

A young woman with long blonde hair is shown in profile, playing a violin. The image is overlaid with a teal color scheme and decorative elements including musical notes, yellow stars, and light blue circles. The text is positioned in the upper right quadrant.

# Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann

Events in libraries



# Events in Belfast Central Library

t: 028 9050 9150 | e: belfast.central@librariesni.org.uk

## Saturday 1 August

### Family History Fair 10:00am - 2:00pm

Meet heritage professionals, archivists and genealogy specialists from across Northern Ireland at this vibrant Family History Fair. Featuring archives, historical societies and research organisations, the event offers expert advice, resources and guidance for anyone exploring their family history or local past.

A welcoming space to ask questions, discover new sources and make connections.

Everyone welcome.

### Using DNA to Research Your Northern Irish Ancestors 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Genealogy specialist Martin McDowell introduces the use of DNA testing in family history research. As Chair of the North of Ireland Family History Society and an administrator of major DNA projects, Martin explains different test types, how to interpret results and how shared databases can uncover new ancestral connections.

Martin McDowell is the chairperson of the North of Ireland Family History Society, an executive member of the Family History Federation and an administrator of the North of Ireland DNA project.

Clear, practical and informative, this session demystifies DNA for family historians.

Booking advisable.

## Monday 3 August

### The Plantin 9:00am, 11:00am, 1:00pm and 3:00pm (each session lasts 45 minutes)

Step into the magical woods, where mischievous fairies meddle and ancient stories come to life. The Plantin is an immersive theatre experience for children and families, inspired by Irish and Ulster-Scots folklore and brought to life through physical theatre, puppetry, storytelling and traditional music.

Gather close as our storytellers guide you through strange and playful tales of changelings, trickster fairies and enchanted journeys. Along the way, audiences help shape the adventure, using their imagination to help lift a fairy curse.

Set in an intimate, stage-free space, The Plantin invites children and adults alike to become part of the story. A warm, interactive experience full of myth, mischief and collective wonder, celebrating the rich storytelling and musical traditions of this island.



Aimed at children aged 6-8 years old.  
Thanks to MayWe for providing this event.  
Booking essential. Ticketed by MayWe.

## Tuesday 4 August

### Fables, Folk Songs and Fairy Tales 11:00am and 2:00pm

Step into a world of myth, magic and wonder with musicians Anne Harper and Bróna McVittie as they regale you with tales and serenades from Ireland and beyond. McVittie draws upon her recently published folklore anthology featuring legends from the 13th century to the present day. Anne Harper's work explores the forgotten and overlooked, blending historical research with traditional storytelling and musical performance. You are invited to cross the threshold between the everyday and the otherworldly. This is an interactive family-friendly event featuring storytelling and acoustic performances on harps, guitar and other instruments.



Thanks to MayWe for providing this event. Booking essential. Ticketed by MayWe.

## Wednesday 5 August

### Dance and Draw with Cailín Sinséir 10:30am - 11:30am

It's Fleadh week in the city, and Belfast's own wee Gingerbread Girl has been practising her very best steps. But can she leap high enough and dance fast enough to escape the wily fox she meets down by the Lagan?

Join author Marianne McShane and illustrator Mr Ando for a playful celebration of storytelling, drawing and dancing. Try a wee dance step yourself, draw your own Cailín Sinséir, and find out what happens when she climbs onto the fox's back to get to the other side of the river.



Booking via Eventbrite.

### Story Dome: The Salmon of Knowledge 11:30am - 2:30pm (sessions every 30 minutes)

Step inside the Story Dome and experience 'The Salmon of Knowledge' like never before.

Traditional storyteller, Vicky McFarland, brings this ancient Irish myth to life using digital projection, interaction and sensory experiences. This is a fun storytelling experience for all the family.



Thanks to MayWe for providing this event. Booking essential. Ticketed by MayWe.

## Thursday 6 August

### Stories and Song with Colin Urwin and Anne Harper 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Explore Irish music and folklore with two talented storytellers and traditional musicians.

Anne Harper is a Down-based storyteller and harpist who loves to weave musical threads into the fabric of her stories.

Colin Urwin is a folksinger, songwriter and storyteller, influenced by traditional Irish and Scottish music, song and story.



Booking via Eventbrite.

## Friday 7 August

### The Rolling Wave - RTÉ 100 10:00am - 4:00pm

As part of the RTÉ 100 celebrations, The Rolling Wave is hosting an audio-visual exhibition at various venues around the country in 2026. This pop-up event will focus on the rich archive of traditional music held by RTÉ as well as recording new music for broadcast in the autumn.

Listen to a curated collection of RTÉ Radio's finest archive pieces related to traditional music accompanied by images from the RTÉ photographic collection and the ITMA.

Thanks to MayWe for providing this event.

## Saturday 8 August

### Family Fun Day 10:00am - 4:00pm

Join us for a jam-packed, magical day of free entertainment for the whole family.

What to Expect?

Be amazed by the incredible tricks of magician Fizz Wizz Pop in a live magic show (10:30am - 11:30am)

Enjoy colourful face painting and balloon modelling with Magical Masks (11:45am - 1:45pm)

Get creative with fun craft projects at the imagination station

Dive into playful challenges and games

Join in with captivating storytelling and rhyme-time sessions



Booking via Eventbrite.



## Friday 7 August (continued)

### Irish Dance Workshop with Jordan Academy of Dance 11:00am - 12 noon

Bring the whole family to discover the fun history of Irish dance, watch and learn the different dance styles, and then hop up to try some lively steps yourself. It is the perfect, light-hearted way for all ages to move, laugh and experience Irish culture together.

Kerry Jordan Stevenson (TCRG, ADCRG) has had a successful competitive career in Festival Irish dance winning the prestigious titles of Northern Ireland and Ulster Champion which she retained for over 15 years. She continued her love of Irish dancing with the National Dance Company of Ireland and even performed with Dolly Parton during a residency at Dollywood, Tennessee. She founded Jordan Academy of Irish Dance in 2011.



Booking via Eventbrite.

### Irish Harp and Heritage with Lucia McGinnis 12:30pm - 1:30pm

Discover the magic of the harp in an immersive, interactive workshop for all ages. Professional harpist, Lucia McGinnis, will perform traditional music, give a short talk about the history of the harp, and attendees will get the chance to try playing the instrument themselves.



Booking via Eventbrite.

## Saturday 1 August - Saturday 8 August

### Threads of Tradition: an exhibition celebrating Irish dance During library opening hours

Come along during opening hours to Belfast Central Library and see the detail and beauty of Irish dance costumes.

Marvel at the intricate, hand-stitched embroidery, vibrant colours and stunning craftsmanship that bring each unique garment to life. Explore a collection of memorabilia including, trophies, medals, and traditional footwear that tell the stories of Irish dancers.

In collaboration with Jordan Academy of Irish Dance.

## Events in **Cregagh Library**

t: 028 9040 1365 | e: cregagh.library@librariesni.org.uk

## Events in **Chichester Library**

t: 028 9050 9210 | e: chichester.library@librariesni.org.uk

### Friday 7 August

#### **Poetry Workshop with Stephen James Smith 2:00pm - 4:00pm**

Join acclaimed poet Stephen James Smith for an inspiring poetry workshop exploring voice, rhythm, memory and place. Stephen James Smith is a Dublin poet and playwright central to the rise of the vibrant spoken word scene in Ireland today. Through guided writing exercises, discussion and creative prompts, participants will develop fresh work and gain confidence in performance and expression. Suitable for emerging and experienced writers, this welcoming session celebrates poetry's power to connect.



Thanks to Duncairn Arts Centre for providing this event.

### Tuesday 4 August

#### **Live in the Library 2:00pm - 3:30pm**

Chichester Library hosts Eimear Magee and Peadar Connor for a relaxed afternoon of music among the shelves. Recognised as outstanding young traditional musicians and TG4 Gradam Ceoil bursary recipients, they bring fresh energy, skill and passion to their performance.



Thanks to The Duncairn Arts Centre for providing this event.

# Events in Falls Road Library

t: 028 9050 9212 | e: fallsroad.library@librariesni.org.uk

## Monday 3 August

### The Art of the Bodhrán with Ogham Art 10:30am - 11:30am

This immersive session brings the ancient craft of bodhrán making to life; hear about the personal journeys of the craftsmen, who will introduce you to drum-making traditions and offer you the chance to watch construction techniques.



Booking via Eventbrite.

### The Art of Lament 12 noon - 1:00pm

Bróna McVittie explores the art of lament through the lens of the traditional Irish harper's triad of Geantraí, Goltraí, and Suantraí—the music of joy, sorrow, and sleep. At its heart lies Goltraí, embodied in the ancient tradition of keening, where the human voice becomes a vessel for raw, communal grief. Moving beyond catharsis, the performance interweaves story and sound to reveal how music can restore vitality (Geantraí) and lead towards deep renewal (Suantraí). The event is an interactive talk/performance open to all, which draws upon the singer's own life experience of how music can be used for healing.



Booking via Eventbrite.

## Wednesday 5 August

### Stories and Song with Aodán Jaff Mac Séafraidh 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Meet and listen to 'Jaff' Mac Séafraidh, an experienced storyteller and uilleann piper. Jaff uses stories and legends associated with traditional music to create a world of legend and delight.



Booking via Eventbrite.

## Thursday 6 August

### Irish Dance Workshop with Jordan Academy of Dance 11:00am - 12 noon

Bring the whole family to discover the fun history of Irish dance, watch and learn the different dance styles, and then hop up to try some lively steps yourself. It is the perfect, light-hearted way for all ages to move, laugh and experience Irish culture together.

Kerry Jordan Stevenson (TCRG, ADCRG) has had a successful competitive career in Festival Irish dance winning the prestigious titles of Northern Ireland and Ulster Champion which she retained for over 15 years. She continued her love of Irish dancing with the National Dance Company of Ireland and even performed with Dolly Parton during a residency at Dollywood, Tennessee. She founded Jordan Academy of Irish Dance in 2011.



Booking via Eventbrite.



Aodán Jaff Mac Séafraidh



Jordan Academy of Dance



## Events in **Hollywood Arches Library**

t: 028 9050 9216 | e: [hollywoodarches.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:hollywoodarches.library@librariesni.org.uk)

## Events in **Lisburn Road Library**

t: 028 9050 9223 | e: [lisburnroad.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:lisburnroad.library@librariesni.org.uk)

### Thursday 6 August

#### **Poetry Workshop with Stephen James Smith** **2:00pm - 4:00pm**

Join acclaimed poet Stephen James Smith for an inspiring poetry workshop exploring voice, rhythm, memory and place. Stephen James Smith is a Dublin poet and playwright central to the rise of the vibrant spoken word scene in Ireland today. Through guided writing exercises, discussion and creative prompts, participants will develop fresh work and gain confidence in performance and expression. Suitable for emerging and experienced writers, this welcoming session celebrates poetry's power to connect.



Thanks to Duncairn Arts Centre for providing this event.

### Monday 3 August

#### **Live in the Library** **2:00pm - 3:30pm**

Live in the Library comes to Lisburn Road Library with Sarah Ann Réé and Paddy McKeown. Sarah brings her unique brand of folk indie songwriting, while Belfast multi-instrumentalist Paddy adds warm, seasoned musicianship, creating an intimate opportunity for visitors to pause and listen.



Thanks to The Duncairn Arts Centre for providing this event.



# Events in Ormeau Road Library

t: 028 9050 9228 | e: ormeauroad.library@librariesni.org.uk

## Saturday 1 August

### Family Fun Day 10:00am - 1:30pm

Join us for a jam-packed, magical day of free entertainment for the whole family.

What to Expect?

Meet the Amazon Jungle creatures  
(10:30am - 11:30am)

Enjoy colourful face painting and balloon  
modelling with Magical Masks  
(11:30am - 1:30pm)

Get creative with fun craft projects at the  
imagination station

Dive into playful challenges and games

Join in with captivating storytelling and  
rhyme-time sessions



Booking via Eventbrite.

## Tuesday 4 August

### The Art of the Bodhrán with Ogham Art 10:30am - 11:30am

This immersive session brings the ancient craft of bodhrán making to life; hear about the personal journeys of the craftsmen, who will introduce you to drum-making traditions and offer you the chance to watch construction techniques.



Booking via Eventbrite.

## Thursday 6 August

### Bedtime Storytime with Liz Weir 6:30pm - 8:00pm

You are warmly invited to join Liz Weir, at Ormeau Road Library for an enchanting evening of magical bedtime storytelling for children and families. Journey into the wonderful world of stories together to celebrate the joy of books and reading.

A storyteller for over 40 years, Liz has travelled the world sharing and promoting the traditional art of storytelling for which Ireland is famous. We invite you to hear her for yourself.



Booking via Eventbrite.



# Events in Suffolk Library

t: 028 9050 9235 | e: suffolk.library@librariesni.org.uk

## Thursday 6 August

### Live in the Library 2:00pm - 3:30pm

Live in the Library arrives at Suffolk Library with trad maestros Ciara Maguire and Jude Scott. Ciara, a fiddle player from Castlewellan, performs alongside Belfast flautist Jude, a rising star in the traditional music scene, for an uplifting afternoon session among the shelves.



Thanks to The Duncairn Arts Centre for providing this event.

# Events in Whiterock Library

t: 028 9050 9236 | e: whiterock.library@librariesni.org.uk

## Thursday 6 August

### Dance and Draw with Cailín Sinséir 10:30am - 11:30am

It's Fleadh week in the city, and Belfast's own wee Gingerbread Girl has been practising her very best steps. But can she leap high enough and dance fast enough to escape the wily fox she meets down by the Lagan?

Join author Marianne McShane and illustrator Mr Ando for a playful celebration of storytelling, drawing and dancing. Try a wee dance step yourself, draw your own Cailín Sinséir, and find out what happens when she climbs onto the fox's back to get to the other side of the river.



Booking via Eventbrite.

## Friday 7 August

### Family Fun Day 10:00am - 4:00pm

Join us for a jam-packed, magical day of free entertainment for the whole family.

What to Expect?

Meet the Amazon Jungle creatures  
(1:15pm - 2:15pm)

Enjoy colourful face painting and balloon modelling with Magical Masks  
(11:15am - 1:15pm)

Get creative with fun craft projects at the imagination station

Dive into playful challenges and games

Join in with captivating storytelling and rhyme-time sessions



Booking via Eventbrite.



# Events in **Woodstock Library**

t: 028 9050 9239 | e: [woodstock.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:woodstock.library@librariesni.org.uk)

**Wednesday 5 August**

**Live in the Library  
2:00pm - 3:30pm**

Woodstock Library welcomes two outstanding singers, Róise McHugh and Cathleen Garland for Live in the Library, offering live music in a calm, welcoming setting. Cathleen, a champion singer and guitarist, joins the exceptionally talented Róise for a warm, relaxed performance of originals and folk favourites.



Thanks to The Duncairn Arts Centre for providing this event.

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Libraries across Belfast offer a welcoming space where you can sit down, recharge your phone and take a break before heading back to the music.

Find the nearest public library at [librariesni.org.uk](http://librariesni.org.uk)