



Exploring Our Foundations:

Celebrate Heritage Week 2026 with Kilkenny County Council Library Service

Heritage Week 2026 takes place from 15-23 August, offering communities across Ireland an opportunity to celebrate and explore the rich legacy that shapes our shared identity. This year's theme, "Heritage at Risk," encourages us to reflect on the buildings, objects, traditions, stories and landscapes that connect us to our past and consider how they can be preserved for future generations. Kilkenny County Council Library Service has organised an exciting programme of events across its library network, inviting the public to discover, share and celebrate the county's remarkable heritage.

Heritage At Risk

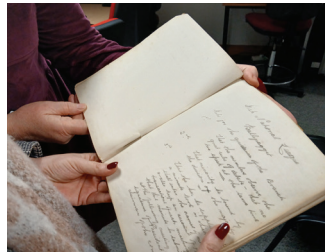


National
Heritage Week
A Heritage Council programme

15th - 23rd
August

Kilkenny Library Local Studies Roadshow

One of the highlights of this year's programme is the Kilkenny Library Local Studies Roadshow, which will visit library branches across the county. Library staff are inviting members of the public to uncover hidden treasures that may be stored away in attics, albums, drawers and family collections. Whether you have old photographs, letters, documents, maps, memorabilia or other items of local significance, the Library Service would love to hear the stories behind them. Participants will have the opportunity to have items digitally scanned and preserved, helping to safeguard valuable pieces of Kilkenny's heritage for future generations. Digitised materials may become part of the Kilkenny Digital Archive (<https://digital-archive.kilkenny.ie>), creating a lasting record of local history and community life. Each contribution will be carefully documented, preserving not only the item itself but also the stories, family histories and local connections that bring it to life.



Roadshow Dates and Locations

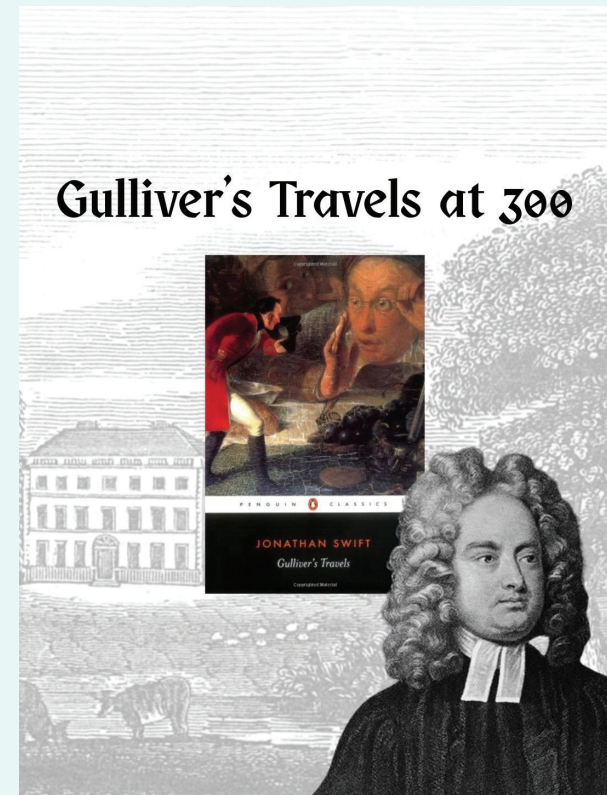
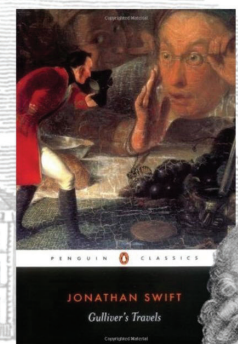
- ◆ **Ferrybank Library – Tuesday, 18 August, 10am–12pm.** Places are limited. Phone 051 897200 or email Ferrybank@kilkennylibrary.ie
- ◆ **Graiguenamanagh Library – Tuesday, 18 August, 2.30pm–4.30pm.** Places are limited. Phone 056 7794178 or email Graiguenamanagh@kilkennylibrary.ie
- ◆ **Thomastown Library – Tuesday, 18 August, 3pm–5pm.** Places are limited. Phone 056 7794331 or email Thomastown@kilkennylibrary.ie
- ◆ **Loughboy Library – Wednesday, 19 August, 10.30am–12.30pm.** Places are limited. Phone 056 7794176 or email Loughboy@kilkennylibrary.ie
- ◆ **Mayfair Library – Thursday, 20 August, 10am–12pm.** Places are limited. Phone 056 7794174 or email Mayfair@kilkennylibrary.ie
- ◆ **Castlecomer Library – Saturday, 22 August, 11am–1pm.** Places are limited. Phone 056 444 0561 or email Castlecomer@kilkennylibrary.ie

Mayfair Library will host two fascinating talks exploring different aspects of Kilkenny's past.

On Saturday, 15 August, from 2.30pm–3.30pm, Orla Murphy will present "A Kilkenny Man's Letters from Richmond Barracks, Wakefield Prison and Frongoch: Tom Treacy, Dean Street, and the Aftermath of the 1916 Rising in Kilkenny." The talk will examine personal correspondence that offers a unique insight into the local impact of the Easter Rising and its aftermath.

On Wednesday, 19 August, from 2.30pm–3.30pm, local resident and volunteer mapper Anne-Karoline Distel will discuss her recently completed street-level imagery survey of Kilkenny City, an important project documenting the city's built heritage and streetscape.

Gulliver's Travels at 300



Gulliver's Travels at 300 - Castlecomer Library

Join noted Jonathan Swift scholar Dr Brendan Twomey in Castlecomer Library on 18 August at 6.30pm for a special talk celebrating the 300th anniversary of Gulliver's Travels. First published in 1726, Swift's masterpiece was written while he served as Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. However, the celebrated author's connections to Kilkenny run deep. As a young boy, Swift lived at Swift's Heath with his uncle Godwin Swift and attended Kilkenny College, making this anniversary particularly significant for the county.

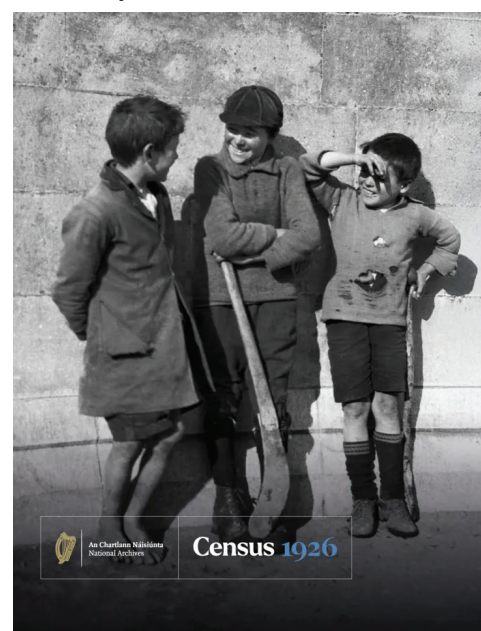
Cushendale Woollen Mill: The Story of Cushendale Woollen Mills: In Graiguenamanagh Library on Tuesday, 18 August at 6.30pm, Miriam from Cushendale Woollen Mills will share the history of one of Kilkenny's most enduring family businesses. The talk will explore generations of craftsmanship and the traditional methods that continue to be used in producing the mill's renowned woven products.

Discover Your Past Through Newspapers: As part of Heritage Week, Thomastown Library invites people to explore their family and local history through historic newspaper archives. On Tuesday, 18th August, from 2pm–4.30pm, library staff will offer free one-to-one sessions, helping participants uncover fascinating stories about ancestors, local events and community life through newspaper records.

From family heirlooms and historical documents to literary heritage, local industries and genealogy, Heritage Week 2026 offers something for everyone. Through this diverse programme of talks, workshops and community events, Kilkenny County Council Library Service invites the public to rediscover the stories, people and places that have helped shape the county's rich heritage.

1926 Census talks

Historian Michael Reynolds will deliver two talks on the recently released 1926 Census, focusing on the role of the Kilkenny Gardaí as the State's first enumerators. The census provides a fascinating snapshot of life in Ireland a century ago, capturing details of families, occupations, housing and communities during a transformative period in the young State's history. Reynolds will explore how local Gardaí carried out the enormous task of gathering this information and what the records reveal about everyday life in Kilkenny in 1926.



An Chomhairle Náisiúnaí
National Archives

Census 1926

- ◆ **Mayfair Library Saturday, 22 August, 11am–12.30pm**
- ◆ **Thomastown Library Saturday, 22 August, 3pm**



Graiguenamanagh Library

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Cushendale Mills Talk
Tuesday August 18th 6.30pm