Callan



enquiries to
callanopendoors@gmail.com

www.thepowerhousecallan.ie
the_powerhouse_callan
trasnaproductions

At a Glance

Callan Open Doors is an annual celebration of creativity and community, inviting the public into art spaces, bringing artists into community spaces, and bringing the arts outdoors in our town. Beginning May 21, enjoy four vibrant days of workshops, performances, exhibitions, and talks—offering something for everyone to enjoy, share and discover, with each day featuring a unique theme and focus.

The programme kicks off in The Powerhouse on **Thursday 21** at 18.30 with Pecha Kucha Callan and the official opening of Susanne Horsch's immersive exhibition of large inflatable textile sculptures.

On **Friday 22**, schools and community centres host a number of creative workshops, including Trickster's collaboration with Bunscoil McAuley Rice, whose newly created Resident Guardian puppet will take its first steps into the Abbey Meadow. The day wraps up with outdoor theatre and a lively trad session at Fennelly's.

Saturday 23 continues last year's successful workshop trail, with Callan's arts organisations and outdoor spaces humming with free drop-in workshops. The trail features events and workshops including Colour Field's Weedy Inks at Workhouse Union, American folk music at Mount Carmel, plein-air sketching in the Moat Field, L'Arche Cafe, Macra Hall, KCAT Arts Centre, and harp with Ruth Lydon.

Music lovers can look forward to an energetic evening with The Muskeg Collective from Alaska at Fennelly's of Callan, and a double bill of Mongolian and Irish traditional music at The Powerhouse, featuring Nømads, Eva Carroll, and Méabh Mulligan—presented by Lus na Tine.

Sunday 24 focuses on ecology and biodiversity, featuring a creative nature programme at Westcourt Living & Growing as part of its two-day annual Plant Sale—a chance to visit this community-led heritage walled garden, a true hidden gem. Contribute to *100 Moments of Care*, a growing installation by artist Luke Casserly. Join Zoe Rush for a sound walk that transports participants to the uplands of the Dingle Peninsula. The festival concludes with a Super Special Supper, a long-table feast at The Powerhouse.

We are delighted to partner with so many local community and arts organisations and are grateful for the enthusiasm of all artists and creatives involved. Callan Open Doors is devised and delivered by Trasna Productions, offering our workshop programme free of charge. This is made possible with support from The Arts Council, Kilkenny County Council, Creative Ireland Kilkenny, a community sponsorship award from St Canice's Credit Union and the generosity of businesses and individuals in Callan who responded to our fundraising call. We offer our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped us make our four-day programme happen.

Accessibility and Inclusion are at the heart of Callan Open Doors. Our central venue, The Powerhouse, is wheelchair-accessible, with wheelchair-accessible toilets available throughout Callan Open Doors from 11:00 to 18:00.

The following venues open to the public through the programme are wheelchair accessible: The Powerhouse, KCAT Arts Centre, L'Arche Green Street Café.

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

The Callan Open Doors Information Hub is at The Powerhouse. We are open daily from 11:00 to 18:00 Fri 22 - Sun 24. Please drop by with any questions or just to say hello.

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

Thursday 21 May

OPENING EVENING

PECHA KUCHA CALLAN **| The Powerhouse | Doors 18.30 | Start 19.00**
Free ticketed event | booking @ www.thepowerhousecallan.ie (places limited)
Pecha Kucha is an evening of fast-paced, seven-minute lightning talks from local visual artists and designers. This event brings together the Callan/Kilkenny creative community to share their work, process, and ideas in an inclusive and welcoming space, curated by local designers Lukas Dwan and Kate Lydon.

SWIMMING IN SPACE EXHIBITION OPENING AND FESTIVAL LAUNCH
The Powerhouse | 20.30 - 22.00 | Free event | All Welcome
Join us for an informal gathering, after Pecha Kucha Callan, to officially open Susanne Horsch's exhibition and launch the 2026 Callan Open Doors Festival, with refreshments and music by kehoe.ceol in The Powerhouse garden.





CALLAN OPEN DOORS

Celebrating Art and Creativity in Callan

21-24 May 2026

www.thepowerhousecallan.ie

Friday 22 May

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

GATHER BY TRICKSTER **| The Abbey Meadow - rain alternative Bunscoil McAuley Rice school hall | 11.45 | Free event | All Welcome**
As part of Callan Open Doors. During the early weeks of May, Trickster will visit the school for a number of playful, imaginative storytelling sessions — where the students will dig into the stories, memories and magic of their own place. Together, they'll conjure a Resident Guardian, a giant, extraordinary puppet, born entirely from the children's ideas and creativity. Callan's Resident Guardian will take its first steps into the world at the Abbey Meadow as part of Callan Open Doors.

DRUMMING WITH CONOR **| Droichead Family Resource Centre | 14.30 – 17.00**
For DFRC After School Club attendees only
Drumming facilitator Conor Graham will bring the rhythms of African drumming to DFRC After School Club, inviting the children to join him for a fun afternoon of music making and percussion.

Friday 22 May

COMMUNITY EVENTS

COLLABORATIVE CARDBOARD CONSTRUCTIONS**, workshop with Paul Bokslag**
The Powerhouse | 13.30 – 17.00 | For Ossory Youth Club members only
Under the guidance of artist Paul Bokslag, young people will collaborate to build sculptures, using a child-friendly chomp saw and repurposing cardboard boxes. By applying basic techniques, they will turn flat materials into 3D structures.

DROP IN OPEN STUDIO **| KCAT Arts Centre | 13.00 – 16.00 | Free event**
Drop-by anytime | All ages are welcome
KCAT is a multidisciplinary arts centre dedicated to nurturing creative ambition and equity in the arts. Drop in for art making at our Open Studio. Try out drawing, printmaking, or collage to create a piece to take home. Facilitated by Mairead Holohan and Martina Rosi.

MEET & MIX **| KCAT Arts Centre | 18.00 – 19.00 | Free event**
Drop-by anytime | All ages are welcome.
A social night to meet KCAT exhibition artist Jan Michelle, learn about her practice and work, and for creatives and community in the area to get to know each other.

Friday 22 May

THEATRE & MUSIC

THE DEEDS OF LORD BARNARD **by Iarla O'Neill | Workhouse Union | 19.00**
Duration 40 minutes | Tickets €7 | This is an outdoor performance.
Dress suitably | Patrons are welcome to bring a garden chair or stool
Booking @ www.thepowerhousecallan.ie (places limited)
Set in a time of the Great Famine, "The Deeds of Lord Barnard" follows the desperate attempts of a pair of farmers as they try to outsmart their wicked landlord and his hungry spaniels. Poignantly presented in the gardens of the old Callan Workhouse, the hapless heroes try to decipher the will of the Gods… to varying degrees of success. Performed by Iarla O'Neill, Rose Creagh, and Muiris Wallace; a troupe of theatre-loving friends from different pockets of the Irish countryside who sing, dance, and play together, exploring the nature of the contemporary rural through theatre and music.

FENNELLY'S TRAD SEISÚIN **| Fennelly's of Callan | 18.30- 21.00 | Free event**
Join us musicians, listeners, hummers and toe tappers on Friday in the cosy embrace of Fennelly's sitting room (or if it's sunny, in the garden courtyard) for our monthly trad music get together. Being together to celebrate the arrival of summer and the resilience of our community through music reminds us to be present in the cycle of the year and embrace togetherness. There will be food and wine, come early or drop by, all welcome. Bígi linn.



Saturday 23 May

WORKHOP TRAIL

WESTCOURT LIVING & GROWING PLANT SALE | Drop-by anytime
Free event | All ages welcome | 11.00 – 16.00
Westcourt Living & Growing Nursery invites you to their popular annual plant sale featuring herbaceous perennials, annuals, herbs, and vegetable plants. Join this family-friendly event at Westcourt's community-led heritage walled garden with live music, exhibitions, nature activities, local crafts, tea, coffee and home bakes.

***OFFERING BOWLS*, an interactive installation by Jim Jobson**
Westcourt Living & Growing | 11.00 – 16.00 | Free event
Offering Bowls is a collection of bowls hand-carved from windfall timber. Rooted in principles of celebrating and honouring the earth, the work engages with themes of collaboration, reciprocity and kinship. There will be an opportunity for visitors to make an offering to the Earth and the web of life.

COLOUR FIELD - WEEDY INKS | Workhouse Union | 11.00 – 16.00
Free event | Drop-by anytime | All ages welcome
Colour Field is an artists' garden at Workhouse Union connected to PrintBlock Callan, which is being cultivated to support colour-giving plants. *Weedy Inks* is a drop-in workshop to block-print cotton patches for sewing and mending, using printing inks made from nettles, dock and ivy. Facilitated by Hollie Kearns and Michelle McMahon.

EXPLORE SUSTAINABLE ART MAKING | KCAT Arts Centre | 10.30 – 12.30
Free event | Drop-by anytime | All ages welcome
Join us for a fun and creative workshop to make a unique collage using old artworks donated by our KCAT artists, combined with your own Gelli plate prints. Explore textures, patterns, and layers while creating your own mixed-media piece.

***CALLAN'S HIDDEN TREASURES*, Storytelling and Crafts | KCAT Arts Centre**
11.00 – 12.00 | Free event | Age suitability 4-8
Booking @ www.thepowerhousecallan.ie (places limited)
Have you heard the legend of Callan's buried treasures? Join children's book writer Niamh Donnellan for a fun retelling of local legends based on the National Folklore Collection Schools' Collection. Then draw your own treasure map to take home! Niamh is the author of *Little Irish Folklore Friends* and *Little Irish History Heroes*, both published by Gill Books.

Saturday 23 May

WORKHOP TRAIL

***100 TINY MOMENTS OF CARE*, with artist Luke Casserly | outside Fika at the crossroads | 11.00 – 13.00 | Free event | Drop-by anytime | All ages welcome**
Artist Luke Casserly is currently the Creative Placemaking Associate with Workhouse Union. Following a series of engagements with school and community groups in early May, Luke will run two open workshops during Callan Open Doors, inviting people of all ages to reflect on their relationship to the town through a simple prompt: what is one small way you can care for Callan? The responses generated will become part of a growing community installation. *100 Tiny Moments of Care* is supported by Cruinniú na nÓg and will be continuing on June 6th as part of the national Cruinniú na nÓg Festival.

***THE DEEDS OF LORD BARNARD* by Iarla O'Neill | Workhouse Union**
14.30 & 16.00 | Duration: 40 min | Tickets €7 | This is an outdoor performance. Dress suitably. Patrons are welcome to bring a garden chair or stool
Booking @ www.thepowerhousecallan.ie (places limited)
See Friday listings for details.

***HARP TASTER WORKSHOP* with Ruth Lydon | KCAT Arts Centre | 13.30 & 15.00**
Duration 35 minutes | Age suitability 8+ | Free event
Booking @ thepowerhousecallan.ie (places limited)
A hands-on introduction to the Irish harp, open to children or adults of all ages and abilities. Tailored to suit each individual's level of expertise, each participant will have dedicated time with the instrument during the workshop. Each workshop can accommodate 3 participants.

***AMERICANA FOLK MUSIC CONCERT* | Mount Carmel Supported Care Home**
15.00 Free event | Care home residents, family and friends
As part of their visit to Callan, members of The Muskeg Collective will visit Mount Carmel for an intimate afternoon concert of folk tunes from North America.

***CALLAN OUTDOOR AMENITY MASTERPLAN ENGAGEMENT* | The Powerhouse**
14.00 – 16.00 | Free event | Drop-by anytime | All ages welcome
Landscape Architect JJ Digby invites you to come for an informal chat with him about the development of an Outdoor Amenity Masterplan for the Abbey Meadow, Moat Field and connecting streets. Your ideas will help JJ and his team create a people-centred, environmentally friendly vision for the future of Callan.

Saturday 23 May

WORKHOP TRAIL

***L'ARCHE GREEN STREET CAFÉ EXHIBITION* | 11.00 – 16.00**
Free event | Drop-by anytime | All ages welcome
L'Arche Kilkenny will open their café on Green Street for one day, to present a mixed medium exhibition showcasing the talents of four of the communities artists that includes, wood carving, weaving and textiles, sculpture and graphic design. Some of the artists have honed their skills over several years while others are trying new avenues in their artistic journey. Featured artists: Patrick Brunnock, Lucy Dollard, Daniel Collum, Eddie Butler. All are excited to display their current work.

***FROM HAND TO HEART* | Macra Hall | 13:30–16:30**
Free event | Drop-by anytime | All ages welcome
Is there someone you have been meaning to write to? Someone you would like to send a flower to? This workshop invites older participants to create a card that explores simple rubbing techniques using plants and colour, write a message, and seal it, ready to send. We'll post it for you. Children are invited to make paper flowers that magically open in water. Facilitated by Jana Zitzmann with students and teachers from Kilkenny Steiner School.

***PORTRAITURE WORKSHOP* with Jan Michelle | KCAT Arts Centre**
13.00 – 16.00 | Free event | Drop-by anytime | All ages welcome
Create your own portrait piece on paper or tote bag using paint, markers, ink, and paper collage in response to Jan Michelle's signature portraits featured in the KCAT exhibition *Ladies of Substance.*

***BRIDGEART, PLEIN AIR DRAWING AND SKETCHING* | Moat Field | 14.00 – 16.30**
Free event | Drop-by anytime | All ages welcome
Join BridgeArt members for an afternoon of self-guided drawing, sketching and painting in the Moat Field Callan. Beginners and seasoned artists are all welcome. Children should be accompanied by an adult. For those new to or returning to art, encouragement and help will be on hand from seasoned artists, and some materials will also be available.

Saturday 23 May

LIVE MUSIC

***THE MUSKEG COLLECTIVE* | Fennelly's of Callan | Doors 18.00 | Start 18.30**
Admission €15 + booking fee | Booking @ www.thepowerhousecallan.ie
The Muskeg Collective are returning to Fennelly's of Callan! These incredibly talented songwriters based in Juneau, Alaska, each with their own distinctive voice and style regularly perform as individuals. When they come together, they create a sound that is all their own, featuring a wide variety of tempo and style with members often swapping instruments and harmony parts, and even throwing in some traditional flatfoot dancing! Rooted in American country, bluegrass, and folk traditions, the lines and boundaries quickly become blurred. Don't miss out on what's sure to be an unmissable gig!

Lus na Tine present *NØMADS + EVA CARROLL & MÉABH MULLIGAN*
The Powerhouse | Doors 20.00 | Start 20.30 | Admission €15 + booking fee
Booking @ www.thepowerhousecallan.ie
Nømads are a Dublin-based three-piece utilising dense synthesiser and modern electronic techniques, seamed through with the tones and timbres of Horse Head Fiddle and traditional Mongolian throat singing.
Eva Carroll & Méabh Mulligan are traditional singing and concertina players from East Clare and Dublin. They both come from musical families, Eva being the daughter of singers Brian O'Rourke and Paula Carroll, while Méabh's family run the Cobblestone pub in Dublin.



Sunday 24 May

ECOLOGY & BIODIVERSITY

***WESTCOURT LIVING & GROWING PLANT SALE* | 11.00 – 16.00 | Free event**
Drop-by anytime | All ages welcome
See Saturday listings for details.

***OFFERING BOWLS*, an interactive installation by Jim Jobsen | Westcourt Living & Growing | 11.00 – 16.00 | Free event | Drop-by anytime | All ages welcome**
See Saturday listings for details.

***100 TINY MOMENTS OF CARE*, a workshop with artist Luke Casserly**
Westcourt Living & Growing | 11.00 – 13.00 | Free event
Drop-by anytime | All ages welcome
See Saturday listings for details.

***WALKING IN THE STORIES OF OUR MOUNTAINS* | Westcourt Living and Growing**
12.00 & 14.30 | Tickets €12 | Duration 50 minutes
Booking @ www.thepowerhousecallan.ie
Walking In the Stories of Our Mountains is a sound walk that transports participants to the uplands of the Dingle Peninsula. For a moment, the listener inhabits the lives of a community of farmers that live passionately in a timeless landscape with their animals, while also negotiating the complexities of modernity where farming and land management is regulated and framed by policies and subsidies. The walk is an exquisitely crafted immersive experience that invites listeners to witness the complexity of living with the land in a time of climate adaptation.

***A SUPER SPECIAL SUNDAY SUPPER* | The Powerhouse | Doors 18.00 | Start 18.30**
Admission €50 | Booking @ www.thepowerhousecallan.ie (places limited)
Callan Open Doors hosts a casual and intimate long table dinner at The Powerhouse by Kilkenny Chef Conor Higgins, who was the head chef of the contemporary vegetarian restaurant Higgs Field. Using locally farmed and foraged ingredients, Conor creates beautiful and innovative dishes, while supporting sustainable farm to table practices. A Super Special Sunday Supper will be served family style; the ticket includes a pre-set multi-course vegetarian meal with a choice of drinks. All guest's food restrictions and allergies but must be disclosed one week in advance. Seating may be outdoors, if weather permits.

Exhibitions

VISUAL ARTS

***SWIMMING IN SPACE* by Susanne Horsch | The Powerhouse**
Thur 21 from 18.00 - 22.00 | Fri 22 from 11.00 - 19.00 | Sat 23 from 11.00 - 20.00
Sun 24 from 11.00 - 18.30 | Free event | All Welcome
Swimming in Space is an immersive textile environment of accumulated soft sculptures shaped by reflective writing. The work acts as a visual archive of emotions following the liminal time between the end of a relationship and a new beginning. As part of *Swimming in Space*, Susanne invites visitors to contribute to a participatory artwork that will gradually evolve over the course of Callan Open Doors.

Susanne Horsch is a Kilkenny-based installation artist. She primarily works with textiles and soft sculptures, using them as metaphors for weaving together the often-invisible elements of human experience. Susanne recently graduated from Ulster University Belfast with an MFA in Fine Art, and over the past couple of years has exhibited and had residencies at the RHA, Dublin, Butler Gallery and CCA Derry. She has an upcoming solo exhibition at University of Atypical in Belfast.



VISUAL ARTS

***VIEWS OF CALLAN* | The Green House Window Gallery, Bridge Street Lower**
Thur 21 – Sun 24 May | Free to all passers-by
The *Views of Callan* exhibition will focus on different viewpoints of the local landscape created by artists Martina Rosi (Italy) and Louise Boutant (France) while living and working in Callan.

***LADIES OF SUBSTANCE* by Jan Michelle | KCAT Arts Centre**
Thur 21 – Sat 23 May | 10.30 – 16.00 | Free event | All Welcome
Callan-based artist Jan Michelle has been a member of KCAT Arts Centre for over 10 years. Working on paper and canvas with different media, including paint, markers, inks, and glitter, her colourful, expressionistic portraits portray a direct and intimate connection to the subjects, who are often partially obstructed by floral ornamentation or accessories. *Ladies of Substance* is Jan's first solo exhibition.

FUNDERS

arts council funding festivals | Kilkenny County Council Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh | Creative Communities | Cruinniú na nÓg | kcetb | Community Education Kilkenny & Carlow

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The Powerhouse | TRASNA Productions | Workhouse Union | L'Arche | Mount Carmel Supported Care Home | KCAT Arts Centre | Droichead Family Resource Centre | Bridge Art | Trickster | Assory Youth | living & growing | Bunscoil McAuley Rice | Coláiste Abhainn Rí | Kilkenny Steiner School

LOCAL BUSINESS SPONSORS GOLD

St. Canice's Credit Union | SuperValu Callan | Callan Co-op

LOCAL BUSINESS SPONSORS SILVER

Madigan's Pharmacy, Food for Life,
Molloy's Funeral Directors & Sculptors Ltd.,
Brett's Hardware, Lyons Greengrocers and Florist,
Keogh's Bakery, Sofina Callan, Callan Autos