



Cruinniú na nÓg 2026

Unleash Your Creative Spark on Saturday, 6th June



Unleash your creative spark

cruinniú.gov.ie



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RTÉ

Creative Fingal proudly presents Cruinniú na nÓg;

A day of free creativity for young people on 6th June, 2026

Creative Fingal proudly presents Cruinniú na nÓg; a day of free creativity for young people on 6 June, 2026. All ten library branches will host *Carnivals of Curiosity*, with creative events to engage and delight the community. Author and illustrator visits, graffiti workshops, manga art, music, dancing and much more will make it a day to remember.

We Own the Castle returns to Swords Castle, hosted by Garageland Galaxy. This music festival, exclusively tailored for teenagers, will feature live performances from young talent on two stages. *The Chapel Sessions* offer poetry and unplugged music. The hugely popular *Wavin' Words* Youth Slam Poetry Stage - this year's Cruinniú Late event - gives young performers the chance to slam, perform, speak or read... the open mic is yours! Meanwhile, the *Creative Village* will enhance the festival vibe, allowing young people to customise their look for the day!

Drop into the Draíocht Arts Centre, Blanchardstown for the Colourings Family Day. Create and play in this vibrant Creative Response Space with artists Sarah Ward and Michelle Hall. Taking inspiration from Lucy Hill's exhibition *Colourings* - where exciting shapes and bold colours collide - families are invited to explore colour, shape and markmaking together through hands-on creative activities. Young audiences can also experience *OutLine*, an immersive dance performance by Selma Daniel Dance, inspired by the playful energy and colourful scribbles of the exhibition. *Wonder Walls Graffiti Workshops* with Waterford Walls will return once again, encouraging young people to design and paint murals collaboratively, celebrating creativity and self-expression.

The Séamus Ennis Arts Centre in Naul, Co. Dublin will mark Cruinniú na nÓg with a vibrant programme of hands-on workshops and performances. Young creatives can step into the magical world of Shadow Puppetry through interactive workshops and live performances, try their hand at a traditional *Bodhrán Making Workshop*, or join the fun at a Circus Céilí with Circus Explored.

With something for everyone this June 6th, make sure to book your place!

Cover Image from Fingal Future Visions artwork created by Chris Judge and the students from Holy Family SNS Swords, Old Borough NS Swords and St. Sylvester's IS Malahide for Cruinniú na nÓg 2025.



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06.06.2026
Cruinniú na nÓg

Criunniu na nÓg Events at a Glance

Saturday 6th June 2026



CARNIVALS OF CURIOSITY



TUESDAY, 2ND JUNE

EVENT

AGE

TIME

BALBRIGGAN LIBRARY

Makeup Masterclass for
Teens with Erin Burke

16+ years

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

THURSDAY, 4TH JUNE

GARRISTOWN LIBRARY

Design Your Own Superhero
Storytelling & Illustration
Event with Alan Nolan

8 – 12 years

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

BALBRIGGAN LIBRARY

Kandi Bead Bracelets and
Keychains with Make It!

7+ years

10:30 am – 11:30 am

Face Painting and Balloon
Modelling with Really Cool
Parties

All ages

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Motorised Lego Bricks
Challenge Workshop with e2
Young Engineers Ireland

6 – 11 years

3:00 pm – 4:15 pm

BALDOYLE LIBRARY

Ellora McGee Trainee
Banshee Draw-along with
Úna Woods

6 – 11 years

10:00 am – 11:00 am

Musical Tots with Karen
Donnellan

0 – 4 years

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

BLANCHARDSTOWN LIBRARY

Polka Tots with Grace
Corrigan

0 – 18 months

10:00 am – 10:30 am

Balloon Modelling with
Brilliant Events

All ages

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Cruinniú Creation Station

3 – 12 years

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Decorative Paper Masks
with Tarsila Krüse

8 – 10 years

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm



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Cruinniú na nÓg 2026
Unleash Your Creative Spark

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SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

EVENT	AGE	TIME
BLANCHARDSTOWN LIBRARY		
Makerspace Sessions	7+ years	10:00 am – 11:00 am 11:00 am – 12:00 pm 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
DONABATE LIBRARY		
Silk Clay Owls: A Sensory Experience for All the Family with Make It!	7+ years	2:30 pm – 3:30 pm 3:45 pm – 4:45 pm
Céilí Teaghlaigh le Mairéad	All ages/families	11.30 am – 12.30 pm
HOWTH LIBRARY		
Musical Tots with Karen Donnellan	0 – 4 years	10:00 am – 11:00 am
Sensory Slime with Messy Adventures	7+ years	2:30 pm – 3:30 pm
MALAHIDE LIBRARY		
Sensory Slime with Messy Adventures	7+ years	10:30 am – 11:30 am
Manga Illustration Workshop with John Carpenter	8 – 12 years	2:30 pm – 3:30 pm
Scéalta agus Spraioi le Seosamh Ó Maolalaí/Stories and Fun with Seosamh Ó Maolalaí	3 – 8 years	3:45 pm – 4:45 pm
SKERRIES LIBRARY		
Air Dry Clay with Aida	9 – 12 years	11:30 am – 12:30 pm
Creative Sensory Play with Fingal Additional Needs	All Welcome	12:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Stories in Clay with Kriti Malhotra	8 – 12 years	1:30 pm – 3:30 pm
Bits and Bobs Orchestra	7+ years	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
RUSH LIBRARY		
Bits and Bobs Orchestra	4 – 10 years	11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Graffiti Workshop with Street Art Ink	7+ years	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
SWORDS LIBRARY		
Manga Illustration Workshop with John Carpenter	8 – 12 years	11:00 am – 12:00 pm

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

EVENT	AGE	TIME
SWORDS CASTLE		
We Own The Castle hosted by Garageland Galaxyz	12+ years	4:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Wavin' Words in The Chapel	12+ years	From 4:00 pm
Flower Crown-Making with Aga	All Welcome	From 4:00 pm
Lollipop Tie-Dye Workshops	All Welcome	From 4:00 pm
Graffiti Workshop with Street Art Ink	7+ years	From 4:00 pm
THE SÉAMUS ENNIS ARTS CENTRE		
Shadow Puppet Workshops and Performance with The Flight of Fancy Shadows	6+ years	10:30 am – 12:30 pm 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Bodhrán Making Workshop	10+ years	10:00 am – 2:00 pm

DRAÍOCHT BLANCHARDSTOWN

EVENT	AGE	DATE	TIME
OutLine Youth Dance Project	13 – 18 years	Sat, 30th May, Tues, 2nd June Weds, 3rd June, Thurs, 4th June Fri, 5th June	11:30 am – 1:30 pm Daily
OutLine Youth Dance Project – Performance	13 – 18 years	Saturday, 6th June	12:00 pm 2:00 pm 3:30 pm
Colourings Family Day	6+ (younger siblings welcome, with adult assistance)	Saturday, 6th June	Drop-In Sessions 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Wonder Walls Graffiti with Waterford Walls - See pages 28 & 29 for more details

Creative Compositions



arts.
fingal.ie



Creative Places Balbriggan and Fingal Arts Office have partnered with Balbriggan-based Islander Architects to highlight the vital role creativity plays in shaping our shared built environment. **Creative Compositions** is an exhibition that showcases the outcomes of Building Composition – A Series of Architectural Lessons, a programme delivered by Islander Architects with a group of young people from Balbriggan.

The exhibition features work produced in a range of media, reflecting the

participants' early exposure to different forms of architectural creativity during their secondary school years. As part of Cruinniú na nÓg, the exhibition provides an opportunity to share this work more widely within Balbriggan, demonstrating the importance of creativity in the design of our built environment and encouraging other young people to see architecture as a potential creative pathway.

"Architecture is an art for all to learn because all are concerned with it."

- John Ruskin



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Criunniu na nÓg CARNIVALS: OF CURIOSITY at Fingal Libraries

Roll up, roll up and let your imagination soar at our Carnivals of Curiosity!

Taking place across all Fingal Library branches, these vibrant events are packed with playful wonder, creative adventures, and unforgettable moments for children of all ages. Each library will be transformed into a lively hub of imagination, bursting with local favourites and exciting new experiences designed to spark curiosity and creativity in young minds.

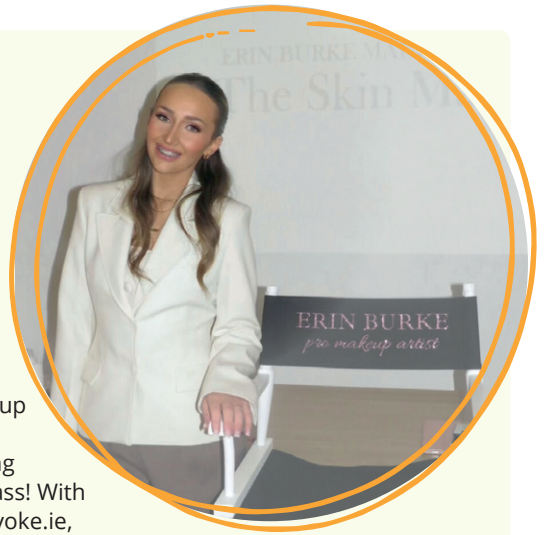
Whether you're exploring hands-on activities or simply soaking in the spectacle, there's something truly magical waiting for everyone!



©Niamh Sharkey, 2025

Erin Burke's Makeup Masterclass for Teens

Join Erin Burke, a dynamic freelance makeup artist based in Balbriggan with a passion for turning everyday beauty into something extraordinary, for a fun makeup masterclass! With experience working with top names like Evoke.ie, Smooth Company Ireland, VIP Magazine, and countless brides, Erin has perfected the art of creating flawless looks that not only enhance natural beauty but make a statement. Suitable from age 16 years.



Age: 16+

To book your place, please contact the library hosting the event.



BALBRIGGAN LIBRARY

TUESDAY, 2ND JUNE

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM



Kandi Bead Bracelets and Keychains with Make It!

Join Make It! for a colourful, creative session making friendship bracelets. Personalise your designs by choosing your favourite colours, adding charms, and even swapping creations with friends. You'll also have the chance to make stylish key chains to accessorise your bag or keys. Make one or make loads - the choice is yours!

Age: 7+

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

BALBRIGGAN LIBRARY

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM



Face Painting & Balloon Modelling with Marzena & Malgorzata

Marzena & Malgorzata from Really Cool Parties will work their facepainting magic to turn your little ones into fantasy animals, princesses and superheroes, and wow them with their wonderful balloon creations!

All Welcome!

BALBRIGGAN LIBRARY

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Motorised Lego Bricks Challenge Workshop

Get ready to unleash your child's creativity and STEM skills at our Lego Bricks Challenge Workshop. Children will have a blast building some amazing STEM concepts in the form of a working Lego model and learning those concepts while having fun.

Age: 6-11 years

To book your place, please contact the library hosting the event.



BALBRIGGAN LIBRARY

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

3:00 PM - 4:15 PM

Ellora McGee Trainee Banshee Draw-along with Úna Woods



Join Úna for a magical workshop where she'll introduce you to the enchanting world of Ellora McGee Trainee Banshee. Discover Ellora's world and learn how to draw Ellora and her friends.

Age: 6-11 years

To book your place, please contact the library hosting the event.



BALDOYLE LIBRARY

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Musical Tots with Karen Donnellan

Come along and join the fun with Karen Donnellan from Musical Tots, bringing her musical songs and stories to Baldoyle Library this Cruinniú na nÓg! Musical Tots uses nursery rhymes & story songs to develop language, learning, coordination and social skills while having great fun. Sessions aim to enhance motor skills and stimulate the senses through movement and music and making time for relaxation with familiar nursery rhymes.

Age: 0-4 years

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



BALDOYLE LIBRARY

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

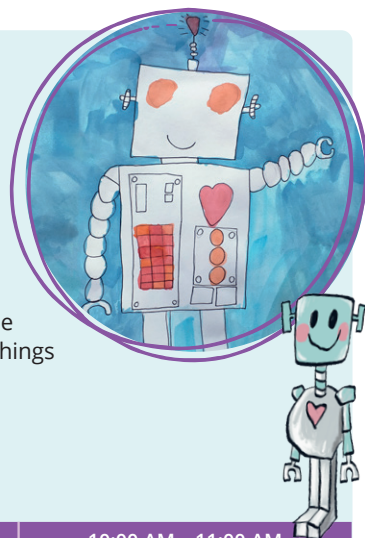
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Makerspace Sessions

Would you like to race some robots? How about playing an ancient game with a modern twist? Ever wondered how a laser cutter works? Can you really 3D print Lego bricks? Come drop into the Fingal Makerspace this Cruinniú na nÓg for an informal look around and see some of the things we get up to while playing with some of the things made in the space. Full STEAM ahead!

Suitable for family groups with children from 7+.

Booking essential via Eventbrite.



FINGAL MAKERSPACE
BLANCHARDSTOWN LIBRARY

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM



Reserve a place through Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/o/fingal-county-libraries-19927793883>

Fingal Makerspace

Our programmes at Fingal Makerspace, one of Dublin's leading makerspaces, are designed to bring learners on a journey of self-discovery, building confidence and knowledge through engaging STEAM and maker education activities, built around problem-solving, collaboration, creativity and technology.

Please contact Blanchardstown
Library for further details.



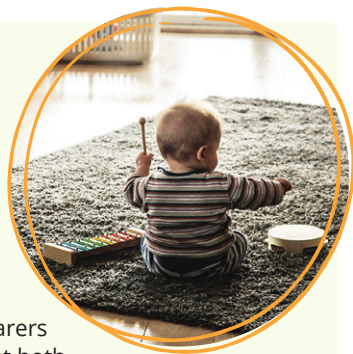
FINGAL
MAKER
SPACE

Polka Tots with Grace Corrigan

Polka Tots is a fun-filled movement and song-based programme featuring rhyme, singing and vocal play, object exploration, instruments, props and creative movement. Carers will be encouraged to sing and move with their child, so that both child and parent get the most out of the class.

This session is suitable for babies and toddlers from 0 – 18 months.

Booking through Eventbrite is essential.



BLANCHARDSTOWN LIBRARY

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM



Reserve a place through Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/o/fingal-county-libraries-19927793883>



Balloon Modelling with Brilliant Events

Get ready for pops of colour, big smiles and a little bit of balloon magic! Join the fantastic Balloon Modellers from Brilliant Events as they twist, turn and transform simple balloons into amazing creatures, characters and creations before your eyes.

From silly animals to dazzling designs, children can watch the magic happen – and maybe even learn a few tricks along the way! This lively, interactive session is full of laughter, imagination and hands-on fun, making it the perfect burst of creativity for Cruinniú na nÓg 2026. Come along, get involved and take home a balloon masterpiece!



All Welcome!

BLANCHARDSTOWN LIBRARY

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

10:00 PM - 1:00 PM



Cruinniú Creation Station: A Creative Extravaganza with Niamh Sharkey and Aoibhe Churcher

Small or tall, arty or smarty, this Cruinniú Creation Station is for you!

Discover new ways to be creative with award-winning author/illustrator Niamh Sharkey and artist Aoibhe Churcher. This Art Marathon is inspired by Niamh's picture book Penguin TV (Gill Books) where the penguins take over the webcam at Dublin Zoo and put on their own show! Come along and let Niamh and Aoibhe inspire you to create your very own penguin by printmaking with rollers, dippers, fingerpaint, real feather brushes, twigs, sticks and much, much more! Your penguin friend can flip, flap or flop its way onto a HUGE underwater doodle wall, joining all their penguin pals... Waddle you waiting for? It's

showtime! *Warning: wear clothes that like FUN, PAINT & MESS!*

Age: 3-12 years **All Welcome!**



BLANCHARDSTOWN LIBRARY

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Decorative Paper Masks with Tarsila Krüse

Step into a world of imagination with author, artist and award-winning illustrator Tarsila Krüse in this hands-on, two-hour Mask Making Workshop designed for 8-10 year olds! Discover the magic of transforming everyday materials - like paper plates, envelopes, construction and wrapping paper - into expressive, one-of-a-kind masks. Guided by Tarsila, you'll create decorative collages and explore how colours, shapes, and textures can bring your wildest ideas to life. All materials provided. Come ready to cut, glue, and play - your masterpiece awaits!

Age: 8-10 years



BLANCHARDSTOWN LIBRARY

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

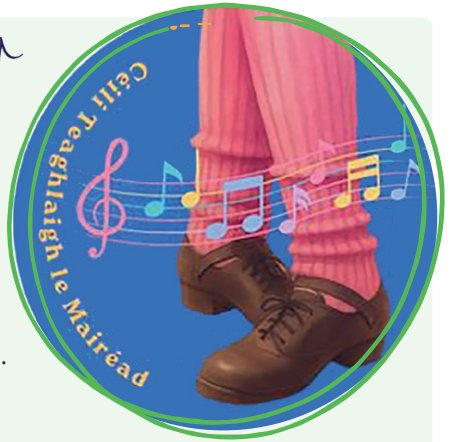
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM



Reserve a place through Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/o/fingal-county-libraries-19927793883>

Donabate



Céilí Teaghlaigh le Mairéad

Join us for a family céilí with Mairéad McKnight in Donabate Library as part of our Cruinniú na nÓg celebrations. This event will feature live traditional Irish music, dancing, and fun for the whole family. Booking required.

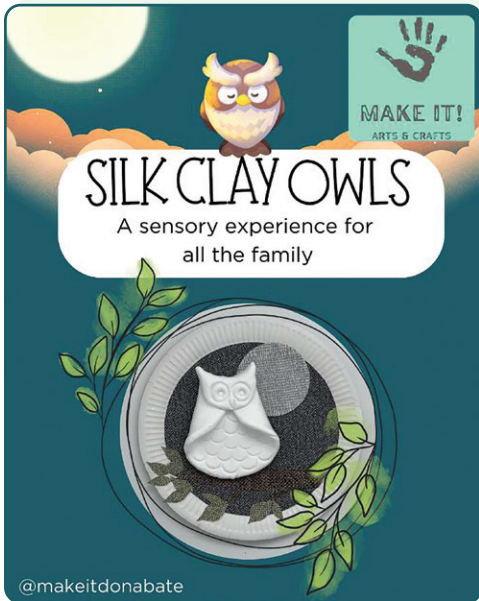
All ages/families.

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

DONABATE LIBRARY

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE



Silk Clay Owls: A Sensory Experience for All the Family with Make It!

Silk Clay is a squishy, squeezey, sensory craft. We use a no-mess, soft clay, that everyone loves to play with.

It is fun to shape and mould into a cute owl. We will also cut, stick and colour to create a background for the owl to sit on.

Age: 7+

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



DONABATE LIBRARY

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM
3:45PM - 4:45PM



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Design Your Own Superhero Storytelling & Illustration Event with Alan Nolan

Ever wanted to design your own Superhero? Join author, illustrator and comic creator Alan Nolan as he talks about favourite comics and superheroes from his childhood (as well as modern day comic superstars like Dog Man, Bunny Vs Monkey and The Investigators) and shows you how to draw one of his own creations. Test your superhero knowledge with a quiz, and then design your very own Superhero **using Alan's patented super-duper Superhero Design Template™!**



Age: 8-12 years

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

GARRISTOWN LIBRARY

THURSDAY, 4TH JUNE

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Musical Tots with Karen Donnellan

Come along and join the fun with Karen Donnellan from Musical Tots, bringing her musical songs and stories to Howth Library this Cruinniú na nÓg! Musical Tots uses nursery rhymes & story songs to develop language, learning, coordination and social skills while having great fun. Sessions aim to enhance motor skills and stimulate the senses through movement and music and also make time for relaxation with familiar nursery rhymes.

Age: 0 - 4 years

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



HOWTH LIBRARY

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Howth



Sensory Slime with Messy Adventures

Join Messy Adventures to make your very own slime. Each child will experiment with different colours, textures, ingredients and even scents. Making slime is fun as well as an educational science experiment. We will finish the workshop by talking about how playing with slime can be used to help us relax.

Age: 7+

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

HOWTH LIBRARY

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Malahide



Sensory Slime with Messy Adventures



Join Messy Adventures to make your very own slime. Each child will experiment with different colours, textures, ingredients and even scents. Making slime is fun as well as an educational science experiment. We will finish the workshop by talking about how playing with slime can be used to help us relax.

Age: 7+

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



MALAHIDE LIBRARY

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

10:30 AM - 11.30 AM



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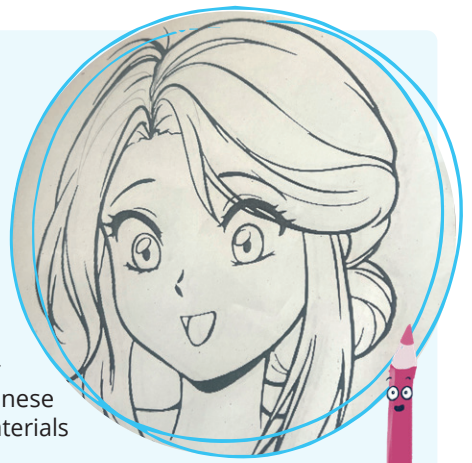
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Manga Illustration Workshop with John Carpenter

Fun with Manga! Join artist John Carpenter for a fun Manga drawing session and update your drawing skills. What is Manga? Manga is a Japanese form of comic book or graphic novel art. All materials supplied - just bring your fun self.



Age: 8-12 years

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

MALAHIDE LIBRARY

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Scéalta agus Spraioi le Seosamh Ó Maolalái Stories and Fun with Seosamh Ó Maolalái



Insíonn Seosamh scéalta do pháistí. Amhráin agus rannta aige chomh maith. Insíonn sé go dátheangach, i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla. Bíonn spraioi agus gáire agus scléip ina chuid scéalaíochta. Bainfidh gach éinne, idir óg is aosta, sult as an seisiún seo.

Seosamh tells stories for children. He has songs and verses too.

He tells bilingually, in Irish and in English.

There's fun and laughter and hilarity in his storytelling. Everyone, young and old, will get enjoyment from this session.

Bilingual Family Storytime for children 3-8 years and parents and carers.



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

MALAHIDE LIBRARY

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

3:45 PM – 4:45 PM

Rush



The Bits and Bobs Orchestra

Classical music is not just for concert halls!

Join Bits and Bobs Orchestra on the alter for a fun and relaxed introduction to the world of classical music. Interact with our musicians and the instruments of the orchestra, bop along to familiar songs and classical hits, and even try your hand at conducting!.

All Welcome!



RUSH LIBRARY

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

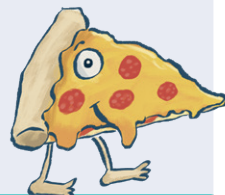
Graffiti Workshop with Street Art Ink

Street Art Ink are bringing their graffiti spray workshops to you, where you will learn how to spray multiple layers using stencils to create your own artwork.

These workshops are highly engaging, and each participant will create and bring home their own bespoke piece of graffiti art!

Age: 7+ years

All Welcome!



RUSH LIBRARY

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM



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Air Dry Clay with Aida

Get creative with air dry clay in this fun, hands-on air dry clay workshop. Children will learn how to make their own pieces of art from cute animals to mini keepsakes. Every child takes home their creations after the workshop.

Age: 9-12 years

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



RUSH LIBRARY

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM



Creative Sensory Play with Fingal Additional Needs

Fingal Additional Needs are hosting a sensory-friendly creative space in Skerries Library as part of Cruinniú na nÓg.

Sessions are designed to be calm, welcoming, and child-led, giving children the chance to explore at their own pace in a supportive environment.

Activities will include sensory creative play with kinetic sand, fidget toys, and interactive equipment, along with soft mats and a relaxed chill-out area.



This is a safe and inclusive space where children can engage in their own way - whether that's playing alongside others or enjoying some quiet time.

All Welcome!

SKERRIES LIBRARY

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Skerries



Stories in Clay with Kriti Malhotra

Join Kriti from Kriti Kreatez for her Stories in Clay workshop, where participants can experiment with shapes, textures, and patterns using coiling techniques while creating pieces inspired by their own creative stories.

Age: 8-12 years

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

SKERRIES LIBRARY

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

1:30 AM – 3:30 PM



The Bits and Bobs Orchestra

Classical music is not just for concert halls!

Join Bits and Bobs Orchestra on the alter for a fun and relaxed introduction to the world of classical music. Interact with our musicians and the instruments of the orchestra, bop along to familiar songs and classical hits, and even try your hand at conducting!

All Welcome!



SKERRIES LIBRARY

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

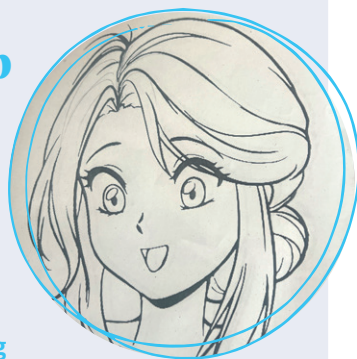
Swords

Manga Illustration Workshop with John Carpenter

Fun with Manga! Join artist John Carpenter for a fun Manga drawing session and update your drawing skills. What is Manga? Manga is a Japanese form of comic book or graphic novel art. All materials supplied - just bring your fun self.

Age: 8-12 years

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



SWORDS LIBRARY

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM



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Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



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**A festival of music and the spoken word
specifically tailored for teens**



Music Generation
Fingal
 Fhine Gall

Garageland

We Own the Castle

Live Youth Music Festival with Garageland Galaxyz

Criunniú Late

Get ready to rock Swords Castle on 6th June at **We Own The Castle** – a vibrant teen music festival celebrating the incredible talents of young musicians, aged 12–19. Garageland Galaxyz is thrilled to be back in Fingal for Cruinniú na nÓg 2026, bringing a tidal wave of youth-powered performances to this iconic venue!

From rising bands and solo acts to fresh new ensembles, this is a day all about music, creativity, and community. **Two stages** will be buzzing all day – a **Main Stage** showcasing featured acts and a **Busking Stage** open to anyone brave enough to jump in and perform on the spot!

Step into the **Chapel Sessions** for poetry and intimate unplugged sets, and explore the **Creative Village**, where you can craft your festival look and soak in the vibes. Plus, gain insider insights at our **Music Industry Workshops**, designed to inspire the next generation of artists.

Know someone aged 12–19 who wants to take the stage? We may still have a few performance slots available – get in touch soon to secure a spot!



Please contact info@garageland.ie.

Pack a picnic, grab a blanket, and come celebrate the future of music with us – **We Own The Castle** is going to be epic!

Age: 14+ years. All Welcome!



SWORDS CASTLE

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

4:00 PM – 9:00 PM



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06.06.2026
 Cruinniú na nÓg

Cruinniú na nÓg 2026
 Unleash Your Creative Spark

21



Music Generation
Fingal
Fhine Gall

We Own the Castle **Wavin' Words** **Youth Poetry Slam**

Criunniú
Late

The Slam Poetry Stage is back at *We Own The Castle* in Swords Castle and it is bigger and better than ever!!

The Chapel venue inside the castle grounds will be the setting for young poets to slam, rap, perform or read their poems. This year we will have an exciting mix of poetry podcasting, performance, open-mic, audience interaction and book giveaways. There is something poetry for everyone.

We will have featured performances from Criunniú Youth Ambassador Yasmine Al Ja Afrehova and all Ireland Poetry Slam Champion Eva Mary Lucy. **The Poetry is Dead** Podcast will be recording live, and Sheila Ryder and Dave Hynes will be hosting and helping make the magic happen.

Anyone who would like to perform just DM us your name and number on Instagram @ **wavinwords** or email library.events@fingal.ie and we'll get in touch. And if you get the urge to perform on the day don't worry, we'll be saving a few spots!



Age: 13+ years. All Welcome!

SWORDS CASTLE CHAPEL

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

5:00 PM – 8:30 PM





Music Generation
Fingal
 Fhine Gall

We Own the Castle

Spoken Word Poetry Workshops

Criúnniú
Late

For Cruinniú na nÓg 2026, Wavin' Words is excited to announce we have All Ireland Poetry Slam Champion, Leon Dunne and Award-Winning Poet, Dave Hynes hosting spoken word workshops for Criúnniú in Swords Carnegie Arts Centre!

Sign up for two workshops either 2/3rd of June 2-4pm or 4/5th June 2-4pm. Discover and practice the techniques and immerse yourself in the joy and emotion that is Spoken Word Poetry.

Workshops are for young poets at any level aged 13-18 years old.

Email library.events@fingal.ie to register.



THE CARNEGIE, NORTH STREET, SWORDS, K67 N5H2	WORKSHOP 1 2ND & 3RD JUNE	2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
THE CARNEGIE, NORTH STREET, SWORDS, K67 N5H2	WORKSHOP 2 4TH & 5TH JUNE	2:00 PM – 4:00 PM



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06.06.2026
 Cruinniú na nÓg

Cruinniú na nÓg 2026
 Unleash Your Creative Spark

Meet Fingal's Local Ambassador, Yasmine Al Ja Afrehova!



Name Yasmine Al Ja Afrehova
Age 17
School & Class Fingal Community College, (5th Year)

Tell us about yourself

Well, to start off I'm the daughter of a Palestinian father and a Czech mother. I am the only one in my family to have been born in Ireland. From time to time it can cause sparks of loneliness within different aspects of my life. It's during this time that I choose to engross myself into the cathartic and cerebral life of poetry. To me, poetry, my form of creativity, is the window to my soul. It allows me to express myself in a manner that does not fully expose me and yet offers an insight to my life.

Earliest memory of creativity or creative accomplishment

My earliest memory of a creative accomplishment came with no physical reward. During dark times I was bereft of any true feeling. My head was a storm of chaos and reason. I had not allowed myself to talk about it with anyone for a long time. It was one day on a school writing task that I allowed my thoughts to drown my page in my

emotion. As I sat back from my desk to read once more what I wrote, tears like rivers ran down my cheeks. Emotion. My writing allowed me to feel the emotion I so desperately craved. It did not matter what I did feel. It is that I could feel. That was the most beautiful reward of all. However, it's safe to say I wrote something else before handing in my assignment.

When/how did you begin your favourite creative activity?

Poetry has followed me throughout my life. My eyes have always hungrily searched for words driven by rhythm and rhyme. Due to a workshop from school, I was allowed to meet and work with a wonderful woman who has aided me in continuing reading out my poetry for the public. Being able to read my poetry while others listen has always been a dream of mine. To me, it establishes a connection from me to the listener. Even if just for a moment, I wish for my struggle to be seen in someone else's eyes.

How do you feel when you're being creative?

It's simple really, I feel alive. Not in a vivacious nor chaotic way, it's much more difficult to describe. I feel as though I am living and not dead, which sadly doesn't sound a poetic as I wish it could. In a life of continuous struggle, of storms of emotion and rapids of uncertainty, there are pauses. For me those pauses contain poetry, the blueprints of me being human. So when I am being creative, I feel the ocean's waters still, I feel the sandstorm dying down and most of all, I feel me.

What advice would you give other young people to encourage their creativity?

Creativity knows no bounds. And it never should. To allow yourself to be creative, you must first be vulnerable with yourself. There is no one on the planet who knows and understands you more than you do. So trust yourself, trust your hand and trust your mind.

Who is your creative hero and why?

I have never really called someone my creative hero nor aspiration. However, one woman called Holly Hughes comes to mind. It wasn't until I attended a poetry event late last year, did I see her. She was mesmerizing. She did a piece of slam poetry about Palestine and it's supporters called "we are". Initially you might think I hold bias since it

recounts of my father's homeland, but you'd be mistaken. It was Holly's ability to express humanity serving together as a whole. That pain was shared not simply just felt by one nation. It was her ability that caused such admiration in me, the way she spoke to a crowd and yet, felt like she was just speaking to me.

Finish the sentence, 'creativity is...'

Creativity is the window to the soul, it comes in many different ways to express it, and hide it.

In your own words, what's the best thing about Ireland having Cruinniú na nÓg, a national day celebrating creativity for young people?

Cruinniú na nÓg allows for the birth of new creation and connections right at the tips of your fingers. It allows young people to express themselves without feelings of dread nor worry of their talent. It gives the youth an outlet to spark their creativity. It is accessible to anyone with a willingness to do it!

Engagement on Cruinniú na nÓg Day (if you know!)

I will be performing at Wavin' Words in Swords Castle Chapel on the day.



Celebrating Cruinniú na nÓg 2026 in Draíocht

Join us for Cruinniú na nÓg 2026 on 6th June in our Galleries, Workshop Rooms and Outdoors for this day of free creativity for young people. Drop into the Colourings Family Day in our First Floor Gallery, try your hand at Wonder Walls Graffiti Workshops with Waterford Walls or catch Outline, an immersive dance theatre experience with Selma Daniel Dance.

OutLine by Selma Daniel Dance

Join us for a free, fun-filled week long movement project inspired by the colourful scribbles, shapes and playful energy of Lucy Hill's summer exhibition Colourings. Together we'll explore how lines, loops and bursts of colour can come alive through dance, movement and performance in public spaces.



Over 5 half days (30th May-5th June), participants will attend daily dance classes in contemporary dance, improvisation skills, breakdance and movement exploration, and collaborate with professional dancers in a creative and inspiring environment.

On Saturday, 6th June, participants and professional dancers will work together, showcasing their moves, and encouraging audience participation, as part of Cruinniú na nÓg in Draíocht.

No experience is needed - just curiosity, playfulness and an interest in movement, creativity or visual storytelling. Come join us, learn new skills, make something totally unique, and perform alongside professionals this summer!

Age 13-18 years. Maximum capacity of 10 participants. Booking essential.



Booking through Draíocht Box Office on 01-885 2622

<https://www.draiocht.ie/whats-on/outline-youth-dance-project>

WORKSHOPS

DRAIOCHT BLANCHARDSTOWN	OUTLINE YOUTH DANCE PROJECT - WORKSHOPS	13 - 18 YEARS	SAT 30 MAY, TUE 02 JUNE, WED 03 JUNE, THU 04 JUNE, FRI 05 JUNE	11:00 AM - 1.30 PM
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PERFORMANCE

DRAIOCHT BLANCHARDSTOWN	OUTLINE YOUTH DANCE PROJECT - WORKSHOPS	ALL WELCOME	SAT 06 JUNE	12:00 PM 2:00 PM 3:30 PM
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Colourings Family Day

Create and play in our Creative Response Space

Join artists Sarah Ward and Michelle Hall for this workshop using a variety of colourful and tactile materials. Drawing inspiration from the exhibition 'Colourings', by Lucy Hill, where interesting colours and exciting shapes join forces, this workshop will help you and your child to further explore and engage with colour and shapes, together with our artists. So, come along to draw, make, play and create!

Cruinniú na nÓg 2026, a day that celebrates children's creativity, is the perfect day to launch our 'Colourings' exhibition and Creative Response Space, which will continue on over the summer months with a range of drop in and book in workshops for pre-schools, primary school summer provision, families, children and young people. Full programme coming soon.

Note: Suitable for families and children of all ages, but designed for children aged 6+ years.

Please be aware these sessions are not designed for groups. All children must be accompanied by an adult and all adults must be accompanied by a child!

Tickets: Free
No pre-booking required



For more information:

<https://www.draiocht.ie/whats-on/cruinniú-na-nog-2026>

DRAÍOCHT BLANCHARDSTOWN,
FIRST FLOOR GALLERY

AGES: 6+ | YOUNGER SIBLINGS
WELCOME, WITH THE
ASSISTANCE OF AN ADULT

DROP-IN SESSIONS
12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Wonder Walls Graffiti with Waterford Walls - Workshops

draíocht

Wonder Walls 2026 for Cruinniú na nÓg invites you to take part in a bold, hands-on street art experience as part of a nationwide celebration of creativity. Across four artist-led workshops, participants will collaborate to design and create a large-scale mural, building real spray-paint skills and working as a creative team.

This year, each location will also contribute to a special national artwork piece, connecting young people across Ireland in one shared creative moment on Cruinniú na nÓg.

Over four Friday evening workshops, participants will learn street art and graffiti techniques with a Waterford Walls artist. Design, create and work together to create an original outdoor piece of art. If you don't secure a spot, join us for drop-in sessions on June 6th and get involved in the creativity.

Brought to you by the team behind Waterford Walls - The Walls Project.

Tickets: Free | Pre-book Online
Capacity: 10 participants



Tickets are Free but Advance Booking is Required through Box Office: 01-885 2622 or Online

<https://www.draiocht.ie/whats-on/wonder-walls-graffiti-workshops-2026>

DRAÍOCHT WORKSHOP
ROOM
& OUTDOORS

AGE GUIDELINE:
13-17 YEARS

FRI 08 MAY,
FRI 15 MAY,
FRI 22 MAY,
FRI 29 MAY

5:30PM - 7:30PM

Wonder Walls Graffiti with Waterford Walls - Drop-In Sessions

draíocht

Wonder Walls for Cruinniú na nÓg invites you to unleash your creativity through vibrant, collaborative murals. We will work together in this hands-on workshop alongside a professional artist to create an outdoor wall mural. Come along and learn a bit about street art, use spray paints and stencils to make an original piece of graffiti art.

Brought to you by the team behind Waterford Walls - The Walls Project. Funded by Creative Ireland.

Note: During these outdoor workshops, spray paints will be used in a safe and secure environment. Places are free for these drop-in sessions and children will be given turns on a first come first serve basis. Dress for mess. Suitable for 8+ years but families of all ages are welcome.

Tickets: Free
Pre-book Online
Capacity: 12 children
per session



**Tickets are Free but Advance Booking is Required
through Box Office: 01-885 2622 or Online**

<https://www.draiocht.ie/whats-on/wonder-walls-graffiti-workshops-2026>

DRAÍOCHT BLANCHARDSTOWN
- WORKSHOP ROOM &
OUTDOORS

AGES: 8+ | YOUNGER SIBLINGS
WELCOME, WITH THE
ASSISTANCE OF AN ADULT

SESSION 1: 12:00 PM - 12.30 PM
SESSION 2: 12:45 PM - 1.15 PM
SESSION 3: 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM
SESSION 4: 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM
SESSION 5: 3:15PM - 3:45PM



Shadow Puppet Workshops and Performance with The Flight of Fancy Shadows



The Flight of Fancy Shadows are a shadow puppetry troop based in Dublin that love telling Irish folktales through shadow puppetry. In this two-hour workshop see the behind the scenes that can make magical tales come alive. Marie Denham and Margot Jones, experienced puppeteers of over 15 years, will teach the kids how to create their own puppets, the importance of movement, story and voices. Children will get to perform in front of their friends and family to highlight the new skills and puppets that they have created. The performance will be accompanied by live music with traditional musician Lucie Flynn.

Suitable for ages 6+.
Booking essential.

THE SÉAMUS ENNIS
ARTS CENTRE

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

10:30 PM - 12.30 PM
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM



Workshop 1 - book online at

<https://www.tseac.ie/event-details/shadow-puppetry-workshops-and-small-performances-2026-06-06-10-30>



Workshop 2 - book online at

<https://www.tseac.ie/event-details/shadow-puppetry-workshops-and-small-performances-2026-06-06-13-00>



Bodhrán Making Workshop

TSEAC are delighted to have Cliste facilitate a Bodhrán making workshop in our outdoor covered courtyard as part of Crúinniú na nÓg. In this workshop, participants will construct and complete a bodhrán entirely from scratch while engaging with Irish Culture and music. All materials are provided.

Suitable for ages 6+. Booking essential.

THE SÉAMUS ENNIS
ARTS CENTRE

SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM



For more information see

<https://www.tseac.ie/event-details/bodhran-making-workshop>

Circus Céilí with Circus Explored

As part of the Circus Céilí, join Dublin Circus Project for a lively introduction to the joy of circus. Through playful workshops, you'll explore juggling, hula hoop, and other skills that can be practiced at home, all in a welcoming space to move, learn, and have fun together.

Come along and be part of the fun!
All Welcome!



THE SÉAMUS ENNIS
ARTS CENTRE

ALL AGES

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM



For more information see

<https://circusexplored.ie/>

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

