



# CALLAN OPEN DOORS

Celebrating Art and Creativity in Callan

21-24 May 2026

## Saturday 23 May

COMMUNITY  
EVENTS

### **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

#### **BOOK TICKETS**

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.

### **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

#### **BOOK TICKETS**

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.

### **HARP TASTER WORKSHOP** with Ruth Lydon | KCAT Arts Centre | 13.30 & 15.00

Duration 35 minutes | Age suitability 8+ | Free event

#### **BOOK TICKETS**

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.

### **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.

LIVE  
MUSIC

### **THE MUSKEG COLLECTIVE** | Fennelly's of Callan | Doors 18.00 | Start 18.30

Admission €15 + booking fee | **BOOK TICKETS**

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

#### **BOOK TICKETS**

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.

