

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL LIBRARY SERVICE



Kilkenny County Council
Library Service



Exploring Our Foundations:

Celebrating Heritage Week with Kilkenny County Council Library Service

Heritage Week 2025 invites us to reflect on the foundations of our identity, not just in stone and structure, but in the stories, landscapes, and cultural practices that have shaped who we are. Across our Kilkenny library branches, a series of engaging events will bring this theme to life, offering opportunities for people to connect with Kilkenny's rich and layered heritage.

SOME JEWELS FROM THE CHARTERS AND CIVIC RECORDS OF KILKENNY with state archaeologist Cólín Ó Drisceoil

Kilkenny is very fortunate to possess a rich archive documenting the early history of the city. For centuries housed in the City Archive at the Tholsel, these records are now being digitised and made available to everyone on the Kilkenny Library Digital Archive. This talk will highlight the wealth of material available and explore what the records reveal about daily life in the town and its colourful characters.

● Mayfair Library-Tuesday 19th August @ 6pm

Places are limited please phone 056 7794174 or email Mayfair@kilkennylibrary.ie

Lady Louisa Tighe of the Woodstock Estate

These talks by John Kirwan, historian, genealogist, author and consultant archivist will transport the audience and give an insight into the life of Lady Louisa who married William Frederick Fownes Tighe 200 years ago in 1825. Her legacy and will provide an enthralling backdrop for a historical narrative based on original research and primary sources. John has had many articles and essays published on Kilkenny



history, places and families. He is currently working on a book about Lady Louisa.

● Lady Louisa Tighe talk in Graigueenamanagh Library Tuesday 19th August @ 6pm

● Lady Louisa Tighe talk in Thomastown Library Wednesday 20th August @ 6pm

● Lady Louisa Tighe talk in Mayfair Library Saturday 23rd August @ 11am

Places are limited please phone 056 7794174 or email Mayfair@kilkennylibrary.ie

James Stephens

Local Historian, Larry Scallan, a retired military officer with years of service and expertise will deliver two talks on the life and legacy of James Stephens. Attendees will learn about the life of James Stevens on the 200th anniversary of his birth; and the story of the James Stephens Military Barracks and its strategic importance.

● James Stephens 1825-1901-Life and Legacy in Loughboy Library on Tuesday 19th August @ 11am

● James Stephens 1825-1901-Life and Legacy in the Mayfair Library on Tuesday 26th August @6pm

Places are limited please

phone 056 7794174 or email Mayfair@kilkennylibrary.ie

● "James Stephens, A barracks and building-A national identity" Guided tour of the military barracks by Larry Scallan on Saturday 16th August @ 11am

This tour will be led by Local Historian and retired military officer, Larry Scallan. Those attending the tour can dive into Ireland's rich military heritage with a guided tour of the barracks to explore this historic site and uncover the fascinating stories of Ireland's Defence Forces and their contributions to the nation's history.

Places are limited. To book a place please phone 087 3875753

British and Irish Newspaper Archive Workshop

● Explore the Past with Digital Tools: A Workshop by Kilkenny County Council Library Service's Local Studies Team

Join the staff of the Local Studies team for an engaging and hands-on workshop exploring the rich world of digital newspaper archives. Discover how to access and navigate historical newspapers online, uncover local stories, trace family histories, and bring the past to life through digital research tools.

● Wed 20th August @11am in Ferrybank Library

● Thurs 21st August@11am in Castlecomer Library

● Fri 22nd August @11am in Urlingford Library

Also taking place at the Mayfair Library, is a Citizen Science Workshop on Thursday, 20 August (2-4pm) introduces participants to the cutting-edge world of 3D scanning and printing. Using the free Kiri App, attendees will explore a nearby heritage site, scan historical objects, and return to the Maker Space to bring their digital models to life. This hands-on experience bridges ancient artifacts with modern technology, showing how innovation can help preserve and understand our cultural foundations.

Participants should be familiar with using Apps on their own smartphone.

There will be more information about this requirement for anyone signing up.

Places are limited please phone 056 7794174 or email Mayfair@kilkennylibrary.ie

● In Loughboy, the evocative talk "The Screech of the Banshee and the Songs of the Mná Chaointe" by Ann Moylan on Friday, 15 August at 6.15pm delves into the spiritual and emotional roots of Irish death rituals. By exploring the roles of the Banshee and the keening women, this event highlights the deep cultural expressions of grief and reverence that have echoed through generations.

Places are limited please phone 056 7794176 or email loughboy@kilkennylibrary.ie

Castlecomer Wonder Wander Walking Trail Challenge



This Heritage Week we are encouraging everyone to lace up their walking boots and set off on the historic Wonder Wander Walking trail of Castlecomer on Saturday 16th of August 2025. You can pick up a map at Castlecomer library before you set off! Take a picture at your favourite historic site along the trail and send the picture to castlecomer@kilkennylibrary.ie to be entered into our draw.

Enjoy the historic sites along the route while you get your steps in!

Meanwhile, Graigueenamanagh Library invites Families & younger audiences to connect with tradition through Folklore Storytelling on Tuesday 19th August at 11am. These tales, passed down through oral tradition, are the bedrock of our cultural imagination—instilling a sense of place, identity, and wonder in the next generation. No booking is necessary, just come along

Each of these events reflects the Heritage Week theme by uncovering the layers of meaning in our customs, technologies, and tales. Whether through digital innovation, ancient rituals, or storytelling, we are invited to explore the foundations that continue to shape us today.

National Heritage Week

A Heritage Council programme

Kilkenny County Council Library Service



LADY LOUISA TIGHE - WOODSTOCK ESTATE

A talk by historian, genealogist, author and consultant archivist John Kirwan

Graigueenamanagh Library - Tuesday 19th August @ 6pm

Thomastown Library - Wednesday 20th August @ 6pm

Mayfair Library - Saturday 23rd August @ 11am



JAMES STEPHENS 1825 - 1901 - LIFE & LEGACY

With Local Historian & retired military officer Larry Scallan

James Stephens a barracks and building - A national identity - Saturday 16th August @ 11am

James Stephens talk Loughboy Library - Tuesday 19th August @ 11am

James Stephens talk Mayfair Library - Tuesday 26th August @ 6pm



Some events require booking
For booking details scan QR code below

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