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Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme



1d – 16ú Samhain / 1st – 16th November

Am Scríbhneoireachta

Ceiliúradh ar Chruthaitheacht & Scríbhneoireacht i bhFine Gall

The Write Time

A Celebration of Creativity & Writing in Fingal



Welcome to The Write Time Festival 2024

Welcome to The Write Time Festival, Fingal Libraries annual celebration of creative writing and literature. Now in its ninth year, the festival runs from 1st to 16th November across Fingal libraries. Whether you are an aspiring writer or a reader, you will find something to spark your imagination and inspire creativity.

The library programme features a fantastic group of facilitators who will guide you on your writing journey. Workshops range from poetry, to writing for teenagers, and from personal essays to writing a perfect pitch for your screenplay. If you have lots of ideas but can't get them down on paper, there will be workshops to help you get started.

Write Time at the Carnegie

This year's festival introduces a new two-day showcase of author talks in the Carnegie Free Library, North Street, Swords, on Friday 15th and Saturday 16th November. The Write Time in the Carnegie features stellar authors, such as Sinead Gleeson, Claire Kilroy, Christine-Dwyer Hickey and many more 'in Conversation', sharing their creative writing process, their journey to publication and what inspires them.

This event will allow unique access to writers in a beautiful new Fingal venue which is aimed at fostering creativity in the community and laying foundations for cultural programming in the Swords Cultural Quarter and the new County Library and Arts Centre.

Fingal Libraries would like to extend our thanks to Balbriggan author Kevin Curran for his work in bringing together this brilliant line-up of writers to take part.

The Write Time will have something for everyone who loves writing and literature this November - and all for free. We encourage you to come along and be inspired by people you meet and the stories you hear.



The Write Time Events at a Glance

Write Time in Libraries

Event	Location	Start Time
Saturday, 2nd November		
Pierre Novellie in Conversation	Blanchardstown Library	2:00pm
Content with Form: A Two-part Poetry Workshop	Balbriggan Library	2:00pm
Thursday, 7th November		
Spice Up Your Writing!	Rush Library	10:30am
Saturday, 9th November		
Content with Form: A Two-part Poetry Workshop	Balbriggan Library	2:00pm
Writing Young Adult Literature	Malahide Library	2:00pm
Demystifying the Personal Essay	Donabate Library	2:00pm
Wednesday, 13th November		
Pitch Perfect	Blanchardstown Library	5:30pm
Thursday, 14th November		
Spice Up Your Writing!	Rush Library	10:30am

Write Time in the Carnegie

Event	Location	Start Time
Friday, 15th November		
Sinead Gleeson In Conversation	Carnegie Free Library, Swords	12:00pm
David Gilna: Poetry Performance		1:15pm
The Writing Life and the Different Roads to Publishing		5:00pm
<i>This So-Called Writing Life</i> Essays		6:15pm
Saturday, 16th November		
Kevin Curran in Conversation	Carnegie Free Library, Swords	1:00pm
Wendy Erskine in Conversation		2:15pm
Claire Kilroy in Conversation		3:30pm
Katriona O'Sullivan In Conversation		4:45pm
Christine Dwyer Hickey in Conversation		6:00pm

Pierre Novellie in Conversation with Erin McGathy

Comedian Pierre Novellie was on stage when a heckler suggested he was autistic. Usually, this disruption would be water off a duck's back but two things made this heckler different: first, he was himself autistic. Second, he turned out to be absolutely right. This random encounter led to a diagnosis of autism at the age of 31 that unravelled his world, explained his struggles and answered questions that had bothered him for his entire life. He will be in conversation with writer and performer Erin McGathy, to discuss his book *Why Can't I Just Enjoy Things?: A Comedian's Guide to Autism*, his late diagnosis and his writing process.



Photo credit: Ivan Vranjic

Blanchardstown Library

Saturday, 2nd November

2:00pm – 3:00pm

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

Content with Form: A Two-part Poetry Workshop with Máighréad Medbh

Is the choice of subject matter or 'content' crucial to the effectiveness of a poem? If so, how do we distil experience to find its poetic essence? And then, how do we develop what John Cage called the 'field of possibilities' that will make the poem happen in its most appropriate form?



In the first session, we will explore how content and form intertwine and alter each other to become a unity. We will look at examples, and participants will be invited to begin their own poem of the moment, which they will write for the second session. The second session will be dedicated to the reading of the poems written in the intervening week. There will be mutual feedback and further discussion.

Balbriggan Library

Saturday, 2nd November
Saturday, 9th November

2:00pm – 4:00pm

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



Spice Up Your Writing!

with Anne McDonald

Have you got lots of ideas but can't get them down on paper? Is your writing happening in fits and starts and going nowhere? Have you written in the past or would love to start to write now?



Join Anne McDonald for a series of workshops using spices to spark ideas to get you started, help you craft stories or poems, or reconnect with something you have wanted to write for a long time.

The workshops are suitable for all levels and are interactive and great fun. All you need to bring is a pen and paper. Anne will give you lots of tips and tools to find inspiration in the smells, sounds and memories associated with everyday spices you have in your kitchen cupboard.

Rush Library

Thursday, 7th November
Thursday, 14th November

10:30am - 12:30pm

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

Writing Young Adult Literature

with Claire Hennessy

In this 90-minute session, YA writer and reviewer Claire Hennessy will explore the key things to consider when writing for teenagers today, from drawing on your own experiences to understanding the category of 'young adult'. We'll do some short writing exercises and leave time for discussion and questions.

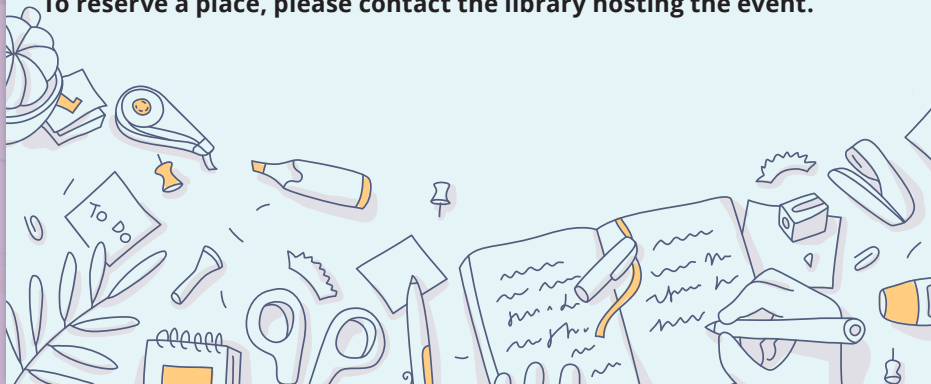


Malahide Library

Saturday, 9th November

2:00pm - 3:30pm

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



Demystifying the Personal Essay

with Ellen Brickley

Personal essays are everywhere, from the *New York Times* to *Sunday Miscellany*, and the good news is that anybody can write one! In this three-hour session, we will go from generating ideas, to outlining an essay, to covering the conventions and clichés of essay writing, and finally discussing publication opportunities in Ireland and abroad.



Donabate Library

Saturday, 9th November

2:00pm – 5:00pm

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

Pitch Perfect

with Dave Rudden

For the silver screen, the pitch is everything. Join author and screenwriter Dave Rudden as he guides you through the process of building your pitch deck for film and television. From hooky elevator pitches to a sharp synopsis to universal and engaging themes, Dave will show you how to develop your ideas into an exciting and well-developed pitch that can form the basis of your first script. Bring an idea you're working on or develop one in the workshop and receive specific advice on how to shape your story and share it with the world.



Blanchardstown Library

Wednesday, 13th November

5:30pm – 7:30pm

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



The Write Time in the



North Street, Swords

Friday, 15th & Saturday, 16th November

Join us for a showcase of Write Time events over Friday, 15th and Saturday, 16th November in the Carnegie Free Library, North Street, Swords.

Please book your place for The Write Time in the Carnegie events via the Fingal Libraries Eventbrite page. Follow the link.
<https://www.eventbrite.ie/o/fingal-county-libraries-19927793883> or click on the QR code.



Friday, 15th November

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Sinéad Gleeson in Conversation with Lauren Murphy

Sinéad Gleeson's debut novel, *Hagstone*, was released in April 2024 to great acclaim. Set on a remote Irish island, *Hagstone* is a haunting portrait of an artist at work. Sinéad will be in conversation with journalist Lauren Murphy to discuss the novel, her writing and artistic collaboration.



Photo credit: Bríd O'Donovan

Friday, 15th November

1:15 pm - 2:15 pm

David Gilna: Poetry Performance

David Gilna, award-winning Irish playwright, screenwriter, actor and author from Swords, County Dublin, will read poems from his collection *24*. He will also discuss their meaning for him, the gift of storytelling, and the power of the blank page.



Friday, 15th November

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

The Writing Life and the Different Roads to Publishing

with Paula Guildea and Patrick Bentley
in conversation with Kevin Curran



Publishing can seem like an intimidating monolith to novice writers, but there are many paths to becoming a writer. Author Kevin Curran will sit down with local authors Paula Guildea and Patrick Bentley to discuss their writing journeys. Paula has a master's degree in creative writing and a higher diploma in higher education, and her academic background has informed her creative work. Patrick is one of Ireland's leading self-published authors and made his name selling books door-to-door in Fingal and beyond. They will offer insight into the writing life, as well as tips for those looking to establish themselves beyond mainstream publishing.

Friday, 15th November

6:15 pm – 7:15 pm

This So-Called Writing Life Essays: Editor and writer Olivia Fitzsimons in conversation with Kevin Curran



This So-Called Writing Life is a series of essays, commissioned by author Olivia Fitzsimons for *The Stinging Fly*, reflecting on the craft, process, pains and pleasures of writing and publishing. Olivia will be joined by author Kevin Curran, himself a contributor to the series, to discuss what the essays show us about writers, what they have in common and how they differ. Olivia will also discuss her own work and her debut novel, *The Quiet Whispers Never Stop*.

Saturday, 16th November

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Kevin Curran in Conversation with Olivia Fitzsimons

Fingal writer Kevin Curran will discuss his critically acclaimed novel *Youth* with fellow author Olivia Fitzsimons. *Youth* tells the stories of four teenagers, Angel, Princess, Dean and Tanya, living in Balbriggan, Ireland's most diverse town. Kevin and Olivia will discuss the novel with its themes of youth, modern Ireland and new Irish perspectives, as well as the craft of writing.



Saturday, 16th November

2:15 pm - 3.15 pm

Wendy Erskine in Conversation with Kevin Curran

Belfast writer Wendy Erskine will be in conversation with author Kevin Curran about her short story collections, for which she has been awarded multiple prizes, and her upcoming novel, *The Benefactors*. They will discuss writing life and the art of the short story.



Saturday, 16th November

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Claire Kilroy in Conversation with Claire Hennessy

Claire Kilroy's fifth novel, *Soldier, Sailor*, was named a Best Book of 2023 by multiple publications, including being selected as The Times Novel of the Year. Claire will discuss the hugely successful book with author and critic Claire Hennessy.



Saturday, 16th November

4:45 pm – 5:45 pm

Katriona O’Sullivan in Conversation with Clodagh Culligan

Dr. Katriona O’Sullivan’s bestselling biography, *Poor*, a memoir of growing up in extreme poverty, has been an Irish sensation since being published in 2023. She will sit down with Clodagh Culligan, Deputy Principal of Balbriggan Community College, to discuss the book, writing and the transformative power of education.



Photo credit: J. Savage

Saturday, 16th November

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Christine Dwyer Hickey in Conversation with Katherine Lynch

Award-winning Dublin author Christine Dwyer-Hickey will sit down with comedian and television personality Kathryn Lynch to discuss her work in this fun and friendly conversation. Christine’s latest novel, *Our London Lives*, is out now.



About the Authors

Patrick Bentley has established himself as one of Ireland's leading self-published authors. He was raised in Skerries and Balbriggan. Patrick took to writing in 2008 after a huge positive turnaround in his life following a near-death experience. He sold his self-published books door to door. Post-COVID, he has made it his mission to talk to elderly folk who have lost someone close to them. He is currently writing his sixth book, *The Hunger*.



Ellen Brickley is a writer of personal essays who lives in Dublin. Her writing has appeared in *Banshee*, *Sonder*, *Trasna*, and *Annie*, and in Dedalus Press's *Local Wonders* and *Romance Options*. She is a grateful four-time recipient of Arts Council funding to support her writing.



Clodagh Culligan is the Deputy Principal of Balbriggan Community College. She began her career in education, in adult education, having worked with FÁS on training courses in Accounting and Bookkeeping. Clodagh began working in second level education in 2011 and has been Deputy Principal since 2017, most recently in Balbriggan Community College since 2022. She is truly passionate about education and the transformative impact it can have on an individual's life.



Kevin Curran is an author and secondary school teacher from Balbriggan. His third novel *Youth* was published to critical acclaim in June 2023 by the Lilliput Press. An *Irish Times*, *Sunday Independent*, and *RTÉ Culture* book of the year, *Youth* was also selected by Colm Tóibín to be part of the Laureate for Fiction Book Club in 2024. *Youth* was recently a One County, One Book choice for Laois Leaves Festival in 2024. He teaches in Balbriggan and has written two other novels.



About the Authors

Wendy Erskine's two short story collections, *Sweet Home* and *Dance Move*, are published by The Stinging Fly Press and Picador. She was awarded the Butler Prize for Literature and the Edge Hill Readers' Prize. *Dance Move* was a BBC Radio 4 Book at Bedtime. She edited an anthology, *well I just kind of like it*, for PVA Books. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, she is a broadcaster, interviewer, and willing collaborator on all manner of projects. She is also a secondary school teacher in Belfast. *The Benefactors* is her debut novel.



Olivia Fitzsimons is a writer from Northern Ireland. Her debut novel, *The Quiet Whispers Never Stop* (2022), was shortlisted for the Kate O'Brien and Butler Literary Awards, and was one of the *Irish Examiner* Books of the Year for 2022. Her fiction and essays have appeared in numerous publications including *The Stinging Fly*, *The Irish Times*, and *Banshee*, as well as being broadcast on BBC Radio 4. She is a contributing editor at *The Stinging Fly* and commissions *This So-Called Writing Life* essay series.



David Gilna is an award-winning Irish playwright, screenwriter, actor, and author from Swords, County Dublin. He is a member of the Writers' Guild of Ireland board. His debut short film, *Ya Clown* garnered critical acclaim, and his subsequent works include *Dear Fingal*, *One For The Ditch*, and *Brother*. Notable plays in his repertoire include *The Gift of Lightning*, *My Bedsit Window*, *The Unsung Hero*, and *A Bolt From D'Blue*. *24* is his debut collection of poetry.



About the Authors

Sinéad Gleeson's essay collection *Constellations: Reflections from Life* won Non-Fiction Book of the Year at the Irish Book Awards and the Dalkey Literary Award for Emerging Writer and has been translated into several languages. Anthologies she has edited include, *The Art of the Glimpse*, the award-winning *The Long Gaze Back: An Anthology of Irish Women Writers*, and *The Glass Shore: Short Stories*. Sinéad is co-editor with Kim Gordon of *This Woman's Work: Essays on Music*. Her debut novel, *Hagstone*, was published in April 2024 by 4th Estate.



Paula Guildea lives in Fingal. Her debut novel, *WANT*, explores human desire and the complexities that define our lives by identity or lack thereof. Her short stories have appeared in various literary journals, and e-magazines. Paula's book of poetry *Deliberately Yours* is due for release in early 2025. Her play, *Plucked*, is set to be performed in Smock Alley in April 2025. She is currently working on a psychological thriller called *WoodSky*.



Claire Hennessy is a writer, book critic, editor, and creative writing facilitator from Dublin. She is the author of twelve YA novels, including *Nothing Tastes As Good* and *Like Other Girls*, and is the YA book critic for the *Irish Times*.



Christine Dwyer Hickey is a novelist and short story writer. She has published nine novels and a short story collection. Her work has been translated into several languages. She has won several awards for her work including the Walter Scott Prize 2020 and the Dalkey Literary Award for her novel *The Narrow Land*. Her latest novel, *Our London Lives*, is out now. She is a member of Aosdána.



About the Authors

Claire Kilroy is the author of five novels, *All Summer*, (Faber, 2003), *Tenderwire*, (Faber, 2006), *All Names Have Been Changed*, (Faber, 2009), and *The Devil I Know* (Faber, 2012). Her fifth novel, *Soldier, Sailor*, about the early years of motherhood, was published to universal acclaim in 2023. *The Times* selected it as the Times Novel of The Year. It was shortlisted for the 2024 Women's Prize for Fiction, the Sky Arts Literature Award, and the Irish Novel of the Year. She studied at Trinity College and lives in Dublin.



Katherine Lynch, television personality and comedian, is known for her multiplicity of characters. Her shows on RTÉ include *Single Ladies*, *Wonder-Woman*, *Working Girls*, and her chat show *Wagon's Den*. She has toured as Power Woman in *Menopause the Musical* and was critically acclaimed for her role as Ma in *Madhouse* on the Abbey Theatre's stage. Katherine is also a singer and penned an album, *Settling Dust*, about the love and loss in her life. She co-hosts a Podcast, *Around the World In 80 Gays*, with Brian Kennedy, and is currently working on some writing in France.



Anne McDonald is an award-winning writer, spoken word poet and creative writing teacher who has had poetry, short stories and non-fiction published in print and online journals and reviewed on RTÉ radio. She is a regular reader on open mic nights and facilitates creative writing workshops with libraries, arts festivals, and not-for profit organisations. Her first collection of poetry, *Crows' Books*, was published in March 2021.



Erin McGathy is an award-winning comedian, actor, screenwriter and the Artistic Director of *MOB Theatre Dublin*, Ireland's premiere alternative comedy theatre and school. Since relocating to Dublin from California in 2016, Erin has written and starred in four solo shows, including 2024's critical hit, *Sketcharella*. She also co-created the acclaimed improvised play, *Witches and Dogs*, for the Dublin & Edinburgh Fringes, and directed numerous live shows in Dublin, London, and Amsterdam.



About the Authors

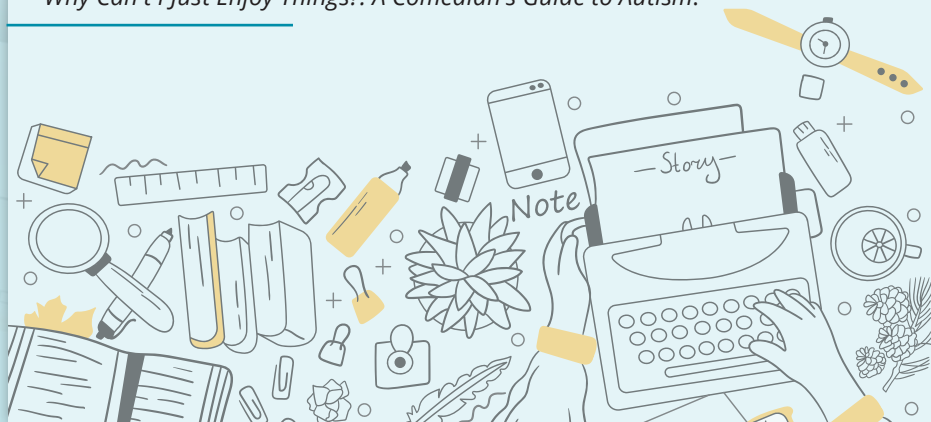
Máighr ad Medbh is a poet with nine published books. Her ecological verse-novel, *Parvit of Agelast*, was shortlisted for the Pigott Prize 2017, and she was winner of the Listowel Single Poem Prize in 2016. She has been published in major national and international anthologies and journals and has performed widely in Ireland and abroad. Recent recipient of an Arts Council Agility Award, she holds an MA in Poetry Studies and a PhD in Creative-Critical Writing, focused on poetic essay.



Lauren Murphy has worked as a freelance arts and culture journalist since 2008, and is a regular contributor to *The Sunday Times*, *The Irish Times*, RT  and others. She is based in Dublin and regularly interviews figures from the music, literature, film, TV, and theatre worlds. Lauren has co-hosted an arts and culture podcast and is a regular contributor to Irish radio.



Pierre Novellie is a stand-up comedian, writer, radio host and podcaster based in the UK. He is co-host of *The Frank Skinner Show* on Absolute Radio and co-hosts the hit podcast *Budpod* with Phil Wang. One of the UK's most acclaimed live acts, Pierre's latest show *Why Can't I Just Enjoy Things?* saw a sold-out run at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. He was on stage when a heckler suggested he was autistic, which led to a diagnosis and his book, *Why Can't I Just Enjoy Things?: A Comedian's Guide to Autism*.

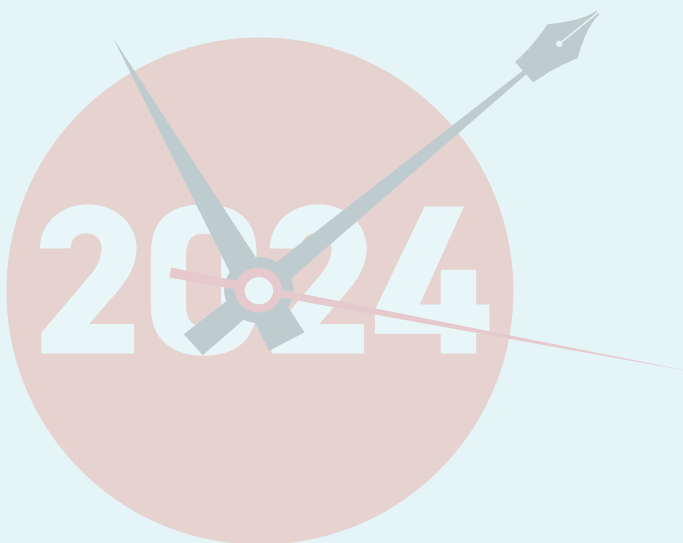


About the Authors

Dr. Katriona O'Sullivan is an associate professor in the faculty of science in Maynooth University, a psychologist and memoirist. Her first book, *Poor*, debuted at #1 on the Irish Non-Fiction bestseller list. As one of five children in a home shaped by her parents' heroin addiction, Katriona's story chronicles her journey from poverty, teenage pregnancy, and homelessness to graduating with a PhD from Trinity College Dublin and becoming an award-winning lecturer whose work challenges barriers to education.



Dave Rudden is the author of the award-winning trilogy *Knights of the Borrowed Dark*. His screenwriting credits include children's animation and music videos, and his first horror feature is currently in development with Wild Atlantic Pictures (*Evil Dead Rise*, *The Green Knight*).





Swords

Carnegie Free Library

Andrew Carnegie, a Scottish philanthropist, provided funding between 1897 and 1913 to pay for the building of about 80 libraries in Ireland. Swords Carnegie Library on North Street is one of the remaining 62 which have survived. Built in 1908 for Balrothery Rural District Council, it was designed by architect Andrew Scott. The Carnegie Library continued to provide a library service to the people of Swords until a new, larger library was opened at Rathbeale Shopping Centre in early 1983.

In 2023 the library underwent extensive renovation, transforming it into a beautiful new Fingal venue aimed at fostering creativity in the community and laying foundations for cultural programming in the Swords Cultural Quarter and the new County Library and Arts Centre.



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- Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
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- Download 5 tracks a week.
- Create your personal music library.
- New content added monthly.

What Do I Need?

- The Freegal App.
- A valid Fingal Library card and PIN.



How Do I Get Started?

- Download the Freegal app.
- When asked for a location, type in **Fingal**.
- When **Fingal Libraries** appears, confirm.
- Login with library card number and PIN.
- Terms and conditions appear.
- Add your email address when prompted.



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DIGITAL BOOKS, MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS IN MINUTES!

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- Totally free.
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- Borrow/reserve up to 5 eBooks & 5 eAudiobooks.
- Borrow up to 99 eNewspapers and eMagazines.
- On your commute, on the sofa, by the pool in Spain...
- For your book club.



What Do I Need?

- The BorrowBox app.
- A valid Fingal Library card and PIN.





Creative Ireland in Fingal Libraries

The Creative Ireland Programme is supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media. Its ambition is to inspire and transform people, places, and communities through creativity. Creative Ireland is committed to the vision that every person in Ireland should have the opportunity to realise their full creative potential. Fingal Libraries play a key role in delivering the Creative Ireland programme within our library network through free, local, and interactive events, projects and showcases.

To learn more about the Creative Ireland Fingal Programme please visit www.fingal.ie/creative-ireland



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- Totally free.
- Available 24-hrs a day, 365 days a year.
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How Do I Get Started?

- Go to the Universal Class website:
<http://LGMA.universalclass.com/register.htm>
- Click on **Register Now**.
- Enter you Fingal Library card number.
- Select **Fingal Libraries** from the menu.
- Enter your name and email address.
- Create a password.
- Click on the **Terms of Service** box, then click **Continue**.



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

Balbriggan	01 870 4401	balbrigganlibrary@fingal.ie
Baldoyle	Baldoyle Library is currently closed for renovation	
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
Fingal Libraries are on Social Media

