

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL LIBRARY SERVICE



Kilkenny County Council
Library Service

Bookville 2026 Celebrates the Wild and Wondrous World Around Us

Kilkenny County Council Library Service is delighted to announce the return of Bookville, Kilkenny's Children's Arts and Literature Festival, from 1st to 8th October 2026. Now in its ninth year, Bookville continues to inspire young readers and families with a vibrant programme celebrating books, creativity, imagination and discovery.

This year's theme, "**Wild and Wondrous Things**," invites children and adults alike to explore the natural world, ask questions, reflect on their surroundings and reconnect with the environment we share. Through stories, art, music, creativity and nature-based learning, Bookville 2026 celebrates the curiosity of young people and the wonder that still exists in the world around us.



BOOKVILLE

A FESTIVAL FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

OCTOBER 1st - 8th 2026



be a Bookville exhibition and a comedy and show suitable for the whole family.

Families can enjoy nature-inspired storytelling and crafts with **The Acorn Project** at Loughboy Library, celebrating Ireland's ancient woodlands through folklore, wildlife and hands-on activities. Audiences will also be entertained by internationally acclaimed comedian **Paul Currie**, whose surreal family comedy show promises fun and laughter for all ages.

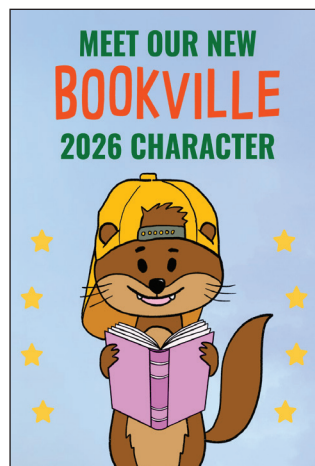
Another unique festival experience is the **Bookville Story Train**, created by Kilkenny

which will be delivered to over 12,500 primary school children around Kilkenny County. The annual Bookville publication has become a much-loved feature of the festival, ensuring that every child can share in the reading experience and take home a lasting reminder of the event.

Over the seven festival days there will be 60 workshops given by 31 children's authors, illustrators, artists, musicians and entertainers, covering creative writing, comedy, music, illustration, Gaelige, storytelling and poetry. There will also



writer and producer **Gillian Grattan**. Families will join the adventurous Henrietta on a storytelling journey through Kilkenny's streets and landmarks, transforming the city's historic surroundings into a living storybook.



Bookville also continues its commitment to accessibility and inclusion with events such as **Sensory Story Time with Sharon Curran**, designed specifically for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families.

Adding a visual arts dimension to the festival, Mayfair Library will host **Signals: The Ocean is Never Silent**, a solo exhibition by artist **Linda Fährlin**. The exhibition will be self-guided for the general public, with schools required to pre-book their visits. According to Kilkenny Assistant Arts Officer Kathy Conlan, "Signals encourages us to listen more closely to the rhythms of the Atlantic Ocean and the stories it tells, inviting audiences of all ages to listen, observe and connect with the powerful natural forces that surround us. This beautiful exhibition brings us on a journey of exploration, presenting a new way to see the sea and an opportunity to reconnect with the largest part of Ireland - the Atlantic Ocean."

County Librarian, Josephine Coyne said, "Bookville continues to bring new surprises every year. In this, it's ninth year, we will be welcoming families

on board our story telling train which will tour the streets of Kilkenny City, and we will be showcasing our brand-new library in Thomastown with a family show by an award-winning comedian. The varied programme ensures a wide reach and engagement with more children, schools and families than ever before. The library service is delighted to be a part of this festival, inspiring local children to be involved in the world of books."

For full details of all things Bookville go to www.bookville-kilkenny.com and follow us on social media.



The Bookville Festival is a collaboration by the Kilkenny Arts Office and Kilkenny County Council Library Service and supported by Creative Ireland and the Arts



SIGNALS

The Ocean is Never Silent

LINDA FÄHRLIN

Bookville Festival Exhibition

Mayfair Library, Kilkenny

1st - 20th October 2026

