



Aois & Deis

Féile Bhealtaine 2025

Age & Opportunity

Bealtaine Festival 2025

30 | **Bealtaine Festival**
YEARS | An Age & Opportunity **arts** initiative



Réamhrá **INTRO**

Welcome to Fingal Libraries' Programme for the Bealtaine Festival 2025

The Bealtaine Festival is Ireland's national celebration of the arts and creativity for older adults. Festival events will run in Fingal Libraries throughout the month of May.

This year's programme features *Dublin Culture*, a selection of readings and performances celebrating the work of figures from Dublin's mid-twentieth century literary scene, and haiku writing workshops to help you develop your own literary skills.

Bealtaine music performances include a concert by string quartet Bohemian Strings, and the beautiful vocal harmonies of a folk duo. Blanchardstown Library will host events for this year's Dublin Fleadh. If you have always wanted to play the bodhrán, you can sign up for a beginners' course.

The festival encourages people to try something new, so why not learn the craft of etching onto glass, calligraphy, embroidery, or

cyanotype - the creation of home-made analogue photography? Sign up for a course on drawing and painting. Use early summer flowers to decorate a willow Bealtaine wreath. Share an unforgettable creative experience with a child in an intergenerational arts and crafts workshop.

Bealtaine always features engaging talks, and you can be inspired by tales of travel and adventure at home and abroad. There will be talks on researching local history, Balbriggan street names and community gardens.

There will also be an opportunity to enjoy a Bealtaine screening of the acclaimed Irish film *Small Things Like These*.

Poet Máighréad Medbh's haiku refers to the tradition of the Bealtaine bonfire:

faraway kindling
travels lightly to your door
ignite inner fire

We hope the Bealtaine Festival will ignite your 'inner fire' to express yourself creatively. We look forward to seeing you in the library this May.

libraries.
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Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme



30 | **Bealtaine Festival**
YEARS | An Age & Opportunity **arts** initiative



Bealtaine Festival EVENTS

DATE /EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
THURSDAY, 1ST MAY		
Celebrate the Dublin Fleadh	Blanchardstown Library	6:30pm
FRIDAY, 2ND MAY		
Learn to Play the Bodhrán	Rush Library	12pm
TUESDAY, 6TH MAY		
eServices Clinic	Swords Library	11:30am
WEDNESDAY, 7TH MAY		
Haiku Impromptu	Donabate Library	5:30pm
Learn to Paint and Draw	Balbriggan Library	11am
Make a Bealtaine Wreath	Blanchardstown Library	6pm
eServices Clinic	Rush Library	2pm
THURSDAY, 8TH MAY		
Walking the Camino	Skerries Library	6:30pm
Adventure at Any Age	Howth Library	11am
Cyanotype Workshop	Blanchardstown Library Makerspace	11am
What's the Story?	Blanchardstown Library	5:30pm

Bealtaine Festival EVENTS

DATE /EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
FRIDAY, 9TH MAY		
Learn to Play the Bodhrán	Rush Library	12pm
Bealtaine Film Screening	Balbriggan Library	11am
SATURDAY, 10TH MAY		
A History of Balbriggan Street Names	Balbriggan Library	11am
TUESDAY, 13TH MAY		
Haiku Impromptu	Swords Library	5:30pm
Etching on Glass	Rush Library	2pm
Bealtaine Film Screening	Malahide Library	6pm
Intergenerational Arts and Crafts	Donabate Library	3pm
WEDNESDAY, 14TH MAY		
Learn to Paint and Draw	Balbriggan Library	11am
Getting Started in Local History Research	Howth Library	6:30pm
eServices Clinic	Blanchardstown Library	2pm

Bealtaine Festival EVENTS

DATE /EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
Introduction to Calligraphy	Blanchardstown Library	1pm
THURSDAY, 15TH MAY		
Dublin Culture	Malahide Library	6pm
eServices Clinic	Malahide Library	2pm
Community Gardens and Climate Change	Blanchardstown Library	6:30pm
FRIDAY, 16TH MAY		
Learn to Play the Bodhrán	Rush Library	12pm
Intergenerational Arts and Crafts	Balbriggan Library	3pm
SATURDAY, 17TH MAY		
Sounds of the Golden 60s	Balbriggan Library	11am
Haiku Impromptu	Blanchardstown Library	2pm
Bealtaine Music	Malahide Library	3pm
MONDAY, 19TH MAY		
Etching on Glass	Swords Library	11am

Bealtaine Festival EVENTS

DATE /EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
TUESDAY, 20TH MAY		
Intergenerational Arts and Crafts	Malahide Library	3:30pm
WEDNESDAY, 21ST MAY		
Learn to Paint and Draw	Balbriggan Library	11am
Bealtaine Film Screening	Blanchardstown Library	5:30pm
eServices Clinic	Blanchardstown Library	2pm
Introduction to Calligraphy	Balbriggan Library	1pm
TUESDAY, 27TH MAY		
Etching on Glass	Malahide Library	3pm
Intergenerational Arts and Crafts	Rush Library	4:30pm
WEDNESDAY, 28TH MAY		
Dublin Culture	Blanchardstown Library	6:30pm
Learn to Paint and Draw	Balbriggan Library	11am
eServices Clinic	Balbriggan Library	2:30pm

Bealtaine Festival EVENTS

DATE /EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
WEDNESDAY, 28TH MAY		
Introduction to Calligraphy	Donabate Library	2pm
Bealtaine Film Screening	Rush Library	6pm
THURSDAY, 29TH MAY		
Introduction to Embroidery	Blanchardstown Library Makerspace	5:45pm
FRIDAY, 30TH MAY		
Learn to Play the Bodhrán	Rush Library	12pm



Dublin Culture with Val O'Donnell & Tim Casey



JoyceStagers, Val O'Donnell and Tim Casey, celebrate the gathering of 37 of Ireland's foremost poets, writers, artists, and journalists as featured in artist Alan Reeve's famous 1940 caricature *Dublin Culture*. *Irish Times* editor Bertie Smyllie liked to hold court in the back lounge of the Palace Bar, Fleet Street, with prominent figures from Dublin's literary and 'arty' scene such as Patrick Kavanagh, Flann O'Brien and Austin Clarke. Join Val and Tim as they bring this gathering to life with a selection of readings and performances from the works of these writers.

Malahide Library	Thursday, 15th May	6pm - 7pm
Blanchardstown Library	Wednesday, 28th May	6:30pm - 7:30pm

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



Haiku Impromptu with Máighréad Medbh

faraway kindling
travels lightly to your door
ignite inner fire

The haiku is a short poetic form in which we transform careful observation into a crystalline moment. There are only seventeen syllables, so each one is precious. Haiku has been called a way of connectedness. It is also a way of enjoyment, because ordinary things become extraordinary. In this workshop poet Máighréad Medbh will discuss the method and philosophy of haiku, and then participants will be asked to write their own. There will be preset prompts, but participants can also respond to the environment of the moment.



Donabate Library	Wednesday, 7th May	5:30pm - 7:30pm
Swords Library	Tuesday, 13th May	5:30pm - 7:30pm
Blanchardstown Library	Saturday, 17th May	2pm - 4pm

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



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Sounds of the Golden 60s with Bohemian Strings

This concert features the immortal melodies of the 60s, including classic hits from The Beatles, The Beach Boys, The Doors, The Monkees, Roy Orbison, the theme from Breakfast at Tiffany's, the James Bond Theme and a number of 60s favourites. Bohemian Strings is a string quartet comprising of Ireland's top classical musicians. This quartet combines unique contemporary arrangements and the beautiful sound of classical instruments. Bohemian Strings have performed with Brian Wilson of The Beach Boys, Mick Flannery, Richard Clayderman and many more.



Balbriggan Library	Saturday, 17th May	11am - 12pm
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All are welcome to this event

Bealtaine Music with Valerie Farrell & Michelle Gahan

Join folk duo Valerie Farrell & Michelle Gahan as they perform their unique interpretations of well-known folk songs, as well as their own original songs. Their mutual love of music has resulted in a sound that resonates with audiences, featuring vocal harmony and different instrumental accompaniment.



Malahide Library	Saturday, 17th May	3pm - 4 pm
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All are welcome to this event



Learn to Play the Bodhrán with Niall Preston



This four-week course introduces participants to playing the bodhrán by combining listening and responding with hands-on participation. Under the expert guidance of Irish Institute of Music & Song music educator, Niall Preston, this course will deepen your understanding of traditional Irish music as well as enhancing your skills in a fun and interactive way.

Rush Library	Friday, 2nd May	12pm – 12:45pm
	Friday, 9th May	
	Friday, 16th May	
	Friday, 30th May	

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

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The Fleadh is Dublin's foremost annual traditional Irish music festival.

This year, it is hosted by Craobh Slí Dhála, the Dublin 15 branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. Blanchardstown Library is delighted to present two events as part of the Fleadh.

Celebrate the Dublin Fleadh with Craobh Slí Dhála



Join members of Slí Dhála for a fantastic evening of Irish music, song, dance and storytelling to celebrate the Dublin Fleadh 2025.

Blanchardstown Library	Thursday, 1st May	6:30pm - 7:30pm
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All are welcome to this event

What's the Story?

This fascinating talk/performance by Frances, Gráinne & Mary presents the stories & meanings behind some of Ireland's most beloved songs.

Blanchardstown Library	Thursday, 8th May	5:30pm – 6:45pm
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Booking via Eventbrite



Learn to Paint & Draw with John Carpenter

Learn to paint and draw with John Carpenter in this four-week course. There's no magic to it - the magic is in you waiting to be unleashed. Take this opportunity to learn a craft that will give you, and others, years of contentment and enjoyment.



Balbriggan Library	Wednesday, 7th May	11am - 12:50pm
	Wednesday, 14th May	
	Wednesday, 21st May	
	Wednesday, 28th May	

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

Etching on Glass with Catherine McCourt

Join Catherine McCourt for a glass etching workshop! Personalize a wine glass, vase, or compact mirror using stencils and etching cream. You'll learn to prepare the glass, add colour, and etch two pieces. Glass is provided but you can bring your own piece if you wish. Please bring an apron and tweezers for weeding stencils.



Rush Library	Tuesday, 13th May	2pm - 4pm
Swords Library	Monday, 19th May	11am - 1pm
Malahide Library	Tuesday, 27th May	3pm - 5pm

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

Introduction to Calligraphy with Siobhán Campbell

Join Siobhán Campbell in celebrating Bealtaine with a calligraphy workshop. Learn the basics of the ancient Irish script UNCIAL and create cards and bookmarks. All materials will be provided. Participants are invited to bring along any short quote or greeting they might like to use. Duration 3 hours with short interval.



Blanchardstown Library	Wednesday, 14th May	1pm - 4pm
Balbriggan Library	Wednesday, 21st May	1pm - 4pm
Donabate Library	Wednesday, 28th May	2pm - 5pm

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

Make a Bealtaine Wreath with Wicklow Willow

Join Aoife from Wicklow Willow to make a beautiful Bealtaine Wreath. Using the natural bouquet of late Spring and early summer flowers, you will decorate a willow-based wreath in the lively and lovely colours associated with Bealtaine celebrations.

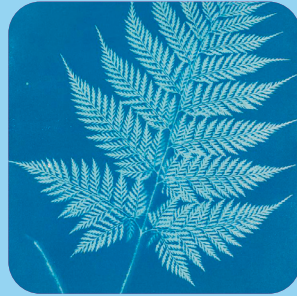


Blanchardstown Library	Wednesday, 7th May	6pm - 7.30pm
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To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event

Cyanotype Workshop

This cyanotype workshop introduces participants to the art of home-made analogue photography, creating beautiful, blue-toned prints using a simple creative process. In this two-hour session, we will learn how daylight, photosensitive chemicals, and various materials can unite to produce unique, nature-inspired images.



Blanchardstown Library Makerspace	Thursday, 8th May	11am - 1pm
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To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event

Introduction to Embroidery

Learn embroidery basics in a creative, relaxed workshop with step-by-step guidance from an experienced tutor. This session is perfect for those looking to learn how to upcycle and embellish clothing and textiles. Learn about a variety of embroidery techniques and stitches that can transform any fabric into a work of art. All materials including needles, embroidery threads, embroidery hoops and fabric scraps will be provided.



Blanchardstown Library Makerspace	Thursday, 29th May	5:45pm - 7:45pm
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To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event

Intergenerational Arts and Crafts with Aga Hutcheson



Join Wizard of Creation, Aga Hutcheson, for an afternoon of creativity, connection, and fun, shared by an older adult and a child! This intergenerational arts and crafts workshop involves crafting stunning 3D art on canvas using a selection of upcycled fabric, paper, wool, leather, buttons, paints and other eco-friendly materials. Old and young will spend quality time creating together. Please note this workshop is suitable for children aged 8+ attending with an adult. No more than one child per adult.

Donabate Library	Tuesday, 13th May	3pm - 4:30pm
Balbriggan Library	Friday, 16th May	3pm - 4:30pm
Malahide Library	Tuesday, 20th May	3:30pm - 5pm
Rush Library	Tuesday, 27th May	4:30pm - 6pm

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

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Walking the Camino with Andrea Ryan

Join Andrea Ryan for an engaging talk, aimed at older adults, on how to prepare for the incredible journey of walking the Camino. Discover practical tips on training, what a typical day looks like, and how to make the most of your Camino experience. Whether you're a first-timer or looking for a refresher, this session will help you feel ready and inspired.

Skerries Library	Thursday, 8th May	6:30pm – 7:30pm
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To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event



Adventure at Any Age with Eugene O'Leary

Join Eugene O'Leary for an inspiring talk on his charity fundraising adventures at home and abroad. For over two decades, Eugene has been fundraising for Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin, and his journey has taken him cycling and hiking across the globe. This year, at age 82, he plans to hike 178k of the Camino from Burgos to León in central Spain. Eugene wants to inspire people to remain active throughout their lives. His motto: "You don't stop because you get old. You get old because you stop!"

Howth Library	Thursday, 8th May	11am - 12pm
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To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event



New Roads and Lost Lanes: A History of Balbriggan Street Names, 1750 – 1950

with Balbriggan Heritage Group

Have you ever wondered about the origins of Balbriggan's street names? Streets like Vauxhall Street, Bath Road, and Brick Lane each have a story to tell. Join the Balbriggan Heritage Group for a journey through the history of Balbriggan's streets, from their earliest days to the present. Discover forgotten lanes lost to time—and how you might help revive their memory.

Balbriggan Library	Saturday, 10th May	11am – 12 pm
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To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event



Community Gardens & Climate Change with Ciarán Conneely, Dublin Community Growers

Join Ciarán Conneely of Dublin Community Growers for this special Dublin Climate Action Week talk on how a local community has reduced its carbon footprint through gardening. Ciarán will discuss solar panels, rainwater harvesting, local seasonal food, carbon sequestration, biodiversity, heritage fruit conservation and more.

Blanchardstown Library	Thursday, 15th May	6:30pm - 7:30pm
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To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event



Bealtaine Film Screening: *Small Things Like These*

Join us for a special Bealtaine Festival film screening of *Small Things Like These*, an atmospheric drama adapted from the acclaimed novel by Claire Keegan. Set in Wexford in the 1980s, the film stars Cillian Murphy as Bill Furlong, a coal merchant and devoted father, who uncovers disturbing secrets kept by the local convent. *Small Things Like These* is a sensitive and powerful exploration of a man facing up to a moral dilemma and his own past. **Rated 12A**



Balbriggan Library	Friday, 9th May	11 am – 12:40pm
Malahide Library	Tuesday, 13th May	6pm – 7:40pm
Blanchardstown Library	Wednesday, 21st May	5:30pm – 7:10pm
Rush Library	Wednesday, 28th May	6pm – 7:40pm

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



eServices Clinics

Fingal Libraries provide a wide range of free eServices including e-books, audio-books, online newspapers and databases. You can learn how to access and use these services on your tablet or smart phone at one of the eServices clinics below. Staff will help you to set up and download the required apps and show you how to get the best out of these fantastic services.



Swords Library	Tuesday, 6th May	11:30am – 12:30pm
Rush Library	Wednesday, 7th May	2pm - 4pm
Blanchardstown Library	Wednesday, 14th May Wednesday, 21st May	2pm – 3pm
Malahide Library	Thursday, 15th May	2pm – 3pm
Balbriggan Library	Wednesday, 28th May	2:30pm – 3:15pm

All welcome, no booking necessary



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