Laois Passport

A new 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 visited.

Stamps are available at Timahoe Heritage Centre (and the Corner shop in Timahoe), Mountmellick Museum, Donaghmore Workhouse, Dunamaise Arts Centre and Portlaoise Tourist Office (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. Parents from Scoil Bhride Portlaoise visited a range of historical sites in Laois during the autumn of 2017 and with their creative tutors Mary Delaney and Denise Dunne, produced wonderful artworks and creative writing in response to the sites.

The resultant “Unravelling Laois” artworks will be exhibited in Emo Court during the summer, including Heritage Week. Drop in and don’t forget to collect your passport at reception or download it at www.laois.ie/heritage – happy travels!

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 Bhride 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.
WATERWAYS FOR WILDLIFE

Date
18 August: 11am

Venue
Vicarstown Hall
(Old Schoolhouse)

Organiser
Irish Wildlife Trust

Contact
T: 01 860 2639
E: conservation@iwt.ie
W: www.iwt.ie/events

Explore the wildlife of the Grand Canal Barrow Line. Combining an indoor presentation and canal side fieldtrip, you will learn how to identify and record the biodiversity found along the canal. This event will provide training in bee and butterfly identification and canal natural heritage recording. We will survey a section of the canal for native trees, aquatic life, pollinators, and other wildlife. Dress for the outdoors. Funded by Waterways Ireland and Laois County Council.

COINS & MEASUREMENTS FOR CHILDREN

Date
18 August:
11am - 2pm

Venue
Mountmellick Library

Organiser
Mountmellick Heritage Society

Contact
T: 057 864 4572  E: mary.e.obrien2@gmail.com

Children’s Interactive Event: Why and how is a horse measured in hands? What do you get if you add a penny, a farthing and shilling? Children, parents, grandparents are all welcome.
**BAT WALK**

Date
18 August: 8:30pm - 10:00pm

Venue
The Green, Timahoe

Organiser
Laois Heritage Office & Kildare Bat Group

Contact
T: 057 866 4129  E: ccasey@laoiscoco.ie  
W: www.laois.ie/heritage

See and hear the bats of Timahoe, using bat detectors, and learn about how they live and why they’re important, from Kildare Bat Group.

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**“WHAT GOOD IS LOOKING WELL WHEN YOU’RE ROTTEN ON THE INSIDE?” BY EMMA O’GRADY**

Date
18 August: 8:00pm

Venue
Dunamaise Arts Centre, Portlaoise

Fee
€18/€16 conc.

Contact
W: www.dunamaise.ie

One month before his death, retired civil servant and man of few words Paddy O’Grady had a sudden urge to talk. Using a cassette tape recorder, he recorded hours of absurdist stories and musings on life. Now, Paddy’s granddaughter (Emma O’Grady from Mountrath) has created a show that examines the fragile personas we present to the world with this charming meditation on wasted creativity and emotional inheritance.

Also at the Dunamaise Arts Centre, Saturday 25th “Isle of Dogs”. 
**BEEKEEPING DEMONSTRATION**

**Date**
19 August:
12:00pm - 2:00pm

**Venue**
Emo Court

**Organiser**
Office of Public Works/
Dunamaise Beekeepers

**Contact**
T: 086 810 7916  E: emocourt@opw.ie  W: www.heritageireland.ie

Demonstration on beekeeping from the Dunamaise Beekeepers.

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**EMO COURT NATURE WALK**

**Date**
19 August:
12:00pm - 1:30pm

**Venue**
Emo Court car park

**Organiser**
Laois Outdoor Education

**Contact**
T: 087 774 1846  E: info@laoisoutdooreducation.ie  W: www.laoisoutdooreducation.ie

For Heritage Week take a walk on the wild side at Emo Court. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at the carpark in Emo Court. Dress for the weather!

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**FAMILY NATURE WALK**

**Date**
19 August:
12:00pm - 1:30pm

**Venue**
Emo Court car park

**Organiser**
Laois Outdoor Education

**Contact**
T: 087 774 1846  E: info@laoisoutdooreducation.ie  W: www.laoisoutdooreducation.ie

A family nature walk & talk in Garryhinch Woods between Portarlington and Mountmellick. Led by the volunteers of the Badger Club of the Irish Wildlife Trust Laois-Offaly Branch.
INDUSTRIAL STEAM & VINTAGE TRAINS

Date
19 August:
12pm - 4pm

Venue
Stradbally Woodland Railway, Stradbally Hall, Main St
Stradbally

Organiser
Stradbally Railway

Contact
E: stradballyrailway@gmail.com
W: www.stradballyrailway.webs.com

Our Steam locomotive built for Bord na Mona in 1949 will be hauling train trips around our 1km line at Stradbally Hall. Vintage diesel locomotives and wagons from Ireland’s turf industry will also be on display. Picnic tables and viewing area allow families to enjoy a snack while watching Industrial heritage come alive.

Fees
Adult €7   Children free   Concession €5   Family €18

HISTORIC PORTLAOISE TOUR

Date
19 August: 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Venue
Outside County Hall, Portlaoise

Organiser
Laois Heritage Society

Contact
T: 057 866 4129
E: michaelparsons@eircom.net

A walk through the secret history of Portlaoise, with Michael Parsons. We will explore the hidden history of Portlaoise, from the 16th century Fort Protector at the origin of the town, to the development of the streetscapes, and the history of the buildings, families and characters of the area.
**THE HEATH - PREHISTORIC CONNECTIONS**

**Date**
19 August:
6:00pm - 7:30pm

**Venue**
Heath, Portlaoise
(meet at Heath National School)

**Organiser**
Gort Archaeology

**Contact**
T: 087 249 4596
E: gortarchaeology@gmail.com

A walking tour of the Heath, Portlaoise, with Archaeologist Eoin Sullivan. Spot the humps and bumps and learn what they can tell us about our prehistoric past. The terrain on this walking tour is medium to rough, on relatively flat but uneven ground. Please bring suitable footwear and rain jacket.

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**LAUNCH OF TIMAOHE CONSERVATION PLAN**

**Date**
19 August: 7:00pm - 8:00pm

**Venue**
Timahoe Heritage Centre

**Organiser**
Laois Heritage Office

**Contact**
T: 057 866 4129
E: ccasey@laoiscoco.ie
W: www.laois.ie/heritage

Launch of Conservation Plan for the Monastic site at Timahoe, written by Margaret Quinlan Conservation Architect in partnership with Timahoe Development Association.

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**FOREST FUN FOR FAMILIES**

**Date**
20 August:
2:30pm - 4:30pm

**Venue**
Emo Park Woods

**Organiser**
Reconnect with Nature

**Contact**
E: reconnectwithnatureirl@gmail.com
W: www.reconnectwithnatureirl.com

Forest school inspired fun for families: games, crafts and activities exploring nature together. Aimed at families with children aged 5-12, but all ages welcome. Spaces limited. Booking required.
TALKING TOWNS TALK & TOWNSCAPE ART EXHIBITION

Date
20 August: 1:15pm - 2pm

Venue
Irish Architectural Archive, 45, Merrion Square, Dublin 2

Organiser
Laois Arts Office & Irish Architectural Archive

Contact
T: 057 866 4109  E: mnichona@laoiscoco.ie
W: www.iarc.ie/exhibitions/previous-exhibitions/townscape

Members of the team from the Irish Pavilion at the Venice Biennale 2018, will discuss their installation “Free Market”, which highlights the possibility in the common spaces of Ireland’s market towns. Small town market places, once the economic and social hubs of rural Ireland, have undergone fundamental change and many have seen their function as places of exchange and congregation diminished. Mountmellick Co Laois is among 10 towns explored in the installation. Supported by Creative Ireland Laois. Tour of exhibition “Townscape” by artist Mary Burke after the talk.

WOMEN IN THE WOODS

Date
20 August: 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Venue
Emo Park Woods

Organiser
Reconnect with Nature

Contact
E: reconnectwithnatureirl@gmail.com
W: www.reconnectwithnatureirl.com

An evening of nature connection activities for women - exploring nature through games, crafts and reflective practice. Limited spaces. Please email for booking form.
**HISTORIC MAPS OF MOUNTMELLICK**

*Date*
20 August:
7:30pm - 9:00pm

*Venue*
Mountmellick Library

*Organiser*
Laois Heritage Office

Contact
T: 057 866 4129
E: ccasey@laoiscoco.ie
W: www.laois.ie/heritage

Talk on the historic maps of Mountmellick and area, by Dr Arnold Horner, who has been researching the maps of Laois, and writing a book on Laois Historic Maps, due out later this year.

**YOUNG YARNS WITH MICHAEL CREAGH**

*Date*
20 August:
8:00pm - 10:15pm

*Venue*
Rathdowney Library

*Organiser*
Rathdowney Library

Contact
T: 0505 46852
W: www.laois.ie/departments/libraries

Join storyteller Michael Creagh for a night of music, poetry and storytelling by local young people on the theme of ‘My Home Place.’ Participants can tell a story, read a poem or sing a song, either their own composition or a favourite borrowed from another. Sausages and colcannon will be served.

**FAMILY NATURE WALK**

*Date*
21 August:
11:00am - 12:30pm

*Venue*
The park/ Kiln Lane
Mountrath

*Organiser*
Kiln Lane residents

Contact
T: 083 1467257  E: Margaretmoore316@gmail.com

Family nature around the estate and surrounding area. All welcome, refreshments provided after in the community building Kiln Lane.
**TALK ON GLENABARROW BY TOM JOYCE**

**Date**  
21 August:  
7:30pm - 8:30pm

**Venue**  
Mountmellick Library

**Organiser**  
Mountmellick Library

**Contact**  
T: 057 864 4572  
E: bconnell@laoiscoco.ie  
W: www.laois.ie/departments/libraries

Join local artist Tom Joyce for a talk on Glenbarrow, a source of inspiration for much of his artwork.

**THE DIPPER, IN ITS NATURAL HABITAT**

**Date**  
21 August: 7:30pm - 9:30pm

**Venue**  
Castletown Bridge

**Organiser**  
Birdwatch Ireland Laois Branch

**Contact**  
T: 086 229 1637  
E: birdwatchlaois@gmail.com

Join BirdWatch Ireland to observe these beautiful river birds in their natural habitat along the Nore in Castletown, and check for ringed birds at their roost. Part of an ongoing research and conservation project.

**THE FOLKLORE OF CO. LAOIS**

**Date**  
21 August:  
7:30pm - 8:30pm

**Venue**  
Abbeyleix Heritage House

**Organiser**  
Abbeyleix Heritage Company

**Contact**  
T: 057 873 1653  
E: info@abbeyleixheritagehouse.com  
W: www.abbeyleixheritage.com

Learn about the folklore of Abbeyleix and Laois as we delve into the National Folklore archive. In the 1930s, the Irish Folklore Commission sought to record the folklore and traditions of Ireland. From old cures to ancient proverbs, the records illuminate our past and remind us of the values and beliefs that have shaped Ireland of today.
VIOLENCE, RIDICULE AND SILENCE

Date
21 August:
8:00pm - 9:30pm

Venue
Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise

Organiser
Laois Heritage Society

Contact
T: 086 043 7656
E: michaelparsons@eircom.net
W: www.laoisheritagesociety.org

Violence, ridicule and silence: the archives of women’s votes, 1918-2018: Exploration of the archives & records that allow understanding of this critical period in our history. Everyone has a story, but not everyone’s story gets told. For much of Irish women’s history, this is because the archival evidence has been lost. The talk will focus on lesser-known archival evidence for the struggle for the female vote in 1918. Dr Jane Maxwell is curator of a TCD exhibition on female suffrage.

STRAW CRAFT FOR ADULTS

Date
21 August:
11:00am - 2:00pm

Venue
Portlaoise Library

Contact
T: 057 862 2333
E: scarroll@laoiscope.ie
W: www.laois.ie/departments/libraries

This workshop with Melanie Lorien combines hands on straw craft making with an exploration of the traditions and folklore associated with the harvest. Melanie is a member of the International Guild of Straw Craftsman and their representative in Ireland. She regularly demonstrates at The National Museum of Country Life and other heritage events around the country. Melanie is also an organic gardener and a former Woodland Conservation Ranger. Booking required.
**STRAW CRAFT FOR CHILDREN**

**Date**
22 August:
10:30am - 12:30pm

**Venue**
Mountrath Library

**Contact**
T: 057 - 8756378
E: tkenny@laoiscoco.ie

Join Melanie Lorien will for a hands-on workshop on straw craft, helping children to make a good luck charm and a gift for someone special. Melanie brings customs and traditions to life as children learn how to make straw items and examine a large collection of unusual straw objects from around the world. Booking required.

**GENEALOGY CLINIC IN THE LIBRARY**

**Date**
21 August: 10am - 1pm

**Venue**
Mountmellick Library

**Contact**
T: 057 864 4572
E: bconnell@laoiscoco.ie

Would you like to do your family tree but don’t know where to start? Have you started your family tree but need helping moving forward with your research? If so, the Genealogy Clinic could be for you. Book in for a free thirty minute, one-to-one advice clinic with library staff, who will provide guidance and pointers on your specific research problems.

**Date**
August 22: 10:00am - 1:00pm

**Venue**
Portlaoise Library

**Contact**
T: 057 862 2333
E: scarroll@laoiscoco.ie

**Date**
August 24: 10:00am - 1:00pm

**Venue**
Abbeyleix Library

**Contact**
T: 057 873 0020
E: amcdonald@laoiscoco.ie
W: www.laois.ie/departments/libraries
**IRISH HISTORY LIVE**

Michael Moylan brings history to life with costumes and artefacts of historic periods. Booking required.  

W: www.laois.ie/departments/libraries

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**NATURALLY WILD WITH DALE TREADWELL**

Dale Treadwell reads from his books ‘Harry the Hedgehog’ and ‘Robby the Robin’ and explores lots of Irish wildlife. You might even meet some in person! Suitable for children aged 6-12 years.

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MOUNTMELLICK EMBROIDERY WORKSHOP

Date
22 August:
2:00pm

Venue
Mountmellick
Embroidery Museum

Contact
T: 057 862 4525
E: themuse@mdalt.ie

Workshop on Mountmellick Embroidery by Master Practitioners of the craft.

THE WOLFHILL COALMINE PROJECT

Date
22 August: 7pm - 9pm

Venue
Dunamaise Arts Centre

Organiser
Wolffhill Coalmine Project

Contact
T: 057 8663355
E: boxoffice@dunamaise.ie W: www.dunamaise.ie

Wolfhill miners and their way of life.
A collaborative mixed-media exhibition preserving the memories and stories of Wolfhill miners, with contributions from David Delaney, Ciara Drennan, Pauline Mc Evoy, Stephen Murphy, Jayne Louise Kelly and Joseph Kavanagh. The exhibition is open through Heritage Week, with a special reception on Wednesday 22nd at 7pm.

‘ON RAGLAN ROAD’

Date
22 August: 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Venue
Portlaoise Library

Organiser
Portlaoise Library

Contact
T: 057 8622333 E: scarroll@laoiscoco.ie W: www.laois.ie/departments/libraries

Gerard Hanberry introduces the great Irish love songs and the women who inspired them. Enjoy an evening of stories and songs as Gerry combines live performances of well known Irish love songs with engaging biographies of the songwriters and their muses.
GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF ABBEYLEIX

Date
23 August:
10:00am - 11:30am
2:00pm - 3:30pm
Venue
Abbeyleix Heritage House
Organiser
Abbeyleix Heritage Company
Contact
T: 057 873 1653
E: info@abbeyleixheritage.com
W: www.abbeyleixheritage.com

A terrace of houses modelled on a Crimean Palace, a pub from the 1700s, site of the Titanic carpet factory, over 60 historic listed buildings; Abbeyleix has it all! Hear the stories of the town and share your own as we take a stroll back in time.

TOUR OF LANDLORD’S GEORGIAN HOUSE

Date
23 August:
10:00am - 4:00pm
Venue
Mount St. Anne’s,
Killenard,
Portarlington,
Co. Laois
R32WN59
Organiser
Elizabeth Maxwell
Contact
T: 057 862 6153  E: msannes@eircom.net  W: www.mountstannes.com

A Guided Tour of the house and walled gardens built by Landlord Edward Randal Skeffington-Smith in 1820 will help visitors appreciate the beautiful architectural heritage which is part of the legacy of the great houses of Laois. Today the house is a Retreat and Conference Centre and welcomes local, national and international guests. Once derelict stables have been converted into a Heritage Centre.
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<th>Date</th>
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<td><strong>Morning</strong></td>
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<td>Women in the</td>
<td>Glenbarrow talk,</td>
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**NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK 2018 18–26 AUG**

**MUSEUMS OPEN AND EXHIBITIONS RUNNING FOR ALL OR PART OF THE WEEK. CHECK FULL GUIDE FOR OPENING DAYS/TIMES**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday 22nd Aug</th>
<th>Thursday 23rd Aug</th>
<th>Friday 24th Aug</th>
<th>Saturday 25th Aug</th>
<th>Sunday 26th Aug</th>
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</table>
SHARING OUR STORY OF DANCE

Date
23 August: 10:00am - 1:30pm
24 August: 10:00am - 1:30pm
25 August: 10:00am - 1:30pm
26 August: 10:00am - 1:30pm

Venue
An Sean Chistin, Irey, Ballyfin

Organiser
Maureen Culleton

Contact
T: 087 648 2038  E: seanchistin@gmail.com

Sharing our story of dance and connecting Irish set dancers with a group of set dancers from Provence, France. Dance instruction by Maureen Culleton each day, from 10am to 1.30pm with a break for tea, coffee and home made scones. Cost is €10 per day.

TALES OF A SMALL ESTATE

Date
23 August: 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Venue
Castlewood Farm shop, Durrow, Co Laois

Organiser
Dominic Leonard

Contact
T: 087 9694070  E: farmerdominic@yahoo.co.uk  W: www.castlewoodfarm.ie

Join Dominic and Alison - owners of Castlewood organic farm - for an informal talk about the people and stories of Castlewood through the ages while enjoying a stroll around the picturesque farm.

THE DNA ATLAS OF IRELAND

Date
23 August: 6:30-8:00pm

Venue
Portlaoise Library

Organiser
Portlaoise Library

Contact
T: 057 8622333  E: scarroll@laoiscoco.ie  W: www.laois.ie/departments/libraries

Talk by Edmund Gilbert on the DNA Atlas of Ireland, a collaborative study of the historic DNA of the Irish population by the RCSI and the Genealogical Society of Ireland. Are you a Gael, a Celt, a Viking or British? According to a new study, it may depend on where you live in Ireland. The first genetic map of the Irish reveals geographic clusters that reflect the impact of immigration, invasion, and plantation.
STRADBALLY HALL IN THE 18TH CENTURY

Date
23 August: 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Venue
Stradbally Library

Organiser
Stradbally Library

Contact
T: 057 8641673  E: jshead@laoiscoco.ie
W: www.laois.ie/departments/libraries

A talk by Clair McDonald on the 18th century’s profound impact on the landscape of the Cosby Estate, as viewed from the diverse perspectives of the owners, tenants, cartographers and visitors.

COUNTY LAOIS SWIFT SURVEY 2018

Date
23 August: 8:00pm - 9:00pm

Venue
Portlaoise Parish Centre

Organiser
BirdWatch Ireland

Contact
T: 057 915 1676  E: rwhelan@birdwatchireland.ie
W: www.birdwatchireland.ie

Join BirdWatch Ireland to hear the preliminary results of the 2018 Laois Swift Survey. The survey, supported by the Heritage Council, has identified Swift nest locations throughout the county, and options for Swift conservation in the future will be discussed.

A TALK ON RATHDAIRE HOUSE

Date
23 August: 8:00pm - 9:30pm

Venue
Midlands Park Hotel Portlaoise

Organiser
Laois Heritage Society

Contact
T: 086 210 2397  E: laoisheritagesociety@gmail.com

An architectural and historic appraisal of Rathadair House in Co. Laois by Mairtin D’Alton
**LEA CASTLE CONSERVATION UPDATE**

Date
23 August: 8:00pm - 9:00pm

Venue
Portarlington Library

Organiser
Lea Castle Conservation

Contact
E: info@leacastle.ie
W: www.leacastle.ie

The Lea Castle Conservation Project Working Group are delighted to give a public update on the work, with presentation by leading historical author, John Stocks Powell.

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**IN SEARCH OF THE PINE MARTEN**

Date
23 August: 8:00pm

Venue
The Forum Mountmellick

Organiser
Mountmellick Heritage Society

Contact
T: 057 864 4299
E: annmobrien7@eircom.net

A five year photographic project at Lower Forest bog Mountmellick, by Paul Lalor culminating in him receiving an Associateship from the Irish Photographic Federation. Paul will tell his story from the beginning in 2013 up to receiving his award in 2018. This will be of interest to all with an interest in nature or photography.

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**KID’S SHIPWRECK DIG**

Date
24 August: 11:00am - 12:00pm and 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Venue
Abbeyleigh Heritage House

Organiser
Abbeyleigh Heritage Company

Contact
T: 057 873 1653  E: info@abbeyleighheritage.com
W: www.abbeyleighheritage.com

Sift, search and dig through the sand to discover the history buried beneath our feet! Children aged 6-12 will become archaeologists and excavate a shipwreck site in search of buried treasure! What will you discover?

Fees €5
HERITAGE CYCLE RALLY 2018

Date
24 August: 10:00am - 11:45pm
25 August: 9:00am - 11:45pm

Venue
Durrow and sites across Laois

Organiser
Irish Country roads & Culture Trails

Contact
T: 086 869 4691  E: hugh@bulfinheritagecycle.com
W: www.bulfinheritagecycle.com

Fee €120 to include breakfast and evening meal on both days, packed lunch, heritage site visits, souvenir event passport, luggage transfer and full back up service.

Our cycling event in 2018 will focus on the rich heritage of County Laois, with a view to creating a lasting experience of the living culture and hidden heritage of our county. The event will include community and visitor engagement through promenade theatre style sketches, re-enactments, storytelling and traditional music.

SUNSET ON THE ROCK OF DUNAMASE

Date
24 August: 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Venue
The Rock of Dunamase

Organiser
Experiencing Laois

Contact
T: 087 792 3367  E: info@experiencinglaois.com
W: www.experiencinglaois.com

Missing out on Heritage Week events because of work? Join a sunset guided tour of The Rock of Dunamase. Learn about the Kings, Knights and nobility who lived on one of the largest fortifications in Ireland.

WHISKEY TASTING EVENING

Date
24 August: 8:00pm - 9:00pm

Venue
Clanmalire House Ballybrittas

Organiser
Lea Castle Conservation

Fee €25

Contact
E: info@leacastle.ie  W: www.leacastle.ie

Representatives of Irish Distillers - one of Ireland’s leading suppliers of spirits and producer of some of the world’s most well-known and successful Irish whiskeys - will give a talk about some of their products. A fund-raiser for the Lea Castle project.
CLAY DAYS - EARTH BUILDING STORIES

Date
25 August: 9:00am - 12:00pm
Venue
Portlaoise Parish Centre, Portlaoise
Organiser
Earthen Building UK and Ireland
Contact
T: 083 108 9420  W: www.ebuki.co
E: davelaois@gmail.com

Share your stories of earth building - maybe you’ve lived in one, or you know where there are some? Maybe you remember building one, or you’ve worked with earth in some way or another, we’d love to hear your story! We will be sharing information on earth buildings, how they are built and showing some videos of beautiful earthen homes.

FOLKLORE AND FUN DAY

Date
25 August: 12:00pm - 3:00pm
Venue
Abbeyleix Heritage House
Organiser
Abbeyleix Heritage Company
Contact
T: 057 873 1653  E: info@abbeyleixheritage.com
W: www.abbeyleixheritage.com
Fee €5

Create traditional crafts such as harvest knots, old Irish playground games, hear ancient Irish stories and create your storyboards at our Folklore and Fun day! Children aged 6-12 will engage with the past in this fun and educational event!

“SIN A BHFUIL” TUNES AND STORIES

Date
25 August: 2:00pm - 3:00pm
Venue
Emo Court
Organiser
Office of Public Works
Contact
T: 057 862 6573  E: emocourt@opw.ie
W: www.heritageireland.ie

2018 Siansa Gael linn finalists “Sin a bhfuil” return to perform a selection of traditional music and share stories about the tunes in the stunning marble salon at Emo Court
PORTLAOISE NATURE WALK

Date
25 August: 2:00pm - 3:30pm

Venue
Parish Centre, Portlaoise

Organiser
Laois Outdoor Education

Contact
T: 087 774 1846
E: info@laoisoutdooreducation.ie
W: www.laoisoutdooreducation.ie

Family-friendly nature walk around Portlaoise taking in the esker, the Old Fort and other places of interest. Booking required. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Dress for the weather!

A RETURN TO THE RAINBOW GATHERING

Date
25 August:
4:00pm - 7:00pm

Venue
The Hare’s Corner, Mountmellick

Organiser
John Whelan

Contact
T: 087 250 9663
E: jwhelan@communicateireland.ie

A family friendly gathering to mark the 25th anniversary of the European Rainbow Gathering in Ballyhuppahaun, Rosenallis in the summer of 1993, remembering the excitement, sharing stories (and photos) and reflecting on the environmental and educational values that remain valid today.

CÉILÍ MÓR

Date
26 August:
4:00pm - 6:00pm

Venue
Community Centre, Ballyfin

Organiser
Maureen Culleton

Contact
T: 087 648 2038
E: seanchistin@gmail.com

Fee €10

Sharing our stories with a group of dancers from Provence, all are welcome to this Céilí. All dancers welcome, refreshments will be served.
‘BEE SMART’ - POLLINATOR PARTY!

Date
26 August: 2:00pm - 4:30pm

Venue
Mountrath Amenity Area

Organiser
Mountrath Development Association

Contact
T: 087 773 3050
E: mountrathdevass@gmail.com

Buzz over to the Pollinator Party, a celebration the story of the life and work of honey bees and other native bees. Activities, honey, games, drama, music and screenings of The Bee Movie & Disney’s Movie - Wings of Life! This family friendly event provides an opportunity all ages to celebrate the life & work of honey bees & other native bees in a park setting by the Whitehorse River!

FARM AND BREWERY TOUR

Date
26 August: 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Venue
Ballykilcavan, Stradbally, Co. Laois, R32 PY89

Organiser
Ballykilcavan Farm

Contact
T: 086 348 4128
E: david@ballykilcavan.com
W: www.ballykilcavan.com

Come and hear the stories of Ballykilcavan on a farm tour including a look at the new on-farm brewery that will open soon. Come and hear about the rebellious gardener, the fairy curse, the drunken councillors and the hangman’s tree, and enjoy a tour of the 18th century stone farmyards and 19th century walled garden. It’s a farm and outdoors, so good footwear is recommended.
**MUSEUMS, OPEN DAYS AND EXHIBITIONS**

### THROUGH MY EYES: PHOTO EXHIBITION

**Date** Sat 18 August, Tues 21 - Sat 25 August, 9am - 5pm each day  
**Venue** Abbeyeixeix Heritage House  
Photographic exhibition of local places and faces by local photographer Dan Fitzpatrick, capturing the character of Abbeyleix.

**Contact**  
Phone: 057 873 1653  
Email: info@abbeyleixheritage.com  
Web: www.abbeyleixheritage.com

### MOUNTMELLICK WORK EXHIBITION

**Date** Sat 18, Sun 19 and Mon 20 August, 10am - 6pm  
**Venue** Owenass Hall, Mountmellick  
An exhibition of Mountmellick Work by Mountmellick Heritage Society, including new and previously unseen pieces of work.

**Contact**  
Phone: 057 864 4572  
Email: mary.e.obrien2@gmail.com

### BE A TOURIST IN YOUR OWN TOWN!

**Date** Sat 25 and Sun 26 August, 10am - 6pm  
**Venue** Parochial Hall, Market Sq, Portarlington  
Portarlington Tidy Towns, Derryounce Lakes and Trails, Lea Castle Conservation Project and Portarlington Photography Club invite you to a photographic exhibition showcasing the natural and built Heritage of Portarlington. “Love Where You Live”

**Contact**  
Email: nettiemerson@gmail.com

### NOSTALGIA: IRISH COINS AND MEASUREMENTS

**Date** Library opening hours - check website for details  
**Venue** Mountmellick Library  
Exhibition by Mountmellick Heritage Society of Irish coinage & measuring systems from foundation of Irish Free State to introduction of the Euro. The penny, the farthing, the crown, a pound, an inch, a hand etc.

**Contact**  
Phone: 057 864 4299  
Email: annmobrien7@eircom.net  
Web: www.laois.ie/departments/libraries/branch-libraries

### IN SEARCH OF THE PINE MARTEN

**Date** Daily during Heritage Week, 2pm - 5pm every day  
**Venue** The Forum Mountmellick  
An exhibition of photographs by Paul Lalor, based on a five year project at Lower Forest Bog, to capture the elusive and beautiful pine marten in photographs. Paul has recently been awarded an Associateship from the Irish Photographic Federation for his work. The exhibition tells his story from when he started up to receipt of his award in March 2018.

**Contact**  
Phone: 057 864 4299  
Email: annmobrien7@eircom.net
### Mountrath Projects and Photographs

**Date** Library opening hours - check website for details  
**Venue** Mountrath Library  
Local projects and old local photographs will be on display for the whole week during the Library’s opening hours, call in and enjoy.

**Contact**  
Phone: 057 875 6378  
Web: www.laois.ie/departments/libraries/branch-libraries

### The Wolfhill Coalmine Project

**Date** Exhibition open during Dunamaise Arts Centre opening hours, with special reception on Wed 22 August: 7pm - 9pm  
**Venue** Dunamaise Arts Centre

A mixed-media exhibition preserving the memories and stories of Wolfhill miners, with contributions from David Delaney, Ciara Drennan, Pauline Mc Evoy, Stephen Murphy, Jayne Louise Kelly and Joseph Kavanagh. Through writing, photography, digital media and art, the team’s responses to their 12 month residency are presented alongside newspaper & photographic archives, social & community history, artefacts and recorded interviews with former miners.

**Contact**  
Phone: 057 866 3355  
Email: boxoffice@dunamaise.ie  
Web: www.dunamaise.ie

### Stradbally Hall Guided Tours

**Date** Sat 18 August and Sun 26 August, 9am - 1:00pm  
**Venue** Stradbally Hall

Guided tours of Stradbally Hall, specially open for Heritage Week  
**Fees** €10 Adult/Concession  
Children free  €20 Family

**Contact**  
Phone: 086 851 9272  
Email: thomascosby1974@gmail.com  
Web: www.stradballyhall.ie

### Abbeyleix Heritage House Free Admission

**Date** Sat 18 August, Tues 21 - Sat 25 August, 9am - 5pm each day  
**Venue** Abbeyleix Heritage House


**Contact**  
Phone: 057 873 1653  
Email: info@abbeyleixheritage.com  
Web: www.abbeyleixheritage.com

### Tenakill House Restoration Project

**Date** Wed 22 August: 11am - 5pm  
**Venue** Tenakill, Raheen

View the 1st phase of the restoration work which has been successfully completed on Tenakill House. The Committee plan to establish the house as a museum and library housing memorabilia & writings of Honest Pat Lalor, his sons James Fintan, Richard & Peter. Extracts of writings will be read on the day by actors in costume. Children’s activities and refreshments on the day also.

**Contact**  
Phone: 087 961 4235  
Email: kevinlalorfitzpatrick@gmail.com
### FREE GUIDED TOURS OF EMO COURT WITH GUIDES IN COSTUME

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<th><strong>Date</strong></th>
<th>Sun 19 and Sun 26 August: 10am - 5pm</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Venue</strong></td>
<td>Emo Court</td>
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Come join us for free tours of Emo Court with Guides in Historical Costume. Visit the “Unravelling Laois” Exhibition during Heritage week and collect a Laois passport to many interesting sites.

**Contact**
- Phone: 057 862 6573
- Email: emocourt@opw.ie
- Web: www.heritageireland.ie

### ABBEY LEIX ESTATE OPEN DAY

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<th><strong>Date</strong></th>
<th>Sun 19 August 1pm - 5pm</th>
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<td><strong>Venue</strong></td>
<td>Abbey Leix Estate, Abbeyleix</td>
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Abbey Leix Estate (Formerly De Vesci Estate) is open to the public by Abbeyleix & Portlaoise District Lions Club by kind permission of Sir David Davies. **Fee €5**

### STORY OF MOUNTMELLICK EMBROIDERY

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<th><strong>Date</strong></th>
<th>Sun 19 August: 2:00pm - 4:30pm, Mon 20 August to Fri 24 August: 9:30am - 4:30pm, Sat 25 August 11:00am - 4:30pm</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Venue</strong></td>
<td>Mountmellick Embroidery Museum</td>
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The Story of Mountmellick Embroidery told by Master Practitioners of the craft. A display of old and contemporary pieces will be on show. Exhibition open all week, with workshop (booking required) on Wednesday 22 starting at 2pm.

**Contact**
- Phone: 057 862 4525
- Email: themuse@mdaltd.ie

### “TOWNSCAPE”: PORTRAITS OF HOMES IN STRADBALLY, CO. LAOIS, BY MARY BURKE

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<th><strong>Date</strong></th>
<th>Tues 21 August - Fri 24 August, 10am - 5pm</th>
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<td><strong>Venue</strong></td>
<td>Irish Architectural Archive, 45, Merrion Square, Dublin 2</td>
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An exploration of homes in Stradbally, Co Laois, by Artist Mary Burke. Companion book includes reproductions of the paintings with writing by sociologist, Professor Mary Corcoran, who documented what living in Stradbally means to the home owners. “Townscape” brings sociology, the community and the arts into collaborative practice. Curated by Laois Arts Officer Muireann Ní Chonaill

**Contact**
- Phone: 057 866 4109
- Email: mnichona@laoiscoco.ie

### “UNRAVELLING LAOIS” EXHIBITION

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<th><strong>Date</strong></th>
<th>Daily, 10am - 5pm</th>
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<td><strong>Venue</strong></td>
<td>Emo Court</td>
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Exhibition of visual art created by parents from Scoil Bhríde Portlaoise, in response to the heritage sites of Laois, as part of a Laois Offaly ETB project, supported by DEIS, and Creative Ireland.

**Contact**
- Phone: 057 862 6573
- Email: emocourt@opw.ie
- Web: www.heritageireland.ie
European Heritage Days (EHDs), a joint initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Commission, are the most widely celebrated participatory cultural events shared by the citizens of Europe.

Over 70,000 events are organised every year in order to help raise awareness of Europe’s common heritage and the continuous need for its protection.

This year, the countries taking part in European Heritage Days are celebrating the European Year of Cultural Heritage through the common theme of The Art of Sharing.

EHDs events take place in the 50 countries party to the European Cultural Convention. During this time, doors are opened to numerous monuments and sites, allowing Europe’s citizens to enjoy free visits and learn about their shared cultural heritage and encouraging them to become actively involved in the safeguarding and enhancement of this heritage for present and future generations.

www.europeanheritagedays.com
Win a two night Original Irish Hotels B&B Break

To celebrate Heritage Week, Original Irish Hotels are offering one lucky winner and guest a fantastic two night B&B break, including dinner on one evening, in one of their unique owner-run hotels located in Ireland’s most outstanding destinations.

How to enter:
Visit heritageweek.ie and click on the competition area to submit your answers. This is an online competition.

Q1. In what county is Knockranny House Hotel?
   a. Meath
   b. Monaghan
   c. Mayo

Q2. Which Original Irish Hotel has a recently restored walled garden?
   a. Dingle Benners Hotel
   b. Knockranny House Hotel
   c. Ballynahinch Castle Hotel

Q3. What festival is hosted by the Seaview House Hotel during Heritage Week?
   a. The Ellen Hutchins Festival
   b. The Loughrea Medieval Festival
   c. Festival of Early Irish Harp

Terms and Conditions

• The closing date for receipt of entries is Friday 31 August 2018 and entries may only be submitted online via www.heritageweek.ie
• The winner will be randomly selected from entries with all 3 correct answers
• The winner of the competition will be contacted by the Heritage Council
• The prize is for two night B&B break, including dinner on one evening, in one of the luxurious Original Irish Hotels around Ireland. Transport and other costs associated with taking the prize are not included
• It is the responsibility of the winner to redeem their prize directly with Original Irish Hotels
• No alternative prize will be offered
• There is no cash redemption value for the prize
• Prize winners will have a choice of hotels depending on availability and at the discretion of Original Irish Hotels

Prize is subject to availability.

To be in with a chance to win, correctly answer these 3 questions at heritageweek.ie
The Heritage Council is once again delighted to announce the Heritage Awards, showcasing the best of National Heritage Week and recognising the fantastic work of work of heritage enthusiasts across Ireland.

The 2018 award categories are as follows

**Heritage Hero**
Do you know someone who always goes the extra mile for heritage? Nominate an individual or organisation who makes an outstanding contribution to the protection and promotion of heritage in your local area. Anyone can nominate a Heritage Hero.

**Hidden Heritage**
Did your event shine a light on Ireland’s hidden heritage? This award is open to event organisers who successfully explored lesser known aspects of Ireland’s heritage during National Heritage Week. All National Heritage Week Event Organisers can enter.

**Heritage Communities**
Did your event reach across your community? Maybe you worked in partnership with other community groups or encouraged young people to take part. This award is open to event organisers who brought their community together to celebrate National Heritage Week. All National Heritage Week Event Organisers can enter.

**Cool for Kids**
Did your event help children learn about and enjoy heritage? This award is open to event organisers who encouraged children and families to participate in National Heritage Week. All National Heritage Week Event Organisers can enter.

**Le Cheile san Eoraip Awards**
The European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 will see the launch of a new Heritage Award that recognises event organisers who showcase heritage links with other places in Europe. Did your event highlight a person, place or event with a European dimension? Maybe you explored European influences on architecture or archaeology, technology or crafts, or explored migrations of people, plants and animals, or trade links and pilgrim paths. Three prizes of €1,000 will be awarded to the organisers of events that best represent heritage links with Europe.

All National Heritage Week and European Year of Cultural Heritage Event Organisers can enter.

The closing date for entries is Friday the 14th of September 2018 and entry is free. Recipients will be honoured at a Heritage Council Awards Day.

Find out more at [www.heritageweek.ie](http://www.heritageweek.ie)
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 Partnership, 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
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 media and marketing purposes. 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

Check out our interactive map to Laois Heritage Week Sites on Google maps www.tiny.cc/laoisheritage18

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
➡️ www.facebook.com/laoisheritageforum
@d @laoisheritage
laoisheritage