

# Bealtaine Festival

## at Kilkenny County Council Library Service

**A**s we approach the month of May, Kilkenny County Council Library Service is delighted to highlight the upcoming Bealtaine Festival, Ireland's national celebration of the arts and ageing. Kilkenny Libraries support older people throughout the year with a wide range of free and welcoming services.

These include library membership, access to books, large print and audiobooks, newspapers and magazines, as well as comfortable spaces to read, relax and meet others. Libraries also offer free access to computers and Wi-Fi, support with digital skills, and a growing range of online resources such as eBooks and eAudiobooks.

With regular social groups, talks, workshops and lifelong learning opportunities, local libraries continue to be vibrant community hubs for learning, creativity and connection. This year's Bealtaine programme from Kilkenny County Council Library Service reflects that spirit, offering something to suit many tastes and interests, through creativity, connection and shared experience, celebrating the important role libraries play in enriching our lives at every stage.

### Coiled Grass Baskets in Ferrybank Library



In Ferrybank Library, Monica Fleming will host a workshop on Friday 1st May from 2.00 - 5.00pm, on making Coiled Grass Baskets.

Coiled baskets have been made for centuries all over the world using all kinds of native plants. In Ireland, grasses or straw bundles were bound with bramble bark to make baskets.

This workshop is bound to delight those who love to learn new crafts.

### Poetry meets Art in Callan Library



At Callan Library on Friday 8th May from 10.00am - 12.00pm, Alice Bennett will host a workshop titled Introduction to Haiga, which is certain to delight those with a passion for poetry and art.

Haiga is a traditional Japanese art form combining a haiku (simple poem) with a simple image, typically a painting, sketch, or photograph. The aim is to create a single, unified artistic expression.

### Floral Art in Urlingford Library



There will be an event titled Welcoming Summer with Eva Holmes in Urlingford Library on Friday 8th May from 2.30 - 4.30pm.

Eva Holmes will provide a floral art teaching demonstration of different designs which attendees can then recreate at

home to mark Bealtaine in their own homes. To provide a fun conclusion to the afternoon, the arrangements will be raffled at the end of the demonstration.

### Wellbeing in the Mayfair Library



Deirdre Lindy will present a workshop titled Time to Pause and Renew in the Mayfair Library on Friday 8th May from 10.30am - 12.30pm.

This gentle, practical wellbeing workshop is designed to help participants take time for themselves, focusing on self-care techniques to manage stress and support wellbeing.

### May Flowers in Castlecomer Library



Castlecomer Library will host May Flowers in Watercolour with Rachel Burke on Tuesday 12th May from 10.30am - 12.30pm.

Participants will be guided in drawing and painting Irish May flowers using watercolours. This class is certain to be a hit with anyone who enjoys spending a couple of hours immersed in a creative art activity.

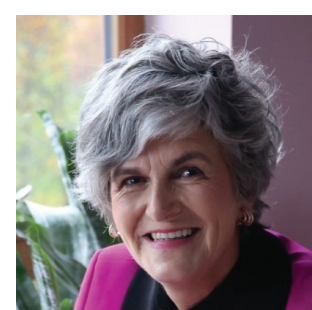
### Read like a Writer in Graiuenamanagh Library



Antoinette McCarthy will host a workshop in Graiuenamanagh Library on Tuesday 19th May from 10.30am - 12.30pm titled How to Read like a Writer.

Participants will read a short story by Frank O'Connor and guided by Antoinette, reflect on how the story works its magic on readers. This workshop is sure to delight literature enthusiasts.

### Get Creative with Colour & Makeup in Loughboy Library



Loughboy Library will host a practical and creative workshop with Johanna Costigan on Thursday 21st May from 11.00am - 1.00pm titled Colour and Makeup: Enhancing, Not Disguising.

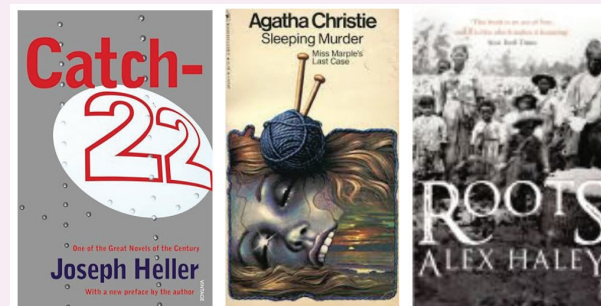
This session focuses on light, wearable makeup and colour choices that bring freshness and vitality, with an emphasis on enhancement rather than heavy techniques.

There's truly something to suit all tastes in this year's Bealtaine programme from Kilkenny Libraries.

For further details on any of these events, please visit [www.kilkennylibrary.ie](http://www.kilkennylibrary.ie) or contact your local library to book your place.

## GEMS FROM THE STORE: new collection showcasing 1960s and 1970s Bestselling Fiction

Kilkenny County Council Library Services are inviting readers to step back in time with the launch of "Gems from the Store", a new collection highlighting bestselling fiction from the 1960s and 1970s. Selected entirely from the library's own stored stock, the collection offers a snapshot of what people in Kilkenny were reading during two decades of major social and cultural change.



The collection brings together many of the era's most popular novels, including *Catch22* by Joseph Heller, *On the Road* by Jack Kerouac, *The Godfather* by Mario Puzo and *Roots* by Alex Haley. Crime, espionage and thrillers sit alongside literary and speculative fiction, with wellknown authors such as Agatha Christie, John le Carré, Doris Lessing and Frank Herbert all represented.

"These were the books everyone wanted to borrow at the time," said staff member Alicia Dunphy "They're bestsellers, but they're also a record of the interests, worries and imaginations of readers in Kilkenny during the 1960s and 1970s."

*Gems from the Store* is not simply a display. Every title in the collection can be borrowed in the usual way, giving today's readers the chance to rediscover novels that once dominated library loans.

We didn't want these books sitting quietly in storage. They've been part of our collection for decades, and they still have a lot to offer. Bringing them back onto the shelves encourages people to browse, take chances and maybe pick up something they've heard about but never read.

By highlighting stored stock rather than new releases, the collection also celebrates the enduring value of library collections. Great stories don't go out of date, sometimes they just need to be rediscovered.

*Gems from the Store* is now available to browse and borrow at the Mayfair Library.



Gems from  
the Store