

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL LIBRARY SERVICE



Kilkenny County Council
Library Service

Kilkenny Library Service Presents a Packed Halloween and Gothic Programme for All Ages

Kilkenny County Council Library Service has unveiled an exciting programme of Halloween-themed events for adults, teens and children, featuring award-winning authors, creative workshops, folklore, storytelling and literary discoveries. With activities taking place across the county's libraries, there is something to inspire readers, writers, artists and lovers of the spooky season alike.

Home of Halloween Events for Teens and Children



Ellen Ryan is the award-winning author of narrative non-fiction titles, *Girls Who Slay Monsters* and *Gods Don't Cry*, which bring Irish myth to life through a contemporary lens. Her new title for teens, *They Called Us Witch*, immerses readers in the world of real-life herbalists, healers, seers and wisewomen, all labelled as witches throughout history.

In this interactive workshop, attendees will listen to the story of one historic 'witch'; explore what magic has meant to women across cultures and centuries; learn more about their own magic with a *Which Witch Are You?* quiz, explore a *Wise Woman's Apothecary* and learn about Irish traditions of divination. Grounded in female history, this is a workshop about the different kinds of magic we all carry within.

Booking is essential as places are limited. Please contact your local library to reserve a place Suitable for 13+

Halloween Screen Printing Workshop (Children's Event)

Create your own Halloween masterpiece! Children will design and cut a spooky stencil and use screen-printing techniques to print onto card. Bring

along a plain T-shirt if you'd like to print your design onto fabric and take home a wearable Halloween creation.

Booking is essential as places are limited. Please contact your local library to reserve a place. **Suitable for 7+**

Spell Candle Making Workshop for Teens

Create a little Halloween magic with aromatherapy and candle craft!

Join Essie May, aromatherapist, for a special Halloween-themed workshop where you'll learn the art of aromatherapy blending and spell candle making. Create your own unique candle infused with positive intentions, hopes for the future, and your favourite seasonal scents. This relaxing and creative workshop is the perfect opportunity to explore candle making, mindfulness, and a touch of Halloween mag-

ic. Suitable for teenagers. **Booking is essential as places are limited.** Please contact your local library to reserve a place.

Adult Events



Award-winning writer **Niamh Boyce** will lead a series of creative writing workshops



fragments. Niamh Boyce has curated a reading list to accompany the workshops.

Rather than retelling old tales, the workshops will encourage writers to create original work reflecting contemporary fears, passions and concerns, inspired by the theme of *Uncanny Kilkenny* and modern Europe.

Niamh Boyce is the author of the acclaimed novels *The Herbalist* and *Her Kind*, and has received numerous awards for her writing. Fully Booked.

Cultúr-An evening of Irish and European Folk Stories with storyteller Emily Collins

Storyteller Emily Collins presents a vivid storytelling performance, weaving tales from Irish folklore together with stories from other European countries. Discover faeries, witches, werewolves, vampires and other mysterious beings from European folklore. Explore the tales, curses, charms and enduring legends that have captivated imaginations across the Continent for centuries.

Join us for a memorable evening and fall under the spell of story as we celebrate Europe's shared cultural memory and

archival heritage. Date: Tuesday, 27th October | 6.30pm - 7.30pm Booking Required.

Finding Gibbet Hill: Long-Lost Bram Stoker Story Resurfaces

drew global media attention, including the New York Times, the Guardian and the BBC. The discussion will cover his research journey, archives and literary detective work.

Mayfair Library

Finding Gibbet Hill

with Brian Cleary

Mayfair Library

An evening of Irish and European Folk stories

with storyteller Emily Collins

Mayfair Library are delighted to welcome Brian Cleary for a public conversation on his archival research which led to the rediscovery of a long-lost Bram Stoker short story in the collections of the National Library of Ireland. After an experience of sudden hearing loss, Brian had been pursuing his lifelong passion for the works of the author of *Dracula*, when he stumbled upon *Gibbet Hill*, which had remained undisturbed in the archives for over 130 years - a discovery that

Date: Thursday, 15th October | 6pm - 7.30pm Booking Required.

Contact details:

Mayfair Library Phone: 0567794174 Email: mayfair@kilkennylibrary.ie

Funded as part of Cultúr 2026, the Culture Programme for Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2026.

Please see the event page on kilkennylibrary.ie for further information

Halloween Screen Printing



with Rachel Burke



exploring the strange, eerie and unsettling traditions of Gothic fiction. Drawing on themes such as vampires, changelings, ghosts and doubles, participants will use classic Gothic tropes to inspire new writing in any form, from stories and poetry to monologues and