

WEXFORD FRINGE FESTIVAL

75

OCT10
NOV 01
2026



4 WEEKS
100 EVENTS

WEXFORD FESTIVAL OPERA



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Ermonela Jaho, Joseph Calleja, Daniela Barcellona,
Giorgi Manoshvili, Colm Tóibín and many more stars.

15–31 OCTOBER 2026 | BOOK NOW | [WEXFORDOPERA.COM](https://wexfordopera.com)



October 07 – November 18**CUT-FLOW/Lar O'Toole**

10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday to Friday, and
10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, D'lush Café,
Wexford Arts Centre.

Cut-Flow is a new photographic exhibition by south-east Wexford artist Lar O'Toole, presenting an ongoing body of work that examines the layered histories, rituals and environmental realities of Our Lady's Island.

Drawing together photography and video, the exhibition explores how cultural memory, ecological change and belief systems converge in one of the South East's most historically significant coastal sites. O'Toole's practice has long been rooted in the landscapes of south Wexford.



Ciaran Hinds

October 09**Music for Wexford: The Fews Ensemble/
Ciaran Hinds**

7.30 p.m. St. Iberius Church

Made up of leading chamber musicians, orchestral leaders and principals and soloists from Ireland, the UK and Europe, The Fews Ensemble performs up to eight projects per year in Newry, Mourne, and Down, as well as in Dublin and Belfast.

The resident ensemble of Newry Mourne and Down and Newry Chamber Music, The Fews are renowned, not only for the quality of their playing, but for their innovative programme lead by Artistic Director, Joanne Quigley McParland.

The group perform well loved staples from the Chamber Music repertoire as well as countless commissions by Irish composers and Chamber version arrangements of larger scale orchestral works, including Mahler Symphony No. 4 for thirteen players and Brahms Serenade for nine players. The group specialises in cross arts projects, working most notably with actor Ciarán Hinds on several projects including a sell-out, critically acclaimed run, of Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale* at Smock Alley Theatre, Dublin, in 2022.

In 2024 NCM and The Fews Ensemble founded the Narrow Water Festival to celebrate the announcement of the construction of Narrow Water Bridge. Future plans are in place to expand the festival on both sides of Carlingford Lough in 2025 and beyond.

The Fews Ensemble present a fresh approach to the String Quartet recital with a concert of stunning single movement pieces for this most popular of chamber music genres, interspersed with thematic poetry and prose.

The programme will include:

- Jesse Montgomery Strum
- Ernest Hemingway extract from *Death in the Afternoon*
- Joaquin Turina *La Oracion del Torero*
- Percy Bysshe Shelley *The Sunset*
- Ottorino Respighi *Il Tramonto*
- Roisin Kelly *Oranges*
- Caroline Shaw *Valencia*
- Emily Dickinson *By The Sea*
- Osvaldo Golijov *How Slow the Wind*
- Rainer Maria Rilke *The Sonnets to Orpheus (Book II, No. 29)*
- Anton Webern *Langsamer Satz*
- Patrick Kavanagh *A Childhood Christmas*
- Trad. Don Oíche Úd I mBeithil
- Daniel Kemper *The Tango Argentine*
- Astor Piazzolla *Four for Tango*



October 09

Wexford Craft Studios

11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tues to Sat, Peter's Street, Y35 C8X8

A new addition to this year's festival, Wexford Craft Studios is a vibrant new creative destination celebrating the very best of handmade Irish design.

Housed in the beautifully restored former Coleman Doyle's/Gibsons building, Wexford Craft Studios brings together an inspiring collection of talented local artists, makers and craftspeople under one roof. From handcrafted ceramics, jewellery, candles and soaps to textiles, crochet, quilling, artwork, gifts and home décor, every item has been thoughtfully created with skill, passion and creativity.

Wexford Craft Studios is a place to experience creativity. Visitors can browse unique handcrafted collections, meet the makers behind the work, and enjoy a welcoming space dedicated to supporting local talent and sustainable craftsmanship.

Whether you're interested in pottery, candle making, jewellery making, watercolour painting, crochet, leatherwork, lino printing or many other crafts, there's something to inspire every imagination.

October 9,16,23,30, 31

Haunted Hallows Ghost Tour

8 p.m. Wexwalks presents Haunted Hallows Ghost tours. Booking at 0862138062.

Local historian Paul Walsh brings you on a terrifying exploration of the dark beating heart of Wexford. Exploring cavernous churches ghoulish graveyards and terrifying towers visitors will hear of the ghosts, ghouls and goblins, devils and disciples and demons.



October 10 - November 01

Interim: New work by Polly Maher

10 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. (Mon to Sat, late opening to 9 p.m. Tues/Thurs) Wexford Library.

Interim is a collection of paintings by Polly Maher depicting moments of in-between. Referencing the artist's personal collection of photographs, the paintings are fleeting images of everyday scenes and structures. Many of the images chosen as references are those that were originally taken, almost thoughtlessly, to pass time between larger events or tasks. As paintings, they come together to reflect a feeling of waiting, perhaps even longing. There is a certain boredom present, as well as an element of comfort and quietness caught between the search for busier thoughts and actions.



October 09

Lina Varna Studio

10 a.m. to 6.00 p.m., Monday to Saturday, 5 Rowe Street Lower

Discover new sculpture and contemporary handmade jewellery, created in Lina Varna's Wexford studio and inspired by the beauty of nature. Handmade jewellery embodies organic touches that can only be created by human creativity and imagination. Also, the corten and mild steel sculpture by Dainius Varnelis is unique and playful.



Gerry Davis, Figure in Landscape

*Exhibition opening today at noon

October 10 – November 01

Green Acres Gallery Festival Exhibition

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Saturday.

Artists taking part this year include Aidan Butler, Anthony Scott ARUA, Bernadette Madden, Cara Gordon ARUA, Conor Walton, David West, Eamon Colman, Grainne Watts, Helen Merrigan Colfer, James English RHA, Jean Bardon, John Behan RHA, Joseph Sloan, Keith Wilson, Ken Browne, Liam O'Rourke, Marian Campbell, Mick O Dea PPRHA, Myra Jago, Neil Shawcross RHA, RUA, Neisha Allen ARUA, Orla de Bri, Paul Maloney, Robert Ryan, Sandra Bell, Sinead Ni Mhaonaigh PRHA, Stephanie Hess, Tom Climent, Trish Robinson, Christine Mooney, Helen O'Connell. The gallery is also marking the 80th birthday this year of James English RHA.



A Record of Tenderness, Richard Malone

*Exhibition opening today at 2 p.m.

October 10 – November 20

CHORUS/ Richard Malone

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Wexford County Council, Carricklawn,
(Y35 WY93)

Wexford artist Richard Malone has steadily

developed a strong and solid career since graduating from London's Central Saint Martins in 2014. His work, spanning different media—from sculptures, performance, and textiles to drawings and installations—can be found in the collections of important institutions around the world, such as the Metropolitan Museum and MOMA in New York, NGV Melbourne, and the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, amongst others. Malone's attention to detail, his regard and respect for his roots and sense of identity, his deep sensibility, and his incredible work ethic make for an artist who is not afraid to go deep into research and experiment.



Thomas Brezing, the Disillusion of Home

*Exhibition opening today at 4 p.m.

October 10 - December 16

All the People We Will Never Meet/

Thomas Brezing

10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday to Friday, and

10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday. Wexford Arts
Centre, lower and upper galleries.

This exhibition grew out of a 15-year correspondence between Thomas Brezing and curator Cherry Smyth, founded in their common addiction to painting and poetry. Brezing introduces a potent and tender series of 'Head Paintings', 2020 - 2026, beside earlier large paintings, 2008-2020, which establish his themes of transcendence and obliteration. In the large canvases, representational motifs, such as birds and trees, vie for attention amid a frenzy of expressive abstraction. The colourful profusion of almost fantastical urban architecture, featuring ziggurats, subways and bridges, threatens to overcome faint human figures.



*Exhibition opening today at 6 p.m.

October 10 - Oct 31

Art as Alchemy/Group show

Noon to 5 p.m. Oct 14,15,16,17, 21-26, 28-31. Westgate Heritage Centre

Art as Alchemy is the theme of this year's annual group show in the Westgate Heritage Centre which is supported by the Arts Council of Ireland. Curated by Shannon Carroll, the eight artists selected from across Co. Wexford and the South East are Dara Griffin (Wexford), Veronica Dooley (Wexford), Anne Martin Walsh (Wexford), Trish Kavanagh (Wexford), Natalie Doyle (Wexford), Susanne Horsch (Kilkenny), Terry Lawless (Wicklow) and Oisín Bourke (Kilkenny).



October 10th - 31

Keiko Tanabe Exhibition

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Rosslare Gallery. Y35 R85V

'An Enchanting Fusion of the Irish Landscape and Japanese Watercolour'. Keiko was born in Kyoto, Japan. As a child growing up in an art-loving family, she always enjoyed drawing and painting and won many awards in children's art contests. Since 2005, her paintings have been included in many exhibitions across America and in Asia and Europe. Her work has been purchased by private and corporate collectors from all around the world and reviewed in leading art magazines in the U.S., Europe and Japan.



October 10 -31

John Power/Anja Lux

2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Artbank, Bunclody

Artbank (88 Main Street, Bunclody) is hosting sculptures by John Power and paintings by Anja Lux. Meanwhile, and also in Bunclody, there is another exhibition, Ausstellung, Human All Too Human, Menschliches, Allzumenschliches, which is open daily, featuring John Power, John Renwick and Stephen Nolan. Studio G11 Bunclody, Y21 E1T1.



Simone Wagner

October 10 - November 01

Group Exhibition: The Makers House

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Y35YV25)

A visit to The Makers House is a rare and unique experience. This is a place where visitors get to meet twelve extraordinary Wexford makers, to listen to their stories, gain insight into the inspiration, processes and techniques that shape their craft, giving a greater understanding of the work of the artist and designer. This vibrant, Wexford creative community showcasing a curated collection of locally made art, craft and design. Throughout the year The Makers House hosts exhibitions, demonstrations and events that inspire and connect. The participating makers are Mairead Stafford, Mary Wallace, Simone Wagner of Kosy Designs, Agota Gilbride of Timéa Jewellery, John Sinnott Woodturner, Agnieszka Kapitan of Lueur

Home Designs, Emily Stamp, Emma Phillips, Jackie Mitchell, Annette Byrne of Julsuluv and Lucy Ní Raghail of Lucy's Kitchen Crafts. (Closed October 13).

October 10 - November 01

The Space Between: Jean Maskell

8 a.m. to 11 p.m. **Ferrycarrig Hotel**

Wexford/ Liverpool interdisciplinary artist and writer Jean Maskell's photographs of dawn across the River Slaney capture moments in the ethereal space between night and day, dreams and reality. Supporting the Wexford Marine Watch charity, the hotel has incorporated these photos into many guest rooms.



October 13

The Dawning of an Age/ Spoken word and song by Imelda Kehoe

7 p.m. **Wexford Town Library**. Free but booking online through library.

Come on a journey to the High Arctic with songwriter Imelda Kehoe. From the whalers, trappers, explorers and miners of Svalbard's Arctic Archipelago to the mythologised railway navvies who built Britain's railways, this performance traces a single thread of the coal that drove one industry, and the men who dug it from the other. Through original songs, stories, folklore and fascinating personal and historical accounts, Imelda brings to life the remarkable people who lived through this transition, often thousands of miles apart yet bound by the same demand for fuel and progress.

The Dawning of an Age asks what happens when one age gives way to another and what it costs the ordinary people caught in between. This year, Imelda travelled to Longyearbyen, Svalbard, the world's northernmost town, as it emerged from Polar Night in February, to see, feel and hear the Arctic for herself. That journey shapes the songs and stories at the heart of this performance. Imelda Kehoe is an RTÉ-featured artist and Jazz at Johnstown headliner whose songs are rooted in folk music and human stories. Her storytelling has been described by the Irish Independent as making the listener feel "wrapped up in the journey like the stories are your own."



October 14 - 26

Landscapes: Two Women, Two Journeys, Two Voices.

11a.m. to 5.30 p.m. **The Talbot Hotel**

Wexford-based Helen McLean is best known for her large-scale mosaics, stained glass installations and paintings. Originally from Holywood, Co Down, her studio has been based for over two decades in Wexford. She has completed over 40 private and public commissions throughout Ireland, the UK and the United States.

Sheila Burton, a Wexford-based oil painter, has exhibited in Wexford, Waterford and Dublin. As both an artist and Art Psychotherapist, she values the restorative power of nature. Through these paintings, inspired by her love of walking by the sea, Sheila shares her experience of the beauty, peace and sense of belonging found along Wexford's coastline.

October 14. Opens at 6 p.m.

October 17, 18, 24, 25, 26, 31

Creativity Counts Exhibition

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wexford Mental Health Association, Henrietta Street.

Wexford Mental Health Association was formed in 1978 by a group of volunteers with an interest in helping promote positive mental health in County Wexford. This is a showcase of art, sculpture, photography and poetry from talented artists throughout the county.

October 15 -31

Exhibition by Mairead Stafford

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Raven's Nest Gallery

The Makers House presents 'From My Heart to Yours', an exhibition of work by Wexford artist, Mairead Stafford in The Raven's Nest Gallery (top floor). This collection of paintings and ceramic sculpture expresses the deep connection the artist has with the world around us. The sky blue of the sea, the merry dance of a song bird and the warm touch of a hand. Moments that once experienced are committed to the heart and soul forever.



October 15

Jazz piano with Terry Byrne

1 p.m. Wexford Library

Jazz music and piano go hand in hand, and this year Wexford-pianist Terry Byrne continues Wexford Library's exploration of the genre during recent Wexford Fringe Festivals. In general, jazz pianists already play piano at a high level. Like Terry, they usually have an intuitive understanding of music theory compared to pianists in other genres. Terry, who appeared at Jazz at Johnstown this year, has always dedicated himself to both the art of

playing jazz and of playing piano in his own style and is harmonically and stylistically way ahead of many of his contemporaries.

October 15 – 29

Talbot Hotel events

Normal business hours.

Jacinta Crowley-Long, Exhibition of Oil Paintings
- Pike Suite

October 22-26

Darragh Treacy, Original Oil Paintings - Maguire Suite

October 16,17,18, 23, 24, 25, 26

Maria Murphy, Exhibition of Watercolour Paintings - O'Brien Suite

October 23-29

Helen McClean and Sheila Burton
"Handscape" includes mosaic art and painting inspired by nature and the sea - Webb Suite

October 22-26

55th Year Wexford Opera Antique Fair - Slaney Suite. €5 entry, Children free.
Open daily from 10.30am-7.00p.m.
(Closing at 5.30p.m. on last day)

October 18

Wexford Book, Coin and Collectables Fair
- Slaney Suite. Open from 11.00am- 5.00p.m.

October 15 -25

Locked Pawn exhibition. Kitchen Sink Collective

Noon to 5 p.m. 99-103 North Main Street, Wexford

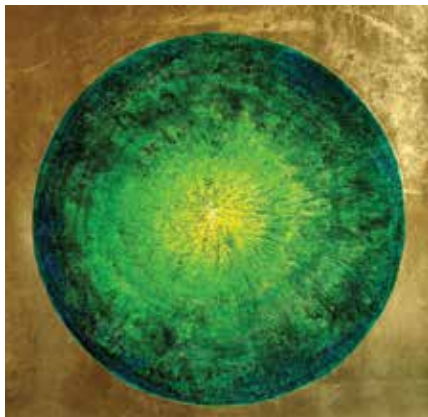
Kitchen Sink Collective invites viewers into their shared world shaped by communal experiences and an unmistakable sense of intimacy and connection. Returning to the site of their first exhibition as a collective, the group showcases new work, which spans the fields of painting, photography, printmaking and sculpture. Kitchen Sink collective comprises Sian Williams, Ewan Power, Sophie Ryan Ellis Lucy Tarmey, Maria Sheridan, Molly Hennessy, Ebba McDermott and James Carrol Freney.

Oct 15 to Nov 01

Eclectic Avenue Art

Wed to Sat (8 a.m.- 8 p.m.), Sunday (9 a.m.-5 p.m.)

Bedrock Studios, in association with Eclectic Avenue, is hosting an exhibition comprising the work of up to 50 artists with over 100 works on display.



Silvanus by Mary Wallace

October 15-31

Harmony of the Spheres/Mary Wallace

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. White's Hotel

Mary's solo work has taken a new direction as she paints purely abstract, meditative work inspired by Sōzō - a tiny word, spoken quietly almost as a whisper. This Japanese word has dual meaning – creation and/or imagination – which has no equivalent in English. To an artist these meanings are inextricably linked, as they use their imagination to create something unique bringing into being those imagined ideas. Using pigments suspended in wax with pure gold leaf this work is a truly opulent visual experience. Meet the artist who is in attendance each day throughout the festival.

October 15 to 31

Westgate Artist Studios

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Westgate Artist Studios, Y35XC59



Studio 1: Sarah Cogley's work reflects on written narratives which inform archaeological-inspired installations that use imagery depicting ancient remnants from Ireland and across Europe. With a foundation in ancient techniques, the work acts as a portal, drawing connections between past and present, examining indigenous culture, ancestral heritage, and anthropogenic landscapes.

Studio 2: Ciaran Bowen has exhibited nationally and internationally at (2024) New Horizon, GOMA, Waterford; (2019) Fake Utopia, The Presentation Center, Wexford; Ireland; (2023) Royal Academy, Annual Summer Show, London; (2023) Artefacts (Two-person Show), Claremorris Gallery, Mayo and (2023) Royal Hibernian Academy of Arts – 193rd RHA Annual Summer Show, Dublin.

Studio 3: Mirona Mara is a visual artist whose practice explores memory, nature, and the inner landscapes of human experience. Mirona's work explores storytelling through self-published artist books, film, and stop-motion animation. The open studio invites visitors to spend time with her books - to hold them, read them, revisit them, and discover their own paths through the pages and the opportunity to encounter the original artworks before they are edited and translated into book form.



WHITES
OF WEXFORD

WEXFORD FESTIVAL OPERA

AT WHITES OF WEXFORD



EVENTS AT WHITES

15th - 31st Oct
Art & Craft Exhibition

26th - 29th Oct
Wexford Light Opera Society,
Hits from the Musicals



DINE WITH US

THE SNUG COFFEE DOCK
Homemade Treats Daily

LIBRARY BAR
Lunch & Evening Bar Food

TERRACE RESTAURANT
À La Carte Dining

Enjoy complimentary parking when you dine with us



October 15 – November 07

Official Reception, Colette Regan at 6 p.m.

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pigyard Gallery

For years the work of Colette Regan has been inspired by the rich culture of the Irish landscape and for this exhibition she has been encouraged to explore the history of Wexford Festival Opera in its 75th year. Using oil paint—rather than a camera or a physical stage—to tell its story, these pieces bridge the gap between everyday Irish landscapes and the grand energy of classic stage and screen.



October 15 – November 01

Kenny Goodison: The Beauty of Wexford

10 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Seamus Kenny Gallery (Y35 X8NA)

As Wexford comes alive for this year's Wexford Festival Opera, The Séamus Kenny Gallery is delighted to present a special exhibition of landscape photography by Wexford photographer Kenny Goodison.

This exhibition is a celebration of County Wexford, its coastline, countryside, landmarks and ever-changing light, captured through the lens of a photographer who knows and loves the county.

October 15 – November 12

The Fringe Collection

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Presentation Arts Centre, Y21 X889.

Group show featuring the following artists: Emma Daly, Clodagh Dempsey, Matthew O'Neill, Stephen Lindsay, Deborah Doyle, Larry Dunne, Ciaran Foley and Bebhinn Murphy O'Brien.

October 15 – 25

The Sea, the Muse and the Lighthouse Dance

Stella Marais Centre, Kilmore Quay

An exhibition of multi-media works by contemporary visual artists

October 15 – 30

Red Books Fringe Events

(Time and venue vary: see below)

October 15

Launch of art exhibition curated by Ita Grattan

(6p.m. Red Books) October 16

Book launch: *The Blood Cure* by Margaret Hawkins **(6 p.m. Red Books Underground)**
Outspoken Book Festival Special
(7 p.m. Red Books Underground)

October 17

Free Marvel Day

(10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nerd-Up)

Pop-up Paperback Market

(10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eclectic Avenue)

Book launch: Birdstyle by Gordon D'Arcy
6 p.m. Red Books Underground)

October 18

55th Annual Wexford Book Fair

(11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Talbot Hotel)

A Celebration of New Publishing – books, performances and talk (1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Wexford Book Fair, Talbot Hotel Book Fair)

Once Upon a Wexford: Children's Books and Readings (1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Wexford Book Fair, Talbot Hotel)

October 23

The Driftwood Sessions (Live Original Music) 7.30 p.m. Red Books)

October 28

Creature Features Halloween Special

(A double screening of classic creature horror movies from 7 p.m. in Red Books Underground)

October 30

Spooky Stories (Performances of scary stories and folklore) 7 p.m. Red Books Underground



October 15

Spoken Word – So Say So

7.30 p.m. Wexford Arts Centre

So, Say So spotlights poetry, storytelling, and music Hosted by Stephen James Smith with special guest Vona Groarke and music from Basciville. Vona has published fourteen books with The Gallery Press, including nine original poetry collections, and two translations from

the Irish, most recently Woman of Winter (2023), a version of the much-loved Irish poem usually known in English as, 'The Lament of the Hag of Beare'. She published Hereafter: The Telling Life of Ellen O'Hara with New York University Press (2022). A Cullman Fellow at the New York Public Library 2018-19; former editor of Poetry Ireland Review and selector for the UK's Poetry Book Society, she has taught at the University of Manchester since 2007. She is the current Writer in Residence at St John's College, Cambridge, and otherwise lives in Co. Sligo in the West of Ireland.



October 15 – 31

Wexford Design Collective: A Curated Craft Fair

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Late opening on weekends). Whites of Wexford, McCarthy Suite (1st Floor)

The venue will transform into the epicentre of local creativity. The Wexford Design Collective is presenting a carefully curated craft fair that brings together the very best of Wexford's artisan talent. Step inside to discover a treasure trove of handmade excellence. This is a unique opportunity to meet the makers and purchase directly from leading local designers across a variety of disciplines. Whether you are searching for unique ceramics, contemporary jewellery, luxurious knitwear, fine art prints, or bespoke gifts, this showcase promises quality and originality in abundance.



October 15 to 31

Wexford Walks with Paul Walsh

11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. Price: €15. From the Bullring.

Join actor, award winning director, historian and Wexford town native Paul Walsh on an enthralling journey into and across Viking and Norman Wexford. For several hundred years (from the 9th to the early 12th century), Wexford was a Viking town. However, in 1169 Dermot MacMurrough, King of Leinster and his Norman ally Robert Fitz-Stephen besieged Wexford, and the Norman age began.

Visiting ancient walls, historic towers, cavernous churches and winding lanes, Paul weaves one thousand years of dramatic history into an exciting 75 minutes.

Starting point is the Pikeman statue, Main Street. Contact: 086213806.



Ann Maria Bridges' Behind the Veil is on show in the front window of Scurri, Selskar. Her exhibition is at Y35 FV08

OCTOBER 15-NOVEMBER 01

Remembered Landscapes

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Trimmers Lane Gallery, 3 Selskar Square, Y35 FV08

Remembered Landscapes is a portfolio of 40 artworks by Ann Maria Bridges inspired by the Irish landscape. Debuting at the Wexford Festival Opera and the Fringe Festival, the artist has described this body of work as sculpted images derived from a process where the image evolves from the page through the layering of putting down and removing the paint. The feeling of the space comes into focus rather than the literal image. Wicklow and Wexford based, Ann Maria is a full time artist, has exhibited widely throughout Ireland, and is held in many private collections locally and internationally.



OCTOBER 15 - 30

Community Opera: Still, life...

The Grain Store at Stonebridge

Oct 15, 5 p.m. Oct 20, 4.30 p.m.

Oct 23, 4.30 p.m. Oct 25, 2 p.m.

Oct 28, 4.30 p.m. Oct 30, 4.30 p.m.

As WFO's composer-in-residence, Ailís Ní Ríain was commissioned to create an entirely original immersive work combining elements of opera, video, imagery and text. Ní Ríain works in the areas of concert music, site responsive installation and public art, opera, electro-acoustic and music-theatre. She is deaf/hard of hearing.

Inspired by a short story by William Goyen, Still, life... a site-responsive, installation-opera investigates a small town's reaction to a man who decides to sit on top of a flagpole and stays there for forty days without explaining why.

The work explores the collision between individual mystery and collective conformity and considers the way society experiences mystery and individuality. It is a wonderful opportunity for the community to premiere a brand-new work, and more on an international stage.

First staged in 2023, the Community Opera is a growing element of the Festival and shines a spotlight on the talented people of Wexford as they become active participants in the Festival

October 15

Guinness Singing/Swinging Pubs competition

9 p.m., 9.50 p.m. and 10. 40 p.m.

The Guinness Wexford Singing and Swinging Pubs is the oldest amateur talent competition in Ireland, stretching back to the 1950s. It features performances of a professional quality and range. It's not just singing, there is plenty of musical swing too. This is an event which takes place over nine nights, involving two to three pubs a night, with competitors battling it out for a whole host of prizes. See times above.

Tonight: Culletons (Kilrane), Redmond's The Bay and The Crown. Free admission but arrive early.

October 15

Live Music Acoustic Session at T Morris

9.30 – 11.30 p.m.

An intimate evening of blues, folk and exquisite harmonies.

Settle in and enjoy a relaxed, atmospheric night of live acoustic music: the perfect setting for an evening of great music and good company. Free.

October 16 – October 31

Pop-Up Operas

Free. (Look out for published schedule closer to October 16).

Abridged excerpts from operas performed live daily (except October 27) from cast members of Wexford Festival Opera in public spaces and venues.



October 16-18 and 23-26

Artist Darragh Treacy

10.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Maguire Suite, Talbot Hotel

Darragh Treacy presents a new collection of oil paintings exploring light and atmosphere through scenes from Ireland and abroad. This exhibition combines Darragh's plein air and studio work. The work includes a variety of themes including city scapes, landscapes and still life. Originally from Avoca, Darragh, a past president of The Dublin Painting and Sketching Club, is an award winning designer and artist whose work has been exhibited in numerous group shows in Ireland and the UK.

October 16

Wexford Festival Tours: Oulart Hill

10.30 a.m., departing Talbot Hotel car park. Free.

The Festival Tours, which have been running since the first Festival in 1951, are led by expert guides who take you to interesting and intriguing places throughout Wexford town and County, some known, some lesser-known, but all of great interest.

A welcome visit to the historically significant Oulart Village and hill, most famously associated with the 1798 Rebellion. Learn about St. Mochua's 1798 restored Chapel, built in 1753, visit Tulach a' tSolais, built to commemorate the bicentenary of this Rebellion, Mise Éire memorial and Bygone Days Storyhouse led by Author and Historian Brian Ó Cléirigh.



October 16 – November 01

Colm Brennan Sculpture

9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Mon to Sun), Kelly's Café, Drinagh, Y35 K0TV

Colm Brennan lives and works in Wexford and has been involved in sculpture since the mid 1970's. He is a founder member of the Sculptors Society of Ireland, and is a Director of CAST Bronze Foundry in Dublin. Colm's sculpture, generally in bronze or combining bronze and stainless steel, travels twin paths of abstraction and naturalism. His work varies in size from large outdoor monumental sculpture to small studio pieces.

October 16 - 31

Pocket Operas: The Rose of Castile

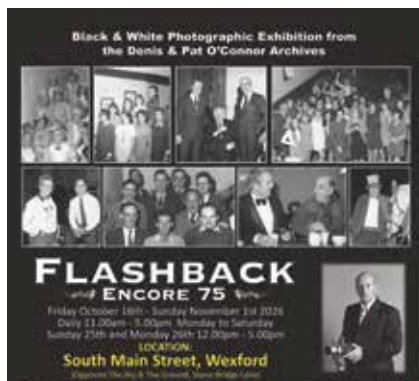
Oct 16, 3 p.m. Oct 20, 11 a.m.

Oct 22, 11 a.m. Oct 24, 3 p.m.

Oct 26, 11 a.m. Oct 29, 3 p.m.

Oct 31, 11 a.m.

Jeromy Hynes Theatre, National Opera House
The opera chosen for the first 'Wexford Festival', as it was known in 1951, was by Irish composer, Michael William Balfe (1808 – 1879) who had lived in Wexford for six years before his family moved to Dublin. An opera written in three acts, it follows Elvira, Queen of León, who disguises herself as a peasant to avoid a forced marriage to Don Sebastian, arranged by the King of Castile. Along the way, she falls in love with a muleteer named Manuel, who is actually the King of Castile in disguise.



October 16-November 01

Flashback Encore 75

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Oct 25-26, from noon)
South Main Street (opposite The Sky and the Ground)

A superb display, and one of the annual fringe festival highlights, of black and white prints from two legendary Wexford photographers, Denis and Pat O'Connor, which trace the trajectory of what it was like to live in Wexford in the 20th century, a tribute to the way we were and life as it was in this harbour town.



October 16 – November 01

Wexford Camera Club exhibition

11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friends Meeting House,
High Street

Members of Wexford Camera Club present an exhibition of their selected work, offering a fascinating glimpse into the world as seen through the camera lens. Featuring a wide range of subjects, styles and photographic techniques, the exhibition celebrates the creativity and talent within the local community.

From landscapes and nature to places and abstract images, the collection reflects the diverse interests and individual perspectives of the club's members. Visitors are invited to enjoy this varied display and discover the many ways in which photography can capture, interpret and celebrate the world around us.

October 16

Happiness Then

7.30 p.m. Wexford Arts Centre

Happiness Then: Bernie Bourke and Liam Halligan present The Bewley's Cafe Theatre Production of Happiness Then by Elizabeth Moynihan starring Rachael Dowling and Sorcha Furlong. A riveting comedy drama delving into the relationship between two sisters, Bridget and Frances, who meet for the first time after their mother's death. Eternally at odds, they bicker as only sisters can over everything from the wine to the will! Exploring the fallout of being left behind, loves and losses are examined and re-examined with acerbic wit and delicious put downs. Can Bridget and Frances' searching need for sisterly support help to mend their broken relationships, not only with each other but with their loved ones, before it's too late?

October 16–November 01

Views of Nature: Dave Daly

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wexford Wildfowl Reserve
Centre Y35 EY89

Daly is a member of the Artists for Nature Foundation which harnesses the creativity of artists to highlight and protect threatened habitats around the world, so he is acutely aware of how subtle changes in our environment can affect nature in ways others might overlook. He also emphasises the fact that Wexford's Wetlands are of international importance and crucial for the survival of so many of our threatened bird species. Views of Nature will include paintings never before shown.

October 16

Guinness Singing/Swinging Pubs competition

9 p.m., 9.50 p.m. and 10. 40 p.m.

The Guinness Wexford Singing and Swinging Pubs is the oldest amateur talent competition in Ireland, stretching back to the 1950s. It features performances of a professional quality and range. It's not just singing, there is plenty of musical swing too. See times above.

Tonight: Porter House, John Barry, Bugler
Doyles. Free admission but arrive early.

October 16

Live Music DJ Lar

T Morris 9.30 p.m.

Ease into the weekend with DJ Lar on the decks, bringing a fresh mix of feel-good tunes, big favourites and a little bit of everything to keep the night moving. Free.

October 17 – November 01

Bravura 2026 (Billy Colfer Gallery)

Daily at Wexford Arts Centre

The official opening of Bravura 2026 takes place today at 2 p.m. The guest speaker is the wood turner and writer, Roer Bennett. To coincide with Wexford Opera Festival, Bravura 2026, curated by Mary Gallagher, will present the work of 15 of Ireland's top craft makers. They are (ceramics) Mark Campden, Cora Cummins, Markus Jungmann, Andrew Ludick, Gus Mabelson and

Grainne Watts, (glass) Scott Benefield and Fiona Byrne, (wood) Tom Windross, (jewellery) Rowena Sheen, (textiles) Ceadogan Rugs, Agnieszka "Uisce" Jakubczyk, Carmel Creamer and Anne Kiely, Mary Moorkens and (print) Susan Mannion. In addition, 12 top potters will each supply 12 mugs which can be purchased and taken away immediately.



October 17

Wexford Festival Tours: Fethard Sea

10.30 a.m., departing Talbot Hotel car park. Free.

A mile of history in Fethard-On-Sea. A guided walking tour through Killarney to Grangeville as well as through the graveyard of St. Mogues and surroundings. If energy levels hold up, a trip to the inscribed stone of Baginbun and the Norman fortifications will complete this historic mile. An intriguing and unique tour with Fethard-On-Sea Author and Historian Liam Ryan.



October 17, 18 and 24

Pumpkin Pick up

Johnstown Castle

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets at reception.

Johnstown Castle is the perfect place to soak up autumn. Visit the Pumpkin Pick Up in the Bothy Sheds, where you can choose from a variety of pumpkins, ideal for carving, decorating, or cooking at home. While you browse, treat yourself to a delicious pumpkin spiced latte from The Coffee Pot, the perfect companion for a crisp autumn day. But why stop there? Make it a full day experience and explore the daytime Halloween events, all included in general admission. Wander through the spooky Outdoor Halloween Trail and uncover secrets in the Museum of Mysteries.

Take a leisurely stroll through the castle gardens, breathe in the fresh autumn air, and capture special moments with family and friends. Johnstown Castle is the place to create unforgettable memories.



October 17 – November 01

Paul Maloney Exhibition

11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Ballindinas, Barntown, Y35X5C1

The collection is the result of three years spent on evolving and developing: the subject matter is varied but always based on real life observation - landscape, streetscapes, equine, still life, all executed with bold colour and expressive brush work. The artist is a graduate of NCAD, Dublin and winner of 'Paint Annapolis', USA.

October 17-30

Pocket Operas: Much Ado About Nothing

Oct 17, 3 p.m. Oct 21, 3 p.m.

Oct 23, 3 p.m. Oct 25, 11 a.m.

Oct 28, 11 a.m. Oct 30, 11 a.m.

Jeromy Hynes Theatre, National Opera House.

In this faithful adaptation of Shakespeare's great romantic comedy, Charles Villiard Stanford beautifully captures the emotional complexity of the characters and their shifting relationships, effortlessly managing the shifts between sparkling comedy and darker intrigue. Following the presentation of another Balfe opera at the 1963 festival, it became Wexford's stated intention to revive additional operas by Irish composers; hence this Stanford piece was staged in the following year.

October 17

Guinness Singing/Swinging Pubs competition

9 p.m., 9.50 p.m. and 10. 40 p.m.

The Guinness Wexford Singing and Swinging Pubs is the oldest amateur talent competition in Ireland, stretching back to the 1950s. It features performances of a professional quality and range. It's not just singing, there is plenty of musical swing too. See times above.

Tonight: Coal Bunker, Farmers Kitchen, The Pike. Free admission but get there early.

October 17

Live Music - Darren Rice

T Morris 9.30 p.m.

Good tunes. Great vibes. Full dance floor. DJ Darren Rice brings the perfect mix of feel-good favourites, classic anthems and late-night beats. Free.

October 18

The Lake Has No Voice

3 p.m. Red Books Underground, Eclectic Avenue (free)

The Lake Has No Voice is an Arts Collective responding to the ecology of Lady's Island Lake, Wexford, comprising six artists and writers. Since last autumn, the artists and writers have walked these shores, listened closely, reflected, and created work shaped by what the lake itself seems to ask: attention, care, and action. An hour of music, poetry and images.



October 18-31

The Wexford Salon Events: Oscar Wilde Suite at Whites of Wexford

Sunday 18th October: all 3 p.m. – 4 p.m., unless otherwise stated.

Today, Derek Fenech, illustrator and designer in conversation with The Wexford Salon exhibition curator, Maura Bell. Derek is a Mediterranean illustrator and storyteller based in Ireland, whose work draws inspiration from nature, folklore and history

Thursday 22nd: Ben Barnes, award-winning Theatre Director, will discuss his newly published book, Side Stage.

Friday 23rd: Annette Byrne, Julsuluv, will give a demonstration about her handcrafted jewellery.

Saturday 24th: 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.:

Award-winning writer, Jaki McCarrick, will read from her new poetry collection, Sweeney as a Girl.

Monday 26th: Award-winning Textile Artist, Josephine Whitmore, will give a live demonstration of her work.

Thursday 29th October: Visual artist, Jackie Mitchell, will give a live painting demonstration.

Saturday 31st October: 2p.m. – 3 p.m.:

Visual artist, Helen O Connell in conversation with exhibition curator Maura Bell.



David Agler

October 18

Dr Tom Walsh Lecture - 75th Anniversary Edition

11 a.m. Whites of Wexford Hotel

From Dr Tom Walsh's founding of the Festival in 1951 to our 75th year, Wexford has always been about vision. This year, the Festival celebrates that legacy by bringing together five Artistic Directors representing the illustrious past and vibrant present of the Festival. Current Artistic Director Rosetta Cucchi (appointed in 2020) will moderate a conversation with past Artistic visionaries: Brian Dickie (1967 – 1973), Elaine Padmore (1982 – 1994), Luigi Ferrari (1995 – 2004) and David Agler (2005 – 2019). These five artistic directors will share the same stage for the very first time.

Together, they represent over half a century of artistic vision, from the restoration of forgotten masterpieces to Wexford's rise as a global cultural phenomenon. This rare gathering offers an intimate look behind the curtain of one of the world's most beloved festivals. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime conversation.

October 18

55th Wexford Book, Coin and Collectables Fair

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Talbot Hotel

Admission: €3, children are free.

Antiquarian, out of print and second hand books; collectable coins, banknotes, china, ceramics, antiques, post cards and vintage items, all in the Slaney Suite. Small admission fee but children are free.

October 18

Live Music - Jason O'Connor

T Morris - 6 to 8 p.m. Free.

Live session featuring Jason O'Connor a versatile artist who plays it all. From classic rock and pop anthems to smooth folk and country hits, there is a song for everyone. Grab a drink, settle in, and enjoy the perfect soundtrack to wrap up your weekend.

October 19

Wexford Festival Tours: Ardavan

10.30 a.m., departing Talbot Hotel car park. Free.

This tour will take us along part of William Dargan's Sea Wall that he and John Edward Redmond Sr. built in 1847 to take in 2000 acres of land from the sea. The intake is called the North Slob and is now the winter home of many thousands of waterfowl, including nearly half the population of Greenland White-fronted Geese which adopted these big fertile fields of farmland as a winter home when World War Two fuel shortages led to huge-scale industrial turf-cutting and destruction in their natural bog land habitats in the midlands and west. The geese and other birds usually arrive around Festival time. Fresh air, spectacular 19th century engineering and the sights and sounds of wild geese and other waterfowl all await with Dominic Berridge, former National Parks and Wildlife Service staff member in the Wexford Harbour and Raven Wood area.

October 19

Whisky Galore

3 p.m. Green Acres Gallery

Sir Compton Mackenzie, celebrated Scottish novelist, author of 'Whisky Galore', and founder of Gramophone magazine, played a pivotal role in the early conversations that led to the creation of Wexford Festival Opera. During a visit to Wexford, he encouraged the bold idea of establishing an opera festival in this Irish harbour town. The rest is history. In his spirit, gather at Green Acres for an afternoon tasting that brings together a few great pleasures:

fine Scottish whisky, fine Irish whiskey, and unforgettable opera. Over the course of an hour, guests will sample three distinctive pours, each thoughtfully paired with a carefully selected recorded aria. As flavours unfold in the glass, great voices will fill the room, inviting guests to savour the harmony between music and malt.

October 19 to 29

Factory Opera: The First Festival

O'Reilly Theatre, National Opera House

Oct 19, 7.30 p.m. Oct 24, 11 a.m.

Oct 26, 5 p.m. Oct 29, 11 a.m.

A heart-warming and joyous celebration of love, music, and a town changed forever. October 1951. It's Monday morning at Wexford County Council's Motor Taxation Office, and four local clerks arrive for work nursing freshly broken hearts. They've been dumped, their dates were disasters, and all four are looking for love. Then, word arrives that a new opera festival is about to start in town. Meanwhile, four international opera singers arrive in Wexford singing arias of longing and regret. Behind their glamour, they are equally heartbroken and desperate for connection.

By opening night, four glorious new romances have blossomed between the townsfolk and the stars. But in 1951 Ireland, privacy is virtually impossible to find - until each of the local clerks hatches the exact same plan: to sneak into the empty Motor Taxation Office after hours. What follows is a night of joyful chaos and soaring song, as music gives eight hopeless romantics their glorious outing in love in October 1951. (For the opening night performance, dress up in 1950s style attire and join us for an evening of vintage glamour, celebration, and operatic drama. Dust off your pearls and poodle skirts, and ready that sharp suit!). Libretto by Colm Tóibín and music by Alberto Caruso

For more information about the Wexford Fringe Festival 2026, or to order copies of the programme, please contact:
wexfestartists@gmail.com

October 20

Wexford Festival Tours: Lady's Island

10.30 a.m., departing Talbot Hotel car park. Free.

A guided 1.6km (1 mile) walk along the grassed path around the perimeter of Lady's Island, a site of long-standing and significant importance since the pre-Celtic period. Discover the area's rich heritage and history with local naturalist Jim Hurley. The Festival Tours, which have been running since the first Festival in 1951, are led by expert guides who take you to interesting and intriguing places throughout Wexford town and County, some known, some lesser-known, but all of great interest.



OCTOBER 20

Talk: Wexford Festival at 75 Years.

Karina Daly

7 p.m. Wexford Library.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of Wexford Festival Opera. In this talk Karina Daly, author of *The History of Wexford Festival Opera 1951-2021*, published by Four Courts Press, accounts for how an informal gathering of Wexford music lovers had an idea for a festival which became one of the world's leading classical music events. Wexford Festival won Best Festival Award at the International Opera Awards in 2017. Creating extraordinary experiences, from the beginning, the Festival has made a name for itself by introducing audiences to unjustly neglected works, many of which have since found a place in the canon. Wexford shines a light into the shadows to celebrate the masterpieces that slipped through the net of public consciousness.

October 20

Live Music- Jilly Cox

T Morris - 9.30 p.m. Free

The super talented Jilly Cox joins us for a Tuesday Residency. From Irish to opera check out her diverse voice for a musical treat.

October 20,21,22,28,29 and 30

Late Night Opera: The Next 75

11 p.m. Green Acres Gallery

Imagine Wexford Festival Opera 75 years from now. Step into the future with a world-premiere song cycle from the brilliant minds of acclaimed novelist Colm Tóibín and composer Conor Linehan. Experience 15 brand-new songs (five premiered per night) with the composer himself at the piano. This is a world where the tides have risen and the digital pulse has quickened – where robots fall in love and perhaps even sing arias. Yet, despite these changes and beyond the machines, some things endure – the power of the human voice, the intimacy of the duet, and the soaring beauty of music.

October 21

Wexford Festival Tours: Ferns

10.30 a.m., departing Talbot Hotel car park. Free.

As the European Year of the Normans approaches, explore the thriving town's unique place in Irish history, the political base of Diarmait Mac Murchada, King of Leinster, and the castle built by William Marshall the elder, with Historian and expert guide Catherine MacPartlin. The Festival Tours, which have been running since the first Festival in 1951, are led by expert guides who take you to interesting and intriguing places throughout Wexford town and County, some known, some lesser-known, but all of great interest.

October 21

The Impossible Interview – 75th Anniversary Edition

11 a.m. Jerome Hynes Theatre, National Opera House

The Festival's much-loved Impossible Interview returns for a very special 75th anniversary edition. Michael Dervan, with his regular collaborator Peter McCamley as Rossini, tries to unravel the contradictions of a composer who was also one of the wittiest people of his time. Rossini was the most famous composer anywhere in the world in the 1820s. He composed William Tell at the age of 37 after which he never added to his tally of around 40 operas. For the rest of his days he was a living legend, a kind of mystery man, half in, half out of the wider world of music – in truth, more out than in. A famous gourmand, he was a close friend of the first celebrity chef, Marie-Antoine Carême. In his final years in Paris he ran the most sought-after, exclusive soirées in the city, and composed his idiosyncratic 'Sins of Old Age'. And he also had some unexpected Irish friends. Encounter one of opera's great figures as you've never experienced him before.



October 21

Trojan Eddie 30th Anniversary/Wexford Film Society

8 p.m. The Arc Cinema (Tickets €12.50 from Wexford arts Centre)

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Billy Roche scripted 1996 film Trojan Eddie, The Picture House (Wexford Film Society) and the Irish Film Institute have come together to present the IFI's newly restored digital print of the Gillies MacKinnon directed film.

Starring Academy Award nominees Stephen Rea, Richard Harris and Brendan Gleeson, Rea plays Eddie, a small-time hustler who falls foul of John Power, a dangerous Godfather type figure of the local traveller community, when Eddie's sidekick (Stuart Townsend) runs off with Power's young bride (Aisling McGuckin). Gleeson plays Power's son. Sean McGinley, Angeline Ball, Brid Brennan, Dolores Keane and Pecker Dunne also star.

Trojan Eddie won the Best Film Award at the 1996 San Sebastian International Film Festival. This digital restoration from 35mm elements, which was created by the IFI Irish Film Archive for IFI's Digital Restoration Project is funded by Screen Ireland/Fís Éireann.

October 22

Wexford Festival Tours: Tomhaggard

10.30 a.m., departing Talbot Hotel car park. Free.

A tour of three ruined medieval churches, led by an architectural historian, Dr Richard Gem. Amongst the sites to be visited are:

- Tomhaggard, St Moshagra – one of the county's earliest buildings (10th or 11th century), also St Anne's holy well and 18th-century Mass chapel.
- Kilmore, St Patrick – where the old church is lost in ivy, but many interesting monuments remain.
- Killag, St Decuman – which demonstrates, by way of contrast, what can be achieved with the recent careful conservation of the ruined church.



October 22

The Wexford Salon: Talk

3 p.m. – 4 p.m. The Wexford Salon / Oscar Wilde Suite at Whites of Wexford. Free.

Ben Barnes, award-winning theatre director, will discuss his newly published book, Side Stage. Ben was Artistic Director of Ireland's national theatre from 2000 to 2005 and now runs the local theatre group, Four Rivers.



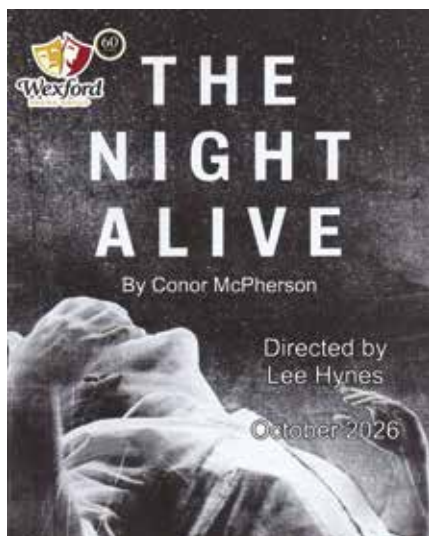
Paul Howard at Wexford Library

October 22

Author Paul Howard

7 p.m. Wexford Library (wexfordlibrary@wexfordcoco.ie)

During this relaxed and engaging evening, readers will have the chance to listen to Paul discuss his work, ask questions, and engage in discussion. Paul is a multi-award-winning author, screenwriter and playwright. He is the creator of Ross O'Carroll-Kelly, the fictional rugby jock, whose exploits he chronicled across 24 best-selling novels. He was part of the writing team behind the BAFTA award-winning *Bad Sisters* and has also written for the BBC TV show *The Young Offenders*. His most recent novel, *A Nation Once Again*, is a satirical comedy about a Government department making plans for a United Ireland. Booking is essential.



October 22 – 25

The Night Alive

7.30 p.m. Wexford Arts Centre

Wexford Drama Group presents *The Night Alive* by Conor McPherson, directed by Lee Hynes. The play is set in the drawing room of an Edwardian house in Dublin which is now a bedsit, inhabited by fifty-something, Tommy. He rents the room from his Uncle Maurice who lives upstairs. Tommy's friend, Doc, also sleeps in the room and helps Tommy doing odd jobs and moving things around with Tommy's van. None of these men is currently in any kind of relationship and they all scrape by from day to day amid the junk-filled squalor of the house. One night, Tommy rescues a young prostitute called Aimee from a beating on the street. He brings her home to get her cleaned up and she ends up staying. A tentative friendship develops between Tommy and Aimee and indeed between Aimee and the other men in the house over the following weeks. Trouble crashes into their lives however when Aimee's ex-boyfriend, Kenneth, comes looking for her. Starring John Crosbie, Andy Doyle, Mick Farrell, Frankie Kelly and Aoife Darcy

October 22

Guinness Singing/Swinging Pubs competition

9 p.m., 9.50 p.m. 10.40 p.m.

The Guinness Wexford Singing and Swinging Pubs is the oldest amateur talent competition in Ireland, stretching back to the 1950s. It features performances of a professional quality and range. It's not just singing, there is plenty of musical swing too. See times above.

Tonight: Sailing Cot, The Sky and the Ground and Mackens. Free admission but arrive early.

October 22

Live Music - Acoustic Sessions

T Morris 9.30 – 11.30 p.m.

An intimate evening of blues, folk and exquisite harmonies. Settle in and enjoy a relaxed, atmospheric night of live acoustic music — the perfect setting for an evening of great music and good company. Free.

October 23

Wexford Festival Tours: Wexford Town

10.30 a.m., departing Talbot Hotel car park. Free.

Learn about the architecturally significant and iconic William Tate School, built on an elevated site in the mid-1860s designed by Sandham Symes with esteemed historian John McCormick. The Festival Tours, which have been running since the first Festival in 1951, are led by expert guides who take you to interesting and intriguing places throughout Wexford town and County, some known, some lesser-known, but all of great interest.

October 23

RNLI Coffee Morning

10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Riverbank House Hotel

Christmas cards, calendars and diaries will also be on sale for this annual fundraiser for the best of causes, an event that is synonymous with the early years of the Wexford Festival. Put your feet up after a scenic walk across the bridge, over whose waters is made safe by the RNLI, and enjoy a cuppa.



October 23

Michelle Dooley Mahon: The Spoken Word

1 p.m. Wexford Library

Wexford's Michelle Dooley Mahon is the author of the ground-breaking memoir *Scourged* and the award winning playwright of its adaptation for theatre – *The Scourge*. Writer in Residence for Wexford County Council Arts Department and documenting the importance of music for the elderly during Covid in a book called *Decades*, she was commissioned to write a One Act Play for a theatre festival which resulted in *Boots*, voiced by the actor Edward Llewellyn on her podcast. All of her writing is non-fiction as she is a daily diarist, a people watcher and a social historian.

In 2022 she was commissioned by the University of Wales to write essays about Holy Wells as part of the British Pilgrimage Trust. Her book *The Bright Plain* was launched in Wales in 2023 and is available from Parthian Books. While onstage with *The Scourge* in New York, a reviewer was moved to write – “Michelle Dooley Mahon is hypnotic on stage: one is afraid to meet her eye, not only could she do scintillating after dinner conversation she would be the first person I would go to with a dead body.”

She undertook a year-long course in the care of the dying and became a registered End of Life Doula in 2024. Following a diagnosis of autism at the age of 57, she is currently writing a series of books called *Spiders Don't Eat Biscuits* from her diaries and the mammoth archive she has amassed over half a century.

October 23

The Wexford Salon: Demonstration

3 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Wexford Salon / Oscar Wilde Suite at Whites of Wexford. Free.

Annette Byrne, Julsuluv, will give a demonstration of making her handcrafted jewellery. Julsuluv makes some of the finest handcrafted jewellery and accessories in Ireland.

October 23,30, 31

Ghosts, Ghouls and Goblins Tour

8 p.m. Wexwalks presents Haunted Hallows Ghost tours. Booking essential at 0862138062.

Local historian Paul Walsh brings you on a terrifying exploration of the dark beating heart of Wexford. Exploring cavernous churches ghoulish graveyards and terrifying towers visitors will hear of the ghosts, ghouls and goblins, devils, disciples and demons.

October 23

Guinness Singing/Swinging Pubs competition

9 p.m., 9.50 p.m. and 10. 40 p.m.

The Guinness Wexford Singing and Swinging Pubs is the oldest amateur talent competition in Ireland, stretching back to the 1950s. It features performances of a professional quality and range. It's not just singing, there is plenty of musical swing too. See times above. Tonight: Mary's Bar, The Stores, Mernaghs (Oylegate). Free admission but get there early.

October 23

Live Music - DJ Lar at T Morris

9.30 – 11.30 p.m. Free.

Ease into the weekend with DJ Lar on the decks, bringing a fresh mix of feel-good tunes, big favourites and a little bit of everything to keep the night moving.



October 24

Wexford Festival Tours: Castlebridge

10.30 a.m., departing Talbot Hotel car park.
Free.

A festival first! The birthplace of the Guinness World Records tour to Castlebridge promises to be something very special this year. The Castlebridge story has become a global site for inspiration. The tour will be led by our guide, John Ryan, in a chauffeur driven 1951 MG, crossing the Wexford Quays to the Castlebridge Community Hall. View the Guinness World Records Book collection and other memorabilia, as well as the ambitious future plans for Castlebridge House. Ample parking available. The tour will also visit the Mill, the Guinness donated Reading Rooms, the community gardens and the remnants of Castlebridge House. This promises to be a tour full of other surprises and should not be missed! Weather and crowd/numbers permitting, there will be an optional one-hour Castlebridge town tour.

October 24/25

Scéalta Samhna 2026

Check times below. Johnstown Castle

A magical, mystical, intergenerational storytelling festival for families, Scéalta Samhna brings us back to our roots, exploring folklore, heritage, music, craft and the magic of the world around us.

Saturday:

Folklore Friends Stories & Craft

11 a.m. to noon · Castle Ballroom

With author Niamh Donnellan

Ages 4-7 · €5

Sunday:

Mystical Stories from Around the World

With Joe Brennan

11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m · Castle Ballroom

All ages / families · €5

Ciorcal Ceoil Workshop

Autumnal songs, clapping games and stories
with Sally Ríonach Hartman

2 p.m. to 3 p.m. · Castle Ballroom

All ages · Free.

Mask Making & Wexford Traditions

With Michael Fortune

3.30 p.m. to 5 .30 p.m. · Castle Library

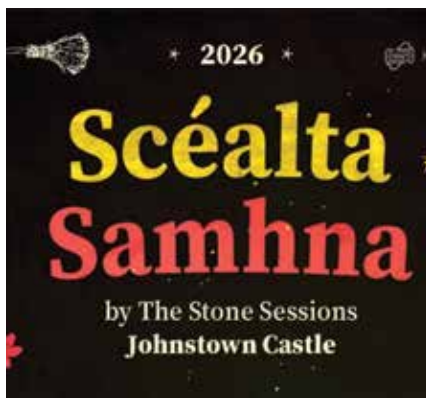
Ages 7+ / families · Free

The Session

A lively dance, music and storytelling performance directed by Vivian Brodie Hayes, featuring Joe Brennan, Blanca Altable, Lucia Kickham and Kelly Keesing.

6.30 p.m to 7.15 p.m. · Castle Ballroom

All ages · €5



October 24

Cleítí na Péacóige

1 p.m. *The Bullring*

Cleítí na Péacóige (Peacock Feathers) is a group of enthusiastic musicians under the leadership of Alice Wickham. They play their own versions of traditional Irish and dance tunes and have performed at many community events in Wexford including twice during the 2025 Fleadh in Selskar to huge acclaim.

Until November 01

South East Artists

10. a.m.to 4.30 p.m., Monday to Sunday,
Cart Room, Johnstown Castle

A group show of contemporary art from artists throughout the south east: Eoghan O'Driscóil, Claire Muldowney; Tia Vellani; Paul O'Toole and Liam O'Rourke.



Lunchtime Recitals

October 24, 27 – 31

1 p.m. *O'Reilly Theatre/St. Iberius Church*

A much-loved cornerstone of the Festival, the Lunchtime Recitals, which continue for another six days, offer the rare opportunity to hear Wexford Festival principal singers up close in a relaxed and intimate setting. Here, the voices that command the mainstage reveal a more personal side, joined by exceptional pianists whose artistry brings richness and variety to each programme. From operatic arias and lieder to oratorio and beloved classics, every recital promises a distinctive musical journey.

Taking place in the beautiful surroundings of St Iberius Church and the National Opera House, each performance features different artists and repertoire, which makes every occasion unique! Demand is always high, and early booking is strongly advised. Full line-up of artists to be announced.



October 24

The Wexford Salon: Reading.

5 p.m. - 6p.m. *The Wexford Salon / Oscar Wilde Suite at Whites of Wexford. Free.*

Award-winning writer Jaki McCarrick will read from her new poetry collection, *Sweeney As a Girl*. Jaki is a playwright and short story writer who has won many awards for her work including Winner of the 2005 SCDA National Playwriting Competition for *The Mushroom Pickers*. Jaki lives in Dundalk and studied at Trinity College, Dublin, gaining a Master of Philosophy Degree, Creative Writing – Distinction. Before this Jaki gained a BA Performing Arts, First Class Honours Degree at Middlesex University.

October 24

Guinness Singing/Swinging Pubs competition

9 p.m., 9.50 p.m. and 10. 40 p.m.

The Guinness Wexford Singing and Swinging Pubs is the oldest amateur talent competition in Ireland, stretching back to the 1950s. It features performances of a professional quality and range. It's not just singing, there is plenty of musical swing too. See times above. Tonight: Swan Bar, Billy Kelly's, Freddie's Bar Screen. Free admission but arrive early.

October 24

Live Music - D.J. Minnie at T Morris

9.30 – 11.30 p.m. Free.

Good tunes. Great vibes. Full dance floor. DJ Minnie brings the perfect mix of feel-good favourites, classic anthems and late-night beats.



October 25

Wexford Opera Festival Mass

12p.m. The Church of the Immaculate Conception, Rowe Street, Wexford.

The Wexford Festival Opera Mass will take place at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Rowe Street at noon. Rowe Street Choir under the direction of Donagh Wylde will sing Missa Brevis No 7 in C Major, written by Charles Gounod. This Mass was originally written in 1877 for two vocal parts and organ and subsequently expanded in 1890 to include four choir parts and organ – it is subtitled Messe Breve No 7 in C aux Chapelles. Rowe Street Choir, which dates back to 1870, is made up of committed volunteers from every background who have taken their voices all across Europe.

October 25-26

Wexford Races

Bettyville Park, Early afternoon.

Get ready to share in the friendly atmosphere that is a day at the races in the sunny South-East at one of the finest tracks in the country, Bettyville Park. For action packed racing and excitement on and off the track, Bettyville is the place to go! Wexford has a rich racing culture that continues to flourish; a wonderful mixture of sporting and social intercourse where the friendship and warmth of welcome transcends all boundaries.

October 25

Guinness Singing/Swinging Pubs competition

9 p.m., 9.50 p.m. and 10. 40 p.m.

The Guinness Wexford Singing and Swinging Pubs features performances of a professional quality and range from amateur musicians and singers. It's not just singing, there is plenty of musical swing too. See times above.

Tonight: Browne's Bar, the Thomas Moore, McGees. Free admission but get there early.

October 25

The Year Grunge Broke

9.30 p.m. Crown Live

Calling all fans of Nirvana, Pearl Jam, Soundgarden, Alice In Chains, The Smashing Pumpkins, Stone Temple Pilots, Tool, Rage Against The Machine, Screaming Trees, Mudhoney, and much more! With nearly a million social media followers and stunning performances throughout Europe, Ireland, and the UK, The YEAR Grunge BROKE is your ultimate grunge and '90s alternative rock experience.

October 25

Live Music - D.J. John Keane at T Morris

8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Free.

Make the most of the Bank Holiday with DJ John Keane on the decks. Expect big tunes, good energy and a night that's made for dancing.

October 26

Valda Chamber Choir

1 p.m. Wexford County Council Offices, Carricklawn

Wexford's Valda Chamber Choir has been a mainstay of the Wexford Festival Fringe for many years. Join this eight member acapella group for a relaxing lunchtime recital, with a wide-ranging repertoire including jazz, madrigals, sacred and secular pieces, under the musical direction of Wexford's Roisín Dempsey



and accompanied by Wexford pianist Rebecca Warren. Special guests are Stagefright who recently featured at the Presidents's Garden Party in Árás an Uachtaráin. An all Wexford treat! Tickets €15 from Wexford Arts Centre.

October 26

Puppetry – The Holding Bones

9.30 p.m. Wexford Arts Centre

In an artist's studio, shadows talk, objects come alive and she draws her very bones to overcome loss and celebrate love and the cycle of life. The Holding Bones lovingly recalls a host of characters - songsters, storytellers and mischief makers. A new original piece from Púca for adults, The Holding Bones is a fitting celebration of Samhain, All Soul's and The Day of the Dead. At this time of year, they say, the veil between our world and the next is at its thinnest. Once we would have set an extra place at the table, left the door unlocked and lit a candle for each of our loved lost kin at Hallowe'en and remembered our dearly departed throughout the month of November. In this new show, Lawlor, veteran performer from Púca for nearly 30 years, counts her ancestors on her very bones and brings them back to life on stage. Vital theatrical storytelling invites you to meditate on family, memory and rituals of grieving and how to embrace the bittersweet turns of the cycle of life. This very personal yet universal show was crafted over several years.

The Wexford Fringe Festival 2026 guide is supported by Wexford County Council's Arts Office, Borough District of Wexford and Wexford Co. Council.

October 25-26

Opera Stories in Paint

Garden Studio, Moortown Little, Ballymitty. Eircode Y35HP89. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on dates shown, thereafter by appointment only (085 2575868)

Exhibition of large scale painting celebrating 75 Years of the Wexford Opera Festival showing scenes, characters and the prime movers in the development of the festival. In addition, a selection of paintings based on opera narratives including Madama Butterfly, The Magic Flute, La Traviata and others will be on display along with selected costume designs from a range of TV and film projects. Visitors will meet Inez Nordell Vard and will be guided through the exhibition content and have an opportunity to discuss her career, design projects and exhibition paintings illustrating created during a 40-year long career in costume for performance and fine art practice.



October 26

Wexford Festival Tours: Artramon

10.30 a.m., departing Talbot Hotel car park.
Free.

Visit the well-preserved four-story 13th century tower house with its protected doorway overlooking the River Slaney. The tour will also visit Artramon House, built in the 1780s with its stunning views of the river Slaney, as well as St Bridget's Well and Artramon Graveyard, with local expert guide, author and historian John Foley. The Festival Tours, which have been running since the first Festival in 1951, are led by expert guides who take you to interesting and intriguing places throughout Wexford town and County, some known, some lesser-known, but all of great interest.



Work by Josephine Whitmore

October 26

The Wexford Salon: Demonstration

3 p.m. - 4 p.m. The Wexford Salon / Oscar Wilde Suite at Whites of Wexford. Free.

Award-winning Textile Artist, Josephine Whitmore, will give a live demonstration of her work. Josephine is a native of Wexford town and

has been sewing since she was a child. She has exhibited nationally and internationally and in 2024 was the recipient of an Artlinks bursary in association with Wexford County Council Arts Department.

October 26 - November 02

Dimitry Avtin Diamond. Exhibition.

Friary Hall, Franciscan Friary, Y35H793.

Exhibition of work by a well-known local artist who can turn his hand to any style with panache and individualism, creating his own unique expression of emotion on the canvases. Official opening today.

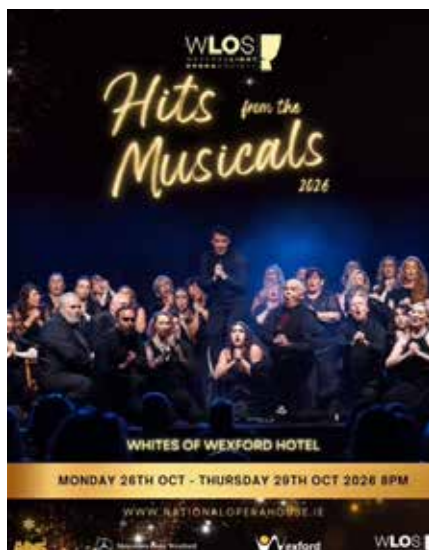


October 26

New Dublin Voices choral concert

2.00 p.m. Church of the Immaculate Conception

New Dublin Voices is a leading Irish chamber choir founded by conductor Bernie Sherlock. Presenting innovative and exciting concert programmes, they range in style and period from medieval to contemporary. The ensemble has given numerous Irish and World premieres, exploring the music of living composers as well as traditional music. This hugely popular concert is performed in the magnificent Neo-Gothic Church of the Immaculate Conception. Situated in the heart of Wexford town, it offers an exquisite acoustic experience just a short stroll from the National Opera House.



October 26-29

Wexford Light Opera Society: Hits from the Musicals' 30th Anniversary

8 p.m. Whites Hotel

Hits from the Musicals' 30th Anniversary, a spectacular cabaret-style production featuring beloved songs from some of the most iconic shows in musical theatre history, presented by the award winning Wexford Light Opera Society. Audiences can look forward to a lively and varied programme, spanning timeless classics and modern favourites. The production will spotlight the exceptional talents of WLOS performers, combining strong vocal performances and a full musical ensemble to create an unforgettable theatrical experience.

Designed to appeal to musical lovers of all ages, Hits from the Musicals, now in its third decade, promises an evening of entertainment, nostalgia and high-energy performance.

Having celebrated its Centenary Year in 2011, Wexford Light Opera Society is one of the oldest musical societies in the country. Beginning as Wexford Amateur Operatic Society, WLOS can look back on a varied, and colourful legacy of

musical involvement in Wexford town. Through those eleven decades the Society has seen many changes, including two changes of name and has embraced many different facets of musical theatre from the steadfast Gilbert and Sullivan pieces that were the societal backbone through many decades, to the fast paced, electronically scored modern day musicals.

October 26

Guinness Singing/Swinging Pubs competition

9 p.m., 9.50 p.m. and 10. 40 p.m.

The Guinness Wexford Singing and Swinging Pubs is the oldest amateur talent competition in Ireland, stretching back to the 1950s. It features performances of a professional quality and range. It's not just singing, there is plenty of musical swing too. See times above.

Tonight: Sinnotts, T. Morris, Casey's. Free admission but get there early.



October 27

ARCO Youth String Orchestra: Launch Workshop

3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Venue (contact arcoyouthorchestra@gmail.com)

A new youth string orchestra is coming to Wexford! Founded by Rebecca and James Warren, ARCO is bringing young musicians together to enjoy making music, meet new friends and experience all that being part of an orchestra has to offer. Young violin, viola, cello and double bass players aged between 11 and 18 years are invited to our free launch workshop for a relaxed but exciting afternoon of pop and classical music. To register please visit www.arcowexford.ie or for more info contact James or Rebecca on arcoyouthorchestra@gmail.com



October 27

James and Alice McIntyre

7 p.m. Wexford Library (free but book online)

James and Alice McIntyre are a guitar and fiddle duo well known for performing traditional Irish music and their own self-penned songs and tunes. They are active participants in Wexford's thriving traditional music and song writing scenes. They were very well received at the inaugural Pecker Dunne festival and at both All Ireland Fleadhs in Wexford where they collaborated with wonderful musicians and poets on the Beo i Selskar stage. They are founder members of The Peacock's Feathers, who are directed by Alice and who regularly play at local events. The duo attend open mic events across the county and have been fortunate enough to have performed with many local song writers, both live and in recordings. It is therefore fitting they have now released their own music, recorded by Justin Cullen and Dan Comerford of the band Frankenstein Bolts and beautifully produced by Justin Cullen. This album contains a small collection of their own songs and tunes which blend traditional Irish and progressive folk styles. Their songs are inspired by real events and wild imagination.

October 27

Wexford Festival Tours: Crossabeg

10.30 a.m., departing Talbot Hotel car park. Free.

This tour north will take place just north of Wexford town, visiting the formidable Deepes Castle on the River Slaney with its 14th century tower house, held by the Quaker Randall family following the turbulent Cromwellian Wars. Learn about Francis Randall, a Quaker who famously aided James II during his flight into exile, and the newly discovered Randall burial ground with Author and Religious Society of Friends and Quakerdom historian Paddy Kinsella.

October 27

Guinness Singing/Swinging Pubs competition

9 p.m., 9.50 p.m. and 10. 40 p.m.

The Guinness Wexford Singing and Swinging Pubs is the oldest amateur talent competition in Ireland, stretching back to the 1950s. It features performances of a professional quality and range. It's not just singing, there is plenty of musical swing too. See times above.

Tonight: The Mocking Monk, Maggie Mays, The Talbot. Free admission but get there early.



October 28

Wexford Festival Tours: Wexford and Wex-Art

10.30 a.m., departing Talbot Hotel car park. Free.

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When Wexford Festival Opera launched its first season 75 years ago, it embraced other activities such as historical tours as well as the visual arts, by including an exhibition of paintings from the National Gallery – thus the name, ‘Wexford FESTIVAL Opera’ rather than ‘Wexford Opera Festival’. Ever since, the streets of the town have been illuminated during the day by the biggest hosting of art exhibitions anywhere in Ireland. This tour will visit major exhibitions and displays at venues including Wexford Arts Centre, Wexford Co. Library, and the Arts Council of Ireland funded Wex-Art group show, comprising work by eight of the region’s emerging artists, at the Westgate Heritage Centre. The tour will be conducted by Tom Mooney, programmer of Wex-Art.

October 29

Wexford Festival Tours: Wexford town

10.30 a.m., departing Talbot Hotel car park. Free.

St Brigid’s: The Story of a medieval parish in Wexford town from its beginning to the present day. This tour will bring us through St Duologies and a bit of St Mary’s. Learn about the Viking house in Bride Street, town gate and walls, the Normans attack on Wexford, the story of the Adoration Convent, Kerlogue Altar Stone originally part of a Knights Templar foundation, Quaker burial grounds, the unique Harry Clarke and other interesting windows, the salt tolerant holm oaks trees, native to the Mediterranean region and other local surprises. All related by the expert Author and historian Monica Crofton.

October 29

The Wexford Salon: Demonstration

3 p.m. – 4 p.m. The Wexford Salon / Oscar Wilde Suite at Whites of Wexford. Free.

Visual Artist, Jackie Mitchell, will give a live painting demonstration. Jackie paints with acrylic on canvas and her interests lie in the complexity of form and detail and in giving a sense of place. She is best known for her distinctive style and ability to paint water.

October 29

Wexford Folk Orchestra

8 p.m. Slaney Ballroom, Talbot Hotel

The Wexford Folk Orchestra presents its annual fringe festival concert to celebrate its 20th anniversary, performing a series of traditional Irish tunes and songs showcasing the musical and vocal talents of their members. Admission to this anniversary concert is free. They can be reserved in advance by emailing wexfordfolkorchestra@gmail.com.

October 29

Hallowe’en Pocket Workshop

12p.m. (ages 5 to 7, then 2 p.m., ages 8 to 12)

Children will explore the work of Thomas Brezing and create Halloween masks inspired by his ‘Head Paintings’. Seasonal themes and colours will be found through representational motifs, such as birds and trees, amid a frenzy of expressive abstraction.

October 29

Spoken Word

7.00 p.m. Wexford Arts Centre

Spoken Word - So Say So Leinster Poetry Slam Final, spotlighting poetry, storytelling and music hosted by Stephen James Smith with music from Basciville. Stephen James Smith, born in Dublin, is an Irish poet, writer, performer, playwright, and educator who has made Wexford his home. Basciville are Irish brother duo, Cillian and Lorcan Byrne.

October 29

Live Music - Acoustic Session at T Morris

9.30 – 11.30 p.m. Free.

An intimate evening of blues, folk and exquisite harmonies. Settle in and enjoy a relaxed, atmospheric night of live acoustic music — the perfect setting for an evening of great music and good company.

October 30**Wexford Festival Tours: Clonmines**

10.30 a.m., departing Talbot Hotel car park.
Free.

A rare opportunity to visit one of the finest examples of a deserted medieval borough located on the estuary of the Owenduff River, near the village of Wellingtonbridge. This once thriving medieval town, famous for the seven castles of Clonmines, is an iconic site and not normally open to the public. Discover the intriguing history of the numerous historically significant sites with local historians Domini Codd and Jarlath Glynn.

October 30**Hallowe'en Pocket Workshop**

12.30 p.m. age 8-12 at Wexford County Hall

Participants to Jeni Roddy's workshops will explore the colourful fabric world of Wexford based artist Richard Malone. Immersed in his exhibition, Chorus, children will have the opportunity to make and create their very own Halloween costumes, led by costume designer and maker, Jeni Roddy.

**October 30****Storytelling – Butterfly Soul**

2 p.m. Wexford Arts Centre

Butterfly Soul is a story of love, longing, loss and hope. Created by Joe Brennan, this new overarching oral storytelling performance features traditional and original stories, interwoven with atmospheric music from harpist Ruth Lydon and supported by ArtLinks and the Wexford Arts Office. A gentle reflection on grief, Butterfly Soul follows the journey of a man so consumed by loss that his identity has become simply The Widower.

**October 30****Billy Roche: Tumbling Down at 40**

1 p.m. Wexford Library

Billy Roche began his career as a singer/musician, forming the Roach Band in the late 1970s. His first novel, Tumbling Down, was published by Wolfhound Press in 1986. His first stage play, A Handful Of Stars, was staged at The Bush Theatre in 1988. This was followed by Poor Beast In the Rain in 1990. Belfry completed this powerful trilogy at the Bush Theatre.

Billy's fourth play Amphibians was commissioned by the R.S.C. and performed at the Barbican. This was followed by The Cavalcaders at The Peacock and Royal Court, London. He wrote the screenplay for Trojan Eddie, which was directed by Gillies MacKinnon and starred Stephen Rea and Richard Harris. Trojan Eddie won the Best Film Award at The San Sebastian Film Festival in 1996. His sixth play On Such As We was performed at the Peacock in 2001, directed by Wilson Milam and starring Brendan Gleeson. Tales From Rainwater Pond, his collection of short stories was published by Pillar Press in 2006. Lay Me Down Softly, his 7th play, was performed at the Peacock Theatre in 2008. Billy has been Writer-In-Residence at the Bush and Writer – In-Association at Druid and the Abbey Theatre. As an actor Billy has appeared in A Handful Of Stars at the Bush, Aristocrats at Hampstead Theatre, Poor Beast In the Rain at Andrews Lane, The Cavalcaders at The Peacock/Royal Court, The Grapes Of Wrath for Storytellers.

October 30**Dr George Hadden Memorial Lecture****8 p.m. Presentation Secondary School**

James Ryan and the Development of Independent Ireland, 1892-1970' by Michael Loughman. Few figures in twentieth-century Ireland remained at the centre of public life as long as James Ryan. Born into a prominent Wexford family, Ryan first came to prominence as the GPO's medical officer during the Easter Rising. From there, he took a prominent part in the struggle for independence that followed, was among the founders of Fianna Fáil, and became a central figure in the governments of Éamon de Valera and Seán Lemass. As one of the longest-serving ministers in the state's history, Ryan presided over momentous periods of crisis and change not only for the diverse departments he managed but also for the country itself. With good reason, the then Taoiseach Jack Lynch, observed that Ryan's life 'could well provide material for an absorbing and exciting book'.

October 30**Jazz at Johnstown: Charlie Moon/
Cormac O'Brien****8 p.m. Johnstown Castle**

To The Moon And Mac: Charlie Moon & Cormac O'Brien present a quartet of veteran musicians who have worked extensively together in many different settings for many years.

Accompanied by Darragh Hennessy on piano and Shane O'Donovan on drums, they have worked with many major Irish and international talents, including Louis Stewart, Jim Doherty, Hugh Buckley, Mary Coughlan, Ernie Watts, Nigel Mooney, Jean Toussaint, Kenny Werner, Rick Margitza and many more. Drawing on a repertoire of music from the likes of Chet Baker, George Benson, Frank Sinatra, along with 1950s and 1960s hard-bop.

For more information about the Wexford Fringe Festival 2026, or to order copies of the programme, please contact:
wexfestartists@gmail.com



Acclaimed as Ireland's "rising star" of jazz by The Irish Times, Charlie Moon stands out as a singular voice in the realms of cool jazz, blues, and soul jazz. His unique approach to the guitar draws inspiration from luminaries like Grant Green and Peter Bernstein, while his vocal stylings reflect influences from jazz icons such as Frank Sinatra and the aforementioned Chet Baker. Cormac O'Brien is one of Ireland's leading double bassists, renowned for his versatility as a performer, educator, and collaborator on the international jazz and contemporary music scene. He is Assistant Professor and Chair of the B.A. in Jazz and Contemporary Music at Dublin City University, where he plays a central role in shaping the next generation of Irish musicians. He has appeared at some of the world's most prestigious concert venues, including Carnegie Hall in New York, Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club, The Vortex, Pizza Express Jazz Club, the National Concert Hall in Dublin, the Barbican Centre in London, and Le Duc des Lombards in Paris.



October 30

Iconic Hits by Candlelight

7.30 p.m. Green Acres Gallery, Wexford
(Tickets €25, €15 child, plus booking fee. Family tickets also available from selskarstrings.eventbrite.com)

Selskar Strings return to Greenacres Gallery this October as part of Wexford Fringe with Iconic Hits by Candlelight, an evening of familiar music, live strings and a few Halloween surprises. Wexford-based Selskar Strings was established in 2025 and has quickly developed a reputation for bringing a fresh and energetic approach to live string music. Alongside their work performing for weddings, events and celebrations throughout the South East and nationwide, the ensemble has developed a popular series of candlelight concerts, bringing audiences together for programmes that include everything from pop to rock, film music and classical repertoire. A large part of the Selskar Strings sound is inspired by the now-familiar string-pop style associated with Bridgerton, taking contemporary songs and giving them a completely different character

through strings. Their repertoire embraces this style while ranging far beyond it, with music chosen for its ability to surprise, entertain and connect with audiences. The concert will feature familiar favourites, contemporary hits and much-loved movie themes, all reimagined for string quartet. Expect music spanning genres and generations, from ABBA, Eurythmics and Queen to Billie Eilish, Calvin Harris and Sia, alongside film favourites and a few suitably spooky surprises for Halloween.

The quartet features professional musicians James Warren and Rebecca Warren on violin, Sinead Hayes on viola and Josipa Tkivicki on cello. All four have trained at music conservatoires and have over 20 years' experience as professional musicians, performing across Ireland, the UK and Europe. With the gallery illuminated by candlelight and surrounded by the artwork and sculpture of Greenacres, the evening offers a chance to experience familiar music in a completely different way. Doors open at 7 p.m., with wine, beer and soft drinks available from the bar before the concert begins at 7.30 p.m.. The performance will run without an interval, allowing the programme to flow continuously through the evening. Settle in, enjoy a drink and take in the unique surroundings before Selskar Strings take to the stage.

October 30

Melanie O'Reilly Trio

7.30 p.m. Wexford Arts Centre

Melanie O'Reilly returns with her highly popular show "Le Jazz est Revenu", with special guest guitarist Tommy Halferty and Derek Whyte on bass, for this very special night celebrating French songs & songwriters in jazz and film. Songs composed and recorded by French legends such as Michel Le Grand, Charles Aznavour, Charles Trenet and Jacques Brel, interwoven with other renowned performers such as Henri Salvador, and Claude Nougaro.

October 30**Live Music - DJ Lar at T Morris****9.30 – 11.30 p.m. Free.**

Ease into the weekend with DJ Lar on the decks, bringing a fresh mix of feel-good tunes, big favourites and a little bit of everything to keep the party moving.

October 30**Tour of Art Collection****2.30 p.m. Wexford Co. Council. Free.**

Wexford County Council is home to more than 250 artworks, with new pieces added each year by Wexford-based, national and international contemporary artists. The Collection is managed by the Council's Arts Department and hangs primarily across the galleries of the County Council Buildings, with further works on loan to schools, hospitals and charities throughout the county. Tour by artist Alan Robinson.

October 31**The Wexford Salon: Talk****2 p.m. – 3 p.m. The Wexford Salon / Oscar****Wilde Suite at Whites of Wexford. Free.**

Visual artist Helen O Connell in conversation with exhibition curator Maura Bell. Helen is a contemporary Irish abstract artist who lives and works in Wexford. She worked with stained glass for many years prior to taking up painting in 2018. She had her first solo painting exhibition at the Pigyard Gallery in Wexford in 2021. Her work was included in, and sold in, the annual RHA summer show in Dublin in 2024 and 2025. She has also exhibited at Green Acres Gallery.

October 31**Let's Glow: Art in the Dark (over 18)****6 p.m.–8 p.m., Piano Bar, Thomas****Moore Tavern, €35 per person (contact epanimalart@gmail.com)**

Let's Glow: Art in the Dark is an immersive glow-and-sip painting experience, facilitated by Emma Phillips, where participants create under UV light using fluorescent colours and

watch their artwork come alive in the dark. It's designed to be fun, relaxed and accessible, with no previous art experience needed. For more information: epanimalart@gmail.com

October 31**Wexford Festival Tours: Wexford town****10.30 a.m., departing Talbot Hotel car park. Free.**

The story of Wexford town during the summer weeks of May 1798, when United Irishmen occupied the town. These so-called rebels were politically and militarily far more sophisticated than these accounts would have us believe. They set up a democratic dimension in parts the county under rebel control. Explore the people and places around Wexford town with tour guide Maura Bell, Manager of the National 1798 Visitor Centre and Enniscorthy Castle.

**OCTOBER 31****Cal O'Reilly Reading****1 p.m. Wexford Library.**

Cal O'Reilly is a poet from Wexford, currently studying at Queen's University Belfast. His poems can be found in *Cyphers*, *Magma*, *Banshee*, fourteen poems, *Catflap*, *The Stony Thursday Book*, *Beginnings Over and Over: Four New Poets from Ireland* (Dedalus Press, 2025), and other publications. Cal is an alum of the Edna O'Brien Young Writers Bursary, the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award, the T.S. Eliot Prize Young Critics Scheme, the Freedom to Write Project, the Dedalus Press Mentoring Scheme, and The Stinging Fly Summer School. He was awarded an Irish Writers Centre Course Bursary and Mentoring Support as part of the Support Scheme for Northern Ireland Writers. *Boyish* (fourteen poems, 2026) is his first pamphlet and explores transness variously through body, landscape, relationships and ekphrasis.



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