

GALWAY PUBLIC LIBRARIES

BOOKIT! CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL 2025





FOREWORD



BOOKIT! is Galway's vibrant celebration of children's literature, held as part of the nationwide Children's Book Festival 2025. This joyful event invites young readers, families, educators, and book lovers to dive into the magical world of storytelling.

With a jam-packed programme of readings, workshops, performances, and interactive activities, BOOKIT! aims to spark imagination and foster a lifelong love of reading. Highlights include author visits from beloved Irish and international children's writers.

BOOKIT! is part of the Right to Read initiative, promoting literacy and reading development through fun, inclusive programming. It's a chance for children to meet their literary heroes, explore new genres, and discover the joy of books in a welcoming, creative environment.



SPECIAL GUEST



Master of Monsters with Dave Rudden

Dave Rudden is the author of the best-selling *Conn of the Dead*, the first in a series of short, snappy horror adventures set around Ireland. He has visited hundreds of schools and libraries around Ireland to talk about monsters, crisps and books - the three best things in the world.

For children aged 9+



08th October

Westside Library
Ballybane Library
Galway City Library

10:45 am - 11:45 am
12:15 pm - 1:00 pm
1:45 pm - 2:30 pm

09th October

Ballinasloe Library

10:00 am - 11:00 am
11:30 am - 12:30 pm



SPECIAL GUEST



Celebrating 35 years of *Under the Hawthorn Tree* with Marita Conlon-McKenna

Marita Conlon-McKenna is an acclaimed children's author who has written over 20 books for children and adults.

Her historical novel *Under the Hawthorn Tree*, explores the Irish Famine through the eyes of three siblings and is the first of the *Children of the Famine* trilogy.

Under the Hawthorn Tree has sold over 250,000 copies in Ireland and has been translated into more than a dozen languages.

Her adult fiction books include *The Magdalen*, *Rebel Sisters*, and *The Hungry Road*, all of which explore Irish history and social issues.

She is a Winner of the Bisto Irish Book of the Year, International Reading Association Award, Reading Association of Ireland Award.



For children aged 9+

15th October

Westside Library

10:30 am - 11:30 am

12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

16th October

Ballinasloe Library

10:30 am - 11:30 am





EVENTS

Let's grow our imaginations Surreal drawing workshop for kids with Aga Grandowicz

Aga Grandowicz is a multi-award-winning art director, graphic designer, illustrator, and artist with a passion for nature and wildlife. Originally from Poland, she now lives in Ireland, where she creates acclaimed children's books and runs art workshops nationwide. Her works include *Dr Hibernica Finch's Compelling Compendium of Irish Animals*.

For children aged 8 - 12



06th October

Dunmore Library
Tuam Library

10:00 am - 11:00 am
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

07th October

Galway City Library
Ballybane Library

10:00 am - 11:00 am
11:45 am - 12:45 pm



The twin joys of reading and sport! with Emma Larkin



Emma Larkin is a children's author based in Kerry, Ireland and is known for the *Twin Power* series and *Izzy's Magical Adventures in Sport*. Inspired by her grandmother Maureen Hennebry, a three-time All-Ireland camogie champion, Emma writes to encourage young readers to stay active, keep reading and have fun. Her latest book, *Féile: A Twin Power Adventure*, was published in May 2025.

For children aged 8 - 12

23rd October

Portumna Library

11:30 am - 12:30 pm
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

24th October

Loughrea Library

10:00 am - 11:00 am
11:30 am - 12:30 pm



EVENTS

BOOKIT! - Children's Book Festival 2025

The Magical Musical Story Tour

with Fiona Dowling

Fiona Dowling is a French-Irish multidisciplinary artist and storyteller. She has performed internationally, including as YARN Storyteller-in-Residence in Marrakesh and through a Culture Moves Europe grant in Georgia. Supported by an Arts Council Agility Award, Fiona is developing new storytelling shows for adults that blend traditional folktales with personal narratives.



For children aged 5 - 9

21st October

Eyrecourt Library

10:30 am - 11:15 am

Killimor Library

12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

22nd October

Headford Library

10:30 am - 11:15 am

Tuam Library

12:15 pm - 1:15 pm



Spraoi agus Scéalta le Geraldine agus Gobnaitht le Geraldine Ní Mhiach

Is scríbhneoir, scéalaí agus múinteoir bunscoile í Geraldine Ní Mhiach. Is as Contae Laois í ó dhúchas ach tá sí ina cónaí sa Spidéal anois, lena fear chéile, agus a n-ochtar gasúir le roinnt blianta anuas. Tugann Geraldine ceardlanna scéalaíocht agus scríbhneoireacht chuig gasúir tríd Gaeilge agus Béarla. Bhí a húrscéal *Flick* ar an ngearrliosta ag Cumann Litearthachta na hÉireann le haghaidh Gradaim Leabhair Débhliantiúl



Do pháistí idir 4 agus 8 mbliana d'aois

18th October

Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua

12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

Leabharlann an Spidéil

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm



EVENTS



The story of a dragon with Jane Landy

Jane Landy is a children's author from Skerries, Co. Dublin, best known for her picture book *Gringer the Whinger*, inspired by a dragon she invented to entertain her four young children. Illustrated by Sheena Dempsey, the book earned an award from the Institute of Designers of Ireland. Jane now edits schoolbooks and leads lively storytelling workshops, often featuring her signature dragon voices.



For children aged 5 - 8

13th October

Galway City Library
Ballybane Library

10:00 am - 11:00 am
12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

14th October

Loughrea Library

9:30 am - 10:30 am
11:30 am - 12:30 pm



Scéal, Ceol is Cruthú le Julie Anne De Brún

Bígí linn le haghaidh scéalaíocht, amhránaíocht is píosa ealaíne do theaghlaigh. Tá an ceardlann seo oiriúnach le haghaidh teaghlaigh le páistí suas 9 mbliana d'aois. Fáilte roimh chá.

Do pháistí suas go dtí 9 mbliana d'aois



04th October

Loughrea Library

11:00 am - 11:45 am



EVENTS



The Whistlestop Tour

with Pat Ryan

Patrick Ryan is a storyteller and educator who works across Ireland, Europe, and the U.S., bringing stories to life in schools, libraries and festivals. He has led innovative projects like *Kick into Reading* and *Living Legend*, and co-authored *Story Listening & Experience in Early Childhood*. His work blends folklore, literacy and creative engagement.

For children of various ages

09th October

Clifden Library
Letterfrack Library
Leenane Library

10th October

Moylough Library

Ballygar Library

9:30 am - 10:15 am
10:30 am - 11:30 am
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm



EVENTS



Making it up as you go along Creative Writing Workshop with Patricia Forde & Mary Murphy

Patricia Forde is a Galway-based writer and Ireland's seventh Laureate na nÓg. Her acclaimed debut novel *The Wordsmith* and its sequel *Mother Tongue* have been published internationally, alongside picture books such as *Fidget the Wonder Dog* and *To The Island*. She also writes for children's television and her first screenplay, *Fidil Ghorm*, was released in 2024.



Mary Murphy is an award-winning author and illustrator of over 50 children's books. She is known for her bold art style and striking use of colour in titles such as *Little Owl and the Star*, *I Kissed the Baby* and her newest picture book, *Let's Be Earthlings*.

For children aged 9 - 12



15th October

Tuam Library

9:30 am - 11:00 am
11:30 am - 1:00 pm

16th October

Westside Library

10:00 am - 11:15 am
11:30 am - 12:45 pm
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm





EVENTS



Reading and Art Workshop with Sinéad O'Hart

Sinéad O'Hart is the author of several children's book series, including *Ellora McGee*, *Trainee Banshee* and *Lola and Larch*, as well as novels for older readers such as *The Eye of the North*, *Skyborn*, and *Sword of the Sun*. When she's not writing, she co-hosts *Storyshaped*, a podcast exploring the stories that shape us.

For children aged 5+ and children aged 8+



01st October

Galway City Library
Ballybane Library

11:30 am - 12:30 pm
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

02nd October

Gort Library

10:00 am - 11:00 am
11:30 am - 12:30 pm



Stockingopolis storytime and colourful artwork with Tatyana Feeney



Tatyana Feeney is a children's author and illustrator originally from North Carolina, now living in Trim, Ireland. Her charming picture books include *Small Bunny's Blue Blanket*, *Socks for Mr Wolf* and *Stockingopolis*. She regularly collaborates with The O'Brien Press. Tatyana's work blends gentle storytelling with playful illustrations that delight young readers.

For children aged 5 - 8

06th October

Ballybane Library
Westside Library

09:45 am - 10:30 am
11:30 am - 12:15 pm

07th October

Oranmore Library
Athenry Library

09:30 am - 10:30 am
11:30 am - 12:30 pm



EVENTS



Author talk, readings and Q&A session with Gráinne O'Brien

Gráinne O'Brien is a writer and bookseller from Limerick City. She is the author of bestselling books *A Limerick Fairytale* and *Solo*. When Gráinne started writing her book *Solo*, she didn't really like poetry, which caused her trouble as she was now being inspired to write a poetic verse novel. She went looking for poetry in places outside of the poems and poets she learned about in school. In this interactive workshop, students can join Gráinne to discover how poetry can make us understand the world and ourselves better, and how we can be inspired by poems we never even knew existed.



For Transition Year students

17th October

Westside Library

11:00 am - 12:00 noon



Bedtime Story Time & Teddybear Sleepover

Snuggle up in your pyjamas and join us for a magical evening! Sip on warm, yummy hot chocolate, cuddle up with your favourite bedtime stories, and when your teddy starts to yawn, tuck them in for a special sleepover in the library!

Booking essential oughterard@galwaylibrary.ie / 091 557002.

For children aged 3 - 6

09th October

Oughterard Library

6:00 pm - 6:45 pm

EVENTS



Welcome to the World of Modern Board Games with Aiden Ryan

Join Aiden as your guide in introducing the HUGE variety that is Modern Board Gaming!
Ludo? Monopoly? Chess? ...
Nope, here you will encounter tactics like - Dice Duelling, Push your Luck, Bomb Throwing and some terribly cruel strategic decisions you hope you're not victim to.
Come along, share a table, get on Board Games!
Please contact Ballybane Library to book your spot at ballybane@galwaylibrary.ie



For children aged 9 - 15

11th October

Ballybane Library

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm



Design your own book cover

Join us for a fun-filled family event where children become the artists of their own stories! Kids up to 9 years of age and their families are invited to unleash their creativity and design a book cover for their favourite tale—or one they dream up themselves.

Come celebrate imagination, storytelling and art with us!

For children aged up to 9

11th October

Westside Library

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm





EVENTS BY LOCATION

Ballybane Library

- 01st October *Reading and Art Workshop* with Sinéad O'Hart
06th October *Stockingopolis* with Tatyana Feeney
07th October *Let's grow our imaginations* with Aga Grandowicz
08th October *Master of Monsters* with Dave Rudden
11th October *Welcome to the World of Modern Board Games* with Aiden Ryan
13th October *The story of a dragon* with Jane Landy
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Galway City Library

- 01st October *Reading and Art Workshop* with Sinéad O'Hart
07th October *Let's grow our imaginations* with Aga Grandowicz
08th October *Master of Monsters* with Dave Rudden
13th October *The story of a dragon* with Jane Landy
-

Westside Library

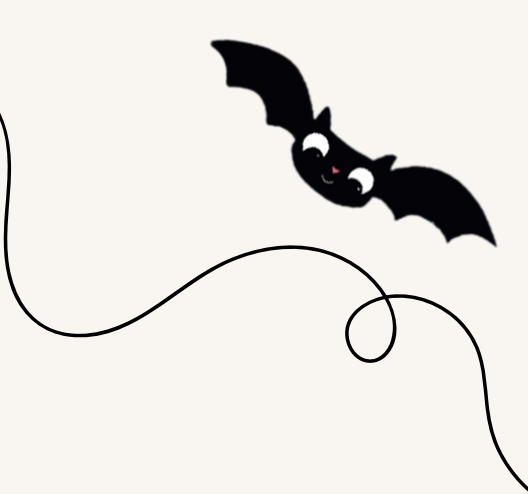
- 06th October *Stockingopolis* with Tatyana Feeney
08th October *Master of Monsters* with Dave Rudden
11th October *Design your own Book Cover*
15th October *Celebrating 50 years of 'Under the Hawthorn Tree'* with Marita Conlon-McKenna
16th October *Making it up as you go along* with Patricia Forde & Mary Murphy
17th October *Author talk, readings and Q&A session* with Gráinne O'Brien



Supported by Galway City Arts Office



EVENTS BY LOCATION



Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua

18th October *Spraoi agus Scéalta le Geraldine Ní Mhiach*

Leabharlann an Spidéil

18th October *Spraoi agus Scéalta le Geraldine Ní Mhiach*

Athenry Library

7th October *Stockingopolis* with Tatyana Feeney

Ballinasloe Library

9th October *Master of Monsters* with Dave Rudden

16th October *Celebrating 50 years of 'Under the Hawthorn Tree'* with Marita Conlon-McKenna

Ballygar Library

10th October *The Whistlestop Tour* with Pat Ryan

Clifden Library

9th October *The Whistlestop Tour* with Pat Ryan

Dunmore Library

6th October *Let's grow our imaginations* with Aga Grandowicz

Eyrecourt Library

21st October *The Magical Musical Story Tour* with Fiona Dowling



Gort Library

2nd October *Reading and Art Workshop* with Sinéad O'Hart

Supported by Galway County Arts Office





EVENTS BY LOCATION

Headford Library

22nd October *The Magical Musical Story Tour* with Fiona Dowling

Leenane Library

9th October *The Whistlestop Tour* with Pat Ryan

Letterfrack Library

9th October *The Whistlestop Tour* with Pat Ryan

Loughrea Library

4th October *Scéal, Ceol is Cruthú* le Julie Anne De Brún

14th October *The story of a dragon* with Jane Landy

24th October *The twin joys of reading and sport!* with Emma Larkin

Moylough Library

10th October *The Whistlestop Tour* with Pat Ryan

Oranmore Library

7th October *Stockingopolis* with Tatyana Feeney

Oughterard Library

9th October Story Time & Teddybear Sleepover

Portumna Library

23rd October *The twin joys of reading and sport!* with Emma Larkin

Tuam Library

6th October Let's grow our imaginations with Aga Grandowicz

15th October *Making it up as you go along* with Patricia Forde & Mary Murphy

22nd October *The Magical Musical Story Tour* with Fiona Dowling



Supported by Galway County Arts Office



ADDITIONAL INFO



All Events are free of charge



More Family Friendly events are hosted by many of our library branches during Children's Book Festival. Contact your local library for more info



To book an event or get more info contact:

- info@galwaylibrary.ie for events hosted in Galway County
- westside@galwaylibrary.ie for events hosted in Galway City



Follow Galway Public Libraries on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for additional news



Children's BOOK Festival

 Right to Read



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Ireland**
*Makes Every Library
Your Local Library*
www.librariesireland.ie