**Offaly Arts Alert – Issue Seven**

**Arts in Action – May June News & Events**

Contents

1. **Welcome**

Welcome to Issue Seven of Offaly Arts Alert.

The purpose of Offaly Arts Alert is to provide a listing of arts events and opportunities in the County.

Offaly Arts Office is a service of Offaly County Council and aims to broaden and deepen access to the Arts in Offaly.

Based in Áras an Chontae, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, you can contact the Arts Office team by emailing arts@offalycoco.ie or calling +353 57 935 7400 during office hours; Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm

Visit our website www.offaly.ie and social media @[OffalyArts](https://www.facebook.com/offalyarts) for further information.

1. **What’s on**
2. **Upcoming opportunities**
3. **Artist Wellbeing**

**Visit Offaly**

Please see the website [www.visitoffaly.ie](https://www.visitoffaly.ie/events/) for a comprehensive list of events taking place in Offaly soon. Here you will find all the up-to-date information on activities and events for the summer season.

**Birr Theatre and Arts Centre**

[Check out what ‘s on at Birr Theatre & Arts Centre thi](https://creativeplacesedenderry.ie)s summer.

[Please see](https://creativeplacesedenderry.ie) [www.birrtheatre.com](http://www.birrtheatre.com/) [to see the full listings of events taking place in Birr Theatre & Arts Centre across the coming year.](https://creativeplacesedenderry.ie)

[Highlights include:](https://creativeplacesedenderry.ie) Birr Festival of Music, Neil Delamere, Deirdre O[’Kane and much much more!](https://creativeplacesedenderry.ie)

**Esker Arts**

There’s something for everyone at Esker Arts, with highlights including Calendar Girls by Funhouse Theatre, Tullamore Gig for Gaza, Bealtaine: Old Flames - Brian Leyden & Seamie O’ Dowd, The Stories of Peig Sayers with Nuala Hayes and lots more. For a full listing of events, please see [www.eskerarts.ie](https://www.eskerarts.ie/whats)

**Creative Places Edenderry**

[Creative Places Edenderry is a community-based project to connect, create and develop artistic and cultural activities to enhance the community engagement and spirit within Edenderry.](https://www.eskerarts.ie/whats)

[There are a broad range of activities happening weekly which are advertised on the](https://www.eskerarts.ie/whats) [Creative Places Edenderry Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/cpedenderry) [and Instagram Pages. See the social media links and the website](https://www.eskerarts.ie/whats) [www.creativeplacesedenderry.ie for furthe](https://www.creativeplacesedenderry.ie)[r information.](https://creativeplacesedenderry.ie)

**Bealtaine Festival**

Bealtaine is Ireland’s national festival which celebrates the arts and creativity as we age. The festival is run by Age & Opportunity, the leading national development organisation working to enable the best possible quality of life for us all as we age. Age & Opportunity Arts provides opportunities for older people to be more creative more often, to create meaningful participation and representation for all older people in cultural and creative life and to demonstrate and celebrate how our creative potential can improve with age.

Established in 1995, Bealtaine is one of Ireland’s largest co-operative festivals and the world’s first national celebration of creativity in older age. The Festival has inspired a number of international festivals including Luminate in Scotland, Gwanwyn in Wales, the Age of Creativity in England, and others across the world.

**The following events are a taste of what is taking place in venues across County Offaly:**

**Esker Arts Centre -** [**BOOK H**](https://eskerarts.ie/whats)**﻿**[**ERE**](https://eskerarts.ie/whats) **or call 057-9383801.**

* Cardboard Loom Weaving Workshop
* Old Flames: Brian Leyden & Seamie O' Dowd
* Memoir Writing Workshop
* The Great Escaper

**Birr Theatre and Arts Centre -** [**BOOK H﻿ERE**](https://birrtheatre.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows) **or call 057-9122911.**

* Chair Yoga with Ana Alves Smyth
* FILM: Hidden Figures

**Edenderry (Creative Places Edenderry) - BOOK by emailing info@creativeplacesedenderry.ie**

* Acoustic Hearts - Songs and Stories at The Cabin

**Offaly Libraries - see the full range of activities at:** <https://www.offaly.ie/occ_events/bealtaine-events-at-offaly-libraries-may-2024/>

* Glass Painting Workshops with Pauline McNelis in Birr, Clara Edenderry and Tullamore Libraries More details below.
* Resin Workshop in Edenderry Library on Friday, 10th May at 10am. Booking Essential
* The Gramophone Society will be in Tullamore Library for some beautiful music to celebrate our older patrons for their continued support and contribution to our libraries.
* An Afternoon Session of Music & Song with musicians and singers will take place in Clara Library. Refreshments provided.
* We will be hosting coffee mornings in various branches around the county in, Birr, Clara Edenderry, and Tullamore with more details below.
* Tom Minnock will be joining us at our Coffee Morning in Clara Library on Friday 17th May at 11:00 to talk about his book “Down the Decades “. All are welcome.
* The Older Persons Council in collaboration between LOETB, OLDC, Offaly Libraries and Age Friendly Offaly will launch a historical themed project, depicting images of Charleville Castle, based on participants memories of Charleville Castle. The artist involved is Pauline McNeilus. The artwork will be displayed in Kilcormac Library on completion.

**Birr Festival of Music 2 – 6 May 2024**

The eighth annual Birr Festival of Music takes place from Thursday 2 - Monday 6 May with one of its most exciting programmes yet.

The Celebrity Gala Concert will see internationally acclaimed Irish mezzo-soprano Paula Murrihy and world-renowned pianist Malcolm Martineau make a rare recital appearance in Ireland.

Award-winning choir, Laetare Vocal Ensemble, will perform a selection of beautiful choral music from the Renaissance to the present day, including music by Birr’s Laura Sheils.

This year’s festival finale is Birr Young Voices’ Creatures Great & Small. In collaboration with Birr School of Music, the performance takes inspiration from the wonderful bogland photography of Tina Claffey and features songs of strange and familiar fauna and creatures created by the children in collaboration with Tina and artist/puppeteer Caoimhe Dunn.

There will also be pop-up performances around the town this Friday and Saturday.

**Tickets:** [**www.birrfestivalofmusic.com**](https://scanner.topsec.com/?d=1424&r=show&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.birrfestivalofmusic.com&t=15bc2889a28a963d9a036fd3e3016d3a6f019ce8)

**Midland Drama School**

Busy programme of exciting “family fun shows” ahead from 28th April-6th May.

**⭐️**Ballet Show “Le Spectacle”,”

**⭐️**Snow White Jr”,”

**⭐️**Tilly”,”

**⭐️**Rapunzel”.

Booking advised. Pop into Midland Drama School studio to book or call / WhatsApp 087 292 4719

**Tullamore Amateur Dramatic Society**

TADS are proud to present ‘The Incarnation of the Prodigal Son’, written by award-winning playwright Patrick Fogarty, from Monday 13th May to Thursday 16th May in Esker Arts. This play intertwines both humour and heartfelt emotion into a story that will have you laughing and empathising with many characters, in a style that Patrick Fogarty is making his own.

**Booking:** [**www.eskerarts.ie**](http://www.eskerarts.ie)

**Art in the Landscape – Festival of Change**

Thank you to all who collaborated, created, curated and celebrated with us last month. As lead partner, we had the benefit of working closely with a broad range of people to deliver this event.

Special thanks to all who made this happen!

Sadly, Storm Kathleen prevented some events from taking place. Please see details below of rescheduled events.

Those with tickets to the original dates can attend the rescheduled events once you RSVP with Esker Arts. If you wish to be added to the waiting list, please email info@eskerarts.ie

**Poetry Workshop with Eileen Casey - Reading and Writing the Landscape**

* Saturday 18th May
* TIME: 10 am
* Venue: Esker Arts, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

**Lá na Móna**

* Saturday 22nd June
* 1:30pm & 4pm
* Venue: Lough Boora Sculpture Park, Co. Offaly

**Soil Portraits of Lough Boora**

* Saturday 22nd June
* 12pm & 3pm
* Venue: Lough Boora Sculpture Park, Co. Offaly

**LOCAL & NATIONAL NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES**

**Culture Night Commissions**

Offaly County Council Arts Office wish to commission a selection of cultural engagement projects/presentations which will form part of the 2024 Culture Night Offaly programme. Professional Artists from or based in Offaly are invited to submit proposals for these commissions.

We are open to innovative ideas that are cognisant of the theme One Night for All. Proposals can be an individual expression or work made through a process within the community. Culture Night is a national moment, celebrating culture, creativity and the arts and seeks to actively promote the belief that this rich and varied culture is alive, treasured and nurtured in people’s lives, today and every day.

**The deadline is Tuesday June 4th @ 2pm. For full details on how to apply for an award for up to a maximum of €1,000 per commission please apply at** [**https://submit.link/2CA**](https://submit.link/2CA)

**Culture Night Event Fund**

Offaly County Council’s Culture Night Event Fund supports the cost of events programmed for Culture Night which takes place on 20th September 2024.

The fund is open to not-for-profit organisations, local community groups, arts, heritage and cultural groups, venues and societies. Applications by individuals must be in partnership with a community, cultural or heritage group. Assistance shall not be given in respect of commercial activities. The maximum amount of available funding is €600. Funding is at the discretion of Offaly County Council.

**The deadline to apply is 2pm on Tuesday 4th June 2024. Please apply via** [**https://submit.link/2CV**](https://submit.link/2CV)

**Culture Night Coordinator**

Offaly County Council’s Arts Office invites applications for the Culture Night Coordinator Award, to coordinate Offay’s programme in 2024, as part of the national cultural celebration on Friday 20th September 2024.

There is one award of €4,500 for the successful candidate, who will work with the Arts Office over the coming months on a contract basis to plan and deliver the Offaly programme of events. Applicants should apply online via submit.com and upload a copy of their CV and a detailed proposal with proposed breakdown of €4,500 budget to include proposed approach, implementation and evaluation approach and costs, and /or other expenditure identified by the applicant.

**Deadline for submission of the online application form: 12pm Wed 15th May 2024. Please apply via** [**https://submit.link/2Br**](https://submit.link/2Br)

**Hullabaloo!**

Offaly’s Children’s Arts Festival will take place from Wed 30th October to Saturday 2nd November 2024. The Arts Office will soon be sharing details of how facilitators of children’s arts workshops in multiple mediums can apply to be part of the festival. Stay tuned to the Hullabaloo! social channels as well as Offaly Arts social media and mailshoots to hear how you can apply to host a workshop.

**Creative Schools 2024**

The deadline for application is 17.30, Thursday 2 May 2024.

Creative Schools Supports primary and post-primary schools and Youthreach centres across Ireland to put arts and creativity at the hears of children's and young people's lives. Schools and Youthreach centres that join the programme take part in a two-year guided journey to develop a Creative Schools Plan unique to their own school, and to put it into action. Children and young people’s involvement in planning, decision-making and reflection is central to the journey.

**For all details see:** [**https://www.artscouncil.ie/Arts-in-Ireland/Creative-Schools/Schools-Hub/**](https://www.artscouncil.ie/Arts-in-Ireland/Creative-Schools/Schools-Hub/)

**Creative Places, Edenderry - Artist Commissions**

CLOSING DATE: Wednesday 15 May 2024, 5pm.

Creative Places, Edenderry is seeking proposals from local, national, or international professional artists/creatives, or arts organizations/collectives, that wish to collaborate artistically with individuals or groups in Edenderry on creative projects that will create an artistic impact for the people and place.

The project is being led by Creative Lives, a registered charity that was established in 1991 who champion community and volunteer-led creative activity, and work to improve opportunities for everyone to be creative. To find out more, please visit [www.creative-lives.org] www.creative-lives.org)

Creative Places, Edenderry is supported by the Arts Council/Arts Council Ireland/An Chomhairle Ealaíon, Offaly County Council and the Municipal District Edenderry. You can read more about the Creative Places project across Ireland at [www.artscouncil.ie/creative-places]www.artscouncil.ie/creative-places)

**The Commissions:**

The award will support the planning, production and presentation of the proposed idea. The proposal should:

• Support and reflect the ethos of arts participation - participatory, collaborative, community and socially engaged arts practices.

• Have a vision to incubate and deliver artistically ambitious and durational projects. Proposals should consider the legacy of the project, particularly that of embedding arts and culture in Edenderry.

• Artists must participate in the evaluation process which forms part of the overall Creative Places, Edenderry project.

This award is open to any artform, and the proposal must be artist/creative led.

The awards that can be applied for are:

• 2 x up to €3,000 Artist Commissions

• 1 x up to €6,000 Artist Commission

• 1 x up to €12,000 Artist Commission

For full brief and details of the application process please see:

<https://www.creative-lives.org/creative-places-edenderry-artist-commissions-2024>

**Green Offaly**

Open Call to artists.

Ireland’s first Community Energy Charter, led by Offaly Public Participation Network membership, facilitated by Green Offaly and funded by Leader, will be launched at Esker Arts Centre, Tullamore, on the 27th of May 2024.

We invite creative practitioners to submit work on the theme of 'Energy' to be exhibited as a looped projection reel in the gallery for the launch, and to be screened at Offaly’s PPN’s Autumn 2024 plenary.

We would love to see interpretations of this theme in images/words/numbers, up to a maximum of 3 works per submission (1 MB. jpegs each or single-page PDFs, as appropriate).

Email should include title(s) of work and 'Energy' in the subject line. Deadline for submissions is Sunday, 19th of May at 6.00 pm. We look forward to hearing from you via theoraclespace@gmail.com or greenoffaly@gmail.com.

**Open Call: Yeats Thoor Ballylee Society Artist in Residence 2024**

The Yeats Thoor Ballylee Society, supported by the Galway Culture Company, is hosting an Artist-in-Residence programme this summer in The Studio at Thoor Ballylee. There will be two residencies this year, each one running for two weeks, one in July and one in September.

**The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, 17th May 2024.**

Full details here: [https://galwayculturecompany.ie/.../open-call-thoor.../](https://galwayculturecompany.ie/opportunities/open-call-thoor-ballylee-artist-in-residence-2024/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR0YXqjhmrOyxRFokOKCN7F0i1rJf_vBf5TYO0vzpLZ3FywtphDXzvmZI18_aem_ATb6PNqffVIYQbPjxwkLjbeyfdBT0bCs8m-u70LYENeTwSnbXNhWGZompE_J-VIUquaFddT5Una7SiUYtrqPQymb)

**NEW COURSE - MA in Media Narratives and Storytelling**

**A new Master of Arts programme starts in IADT this September called ‘Media Narratives and Storytelling’.**

This MA programme explores the theory and practice of established and emerging media narratives in written, visual and audio form.

The principal area of enquiry is narrative studies and practice, giving students a critical and creative understanding of evolving storytelling patterns through history.

The focus is on short form narratives in contemporary and emerging media platforms, which will form the practical stream of the MA. The theoretical framework for this programme is the field of Narrative Studies.

The practice includes but is not limited to podcasts, short videos, short film, creative non-fiction (written and recorded), documentary, spoken word, photo-journalism, screencasts and blogs.

The student will explore narrative traditions, concepts and genres as part of the theoretical thread of the programme, and production techniques, non-fiction narratives and the creative use of archives as part of the practical steam.

By the end of this programme, students will have a portfolio of work ready for publication, streaming and exhibition. Facilitating people working full-time and / or people living outside Dublin,

This programme combines remote and in-person study with two online evenings each week and one on-campus intensive day every four weeks.

Further information and details are available [HERE](https://iadt.ie/courses/media-narratives-storytellin/)

**Deadline for applications is 6th June 2024.**

**ARTS COUNCIL FUNDING DEADLINES**

SEE WWW.ARTSCOUNCIL.IE/FUNDING FOR AVAILABLE AWARDS WITH VARIOUS STRANDS AND CLOSING DATES

Other Funding Opportunities

The following link will bring you to an overview by Visual artists Ireland on suitable funding - information is applicable to other mediums also.

[www.visualartists.ie](https://visualartists.ie/awards-bursaries-and-grants-2/)

[www.cultureireland.ie](http://www.cultureireland.ie)

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ARTS**

The following sites contain a broad range of roles currently advertised in the Arts.

See:

* [www.visualartists.ie](http://www.visualartists.ie)
* [www.theatreforum.ie/jobs](https://theatreforum.ie/jobs/)
* [www.artsmanagement.ie/jobs](https://artsmanagement.ie/jobs/)
* [www.create-ireland.ie/category/opportunities](https://www.create-ireland.ie/category/opportunities/)
* [www.artconnect.com/opportunities](https://www.artconnect.com/opportunities)
* [www.irishwriterscentre.ie/job-opportunities](https://www.artconnect.com/opportunities)

**Artist Wellbeing**

**Creative Arts Therapies (CAT)**

Minding Creative Minds are very proud of their growing list of services, a list of services which have been developed from consistent interactions with their creative sector peers.

The addition of Creative Arts Therapies (CAT) to their well-being service offering was a natural step for the organization which supports those working in the Irish creative sector in all is forms.[**APPLY HERE**](https://mindingcreativeminds.ie/creative-arts-therapies/) **for 12 free weekly sessions with one of their Creative Arts Therapists.**

[Minding Creative Minds is an organisation established to offer a free 24/7 wellbeing & support programme for the Irish Creative Sector.](https://www.eskerarts.ie/whats)

[For further information on workshops and events visit](https://www.eskerarts.ie/whats) [www.mindingcreativeminds.ie](http://www.mindingcreativeminds.ie)

**THANK YOU**

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