Motorworks, Emmet Street,6th-8th August
Step inside Tom's Motorworks for a fascinating celebration of vintage and classic vehicles. Discover the skill, creativity and dedication involved in preserving automotive heritage through live restoration projects, engineering demonstrations, engine displays and opportunities to meet the mechanics behind the work. With food, refreshments, family entertainment and relaxed outdoor seating, it's the perfect place for enthusiasts and curious visitors alike to gather, explore and share stories.

FRIDAY 31 JULY

Birr GAA Golf Classic & Peter Pardy Memorial Cup 2025
Birr Golf Club | Early
MORE

Breakfast Art Talk with Carol O'Neill:
Witches in Art
Birr Theatre & Arts Centre 10.30am
MORE

Yoga Workshop & Cacao Circle
MORE

Vintage Week Crafty Friday
Birr Library. Age 6+
Friday 31 July | 3.30pm – 4.30pm (Booking essential)
Get hands-on and creative as we make our very own vintage cameras! Inspired by Mary, Countess of Rosse—who established a pioneering darkroom in Birr Castle—children will design and build their own camera to take home. (057) 912 4950

Dancing at the Cottages
Burke's Hill | 7pm
Hosted by Birr Tidy Towns.
Traditional music and dancing, plus other family-friendly fun events. BBQ and refreshments available.

Visual Arts Launch
The Old Cinema 7.30pm
MORE

Luke Thomas and the Swing Cats
Birr Theatre & Arts Centre 8pm
MORE

FOOD & CRAFT MARKET

Green Street /11am-5pm
Ramble through stalls featuring sumptuous food, different creations by local artists, see some of the country's finest traditional craftspeople doing live demonstrations. With walk about entertainers, children's traditional games, face painters and the much loved Town Crier to keep you up to date Special thanks to Pro Spray Foam Insulations for sponsoring the stage and Mrs Gleeson (Green Street)

MICK EGAN'S BUSKING COMPETITION

Green Street / Main Street | 2 - 4pm
From emerging talent to seasoned street performers, the Busking Competition celebrates live performance on the streets of Birr.
Register at Green Street stage
Buskers on Green Street Stage 4pm

VINTAGE CUP

Birr Golf Club | All Day
MORE

BIRR RUGBY CLUB FAMILY FUN DAY

Birr Rugby Club will be hosting its wonderful Family Day again in 2026. The day will feature a whole host of family friendly events including
:Children's Tag Rugby 11am
Adults' Tag Rugby Tournament 12.30 - 3.30pm Children's games(FREE) 1 - 5.30pm
BBQ and refreshments available all day! For any inquiries about the day or to enter a team in the Adult's Tag Tournament, please contact: info@birrrugby.ie

THE GREAT RUCKIN DUCK RACE

6pm Camcor River Path
Upto 1500 dcks will compete in this thrilling race on the Camcor River to crown the greatesr ruckin duck around. Tickets are just €5 per duck with fantastic prizes including International Rugby tickets and €500 cash. Sponsored by Yates Steel.

DISTILLATION

John's Hall 12pm, 3pm, 6pm
Multi sensory performance
MORE

MILK & MOTHERHOOD

Methodist Church, Emmet Street 11-5
Photography exhibition by Alex Lazorento in conjunction with Cuidiu Offaly.
MORE

INSECTS

Tin Jug Studio 3pm-5pm
MORE

YOGA with the Buddha Lounge

See page 15
Buddhalounge.ie for details

REPUBLIC OF SILENCE

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre 8pm
MORE

VINTAGE CUP

Birr Golf Club | All Day

MORE

FESTIVAL MASS

St Brendan's RC Church | 12pm

A special blessing to celebrate the community's activities during the Festival, with choirs of the Parish. All welcome.

VINTAGE SUNDAY PARADE 3pm

Join us for one of Birr Vintage Week's most beloved traditions! The spectacular Vintage Parade brings the town to life with a dazzling display of vintage cars, marching bands, colourful floats and plenty of festival flair. This year, look out for an exciting collection of incredible bicycles and community barrows, and better yet, get involved yourself. Whether you're taking part or cheering from the sidelines, it's a celebration of community and vintage spirit not to be missed.

WE INVITE ALL ENTRANTS TO THE COSTUME COMPETITIONS TO WALK IN THE PARADE, ASSEMBLE AT MARIAN HALL 2.45pm

REGISTER

STRICTLY NO HAWKERS.

AnACCESIBLE AREA and accessible parking will be available again this year.

BOOK PLACE

STRICTLY NO HAWKERS.

AFTER PARADE ENTERTAINMENT

Emmet Square, O'Connell Street, Green Street

The Big Birr Street Fest

Music, walk-about performers. Be entertained by Hoopxie, the Irish Dandy, Cantonela the acrobatic clown and fairy performers

Now and Then Aerial Show

MORE

VINTAGE COSTUME COMPETITIONS

After the Parade Emmet Square /

Children, Vintage Babies, Ann's Best Dressed Ladies and Gentlemen

MORE

Vintage Cars displayed on Green Street

Fáilte Ireland

MONDAY 3 AUGUST

Hibernian Antiques Fair
Marian Hall | 11am - 6pm Admission: Adults €3.50 (including raffle) Children are most welcome, FREE of charge.

Slack Rope at the Heronry
Birr Castle 11am
More

Birr Garden Trail
Starting from Emmet Square | 2pm
The Birr Garden Trail returns with a new route and new gardens - big and small, wild and neat, edible and scented - all across town and beyond! Starting by bus from the square at 2pm, please don't be late. FREE but booking is essential.
BOOK

The Yarn Garden
Oxmantown NS 2pm,
MORE

INSECTS
Tin Jug Studio 3pm-5pm
MORE

Out of the Blue
Birr Theatre & Arts Centre 2.30pm
MORE

Laughter workshop for Adults
The Old Cinema
MORE

Vintage Week Car Treasure Hunt
Dooly's Hotel from 5.15pm, €15

Late Night Art Walk
Starting at the Old Cinema 8pm
MORE

Early Years Workshop

The King of Many Cloaks & Crowns
Joanna Parkes
Oxmantown NS 10am, 11.15am, 12.30am
Age 3-5 €5/child + booking fee
MORE

Birr GAA Vintage Week Summer Camp

Grant Heating St. Brendan's Park | 10am -1pm
Junior infants. For booking information please visit Birr GAA social media.

Seen & Safe

Birr Theatre 7 Arts Centre 2.30pm
MORE

The Yarn Garden

Oxmantown NS 2pm
MORE

The Rambling House Project

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre 11.30
MORE

Hibernian Antiques Fair

Marian Hall | 11am - 6pm See Monday

A Town Reads Mitchell

- a free poetry trail tour. For the 100th commemoration of poet, mystic, satirical songwriter Susan Langstaff Mitchell, the event will begin at 2.30pm in Emmet Square, outside the post office. The walk will follow a route and readings of 6 poems. It will finish at St. Brendan's Church of Ireland with music and song. (Kindly funded by Creative Ireland)

Fanzini Spailp 2.30-3.30pm / 4.30-5.30pm

Market Square
MORE

Children's Pavement Art

St Brendan's Boys School, Moorepark Street | 3.30 pm
A beloved festival tradition for kids! Children must be with an adult. Bring your own chalk and enter via High Street. Some may be placed in the hall due to school works..

Connaught Street Capers

Connaught Street 7pm
The ever-popular Tug o' War, where local sports clubs go head-to-head in a test of strength, teamwork and determination. Expect plenty of friendly rivalry, great entertainment and lots of laughs as teams battle it out for bragging rights. A fun-filled evening for participants and spectators of all ages

Drag Queen Bingo

The Chestnut 8pm
€20 +booking fee
MORE

WEDNESDAY 5 AUGUST

Birr GAA Vintage Week Summer Camp

Grant Heating St. Brendan's Park | 10am - 1pm Junior infants. For booking information please visit Birr GAA social media.

Yoga

The Space Above | 10 -11.30am
MORE

Sensory Treasure Hunt

Scout Hut beside Marian Hall/ 11am
Suitable for under 5's and children with additional needs. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Slack Rope Workshop

Meet at Old Cinema 11am
More

Connect Café

The Courtyard of Memory Lane 11am
Connect Cafés are welcoming community gatherings that bring people together to connect, start conversations, and strengthen our connections with ourselves, each other, and our communities. Take a moment for you and join staff of Offaly Local Development Company and Mental Health Ireland for a cuppa and a chat in a relaxed and friendly space. Whether you'd like to meet new people, share a conversation, or simply enjoy some company, everyone is welcome. Come along, connect, and take a gentle step towards wellbeing. Free event. All welcome. For more information, contact Louise on 087 692 5276.

Teddy Bears Picnic

Birr Library | 11am
Bring your favourite cuddly companion along for a magical morning of stories, songs and rhymes. A warm and welcoming session for children—and their very special "plus-ones"! . (057) 912 4950
.This event is suitable for children aged 3-7. This is a FREE event.

The Yarn Garden

Oxmantown NS 2PM
MORE

Vintage Week Swim Gala

Birr Leisure Centre / 1.30-3.30pm
MORE

Offaly's Longest Vintage Afternoon Tea Table

COUNTY ARMS HOTEL
Timeless tea, charming company & elegant heritage, all down the iconic County Arms driveway in aid of Offaly Hospice on Wednesday, 5th August 2026

- Vintage Afternoon Tea
- Bottomless Prosecco & Mimosas

For only €49 per person
Let's raise a glass to community, elegance & summer joy!
Visit Hotel Reception or call 057 912 0791 to book.

Bed Among the Lentils - Rose Henderson

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre 2.30/7pm
MORE

INSECTS

Tin Jug Studio 2pm-6pm
MORE

Children's Treasure Hunt

Scout Hut beside Marian Hall/3pm
A festival favourite! Gather your team and uncover the hidden secrets of Birr in this fun-filled challenge. All participants must be accompanied by an adult. Hi-viz jackets recommended. Prizes awarded based on timing and correct answers!

Tabletop Museum

Birr Library | 6-7.30pm
Explore the charm of mini-museums, where small collections tell big stories. From vintage biscuit tins and treasured keepsakes to travel souvenirs and old photographs, these unique displays celebrate personal history and creativity.
Interested in taking part? Contact Birr Library to get involved. 057 912 4950

Book Launch

Dooly's Hotel / 7pm
Birr Historical Society cordially invite you to the official launch of the 200th Anniversary reprint of Thomas Lalor Cooke's book 'A Picture of Parsonstown' . This book will be officially launched by noted local historian Margaret Hogan. All welcome.

The Best of Broadway

The Chestnut Pub | 8pm
A cabaret-style showcase of some of Broadway's most beloved songs, sung by Lauran Murphy and some of the Midlands' most talented performers!

Late Night Art Walk

Starting at the Old Cinema 8.30pm
MORE

Birr GAA Vintage Week Summer Camp

Grant Heating St. Brendan's Park | 10am - 1pm Junior infants. For booking information please visit Birr GAA social media.

Children's Printmaking Workshop

Old Cinema 11am

MORE

Ceardlann Spraíúil do Dhaoine Óga

Gaelscoil na Laochra 2pm

Age Group 6 - 12 Ceardlann do dhaoine óga sa scoil nua álainn i mBiorra!

Castle Brunch

Kinnitty Castle Hotel | 12-3pm

Join us for Castle Brunch, a signature experience at Kinnitty Castle as part of Birr Vintage Week.

Guests are invited to experience a beautifully curated brunch set against centuries-old stone walls and vintage grandeur. Expect all your favourite brunch classics, reimagined with a modern touch, served in an atmosphere of candlelight, elegance, and old-world charm. €40 per person.

A booking guarantee will be required. Kinnitty Castle.com

+353 (0)57 9137318

Mick Creagh - fireside storyteling event

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre 2.30pm

MORE

Belinda, A Costumed Reading

Birr Library 2.30pm

MORE

Patrick Rafter violin Dida Condria piano

Birr Castle Historic Music Salon | 3pm |

MORE

The Song Cycle

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre 7pm

Film Screening

MORE

Fireworks Night & Gig Rig

Birr Rugby Club | 7.30pm

Join us for a fun-filled evening the whole family will love!

The Kids' Zone opens at 7.30pm with games and entertainment for all ages . Keep an eye out for the giant heron puppet, Long Legged Sheila, roaming throughout the evening and you can't miss the incredible SK Parkour Demonstration

At 8.30pm, Rock of Ages will take to the stage with a high-energy performance guaranteed to get you moving. Enjoy delicious BBQ and refreshments throughout the night before the spectacular Celtic Flame Fire Show lights up the skies as darkness falls Then, round off the evening with a breathtaking Fireworks Finale at 10.10pm.

Free admission, with a bucket collection by Birr Lions Club (€5 recommended donation).

Please note: The Baby Vintage Costume Competition has moved to Emmet Square following the Parade. The Mongrel Dog Competition has been discontinued due to an insurance exclusion.

Kindly sponsored by Grants Engineering.

FRIDAY 7 AUGUST

Dwell In Love
10am-11.30am Adomnan Lodge,
Yoga, qigong, meditation and temple massage with essential oils
With Deborah Doherty & Nella May Parsons
€15

Social Walk
Birr Castle Demesne 11am
Join some of the Offaly Local Development Team for a social walk around the stunning grounds of Birr Castle Demesne. Fresh air, friendly faces and good company, all followed by a cup of tea. What more could you ask for?! All welcome. Booking essential, by contacting Declan on 087 699 1226, or Stephanie on 086 833 6873.

YOGA with the Buddha lounge
MORE Buddhalounge.ie

Vintage Week Awards Ceremony
Grant Heating St. Brendan's Park | 10am - 1pm Junior infants. For booking information please visit Birr GAA social media.

Slack Rope
Emmet Square 11am
MORE

Be a Passing Artist
Tin Jug Studio 11am-1pm
MORE

VINTAGE SALE & WELL-BEING VIBES
Adomnan Lodge,Rosse Row 12pm-5pm
See Saturday

Lunchtime Concert
CHARLES MARSHAL & FRIENDS
St Brendan's Church of Ireland/ Friday 7th 1.05pm
MORE

Vintage Week Crafty Friday
(AGES 6+)
Birr Library / 3.30pm – 4.30pm (Booking essential) (057) 912 4950
Step back in time and create your own vintage paper dolls! Design and dress your characters in elegant fashions inspired by the drawing rooms of Birr Castle and its surroundings.

Vintage Tennis Wooden Racket Tournament
Wilmer Tennis Club
MORE

Lughnasa Sacred Circle
with Hazel Dervan
Align Health Store, Main Street 7-9pm
MORE

The Muddy River Band
Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 8pm |
MORE

SATURDAY 8 AUGUST

Birr Festival of Hurling
St Brendan's GAA | 10am See Page 15 for details

Immersive Chakra Dance Flow & Sound Bath
With Deborah Doherty & Marie, Emerald Soundhz
9am-11:30am - €30
50% discount on Bia LaTina's food for all well-being participants.
To book well-being sessions, call Debs: 0851047030

VINTAGE SALE & WELL-BEING VIBES
Adomnan Lodge, Rosse, Row, Birr 12pm-5pm
Join us for two special days during Birr Vintage Week at the beautiful Adomnan Lodge. Browse a small collection of vintage glassware, crockery, paintings, toys, books, Indian blankets, bags, bowls and baskets - all in the most charming surroundings. Each morning begins with a nourishing well-being session in the beautiful Georgian lodge house before Bia LaTina arrives with her famous Colombian empanadas and patacones.

Leinster Regiment
10.30am Leinster Regiment AGM
11.30am Lecture, Birr Railway Station by local historian Jimmy Short
1pm Wreath laying service at the monument in Crinkle.

SPORT

Birr GAA Golf Classic & Peter Pardy Memorial Cup 2026

Fri 31 July | Birr Golf Club | Early

You can reserve your slot by contacting Francie Horan at Birr Golf Club or on 087 2857282. Book early.

Vintage Cup

Fri 31 July & Sat 1 Aug | All day | Birr Golf Club

Sponsored by Millennium Promotions. 18-Hole Open Stableford Competition. Open to Ladies and Gents. Category prizes with Vintage attire encouraged. €10 for members, €25 for visitors.
To book: info@birrgolfclub.ie or call 057 91 20082

Birr GAA Vintage Week Summer Camp 2026

Tues 4, Wed 5, Thurs 6 August. Grant Heating St. Brendan's Park | 10am-1pm

Junior infants. For booking information please visit Birr GAA social media.

Vintage Week Swim Gala

Wed 5 Aug | Birr Leisure Centre | 1.30-3.30pm

Join us for our annual Vintage Week Swim Gala, a fun-filled event where young swimmers showcase their skills and enjoy a fantastic day in the water!
FREE Swim Join us for a 1 hour FREE swim to all customers. Take a break from all the excitement that is going on during the week-long festival, held after our Swim Gala.

Vintage Tennis Wooden Racket Tournament

Fri 7 Aug | Wilmer Tennis Club | 7pm

Novelty Mixed Doubles & Wooden Racket Tournament (Wooden rackets provided).
Prizes for Best Dressed on the night. €20 per pair. Vintage dress & traditional whites encouraged!

Festival of Hurling Tom Ryan, Billy Nevin & Adrian Cahill Memorial Cups

Sat 8 Aug | Grant Heating St. Brendan's Park | 10am-1pm

A Day of Hurling Action! Featuring future stars from Birr and talented teams from neighbouring counties Galway and Tipperary. Come out and support the next generation of hurling talent while honouring three great local legends. Plenty of excitement, skill and community spirit guaranteed!

WELLBEING

Vintage Week Yoga Workshop & Cacao Circle with Deborah Doherty & Seberina D'Arcy

Fri 31 Jul | Align Health Store, Main St | 7-9pm

Unwind with a gentle yoga practice followed by a ceremonial cacao circle, guided reflection and connection. Suitable for all levels. Bring a yoga mat and water. €30.
Booking: Seberina 087 912 3478.

Buddha Lounge Wellbeing Events

Wellness Day Sat 1 Aug

20 min Mini Thai Massage & Chair Massage. Booking essential. Complementary Wellness Talks & Mini Workshops on movement, breathwork mindful wellbeing. A relaxing day for all the family.

Good Morning Yoga Flow
Tue 4 Aug | 10-11am

A flowing yoga class combining breath, movement and mindfulness.

Chair Yoga & Mindfulness
Fri 7 Aug | 10-11am

Yin Yoga & Breathwork Workshop
Fri 7 Aug | 7-9pm

Location: TBC. See @buddha_lounge.ie
Booking: 087 137 8492 | buddhalounge.ie

Yoganess Ireland

Booking: yoganessireland.ie

Chair Yoga Wed 5 Aug
The Space Above | 10am | €10

A gentle chair yoga class suitable for adults of all ages.
Please note: the class takes place upstairs and participants must be able to navigate stairs.

Yoga Flow Wed 5 Aug
The Space Above | 11.30am | €10

A gentle Hatha Flow Yoga class. No experience required.

Yoga for Teenagers Wed 5 Aug
The Space Above | 2pm | €10

A fun movement and mindfulness class for teenagers, no experience required. Suitable for Teenagers in Secondary School.

Lughnasa Sacred Circle with Hazel Dervan, Hazel Rose Holistic Therapies

Fri 7 Aug | Align Health Store, Main St | 7-9pm

Celebrate the Celtic festival of Lughnasa through meditation, ritual, reflection and connection. Advance booking recommended.

See also Vintage Sale and Wellbeing Vibes page 14

PUB ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY 31 JULY

Open Mike Session | The Market House Tavern
DJ | The Fighting Cocks
Miriam and Michelle | Kelly's Bar
Live Music | The Chestnut
Trevor Kavanagh | Whelahan's

SATURDAY 1 AUGUST

Birrù | Craughwell's 9pm
S.O.S. | The Market House Tavern
James McKelvey | The Fighting Cocks
Night Owls | Kelly's Bar
Midnight Blue | The Chestnut 10pm
DJ Josie | The Chestnut 12am till late
Donnie and Joe | The Chestnut Bar 12am till late
Mary Hoey | Whelahan's
Blatantly Subtle | The Thatch

SUNDAY 2 AUGUST

Dan Egan | The Chestnut 2pm
The Buckleys | Kelly's Bar 4pm-7pm
Rian and Co | The Chestnut 4.30pm
Pete Kennedy followed by House Band & Guests | Craughwell's
Sunday Session | The Market House Tavern
Michael D & the Giants | The Thatch

SUNDAY 2 AUGUST (CONTINUED)

Kevin + Ro followed by Ron Shine | The Fighting Cocks
DJ Mike 70s 80s Night | Whelahan's
Night Owls | Kelly's Bar 7pm-9.30pm
1710 | The Chestnut 7pm
Rock of Ages | The Chestnut 9.30pm
Rock on Paddy | Kelly's Bar 9.30pm
Shane Dooley | The Chestnut Bar 12am till late

MONDAY 3 AUGUST

Candlelit Night | The Market House Tavern
Dickie Donnelly & Mairead Slevin Nostagia Night | Kelly's Bar
Michael Hutchinson | The Chestnut 7pm
Rock on Paddy | Whelahan's
Singing Pubs | The Thatch

TUESDAY 4 AUGUST

Drag Queen Bingo | The Chestnut
Adrian Rabitte | Whelahan's

WEDNESDAY 5 AUGUST

Paudge Bennett Singing Pubs | Kelly's Bar
Best of Broadway | The Chestnut

THURSDAY 6 AUGUST

Drive | The Chestnut 10pm
Dooley Brothers | The Fighting Cocks

FRIDAY 7 AUGUST

Live Music | Craughwell's
Rock on Paddy | The Market House Tavern
Miriam & Michelle | Kelly's Bar
Frankie Mills| Whelahan's
Robbie Kirwan | The Chestnut 9pm

SATURDAY 8 AUGUST

Live Music | Craughwell's
Dan Egan | The Fighting Cocks
Tim Chambers | Kelly's Bar
1710 | The Chestnut 10pm
DJ Abbott | The Chestnut 12am till late
Miriam and Michelle | The Chestnut Bar 12am till late
Diarmuid Guinan | The Thatch

PUB EVENTS

Charades 2026 Venues

Thursday 30th July

Dooley's v Fighting Cocks in Fighting Cocks @ 9.00
Thatch 1 v Haverty2 in Thatch @ 10.00

Monday 4th August

Kelly's v Thatch 2 in Kelly's @ 7.00
Haverty 1 v Whelehans in Havertys @ 8.00.

Semi Finals Wed 6th
Winner A v Winner C
Winner B v Winner D
Times and venues TBC

Bullseye 2026 venues:

Wednesday 29th @ 9PM

Chestnut V kellys

Wednesday 29th @ 10pm

Havertys 2 V Fighting Cocks

Thursday 30th @ 9pm
The Thatch V Havertys 1

Thursday 30th @ 10 pm
Nolans V Craughwells.

VISUAL ARTS VENUES

Take a self guided walk that also takes in some of Birr's permanent features. Pick up a copy or scan the code.

Click here

ARTS

BIRR VINTAGE WEEK ARTS FESTIVAL

THE ARTS TRAIL

The theme of this year's Arts Trail is **Presence**, the magic of being here, together, in place and time. Throughout the festival, the arts make their presence felt in unexpected ways, with outdoor artworks woven through the town and pop-up performances appearing in public spaces.

As the programme evolved, however, the idea of presence became more intimate and personal, connecting visual art and performance through themes of home, family, memory and domestic life. Vintage Week is a time of homecoming, when people return to familiar places, reconnect with loved ones, and revisit shared stories. This year's Arts Trail celebrates those domestic spaces and histories that quietly shape our lives.

Echoes of domestic ritual and washing appear throughout the programme, from the Main Visual Art Exhibition, *Domestic Mythologies*, to the playful children's event *Out of the Blue*, and *Republic of Silence*, which reflects on the hidden histories and silences embedded within Ireland's institutional past.

Performance appears in surprising places, inviting you to see, hear, touch and experience the world differently. Immerse yourself in Luke Casserly's sensory bog performance *Distillation*, discover the playful pop-up world of *Spailp*, and follow a trail of stories, sounds and shared experiences across the town.

A clearer Arts Trail map will help you navigate the programme. You can also join one of our two Late Night Art Walks, where unexpected encounters and artistic surprises await. Alternatively, download our self-guided walk to explore this year's programme alongside some of Birr's permanent artistic and cultural features.

FAMILY & SPECTACLE
THEATRE
MUSIC
VISUAL ART

arts council funding festivals
Creative Communities

Oxmantown NS Outdoor Classroom
Mon 3, Tues 4, Wed 5/ 2pm

THE YARN GARDEN

Join us in the beautiful outdoor classroom for a riot of colour, creativity and community spirit! Help transform the railings with weaving, crochet, and wrapping using wool and reclaimed fabrics as we create a vibrant guerrilla yarn installation bursting with texture and imagination.
Whether you're a seasoned stitcher or a complete beginner, everyone is welcome to add their own splash of colour, and don't miss the spectacular child-sized yarn-bombed bed at the heart of the display!

EARLY YEARS WORKSHOP

THE KING OF MANY CLOAKS & CROWNS
Oxmantown NS
10am,11.15am, 12.30pm
An Interactive and playful drama and story workshop for children aged 3 to 5 and accompanying adults.
Created and delivered by Joanna Parkes. During the session the children are in role as the gardeners in the King's garden and through the story the children are encouraged to think about valuing the Natural world, looking after the parks and gardens around us and being happy with what we have without always looking for 'newer, better things'.
€5+booking fee /child
BOOK HERE

TIN JUG STUDIO WORKSHOPS

St Brendan's Street
Friday 7 August 11am-1pm
Be a Passing Artist. Stop under the umbrella to do some art. Materials supplied. Donations for the Art-Aid Box on arrival - €3 per child/ €4 per adult. Refreshments €2
Saturday 1 August 3-5pm, Mon 3 & Wed 5 Aug/ 2-6pm
INSECTS
Pop in workshop with Bernie Stapleton for adults and families. Step through the little gate into the courtyard garden. If there's a seat at the table make one or more pretty flying creatures.
€5 per insect made

LAUGHTER FOR GROWN UPS

7pm Old Cinema
Join acclaimed circus performer Fra Martó for a joyful adult laughter workshop designed to lift spirits, release tension and reconnect participants with the simple pleasure of play. Drawing on her extensive experience in circus arts and performance, Fra creates a welcoming and energetic space where laughter becomes a tool for wellbeing, connection and fun. No experience required—just a willingness to let go and laugh.
€10+booking fee
BOOK HERE
Birr Theatre & Arts Centre

PLEIN AIR WITH GRAHAM BOOTH

Discover the art of plein air watercolour painting in a one-da outdoor workshop led by renowned artist Grahame Booth. Th course is suitable for anyone that paints regularly and is comfortable with the basics of watercolour painting but reall wants to tackle the tricky practice of plein air painting. Attendees will need to bring their own materials on the day (i paints, easel, paper, etc.) Spaces limited to the first 15 registrations
Saturday 8 August, 10am
BOOK HERE
Mill Island Park

SLACK ROPE

Mill Island Park
Wednesday 5 / 11am
Meet at the Old Cinema. Discover the art of balance, focus, and movement in this introductory slack rope workshop. Suitable for all skill levels. Please wear thick socks

The Old Cinema
Thursday 6/ 11am

TETRA PACK PRINTMAKING

Get creative and explore the world of printmaking with Carolan Duff. Participants will learn basic printmaking techniques using beginner friendly and accessible materials. All tools and materials are provided, and you are welcome to bring home your creations!
Age 10+ €5
BOOK HERE

THE RAMBLING HOUSE

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | Tue 4 Aug | 12pm

Join us for the showcase of a short visual project by artists Hazel Greene and Christor with Birr Men Together, exploring the tradition of the Irish rambling house through storytelling, oral history and a contemporary recorded gathering, reimagining this rich oral heritage for a modern audience. Supported by Offaly County Council through the Creative Ireland Community Grant Programme 2026–2027.

SAFE & SEEN: THROUGH THE LENS

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | Tue 4 Aug | 2.30pm

A photography project showcase exploring refuge and identity among Ukrainian women living in Birr, connecting their experiences to The Law of the Innocents, enacted in Birr in 697 AD as an early legal protection for women, children and non-combatants. Through smartphone photography, participants weave a tapestry of images that together tell the story of being "Seen & Safe", where their phones are witnesses to their new lives. A digital version of the project will be on exhibition in St Brendan's Hall throughout the festival. Supported by Offaly County Council through the Creative Ireland Community Grant Programme 2026–2027.

BELINDA - A COSTUMED READING

Birr Library | Thu 6 Aug | 2.30pm

Celebrate the life and legacy of Maria Edgeworth, pioneering novelist, educationalist and early children's author, recognised by many as the "Mother of the Novel." Marking the 225th anniversary of *Belinda*, members of the Maria Edgeworth Centre present a lively costumed performance featuring scenes from the novel that was an inspiration for Jane Austen, who referenced it in *Northanger Abbey*. FREE.

Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme

Creative Communities

Main Street, Green Street
Sunday August 2nd 3pm

VINTAGE SUNDAY PARADE
BIKES & BARROWS

Trick bikes were a much-loved part of the Parade for many years, and we're excited to bring them back!
Join our professional riders and a wonderful collection of crazy bikes created by Conor McCague, by decorating your own bicycle or wheelbarrow and rolling with us in the parade. Go simple or completely spectacular, the more creative, the better!
Everyone is welcome to take part, including families, clubs, businesses, schools and groups of friends. Plus, there are cash prizes to be won!
Register **HERE**

Emmet Square, Green Street
Sunday August 2nd 4.30pm

THE BIG BIRR STREET FEST

There's plenty of entertainment to enjoy after the Parade, so be sure to stay and soak up the atmosphere!
Now and Then tells the story of the unlikely friendship between Pookie (Lidija Šola) and Nancy (Noelle Ní Riagáin). Featuring an impressive 8-metre freestanding aerial rig, this spectacular show combines slapstick comedy, aerial acrobatics and a heartwarming story about connection in a digital world.

The fun continues throughout the afternoon with a fantastic range of interactive walkabout performers, including performing fairies, Cantonela the Magical Clown, The Irish Dandy and Hoopixie, all ready to entertain audiences of all ages. With music from Blasta Brass

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
Monday 3rd August 2.30pm

Circus 250
OUT OF THE BLUE

Fresh from Turin, Out of the Blue is a wonderfully interactive sudsy circus show from leading Italian female clown Fra Martó. With plenty of fun and frolics, sheet-folding shenanigans and a misbehaving washing machine – laundry day has never been so full of bubbles and laughter. This is physical comedy at its finest – a joyful celebration of chaos, chores, and letting go.
Family rates available
BOOK HERE

Maket Square
Tuesday 4th August 2.30-3.30pm and 4.30-5.30pm

Fanzini Productions
SPAILP!

Spailp is a brief but glorious experience of your life's most exquisite moments inside a beautiful bespoke venue. "Spailp" is a non-verbal show for 5 minutes for 5 people at a time. Inside our beautiful bespoke venue, the audience share moments of joy, silliness and play.
Funded by the Arts Council. Producing supports by Promenade
FREE

SLACK ROPE

Birr Castle Monday 3rd 11am
"Grá mo chroí"
Did you know we have one of the oldest heronry in Ireland in the Castle Demense? Feel inspired to focus and halt like the herons in this musical slack rope creation.
Meet at reception to walk to the heronry.

Emmet Square Friday 7th 2pm
Dona nobis pacem
Grant us Peace` here in Emmet Square.
Find Serenity in stark contrast to the ever by flowing traffic
experiencing this time slowing down slack rope performance.

Slack Rope workshop Wednesday see page 18

DRAG QUEEN BINGO

Tuesday 4th 8pm doors
The Chestnut

Hosted by one of Ireland's top drag queens, Drag Queen Bingo is a hilarious, high-energy night of comedy, cabaret and audience participation.
Blending live performance with outrageous bingo fun, the event celebrates inclusivity, community and the vibrant spirit of Ireland's drag culture.
Rooted in Ireland's thriving drag and LGBTQ+ performance culture, the event champions accessibility, visibility and the power of shared cultural experiences in regional communities
€20+ booking fee
BOOK HERE

FIREWORKS NIGHT & GIG RIG

Birr Rugby Club Thursday 4 August 7.30pm

Introducing our special performers!
Long-Legs Sheila, a giant curious heron created by Caoimhe Dunn
This playful walkabout performance follows Sheila and her companion Pierre as they explore, meet new friends and cause a bit of delightful chaos along the way. Expect plenty of humour, surreal moments and family-friendly fun as Sheila navigates the world with curiosity and confusion.
As the sun sets, expect to be amazed by the **Celtic Flame Fire Show** featuring Eddie Bulfin and fiery friends dazzle with their pyrotechnic wizardry.

LATE NIGHT ART

The Old Ciema
Mon 3 and Wed 5 August 8.30pm
Join us on 2 Late Night Art Walks for surprise performances as you navigate the trail.
FREE - Don't be late!

SELF GUIDED WALKS

Birr FAN Trail.ie /A-Town-Reads-Mitchell.
100th commemoration of Susan Langstaff Mitchell's literary life .
POETRY TRAIL
Explore Birr's Blue Plaque Trail
FAMOUS AND NOTABLES OF BIRR

BIRR ARTS TRAIL

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
Wednesday 5th August 2.30pm, 7pm

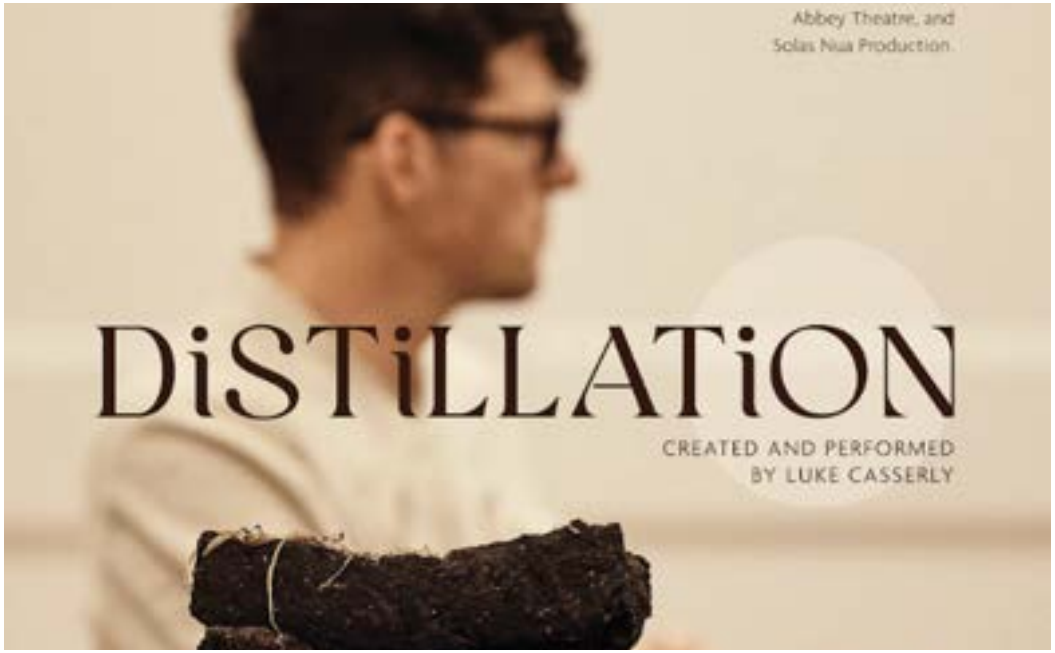
BED AMONG THE LENTILS

Written by Alan Bennett / Performed by Rose Henderson
The Vicar, His Wife & The Grocer. Winter rolls into summer and Susan catches a glimpse of life as it should be. Parish life will never be the same again.
Oscar nominee, Tony and Bafta winner Alan Bennett weaves a tale of three people and a congregation of the Vicar's "fans" edged with jealousy, lust, redemption and a grocer with "lovely teeth"!
Rose Henderson is "Susan" who on a winter evening stumbles across "life" and a glimpse of reality.
€18 (plus booking fee
BOOK HERE

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
Thursday 6th August 2.30pm

THE SONG CYCLE

In 2022, musician and filmmaker Nick Kelly and his friend and 'Dogs' collaborator Sean Millar decided to make the trip from Ireland to the Glastonbury Festival - Nick cycling the whole way from Dublin, while Sean was on public transport. Nick's documentary about the journey proves a celebration of sustainability in its many forms - environmental, cultural and personal.
Presented by OFFline Film Festival
Tickets €10 + booking fees
BOOK HERE



John's Hall
Saturday 1st August 12pm, 3pm. 6pm

DISTILLATION

Luke Casserly

A performative journey which takes you to the Irish bog landscape through scent. Distillation is a response to the recent cessation of the peat harvesting industry in Ireland. Over the past year, Luke Casserly has collaborated with renowned perfume maker Joan Woods to create a unique distillation of the Midlands bog - the place where he grew up - as the starting point for an olfactory encounter which looks at our human relationship to place. Dedicated to the future of our broken landscapes – in the hope that by listening to them, we might be able to better understand them.

Distillation is a multi-sensory performance featuring text, perfume, video and sculpture. The audience are seated around a large custom-made table and are gently invited to hold organic materials and smell parts of the landscape as part of the experience.

"A thought-provoking show that stays in the mind long after, like the sweet woody smell of the bog perfume that lingers on the wrist." - Irish Independent *****

Age suitability 12+
Tickets €18 + booking fee
BOOK HERE

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
Saturday 1st August 8pm

REPUBLIC OF SILENCE

Emerging writer and director Kaci Kerwick brings this powerful new production from a young London-based Irish company following acclaimed performances at the Peckham Fringe Festival and Riverside Studios, Hammersmith.

Based on true stories from the Sean Ross Mother and Baby Institution in Tipperary, Republic of Silence moves between past and present in a sensitive, humorous and deeply heartbreaking exploration of Ireland's hidden history.

This hard-hitting play draws on real-life events that shook both Ireland and the Catholic Church when the truth of what took place within the walls of Sean Ross Abbey was finally exposed.

Performed by Oísin Nolan, Jack O'Shaughnessy, Áine McNamara and Eanna Ferguson

Audience members affected by the themes explored in this performance are encouraged to consult the Republic of Silence Care Pack available HERE.

*A brave, moving and necessary production. Bravo to the cast and crew – this is theatre that deserves to be seen – London Theatre 1*****

Age suitability 14+
Tickets €15 + booking fee
BOOK HERE

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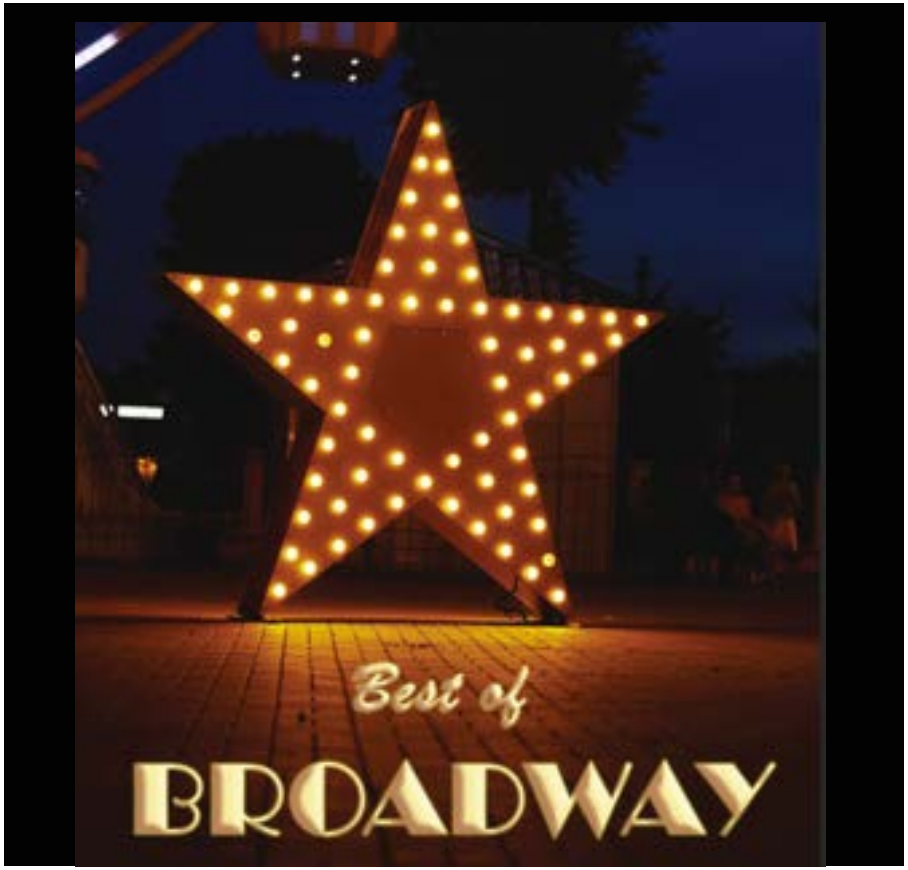
C'MERE 'TILL I TELL YOU A GOOD ONE

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
Thursday 6 August 2,30pm

An old-style storyteller with one eye on the past and the other firmly on the present, Mick Creagh brings his audience along for the ride – and he loves to get everyone involved. So clear your throats and be ready for an afternoon of storytelling and craic!
Tickets €15 +booking fee
BOOK HERE



THE BEST OF BROADWAY

Wednesday 5th 8pm
the Chestnut

Lauren Murphy & Friends
A cabaret- style showcase of some of Broadway's most beloved songs, sung by Lauran Murphy and some of the Midlands' most talented performers!

PATRICK RAFTER violin, DIDA CONDRIA piano

BIRR CASTLE HISTORIC MUSIC SALON
Thursday 6th August 3.00pm

The acclaimed virtuosic violinist Patrick Rafter is joined by brilliant young Irish/Romanian pianist Dida Condria to perform a thrilling programme which includes works by Rachmaninov, Sibelius, Kreisler, Elgar, Saint Saens and more. Also featuring Vaughan-Williams spell-binding The Lark Ascending, with Birr Castle's Music Salon providing a beautiful setting for an unforgettable experience.
Tickets €32(pre-booking only, numbers limited)
BOOK

Lunchtime Recital
CHARLES MARSHAL & Adele O'Dwyer

St Brendan's Church of Ireland
Friday 7th 1.05pm

Director of Music and Organist at St. Ann's Church, Dawson St, Dublin, Charles brings another superb programme of music to Birr's Vintage Week & Arts Festival, with cellist Adele O'Dwyer. The programme features a selection of Romantic works from Mendelssohn to Reynaldo Hahn
Presented by Birr Festival of Music
Tickets €15 (children free).
BOOK

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre

Friday 31st July 8pm

LUKE THOMAS & THE SWING CATS

After last year's amazing Show, LUKE THOMAS is bringing the THE SWING CATS back to Birr for a brand new show : The KINGS OF SWING (ROCK SWINGS EDITION)!!!!
Luke Thomas's new show will feature your favourite timeless SWING songs as well as Swing & Big Band arrangements of classic rock songs from the likes of Thin Lizzy, Oasis, Queen, The Beatles.
Hear SWING versions of Wonderwall, The Boys Are Back In Town alongside timeless classics like Sing Sing Sing, Puttin' On The Ritz, Mack The Knife to Crooning classics like Mr. Bojangles, Fly Me To The Moon, New York plus many more performed by THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS - Luke Thomas & The Swing Cats!!
Just ask your friends who saw them last year, this is an absolute must for all SWING music fans.
As seen on The Late Late Show, Ireland Am, The Today Show, The Six O'Clock Show and every major radio station in the country...
With two #1 Albums, 3 Tv Concert Specials, 9 personally requested performances for President Higgins and countless sell-out tours you can't afford to miss this show.
Tickets €28 (+Booking Fees)

BOOK HERE

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre

Friday 7th August 8pm

THE MUDDY RIVER BAND

The Muddies are back!
Step back in time and experience the magic of three of music's greatest legends; Neil Young, Bob Dylan and Van Morrison, performed by the fantastic Muddy River Band. This talented group of musicians bring to life the unforgettable melodies, poignant lyrics, and electrifying performances that have echoed through the lives of generations of music lovers. Join the Band for an unforgettable night of music that transcends time, bringing together fans of all ages to celebrate the enduring legacies of these true music icons. Whether you're a lifelong fan or discovering these legends for the first time, this show will leave you inspired and longing for more.
Tickets €25 (+booking fee)

BOOK HERE

The old Cinema
Friday 31st July 7.30pm

VISUAL ARTS TRAIL LAUNCH

Join us for the Official Launch of the Visual Arts Trail with Offaly Arts Officer Maeve Mulrennin.
The launch will take place in the festival's main arts venue, The Old Cinema, where audiences can gather to celebrate the opening of this year's programme.
During the evening, curator Owen de Forge will announce the winner of the 2027 Solo Show Award.

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
Friday 31st July 10.30am – 11:30am

BREAKFAST ART TALK WITH CAROL O'NEILL
Witches in Art

Join us for a spellbinding multimedia journey through art, exploring how the image of the witch has reflected society's changing attitudes towards women.
From Goya's dark and haunting masterpieces to the bold reimagining of the witch by women Surrealist artists, this talk examines how female power, independence and knowledge were often portrayed as dangerous, mysterious or threatening.
There may even be chocolate & pastries.
There will be magic
€10 + booking fee
BOOK HERE

Starting from the Old Cinema
8.30 pm Monday 3rd, Wednesday 5th

LATE NIGHT ART WALKS

The Late Night Art Walk is an experience not to be missed!
More than just a stroll through the exhibits, this unique nighttime adventure transforms the Arts Trail into a world of surprise, spectacle and discovery. Expect pop-up performances, interactive moments and unexpected encounters as artists and performers bring the trail to life after dark.
Specially illuminated sculptures and installations will create a magical atmosphere, offering a completely new way to experience the artwork. With different pop-ups and performances featured, each walk will be different.
FREE - Don't be late!

The Old Cinema

DOMESTIC MYTHOLOGIES

Asha Murray, Niamh Coffey, Rebecca Tighe, Laura AngelL

Domestic Mythologies explores textile as a storytelling medium: tactile, personal and rooted in lived experience. Familiar through our homes, clothing and rituals of everyday life, textiles carry memory, labour and human touch. On first encounter, these works may appear playful, crafted or comforting, yet each artist shifts this often-domestic medium into the realm of contemporary art through unexpected materials, conceptual approaches and layered social histories.

FIND OUT MORE

The Old Cinema

OPEN SUBMISSION 2026

Here & Now

Small Squares, Big Presence

Curated by Owen de Forge

This year's Open Call invites artists to respond to the theme of Presence through work created in a foot-square (30 × 30 cm) format.

FIND OUT MORE

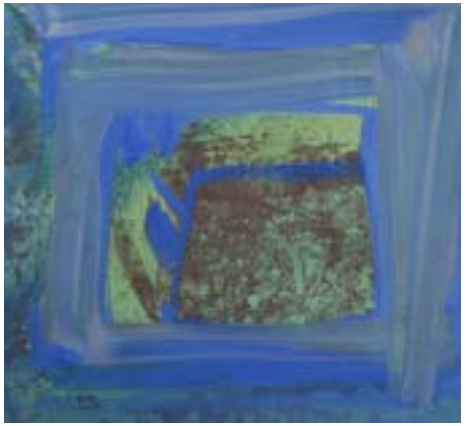
The Space Above, Main Street

MARGO MCNULTY

Solo Award Recipient

Margo's work is influenced by traditions inherent in Irish culture and deals with hidden history, memory and place. The work concerns itself with episodes of chance, the intersection of personal and public histories and how these histories and meanings can be embedded in material objects.

FIND OUT MORE



Birr Castle, Copper Tree Gallery

TIMELINES

Growth & Catastrophe

Catherine Ryan, Muriel Beckett, Tish Canniffe, Frances Crowe, Pascale De Coninck, Lorna Donlon, Terry Dunne and Heather Underwood.

This 5 metre collaborative tapestry Explories ideas of resiliance in uncertain times . Drawing from a broad range of diverse visual references, this collaboration also incorporates current UCD plant science research imagery.

FIND OUT MORE

Masonic Hall

TRACES

Andrea Moore & Jackie Carter, Jenny Fox

Traces brings together three artists exploring the marks left by those who came before us. Through personal histories and family narratives, their work reflects on memory, loss, inheritance, and the enduring presence of absent figures. Andrea Moore's Traces of Him Left Behind responds to the legacy of her grandfather, while Jackie Carter frames her work in a constructed and imagined story. Jenny Fox's work similarly examines the ways family stories and domestic histories are carried forward through generations.

Together, these works reveal how lives once lived continue to resonate in the present, shaping identity, belonging, and memory

FIND OUT MORE

Oxmantown NS

PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS OF IRELAND

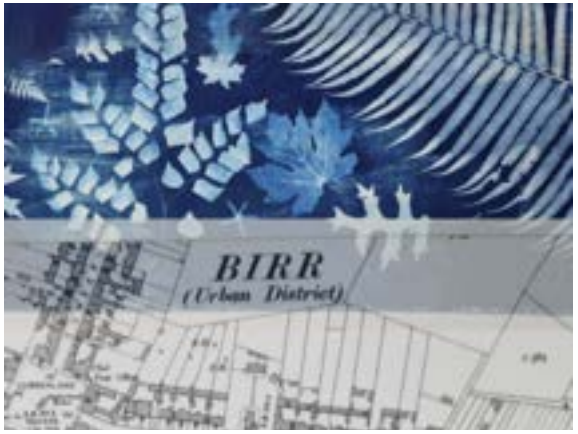
Annual PPAI Exhibition, sponsored by AIB. This collection of images accurately describes the Ireland of 2026, presenting not only a record of our island's history, but also a testament of the incredible skills of our press photographers. The exhibition is on a national tour

FIND OUT MORE

Masonic Hall

THE BLUE VEIN

Artist Emma Barone has collaborated with participants from Avista Support Services, Ashbrook and Riverview, Birr, exploring the heritage of the Camcor River. Using the historic cyanotype photographic process, participants captured the shadows of local flora and geological treasures, connecting Birr's rich scientific legacy with its natural landscape



Birr Theatre & Arts Centre

CATASTROPHE

Christor

The mind's ability to make connections is remarkable; it's how we learn, grow, and progress.

But this great strength can betray us. In this show, a mind primed to find disaster looks for reassurance, understanding, and oneness in diagrams, maps, colour and shape.

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre

Glasshammer

Rosemarie Langtrey,
Jean Forristal,
Dervla Duffy, Gillian Adams

Glass artworks created by four Midlands-based artists under the guidance of Michelle O'Donnell at Glasshammer Studio. Using vibrant fused glass, frits and enamels, the artists have created striking sculptural pieces especially for the Outdoor Gallery at Birr Theatre & Arts Centre.

Masonic Hall Garden

Outdoor Gallery

The Outdoor Gallery presents a curated selection of works chosen through an Open Call. These works transform the outdoor environment into an accessible exhibition space, inviting visitors to encounter art in unexpected places

Tin Jug Studio

Outdoor Arts @TJS

Sunflowers and Insects - outside the gate on St. Brendan Street, by Bernie Stapleton

Birr Castle Courtyard

LET THERE BE LOVE

Rosie Cole & Shane Carroll

A joint commission with Longford Lights and Night and Day Festival. Step inside this pyramid-inspired space of shelter and reflection, where gently changing colours inspired by the body's chakra energy centres invite rest, balance and connection. For an enhanced after-dark experience, join the Late-Night Art Walk on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

es.

Emmet Square

SKY SPINNERS

These brightly coloured windsocks each carrying a word of importance to the child that made it, bring the arts centre stage with a youthful celebration of colour and movement in the heart of the town.
Sier Keiran NS,Scoil Mhuire agus Chormaic
Supported by Offaly County Council through the Creative Ireland Community Grant Programme 2026–2027

John's Hall

DELICATE DEFENSE

Community Art Project
Two monumental pawn chess pieces stand guard, encased in a network of traditional doilies. . The delicate lacework, associated with domestic craft and women's labour, creates a striking contrast between strength and fragility, defence and vulnerability

Throughout the Town

MOMENT BY MOMENT

These highly visible and colourful installations will act as way markers to help guide you around the art trail,.
Created for Longford Lights as part of an Arts Council Participation Project Award led by Paul Bokslag, Catherine Grey and Caroline Conway

Throughout the Town

THE BIG BIRR YARN BOMB

Since June, community groups across Birr have been knitting, crocheting, stitching and wrapping to bring a splash of colour to the town, extending the textile themes of this year's exhibitions into the streets.
Including contributions from the Birr Crafters, the Birr Knitting Group, Birr Community Nursing Unit and many more, from the very young to the very old

Oxmantown NS

THE YARN GARDEN

Join in throughout the week and help this vibrant yarn-bombing installation grow. Featuring a spectacular yarn-bombed bed at its heart. Inspired by traditions of repair and handcraft, it celebrates creativity, sustainability and the stories woven into everyday materials. Add your own piece and become part of this colourful community artwork..

St. Brendan's Hall 2pm-5pm

BIRR ART GROUP

This popular annual exhibition highlights the creativity and talent of local artists, offering visitors an opportunity to enjoy and support visual arts within the community.
Includes a digital screening of
Safe and Seen, Through the Lens see page 19
jJoin Birr Art Group for Plein Air Painting on Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5thin Birr Castle and along the river bank. Contact Jean Forristal on 0980234690 for more details
Meet at St Brendan's Hall at 10am

Tin Jug Studio
St Brendan's Street

WILD

Photography by Gerry Cummins. Exceptional and beautiful images of living creatures, from the landscapes of Ireland he has always loved. Gerry has exhibited and sold very successfully in many art galleries. This is his first in Birr. His photos transport the viewer into the wonderful world of nature.
Derek Fanning's wood sculptures -
Mythical Beasts: As a very busy journalist, he escapes when he can to walk in the wild on mountains and tracks, for tranquility. He finds inspiration for his artworks and poetry.
Opening Hours: Saturday 1st, 3 - 6pm. Monday 3rd to 7th August 2 - 6pm
Please check the studio Facebook page for any extra opening times.

Masonic Hall

BIRR BRAT

Rosalind Fanning & collaborating artists
A sculptural interpretation of the Irish great cloak, worn by chieftains, bards and druids. Made with natural materials. (Community contributions encouraged and considered. See Tin Jug Facebook page for info)

St Brendan's Rectory, Ballindarra, R42PY68
Friday Sat 10.30-5.30. Weekdays from 2pm-4pm

KEEPING A CLEAR MIND

Revd Arthur Minion is Rector of Birr Parish with Lorrha Dorrha Lockeen Union of Parishes. Known for his abstract art, he explores themes of faith, daily life and the challenges that shape our emotional and spiritual journeys. This exhibition reflects on navigating life's complexities with clarity and purpose.
Teas and coffees served in aid of the Dorrha Church Window Fund

MILK & MOTHERHOOD

Methodist Church, Emmet Street
11-5pm Saturday 1 August
Photography exhibition by Alex Lazorento in conjunction with Cuidiu Offlaly. Cuidiu is a national voluntary organisation whose volunteers and breastfeeding counsellors provide evidence based information to mothers

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