

# Draíocht na Scéalta

## Féile Fhine Gall de Litríocht na Leanaí

Caisleán Shoard • Dé Sathairn 27 Meán Fómhair 2025



The Magic of Stories

fingal.ie

Swords Castle • Saturday 27th September • 11am – 4pm

libraries.  
fingal.ie



Clár Éire Ildánach  
Creative Ireland  
Programme



# Welcome to The Magic of Stories 2025

Fingal Festival of Children's Literature



Get ready for a day full of wonder and imagination! Fingal Libraries proudly presents the **FOURTH** edition of The Magic of Stories, a spectacular celebration of books, stories, and creativity – all happening at the enchanting Swords Castle on Saturday, 27th September!

Step into a world where the castle comes alive with stories, where authors and illustrators become your guides to magical lands, and where every corner hides a surprise! At The Magic of Stories, there's something for every curious mind and creative heart.

## All your favourites are back!

- ♦ The Storytent
- ♦ The Tall-Tales Tent
- ♦ The Chapel
- ♦ The Book Clinic
- ♦ The Creative Zone
- ♦ The Little Library Tent
- ♦ & yes — the Planetarium returns with stories written in the stars!

## Meet The Author Tent

Come along and meet your favourite writer, book signings throughout the day.

## All events are FREE!

Pack a picnic, grab a blanket, & come celebrate The Magic of Stories with us.  
Walk-ins welcome on the day.



Book your festival ticket at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/4dncvzsw>

libraries.  
**fingal.ie**



Scan to Join

## Did you know...

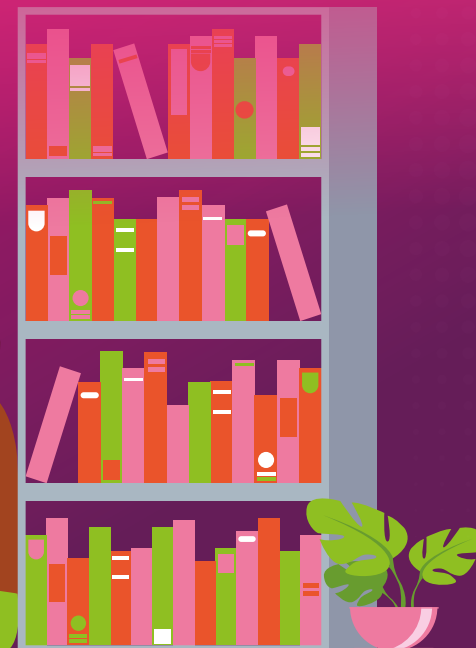
**Membership of all public libraries is FREE for everyone.**

You can join at any age! To find out how to join Fingal Libraries, click on the QR code or call into your local branch where our professional and friendly staff are always happy to help. When you join the library, you will get your own library card and a Personal Identification Number (PIN).



**Joining the library gives you access to lots of great services:**

Children's books for all ages • Audio Books • DVDs, CDs, and games • Storytime Arts & Crafts • Author and Illustrator visits • Coding Workshops Computers, tablets and Internet access • Online services – Borrowbox, Tumble Books, Tumble Maths, Lote for Kids, Lexia and more Summer reading programmes • Book Clubs • Dungeons & Dragons 3D Printers • Makerspace • VR Headsets • Boardgames Sensory Toys and Games • And much more!





# Little Library Tent

**11:00am- 4:00pm**

**Walk in event - All Welcome**

Come and say hello to us at the Little Library, where there will be Storytimes, book chats and fun all day. Have a chirpy chat, or learn a new word as Gaeilge with Áine Gallagher and her giant 'Cup of Focals'.



Check out our library book bike and brilliant sensory toys and aids. The amazing Creation Station is back; come along and try out different ways of making art and releasing your creativity. The messier the better!

**And if you're not a member of Fingal Libraries, find out how to join!**

**12pm-2pm**

**Creation Station** ALL AGES

Small or tall, arty or smarty, the Creation Station is for you! Come along and try out different ways of making art and releasing your creativity. The messier the better! The Creation Station will be run by three art students, who will be there to facilitate all the creative mayhem!

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Dress for mess!

**No booking required. All welcome!**



# The Chapel

**11:00am**

**Wanda Broom & Magical Mayhem**  
with Ciara Geraghty AGES 8+

Wanda Broom has a big problem... her mum's a witch — and Wanda really wishes she wasn't!

Join the brilliant Ciara Geraghty for a whirlwind adventure into the world of Wanda, where spells go sideways, potions bubble over, and magical mayhem is just around the corner. Discover the enchanting (and hilarious!) inspirations behind Ciara's brand-new book.



**Places limited! First come, first served.**

**General Admission ticket essential. Booking via Eventbrite:**  
<https://tinyurl.com/4dncvzsw>



**12:00pm**

**Magical Music** AGES 4+  
with Bits and Bobs Orchestra

A Magic of Stories favourite, join the brilliant Bits and Bobs Orchestra in the historic Chapel to bop along to familiar songs and classical hits. Orchestra is not just for the concert hall!



**Places limited! First come, first served.**

**General Admission ticket essential. Booking via Eventbrite:**  
<https://tinyurl.com/4dncvzsw>





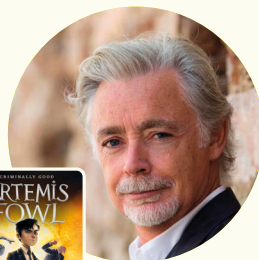
# The Chapel

1:15pm

Legend of Children's Books  
with Eoin Colfer

AGES 8+

He's the mastermind behind *Artemis Fowl* and a true storytelling superstar! Join Eoin Colfer as he shares the journey of how he became one of the world's most beloved children's authors.



Places limited! First come, first served.  
General Admission ticket essential. Booking via  
Eventbrite: <https://tinyurl.com/4dncvzsw>



2:00pm

Writing Competition  
winners announced!

ALL AGES



Every story is magic, and Fingal wants to hear yours! First, second and third place will be awarded to the winners of the Magical Poetry competition and the Short Story competition. Prizes will be presented by legendary author Eoin Colfer.

All welcome, limited capacity.



# The Chapel

2:30pm

Epic Illustrator  
with Ashwin Chako

AGES 6+

From the bustling streets of *Wild City* to the rugby pitch in *Let's Play Rugby*, Ashwin Chako brings stories to life with his bold, brilliant art. Watch him draw live, then grab your pencils and join in!



Places limited! First come, first served.  
General Admission ticket essential. Booking via Eventbrite:  
<https://tinyurl.com/4dncvzsw>



3:30pm

The Weather Girls  
with Sarah Webb

AGES 8+

Join bestselling author Sarah Webb for a powerful story of courage, change, and Irish history. Discover how a group of brave women changed the world and be inspired to write your own story of change.



Places limited! First come, first served.  
General Admission ticket essential. Booking via Eventbrite:  
<https://tinyurl.com/4dncvzsw>







# Story Tent

**11:00am**

**Penguin TV Doodle** AGES 0-6 \*

Niamh Sharkey & Owen Churcher

The Monster Doodle is back! Laugh out loud at the new book *Penguin TV* - about the antics of the penguins in Dublin Zoo with their own reality TV show - and then draw, paint, scribble or doodle. Dress for mess!

No booking required.

**12:00pm**

**A Spooktacular Place to Be**  
with Úna Woods AGES 4+ \*

Join us for a fang-tastic workshop with picture book author Úna Woods as she reads from *A Spooktacular Place to Be!* After the story, let your creativity run wild as you rip, snip, cut, and craft your very own spooky castle collage.

No booking required.

**1:15pm**

**Magic Story-Time**  
with Sarah Sparkles AGES 4+ \*

Fun, musical storytelling with puppets, songs and rhyme from the much-loved Sarah Sparkles. Get ready to clap-along. A huge hit every year!

No booking required.

NOTE\*: Children must be accompanied by an adult for these events



# Story Tent

**2:30pm**

**A little birdie told me**  
with Tarsila Krüse AGES 4+ \*

Tweet tweet, we're having a bird-day party! Tarsila's new book is full of joy, colour, and celebration. After the story, it's your turn to make beautiful birdie art to take home.

No booking required.

**3:30pm**

**What is a Peachick?**  
with Erika McGann & Clive McFarland AGES 4+ \*

What could a Peachick be? Filled with wordplay, puns and quirky illustrations, this rhyming picture book is guaranteed to give a giggle - and so are writer Erika and illustrator Clive in this brilliant interactive event.

No booking required.

NOTE\*: Children must be accompanied by an adult for these events





# Tall-Tales Tent

11am-4pm

With Ringmaster Alan Nolan!

Step right up! For the first time ever, the Tall-Tales Tent will have its own Ringmaster. Alan Nolan - Ireland's funniest author and illustrator - will have you drawing and laughing in between great events!



11:15am

Beanie the Bansheenie

AGES 6+

with Eoin Colfer & Steve McCarthy

What happens when a top writer and awesome illustrator get together to give their spin on famous folklore? Magic! Join Eoin and Steve as they tell us about their new book - and how you can create your own legendary drawings.



No booking required.

12:30pm

Squid Squad

with Aoife Dooley

AGES 7+

Join Aoife Dooley, the bestselling author of *Frankie's World* and *Finding My Voice*, for a wild ride with the *Squid Squad* - a team of underwater heroes with a lot of heart and a lot of ink!



No booking required.



# Tall-Tales Tent

2:00pm

Adventures at the end of the world!

With Pádraig Kenny

AGES 8+

From magical creatures to post-apocalyptic adventures, Pádraig Kenny's stories are packed with heart and imagination. Hear how he builds worlds for his books including *Pog*, *Stitch*, and his latest post-apocalyptic tale, *After*.



No booking required.

3:15pm

The Great Cloud Game

with Chris Judge

AGES 8+

Finish your festival day with a sky full of fun! Join Chris Judge for a giant, laugh-out-loud game based on his hit book *A Daily Cloud*. Spot shapes, tell stories, and play along in this game for all the family - and all the festival!



No booking required.



# The Creative Zone

The Creative Zone is the place to get arty and once again it's bursting with so many amazing activities for you to do. Make t-shirts or flower-crowns. Spray graffiti. Make your name in brail with ChildVision. This is where you can get your imagination moving and creativity flowing!



ALL AGES WELCOME!

Open from: 11am till 4pm

No booking required.

# OPEN ALL DAY



11:00am – 4:00pm

## Street Art Ink Graffiti Workshops

ALL AGES

Become a Graffiti Artist in only 15 minutes! Suitable for all ages and abilities, this is a workshop like no other. Learn how to use stencils and spray paint skills to create your very own piece of bespoke street art!

No booking required. All welcome.



# The Creative Zone

11:00am – 4:00pm

## Lollipop Tie Dye

### Workshops

ALL AGES

Add a touch of colour to your life with an art experience that creates joy and brings a smile to everyone. This workshop is not like other ordinary rubber bands and dye workshops... Prepare for the great vibes and a truly fun and artistic adventure.

No booking required. All welcome.



11:00am – 4:00pm

## Art and Story-making

with Orlaith O'Sullivan

ALL AGES

With booklets of story prompts, you can fill in the blanks and colour your own story and unlock your imagination. A great walk-in workshop for all ages with the brilliant Orlaith O'Sullivan.

No booking required. All welcome.



11:00am – 4:00pm

## Flower Crown-Making

with Aga Hutcheson

ALL AGES

Join the Wizard of Creation, Aga Hutcheson, for this wonderful hands-on workshop where you'll craft a stunning flower crown using a selection of materials provided. Let your imagination bloom—and take home your beautiful creation to treasure.

No booking required. All welcome.





# The Book Clinic in the Castle Wall

11:00am - 3:00pm | All ages | Walk in event

Want ideas for what book to read next? Looking for your next favourite series? Do you want funny, scary, fantastical stories - or one that has all of these things in it? The Book Doctors are here from Children's Books Ireland to give children and families one-to-one advice on books they will love. Each child leaves with a Reading Passport with their 'prescription' they can fill in themselves over time.

Sign-up on the day for an appointment.



All welcome!

# The Planetarium

Showtimes: 11:00am | 1:45pm

A Skyful of Stories AGES 7+ \*

with Eve McDonnell

Eve is back for a book event like no other. Eve McDonnell's new book *'The Last Boy'* takes place in a meteor storm and Eve brings you on a journey as the sky above fills with stars.



Event will last approx. 45 mins.

Places limited! First come, first served. General Admission ticket essential. Booking via Eventbrite:  
<https://tinyurl.com/4dncvzsw>



Showtimes: 12:30pm | 3:15pm

Journey to the Stars AGES 6+ \*

with Máire Zepf

Hear Máire Zepf and Paddy Donnelly's story of Meep the hardest working robot in the solar system and then journey into the stars yourself!



Event will last approx. 45 mins.

Places limited! First come, first served. General Admission ticket essential. Booking via Eventbrite:  
<https://tinyurl.com/4dncvzsw>



NOTE\*: Children must be accompanied by an adult for these events







# Swords Castle Grounds

## The Fanzini Brothers

Known far and wide, the wonderful Fanzini Brothers will be entertaining you between events! These heroes of Irish circus will delight with their interactive comedy performances, including clowns, stilt walking, hula hooping and much, much more.



# Swords Castle Grounds

## The City of Lost Trees with the astonishing Mechanical Theatre!

ALL AGES

Be transported to another world with a mechanical stage performance like no other. An original tale, told through the lost Victorian art of mechanical theatre, is an audiovisual delight for all ages. Spectators will be enchanted as visual storytelling, art, music and engineering combine to bring Kristina Keegan's wordless puppets to life.

**Times:** Performances throughout the day.

**Suitable for all ages. Walk-in event, no booking required. All welcome.**





# The Sensory Tent

For Children, Teens & Adults  
with Fingal Additional Needs

Our Sensory Tent at The Magic of Stories is a peaceful, inclusive space designed for children, teenagers, and adults with additional needs who may benefit from a calmer, quieter area to unwind and explore.

## Inside, you'll find:

- Fiber optic lights & gentle lighting
- Fidget toys, sensory trays & tactile objects
- Kinetic sand, playdough & textures
- Lava tiles & stepping stones
- Beanbags, soft mats & a chill-out zone



Whether you're young or older, the Sensory Tent is open to anyone who needs a sensory break, a moment to regulate, or simply a chance to explore in a safe and supportive environment.

## Fingal Additional Needs

is a local community-based service supporting individuals with additional needs and their families.

Open all day, all welcome.



# Swords Castle Festival Map



## Map Key

- |                                      |                        |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Planetarium                        | 6 Little Library Tent  |
| 2 Tall-Tales Tent                    | 7 The Creative Zone    |
| 3 StoryTent                          | 8 Meet the Author Tent |
| 4 The Chapel                         | 9 The Sensory Tent     |
| 5 The Book Clinic in the Castle Wall |                        |



# Cá bhfuil mo leabharlann is cóngaraí?

## Where is my nearest library?

Balbriggan	01 870 4401	balbrigganlibrary@fingal.ie
Baldoyle	01 890 6793	baldoylelibrary@fingal.ie
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 |    