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Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme



Aois & Deis

Féile Bhealtaine 2024

Age & Opportunity

Bealtaine Festival 2024



Bealtaine Festival

An Age & Opportunity arts initiative



**Age &
Opportunity**

Imeachtaí i Leabharlanna Fhine Gall
Events in Fingal Libraries

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Introduction

Welcome to Fingal Libraries' programme for the Bealtaine Festival 2024, Ireland's national celebration of the arts and creativity for older adults. The festival will run for the whole month of May with events in all our libraries.

This year's programme begins on May Day, 1st May, with a guided walk of Turvey Nature Reserve, Donabate, in the expert company of Birdwatch Fingal. Music is always part of this festival, and you can look forward to concerts by string quartet Bohemian Strings and Rush Musical Society Singers, presenting a unique program of specially arranged music. Make music while exploring the world of African rhythm and song in an African Percussion workshop with John Nutekpor.

If you would like to learn to paint or draw or even take better photographs with your smartphone, you may be interested in workshops with John Carpenter and Myles Shelly. Bring the gardens of May indoors with sustainable flower arranging workshops. Create a colourful summer-flowering planter with 'Unwind with Plants'. The Bealtaine Festival encourages people to try something new so why not sign up for Tai Chi classes, learn to play bridge, or create a clay and mirror mural using traditional craft techniques from India? If you would like to develop your creative writing skills, you may be interested in Bealtaine poetry workshops with Damien Donnelly and a creative writing workshop with Adele Halpin.

As always, the Bealtaine programme features engaging talks including an author visit by Eilís Ní Dhuibhne, who will speak about her work. Claire Bradley will explain how to use DNA test results to research your family history. Balbriggan Heritage Group will take us back in time to when Balbriggan was renowned around the world for producing hosiery. Technology, and how it can help us continue to enjoy reading despite failing eyesight, is the subject of a talk by Sinéad Hull. Fingal Library staff will help you get the best out of fantastic library e-services with Bealtaine e-services clinics, just bring your smartphone or tablet!

We look forward to seeing you in the library during the month of May to celebrate the Bealtaine Festival!



Bealtaine Events at a Glance

Event	Location	Time
Wednesday, 1st May		
Guided Walk of Turvey Nature Reserve	Meeting Point: Turvey Nature Reserve Car Park	10:00am – 12:00pm
Sustainable Flower Arranging	Donabate Library	3:00pm – 5:00pm
E-Services Clinic	Blanchardstown Library	2:00pm – 3:00pm (For more dates see page 14)
Thursday, 2nd May		
Learn to Play Bridge	Rush Library	11:00am – 1:00pm (For more dates see page 11)
Learn to Play Bridge	Balbriggan Library	2:00pm – 4:00pm (For more dates see page 11)
Bealtaine Poetry Workshop	Skerries Library	5:45pm – 7:45pm
Friday, 3rd May		
Tai Chi	Blanchardstown Library	10:00m – 11:00am (For more dates see page 10)
Tai Chi	Malahide Library	2:00pm – 3:00pm (For more dates see page 10)
Tuesday, 7th May		
Learn Smartphone Photography	Blanchardstown Library	10:30am – 12:30pm
Learn Smartphone Photography	Baldoyle Library	2:00pm – 4:00pm
E-Services Clinic	Swords Library	2:00pm – 3:00pm
Friday, 10th May		
Bealtaine Poetry Workshop	Baldoyle Library	2:00pm – 4:00pm
Saturday, 11th May		
Sounds of the Golden 60s Concert	Malahide Library	2:30pm – 3:30pm
African Percussion workshop	Blanchardstown Library	11:00am – 12:00pm
Clay Modelling	Howth Library	10:30am – 12:30pm
Monday, 13th May		
Author Visit: Éilís Ní Dhuibhne	Garristown Library	7:00pm – 8:00pm
E-Services Clinic	Skerries Library	All Day
Tuesday, 14th May		
May Gardening	Malahide Library	2:00pm – 3:30pm
Thursday, 16th May		
Author Visit: Éilís Ní Dhuibhne	Howth Library	11:30am – 12:30pm
E-Services Clinic	Malahide Library	2:00pm – 3:00pm



Event	Location	Time
Friday, 17th May		
Creative writing for beginners	Blanchardstown Library	12:30pm – 3:30pm
Saturday, 18th May		
Assistive Technology Workshop	Skerries Library	2:30pm – 3:30pm
Talk by Balbriggan Heritage Group	Balbriggan Library	11:00am – 12:00pm
Monday, 20th May		
Learn Smartphone Photography	Swords Library	10:30am – 12:30pm
Learn Smartphone Photography	Donabate Library	2:00pm – 4:00pm
Tuesday, 21st May		
Using DNA to Research Family History	Swords Library	6:30pm – 7:30pm
E-Services Clinic	Rush Library	2:00pm – 4:00pm
Wednesday, 22nd May		
Learn to Paint and Draw	Rush Library	11:00am – 1:00pm (For more dates see page 8)
Sustainable Flower Arranging	Balbriggan Library	10:00am – 12:00pm
Thursday, 23rd May		
E-Services Clinic	Baldoyle Library	10:00am – 11:00am & 2:00pm – 3:00pm
Saturday, 25th May		
Rush Musical Society Singers	Rush Library	3:00pm – 4:30pm

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Guided Walk of Turvey Nature Reserve with Birdwatch Fingal

Would you like to explore the birdlife of Turvey Nature Reserve and Park in the expert company of Birdwatch Fingal? Come along to this guided walk with Dr. Frank Prendergast to see and hear birds in this unique habitat. Turvey Nature Reserve / Park is rightly called Dublin's



greatest wilderness. Under constant management by Fingal County Council, the area features wild meadows, wetland restoration, forest walks and the Broadmeadow Estuary which is a mecca for a vast range of ducks, waders and geese in winter months. Bird species include several raptor species - peregrine falcon, sparrowhawk, merlin and buzzard. Barn owls also hunt there. The walk is perfectly timed to coincide with the arrival of our spring migrants such as swallow, sand martin and various species of warbler. Bird song identification will be a feature of the walk, adding to what will be a most enjoyable event.

All welcome, no booking necessary.

Please note this event involves walking and standing outdoors, so bring comfortable / appropriate clothing and footwear. The route will be wheelchair accessible. This guided walk will leave from Turvey Nature Reserve Car Park at 10 am sharp on Wednesday, 1st May.

Meeting Point:
Turvey Nature Reserve
Car Park, Turvey
Avenue, Donabate

Wednesday, 1st May

10:00am – 12:00pm



Sounds of the Golden 60s with Bohemian Strings

This concert from Bohemian Strings features the immortal melodies of the 60s, including classic hits from the Beatles, the Beach Boys, The Doors, The Monkees, Roy Orbison, the theme from the Breakfast at Tiffany's, James Bond Theme and a number of 60s favourites.



Bohemian Strings is a string quartet comprising of Ireland's top classical musicians. This quartet combines unique contemporary arrangements and the beautiful sound of classical instruments. Bohemian Strings have performed with Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys, Mick Flannery, Richard Clayderman and many more.

Malahide Library

Saturday, 11th May

2:30pm – 3:30pm

All welcome

Rush Musical Society Singers

Rush Musical Society Singers have become a favourite with local audiences, performing rock and popular music arranged for mixed voices by Colin Sloan. Performing in concerts, festivals, and cultural events, Rush Musical Society Singers have also competed in the Navan and New Ross Choral Festivals. They won the Waterford International Festival of Light Opera Trophy in 2022 & 2023. RMS Singers will perform in Rush Library as part of the Bealtaine Festival presenting a unique program of specially arranged music from 'Elvis to Elbow'.



Rush Library

Saturday, 25th May

3:00pm – 4:30pm

All welcome



African Percussion Workshop with John Nutekpor



IRISH INSTITUTE OF
MUSIC & SONG
Institiúid Ceoil & Amhránaíochta na hÉireann

Join us for an African Percussion workshop hosted by the talented John Nutekpor from The Irish Institute of Music & Song in Balbriggan. Delve into the world of African rhythm and song. A fun, interactive way of exploring a new genre of music.



Blanchardstown Library

Saturday, 11th May

11:00am – 12:00pm

To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event.

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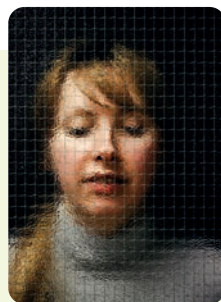
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Learn Smartphone Photography

with Myles Shelly

Would you like to take good quality, creative photographs on your phone? In this class, photographer Myles Shelly will guide you through the different modes found on most camera phones, free apps you can use to edit your photos, composition, colours, and shapes.



Blanchardstown Library	Tuesday, 7th May	10:30am – 12:30pm
Baldoyle Library	Tuesday, 7th May	2:00pm – 4:00pm
Swords Library	Monday, 20th May	10:30am – 12:30pm
Donabate Library	Monday, 20th May	2:00pm – 4:00pm

To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event.

Learn to Paint and Draw

with John Carpenter

There's no magic to it - the magic is in you waiting to be unleashed. Take this opportunity to learn a craft that will give you, and others, years of contentment and enjoyment with John Carpenter's three-week course.



Rush Library	Wednesday, 22nd May, Wednesday, 29th May Wednesday, 5th June	11:00am – 1:00pm
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To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event.



Sustainable Flower Arranging with Aga Hutcheson

Explore the art of creating stunning floral arrangements using organic greenery, flowers, herbs and foliage sourced from your very own garden. Learn valuable techniques for reusing and living sustainably while indulging in the beauty of nature's bounty.



Donabate Library	Wednesday, 1st May	3:00pm – 5:00pm
Balbriggan Library	Wednesday 22nd May	10:00am – 12:00pm

To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event.

May Gardening with Unwind with Plants

In this workshop, Marie Hirst (Unwind with Plants) will talk about seasonal plants that give instant colour in a container or hanging basket, and how to arrange them. You will learn how to:

- Sow different types and sizes of seeds for summer-flowering plants.
- Create a summer-flowering planter.
- Maintain plants for a long flowering period.

Malahide Library	Tuesday, 14th May	2:00pm – 3:30pm
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To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event.



Clay Mural Workshop with Kriti Malhotra



Join artist and designer Kriti Khatri to create 'Mud and Mirror Murals' - a traditional craft from the western part of India which features intricate designs made with clay and mirror. Learn the techniques passed down through generations and, together, we'll bring a touch of Indian tradition to life on our own mural canvas.

(Image credit kriti_kreatz @ instagram.com)

Howth Library

Saturday, 11th May

10:30am – 12:30pm

To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event

Tai Chi Beginners' Course with Stephen Pentony

Tai Chi is a low impact, slow motion exercise. In this four-week course, Stephen Pentony will guide you through the graceful movements and health benefits of this Chinese practice. Comfortable clothing and footwear is recommended.

Blanchardstown Library	Friday, 3rd May Friday, 10th May Friday, 17th May Friday, 24th May	10:00pm – 11:00am
Malahide Library	Friday, 3rd May Friday, 10th May Friday, 17th May Friday, 24th May	2:00pm – 3:00pm

To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event.

Please note: This workshop involves physical movement. If you have issues with mobility or balance, please consult your doctor to help you decide if this event is right for you.



Learn to Play Bridge with Martin Staunton



If you can count to 13, then you can play bridge. Keep mentally fit and have fun by playing this card game which is suitable for all ages. Join qualified Bridge tutor Martin Staunton for a two-hour bridge class each week for four weeks.

Rush Library	Thursday, 2nd May Thursday, 9th May Thursday, 16th May Thursday, 23rd May	11:00am – 1:00pm
Balbriggan Library	Thursday, 2nd May Thursday, 9th May Thursday, 16th May Thursday, 23rd May	2:00pm – 4:00pm

To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event.

Creative writing for beginners: Mastering the Art of Storytelling with Adele Halpin

Creative writing facilitator and best-selling author Adele Halpin (writing as Brona Mills) will guide you through the art of story-telling in this three hour workshop. Adele will cover:

- Developing memorable characters: backstory, motivations, and flaws.
- Creating dynamic relationships and conflict.
- Building a solid story structure and plot development.
- Utilising imagery, descriptive language, and sensory details.
- Refining your unique author voice and style.



Blanchardstown Library	Friday, 17th May	12:30pm – 3:30pm
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To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event.





Bealtaine Poetry Workshop with Damien Donnelly

Join us for this special poetry workshop to celebrate Féile na Bealtaine, the midway point between the spring equinox and the summer solstice, the beginning of the Pastoral season. Let us explore, through poetry, our connection to the land, the animals on it, the food we pull from it and the flowers that bloom above it. For two hours we'll turn told tales into inspirations and ignite a fire over our creativity.



Skerries Library	Thursday, 2nd May	5:45pm – 7:45pm
Baldoyle Library	Friday, 10th May	2:00pm – 4:00pm

To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event.

Bealtaine Author Visit: Éilís Ní Dhuibhne

Éilís Ní Dhuibhne is an award-winning author who has published over thirty books and many other stories and essays. The most recent books are Selected Stories (Blackstaff Press, 2023), and Fáinne Geal an Lae (a memoir of childhood) (Cló Iar Chonacht, 2023). She is currently editing an anthology of writing about the experience of ageing, with Michaela Schrage Frueh, which will be published this summer. Éilís will read from her work and discuss the new anthology on ageing, life, and books in general.



Garristown Library	Monday, 13th May	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Howth Library	Thursday, 16th May	11:30am – 12:30pm

To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event.



Using DNA Test Results to Research your Family History with Claire Bradley

For years, family history has been researched with traditional records like the census and birth, death, and marriage records. However, DNA tests are now increasingly employed to add to paper-based sources. This talk explains how DNA tests work, which one is best for your research and how to maximise their potential for your own family.

Swords Library

Tuesday, 21st May

6:30pm – 7:30pm

To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event.

Stockings for the Queen: a talk by David Sorensen, Balbriggan Heritage Group

Balbriggan was once renowned around the world for producing underwear and hosiery of fine knitted fabric. Several hosiery factories were established here, including the well-known Smyth & Co., whose high-quality hosiery won clients from the ranks of European aristocracy such as the Empress of Austria and the Tsarina of Russia. Its most famous customer was Queen Victoria who first commissioned stockings in 1837, the year of her coronation. Join David Sorensen, along with Petra Skyvova, from the Balbriggan Heritage Group for a fascinating talk and showcase of original artefacts of this once acclaimed local craft.

Balbriggan Library

Saturday, 18th May

11:00am – 12:00pm

To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event



Assistive Technology Workshop

with Sinéad Hull

This workshop will focus on different types of Assistive Technology (AT) tools and programmes which can be used to help with reading and writing difficulties. Text readers, reading pens and audiobooks will be demonstrated. The workshop is suitable for adults with visual impairments or failing eyesight. It is also beneficial for adults with literacy difficulties.

Skerries Library	Saturday, 18th May	2:30pm – 3:30pm
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To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event

E-Services Clinics

Fingal Libraries provide a wide range of free e-services including e-books, audio-books, online newspapers and databases. You can learn how to access and use these services on your tablet or smart phone at one of the e-services clinics below. Library staff will help you to set up and download the required apps and show you how to get the best out of these fantastic services.

Blanchardstown Library	Wednesday, 1st May Wednesday, 8th May Wednesday, 15th May Wednesday, 22nd May Wednesday, 29th May	2:00pm – 3:00pm
Swords Library	Tuesday, 7th May	2:00pm – 3:00pm
Skerries Library	Monday, 13th May	All Day
Malahide Library	Thursday, 16th May	2:00pm – 3:00pm
Rush Library	Tuesday, 21st May	2:00pm – 4:00pm
Baldoyle Library	Thursday, 23rd May	10:00am – 11:00am & 2:00pm – 3:00pm

All welcome, no booking necessary





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Cá bhfuil mo leabharlann is cóngaraí? Where is my nearest library?

Balbriggan	01 870 4401	balbrigganlibrary@fingal.ie
Baldoyle	01 890 6793	baldoylelibrary@fingal.ie
Blanchardstown	01 890 5560	blanchlibrary@fingal.ie
Donabate	01 890 5609	donabate.library@fingal.ie
Garristown	01 835 5020	garristownlibrary@fingal.ie
Howth	01 890 5026	Howth.library@fingal.ie
Malahide	01 870 4430	malahidelibrary@fingal.ie
Rush	01 870 8414	rushlibrary@fingal.ie
Skerries	01 890 5671	skerrieslibrary.library@fingal.ie
Swords	01 890 5582	swordslibrary@fingal.ie
Mobile Library Service	01 890 6719	mobile.libraries@fingal.ie
Housebound Library Service	01 860 4290	housebound.library@fingal.ie
Local Studies and Archives	01 870 4486	Local.Studies@fingal.ie

Tá Leabharlanna Fhine Gall ar na Meáin Shóisialta
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