

Kilkenny Pupils Bring the Past to Life Through Fadó, Fadó Competition



Kilkenny's strong connection to its local history was on full display as pupils from across the county took part in the "Fadó, Fadó Sparking Memories" competition. This joint initiative of Kilkenny County Council Library Service's Local Studies Department, the Kilkenny Archaeological Society and the Rothe House Trust celebrated family stories, local landmarks and historical events and attracted an enthusiastic response, with more than 160 entries received from primary and postprimary schools throughout Kilkenny.

The range and quality of submissions impressed judges, from family histories handed down through generations to detailed explorations of heritage sites, the entries demonstrated imagination, originality and a strong sense of place.

The 2026 competition built on the success of last year with the introduction of a dedicated postprimary section, with new categories for 3rd Year and Transition Year students.

The competition culminated in a prizegiving ceremony at Mayfair Library on April 21st, attended by pupils, their families, teachers, library staff and invited guests. Awards included trophies, vouchers, book tokens and educational family experiences at Rothe House.

Addressing the gathering were Ann Murtagh of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society; Fiona Deegan, Director of Services with Kilkenny County Council; Aisling Kelly, Senior Executive Librarian; Cathaoirleach Councillor Mary Hilda Cavanagh; and Cólín Ó Drisceoil, State Archaeologist with the National Monuments Service. Speakers praised the creativity, research and enthusiasm evident in the projects and highlighted the importance of nurturing an appreciation of local heritage from a young age.

Top honours in the Primary Category went to Jane Comerford of St Colman's National School, Clara. In the postprimary categories, first prize was awarded to Ava Dollard of Presentation Secondary School, Kilkenny, in the 3rd Year section, while Adam Staunton of St Kieran's College claimed first place in the Transition Year category.

In addition to the awards ceremony, the enduring legacy of the competition can be found online. The winning entries, along with other highly commended projects, have been digitised and are now accessible via the Kilkenny Library Digital Archive, digital-archive.kilkenny.ie ensuring that these young voices and their interpretations of the past can be enjoyed by the wider community for years to come.



Image 4: Cólín Ó Drisceoil with Transition year winner Adam Staunton



Winners, highly commended and speakers.



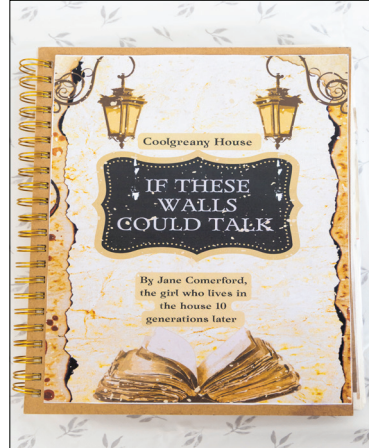
Cólín Ó Drisceoil with Primary winner Jane Comerford



The history of Carrigan Uilleann pipes 1840-2026



Cólín Ó Drisceoil with Third year winner Ava Dollard



Coolgreany House - If These Walls Could Talk



Ann and Aisling Kelly with highly commended winner Katie Kelly

Castlecomer– Penvénan Twinning Archive Unveiled at Castlecomer Library

Kilkenny County Council Library Service has announced a valuable new addition to its Digital Archive with the launch of the Castlecomer–Penvénan Twinning Archive at Castlecomer Library on May 1 2026. The launch of the archive marks the 25th anniversary of the signing of the twinning charter between the two communities and celebrates a quarter century of cultural exchange and friendship.

Penvénan is a community located in one of Brittany's most beautiful bays, in north western France. Representatives from Penvénan and members of the Castlecomer Twinning Committee attended the launch to commemorate the occasion and begin the weekend of celebrations.

Drawing on the committee's carefully preserved records and photographs documenting 25 years of shared history and friendship, staff at Castlecomer Library, working in collaboration with the Local Studies section of the library service, undertook the meticulous digitisation of the material. The resulting collection is now accessible to the public through the library's Digital Archive and will continue to grow, serving as an enduring testament to the strong and lasting relationship between the communities of Castlecomer and Penvénan. All of the material has been digitised and are now accessible via the Kilkenny Library Digital Archive digital-archive.kilkenny.ie



Lori Moriarty Castlecomer library branch manager with members of the Castlecomer – Penvénan Twinning Committee.



**Fadó Fadó Sparking Memories
Kilkenny Young Researchers
Competition 2026
and
Castlecomer–Penvénan Twinning
Archive**

Scan the QR code to view on the
Kilkenny Digital Archive



Or visit
<https://digital-archive.kilkenny.ie/>