

Thursday 22 May

Everyday Dance Sharing | Mount Carmel Supported Care Home
14:00 – 15.00 | Participation free
Contemporary dance artist Cindy Cummings was invited to facilitate movement workshops with residents at Mount Carmel Supported Care Home over several weeks. As part of Callan Open Doors, friends of the residents and guests are invited to share in a special Everyday Dance, followed by refreshments.

Open Studio | KCAT Arts Centre | 13.00 – 16.00 | Participation free
Drop in, space permitting | All ages and abilities welcome
KCAT is a multidisciplinary arts centre dedicated to nurturing creative ambition. In KCAT’s Open Studio, which operates throughout the year, artists are encouraged to pursue their own practice supported by a facilitator. Our Callan Open Doors Drop in session is open to everyone to experience KCAT and try out painting, drawing, printmaking, mixed media, or textiles and create a piece to take home.

Colour Field Workshop Red | Workhouse Union | 17.00 – 19.00
Participation free | Booking required: printblock@workhouseunion.com
Colour Field is a newly developed garden at Workhouse Union by PrintBlock Callan, which is being cultivated to support colour-giving plants. This workshop will introduce participants to printmaking on fabric, featuring a spectrum of natural reds and pinks made with plant materials, facilitated by Hollie Kearns and Michelle McMahon.

Festival Launch and Pecha Kucha Callan | The Powerhouse
19.00 | Admission free | Booking not required
Pecha Kucha is an evening of fast-paced, seven-minute lightning talks from 10 local visual artists and designers. This event brings together the Callan/Kilkenny creative community to share their work, process, and ideas in an inclusive and welcoming space, curated by local creatives Lukas Dwan and Kate Lydon.

Uafasách and Friends
Keogh’s Bar | 21.00 | Admission free
Join local troubadour Peter Brabazon and friends for a session of folk, trad and popular tunes. Guest musicians welcome.

Saturday 24 May

A Drawing and Sound Collaboration | The Powerhouse yard | 11.00 – 17.00
See Friday listings for details.

There’s a Rustic in the Oven | The Powerhouse yard | 11.00 – 17.00
Drop-in | Participation free | All ages welcome
Graffiti artist Laidback will create a mural in the Powerhouse yard that pays homage to the neighbouring Keogh’s Bakery and its famous Rustic loaf. Drop by any time and watch the image as it unfolds.

The Tree Within | Westcourt Living and Growing Plant Sale
11.00 – 16.00 | Drop-in | Participation free | All ages welcome
Visit the beautiful grounds of Westcourt Living & Growing for the two-day annual plant sale, where you can relax with tea, cake and music on the lawn. As part of Callan Open Doors, artist John Davies will be artist-in-residence in the new Westcourt learning space, where he will exhibit his artwork and invite people of all ages to try their hand at drawing the tree within themselves.

Stop Motion Animation workshop with Mike Byrne | Ossory Youth Club
10.00 – 15.00 | For Ossory Youth Club members only
Animator Mike Byrne will lead the Ossory Youth group through the process of creating a stop-motion animation, including devising a story, creating characters, filming the action, and recording the sound, culminating in the completion of the piece.

Friday 23 May

Bunny Hop | Droichead Family Resource Centre Creche
10.00 – 13.00 | For DFRC creche attendees only
Bunny Hop is a music and movement class that invites children aged 1-5 to sing familiar and new action songs using a wide range of musical instruments. The class is music-led and the children get to express themselves through song, movement and instruments.

A Drawing and Sound Collaboration
The Powerhouse yard | 14.00 – 17.00
Drop-in | Participation free | All ages welcome
A team of Coláiste Abhainn Rí creatives, working with three artists, invites you to visit and participate in *A Drawing and Sound Collaboration*. This will incorporate a walk-in installation of images and a collage of audio clips from social media and YouTube.

Pop-up Dance Performance | Bunscoil McAuley Rice | 14.30 | Free event
Over several days, Kilkenny-based choreographer Cindy Cummings will work with students from 4th, 5th, and 6th classes at Bunscoil McAuley Rice to create a pop-up dance piece. The resulting once-off performance, featuring 160 young people dancing together, will take place on the school grounds, rain or shine.

Weaving Worlds | Kilkenny Steiner School | 13.30 – 16.30
Drop-in | Participation free | All ages welcome
Guided by the school’s approach to education, which seeks to nurture the head, heart and hands of each child, Kilkenny Steiner School invite you to come and participate in ‘Weaving Worlds’, an afternoon of playfulness and nature connection that includes willow wreath and crown weaving with flowers of the season, upcycled skipping ropes (bring some old t-shirts), building a willow structure and drawing with willow charcoal.

Little Irish Folklore Friends Reading | Droichead Family Resource Centre
14.30 – 15.30 | For DFRC After School Club attendees only
Local author Niamh Donnellan shares stories from her folklore friends. Join Liam the Leprechaun, Betty the Banshee and Pádraig the Púca; Willow the Wisp, Fiadh the Fairy and Seán the Selkie for lots of magic and giggles. This new twist on Irish folk legends is inspired by the National Folklore Collection.

The Mother Event | Highbank Organic Orchard
09.00 - 16.30 | Admission €65-€85
Booking online: highbankorchards.local/events/the-mother-event
Join Highbank for a day of heart and gut nourishment at Highbank Organic Orchards, featuring a mix of wellness, educational talks, demos, food, music, nature, and connectivity. You will learn how to connect to a place of calm to help ease stress, understand how the earth and gut microbiome have evolved, and how to get them back to a happy place. Tickets include tasters, brunch/lunch, kefir, coffee, yoga, and much more!

Colour Field Tour and Talk | Workhouse Union | 11.00 & 14.00
Participation free | Booking: printblock@workhouseunion.com
Colour Field is a newly developed garden at Workhouse Union by PrintBlock Callan, which is being cultivated to support colour-giving plants. Join Hollie Kearns for a garden tour and introduction to plants used to produce dyes and inks, and discuss the rich heritage of natural colour in Irish textiles.

Home Sweet Home with Trickster (formerly Monkeyshine)
The Powerhouse | 13.30 – 15.30
Drop-in | Participation free | All ages welcome
Come and join Trickster for a playful and creative celebration of home. We will be telling stories, singing songs, writing, drawing, and making as we collaborate in creating a shared celebration of home in all its forms. No experience necessary. This is a fun and relaxed workshop for participants of all ages.

Mud & Magic: Build Cool Stuff with Cob | Droichead Family Resource Centre | 15.30 – 17.30 | For DFRC After School Club attendees only
A super fun taster workshop playing with Cob! What’s Cob, you ask? It’s a squishy, mushy mix of mud, sand, straw, and water — just like nature’s playdough! Young participants will learn how people use Cob to build cool things and then mix up their own batches to make fun sculptures for the garden. Hosted by Beehouse Arts.

Harp Taster Workshop with Ruth Lydon | The Powerhouse | 16.30 & 17.30
Participation free | Booking required: callanopendoorsenquiries@gmail.com
A hands-on introduction to the Irish harp, open to children or adults of all ages and abilities. Tailored to suit each individual’s level of experience, each participant will be given their own instrument to play during the workshop. Each workshop can accommodate two participants and lasts 35 minutes.

CAINT | Fennelly’s of Callan | 18.00 | Drop-in | Participation free
CAINT is a monthly casual meet-up for anyone who would like to improve their Irish and a chance to socialise with others at different levels of the cúpla focal. All are welcome. Asylum’s Em O’Cheallaigh will lead a fun, interactive series of games and exercises to explore performance and storytelling.

Performance Workshop with Asylum Productions | The Parish Hall
19.00 – 20.30 | Participation free | Booking: callanopendoorsenquiries@gmail.com
Join Donal Gallagher, Cindy Cummings and Fern Kealy for an acting and movement workshop, aimed at ages 18 – 99. Designed to be accessible and enjoyable for everyone, regardless of your experience, the workshop will offer a chance to discover creative potential, build confidence and social skills, connect with others in your community, have fun and try something new. Come and join the Asylum team in a safe and supportive space to explore your creativity.

Greene and Shine | Fennelly’s of Callan | Doors 19.00 | Start 19.30 | Admission €15 + booking fee | Booking online @ Eventbrite (search Green and Shine)
Noel Shine and Mary Greene have long been an important element of the Cork and national Folk and Americana scene. From Noel’s role as one of the founders of Cork Folk Festival, right through to the couple’s work alongside their daughter Ellie as RTE Folk Awards nominated band Greenshine, Noel and Mary have been a constant in the musical firmament.

Exploring Sustainable Art Making with Mary Conway
KCAT Arts Centre | 13.00 – 16.00
Drop-in | Participation free | All ages and abilities welcome
KCAT is a multidisciplinary arts centre dedicated to nurturing creative ambition. Drop in to explore sustainable art making by trying out printmaking with recycled milk cartons and creating paper collage or prints using upcycled stencils and artworks.

Sketch under the Whispering Arch | St Mary’s Church, Green St.
14.00 – 17.00 | Drop-in | Participation free | All ages welcome
Led by members of the Bridge Art Group., try your hand at sketching and drawing with charcoal and graphite or rubbing impressions from the stones. Materials will be provided. At 15:00, a talk by a local historian from the Callan Heritage Society will focus on the building and inscriptions of St Mary’s.

Wood of O | Fennelly’s of Callan | Doors 19.00 | Start 19.30 | Admission €12 + booking fee | Booking online @ Eventbrite.ie (search Wood of O)
The Wood of O have been mesmerising audiences for the past six years with their unique material. If you enjoy haunting vocals and melodic finger style guitar, this group is worth a listen. Their folkish sound has been gaining fans, channelled through the talents of Will McLellan on guitar, dynamic lead singer, Breege Phelan and backing vocalist Eve Whelan; their performances are not to be missed.



Callan Open Doors

Callan Open Doors is an annual celebration of creativity and community, inviting the public into art spaces, bringing artists into community spaces, and bringing the arts outdoors in our town.

Over four days, starting on May 22, you're invited to participate in, share, and enjoy a diverse range of workshops, performances, exhibitions, and talks. Doubling in size from its first iteration in 2024, we have a strong focus on youth and creativity this year. Coinciding with National Biodiversity Week, many of our workshops explore arts and nature. We hope you find something that speaks to you or try something new. We are delighted to partner with so many local community and arts organisations and are grateful for the enthusiasm of all artists and creatives involved.

Callan Open Doors is devised and delivered by Trasna Productions, and we're delighted to offer most of our events and workshops for free. This is made possible with support from The Arts Council, Kilkenny County Council, Creative Ireland Kilkenny, and the generosity of businesses and individuals in Callan who responded to our fundraising call. We offer our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped us make our four-day programme happen.

All ages welcome: Children under 16 must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

Callan Open Doors Information Hub at The Powerhouse. We are open throughout Callan Open Doors daily from 11:00 to 16:00. Please drop by with any questions or just to say hello.

www.thepowerhousecallan.ie
the_powerhouse_callan
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Exhibitions

3D Artworks in Action | The Green House Window Gallery
Bridge Street Lower | Thur 22 – Sun 25 May | Free to all passers-by
The Green House Window Gallery regularly showcases artwork for the local community to enjoy. The Gallery has been part of AKA Fringe Festival during Kilkenny Arts Festival and last year's Callan Open Doors. This year, the gallery will feature a 3D Printer in Action, creating special Callan Open Doors designs by Ali Noori.

Echoes of Earth and Ocean by Philippa Bollard
KCAT Arts Centre | Thur 22 – Sat 24 May | 10.00 – 15.00
Echoes of Earth and Ocean exhibits a collection of artworks by Philippa Bollard that weaves together different experimental approaches to abstract and figurative painting. Her works are inspired by Irish hill climbing, hikes around Icelandic bogs, and sunny holidays in South America. Philippa is a member of KCAT Art Centre's Open Studio.

Images of Callan by Riordan Murphy | The Powerhouse Foyer
Fri 23 – Sun 25 May | 11.00 – 16.00
A selection of drawings of the buildings of Callan and Kilkenny by young artist Riordan Murphy.

Accessibility and Inclusion are at the heart of Callan Open Doors. Our central venue, The Powerhouse, is wheelchair accessible, with wheelchair-accessible toilets available for use throughout Callan Open Doors from 11:00 to 16:00.

The following venues that are open to the public through the programme are wheelchair accessible: The Powerhouse, KCAT Arts Centre, Fennelly's of Callan (outdoors), Westcourt Living & Growing (learning space), Kilkenny Steiner School, Keogh's Bar and Bunscoil McAuley Rice (yard).

Please let us know if you have any access needs and how we can support you to participate in any of the events and activities:
callanopendoorsenquiries@gmail.co

Callan



Sunday 25 May

A Drawing and Sound Collaboration | The Powerhouse yard | 11.00 – 16.00
Visit *A Drawing and Sound Collaboration*, created during Callan Open Doors by a team of Coláiste Abhainn Rí creatives with artists, Maurice Caplice, Enagh Farrell and Muiris Wallace.

There's a Rustic in the Oven | The Powerhouse yard | 11.00 – 16.00
See Saturday listings for details.

The Tree Within | Westcourt Living and Growing Plant Sale | 11.00 – 16.00
See Saturday listings for details.

Tochailt Focail le Siobhan de Paor | Abbey Meadow | 14.30 – 15.30
Participation free | Suitable for age 12 plus | Meet at The Powerhouse at 14.15
Tochailt Focail is a journey of discovery into our Teanga and our meon dúchasach. Bring your fóclóir, which we will use as a tool to commune with the natural world around us. Beimid ag plé cursaí nádúr go spreagúil; we will be dealing with affairs of nature in an inspirational way. This is a bilingual workshop suitable for all standards of Irish speaker. It is an opportunity to repair your Gaeilge briste.

No Mic Sessions | Coolagh Hall | 16.00 – 18.00
Admission free, donations welcome | All ages welcome
Join John Clarke and friends for an acoustic traditional music concert in the intimate surroundings of Coolagh Hall.



CALLAN OPEN DOORS

Celebrating Art and Creativity in Callan
22-25 May 2025

