

THE LIBERTIES FESTIVAL 2026



20TH - 26TH JULY 2026
THELIBERTIESFESTIVAL.COM

LIBERTIES FESTIVAL SUPPORTERS

PRESENTED BY



CORE FUNDERS



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Government of Ireland



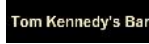
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An Rannas Cultúir,
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Department of Culture,
Communications and Sport



PARTNERS



FIGHTING WORDS
The write to right.



MEDIA PARTNERS





FESTIVAL DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

Festivals connect us to stories, ideas and experiences, but most importantly to each other. They serve to break down the 'other' and platform the vibrancy of our community and, most importantly, the communities which exist under its umbrella. This is my third edition as director of the Liberties Festival and I hope you find the programme, of mostly free events, to be one which does its best to reflect the history, heritage and energy of the area. We are deeply honoured to have President Catherine Connolly accept an invite to open our Festival on July 20th. This reflects her commitment to, "promote a public discourse that nourishes inclusivity, tolerance and active citizenship."

The programme is the culmination of many ideas, realised within time, capacity and resource constraints but also realised with the support of our core funders Dublin City Council and Diageo, as well as the countless other locals organisations and businesses documented within these pages. Some highlights include a partnership with the Seán Corcoran Series in Drogheda, in which we'll celebrate the rich history of traditional music in the Liberties, culminating in a Bilberry Ball in Michael Mallin Park on Sunday 26th in which all members of the community, of all ages, are invited to dance in the company of Edwina Guckian and the Stray Sod Céili Band.

I am also immensely proud of bringing the creative output of the Liberties to the stage in Smock Alley. In the absence of a significant, publicly available community space, it is crucial that the institutions we are blessed with continue to use their spaces and platforms to connect with those who may not always see themselves in these spaces. Another project I am proud of is Where do we all belong? which is a social art response to the prevalence of loneliness. Artist Ronan Dillon surveyed numerous people and groups to gauge sentiment around the concept of being lonely in an urban environment, with thanks to a Neighbourhood grant from Dublin City Arts Office. And the return of the Bartender's Race to close out the Festival marks the start of a process of reviving traditions which are at the heart of the Liberties. The evolution of Community Got Talent marks another 'classic' in the making.

While there are many causes of on-going concern in the Liberties, the purpose of this Festival is to shine a light on what we can do, and what brings us, together. Most importantly, the festival is built on the input of our advisory committee, the wider Liberties Community Project team, artists, participants, volunteers and attendees. I hope you can support our endeavours and take enjoyment and inspiration from the week, and say hello to someone you don't know.

- Michael McDermott | Festival Director



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE LIBERTIES COMMUNITY PROJECT

A big Liberties welcome to everyone joining us for the Liberties Festival in 2026. The Liberties has always been defined by its people - by neighbours who look out for one another, by families who have shaped this place for generations and by new community members who continue to add richness and diversity to our streets.

This festival is a tribute to that spirit. It allows us to come together, to share our stories, to celebrate our creativity and to enjoy the unique energy that defines the Liberties. As we all know these festivals don't just "happen" and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Festival Director Michael McDermott, the Liberties Festival Advisory Committee,

our wonderful team and volunteers at the Liberties Community Project, Dublin City Council, Diageo and all of our generous sponsors. Your commitment, dedication and generosity are the backbone of the Liberties Festival. Thank you!

I hope you all enjoy the events, the performances, the conversations and the connections that make this festival so special.

Please take the time to explore the exciting programme that has been lined up for the 2026 Liberties Festival. Enjoy!

**- Celine Kennedy | Chairperson
The Liberties Community Project**

AG TACÚ LE

Never Park
Páirc na Fhíodóra

FÉILE NA SAOIRSÍ



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

WWW.DUBLINCITY.IE

6:15PM

FREE EVENT

OPENING EVENT

FESTIVAL LAUNCH

SAYS SHE PRESENTS ROOTS & REARERS

with Guest of Honour, President Catherine Connolly

ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH, THOMAS STREET

An evening of poetry and spoken word, hosted by poets Martina Keegan and Jan Brierton, celebrating their Liberties roots and the 'rearsers' in life. The ma's, the da's, the nana's, the sister, the auntie, the neighbour... the ones that reared us. The nurturers, the feeders, the teachers and the protectors.

On display at this event will be the work of students from the Liberties Community Project After School project in Scoil Treasa Naofa, following workshops kindly facilitated by Cartoon Saloon's Nora Twomey and Niamh Moyles. We will also unveil a participatory tapestry co-created with artist Cristina Nicotra and local residents following a series of collaborative workshops, in association with Change Clothes.

Note:

This is a ticketed event.

All attendees must arrive by 6.15pm with everyone seated by 6.30pm.

BOOKING REQUIRED
SUGGESTED DONATION €10



"I am thrilled that President Catherine Connolly has accepted our invitation to launch the Liberties Festival this year. It is a mark of recognition for the Festival and the area as a whole, and brings great excitement and uplift to the community. The attendance of the President also allows us to celebrate the great work of residents, organisations, artists, volunteers and activists who strive to make the Liberties an inclusive and welcoming area for all."

– Michael McDermott, Liberties Festival Director



GUINNESS
OPEN GATE
BREWERY

THE LIBERTIES FESTIVAL BATCH BREAD **RED** LIMITED EDITION **NITRO RED ALE**

Designed in collaboration with the local community, the recipe for this limited-edition nitro red ale is a **celebration of the urban brewing and baking heritage of the area.**

Evoking The Liberties' **famous batch-bread** trade and tradition, and using **local honey**, this brew balances **toasted biscuit and malt** notes with a **satisfying dried-fruit finish.**

Now pouring in the following outlets in Dublin 8:

GUINNESS OPEN GATE BREWERY, THE LARK INN, TOM KENNEDYS, THE LIBERTY BELLE,
THOMAS HOUSE, SWIFT, HARKINS BAR, COOPERS LANE, PEADAR BROWNS, HYATT HOTEL,
LUCKYS, LYNOTTS BAR, DROP DEAD TWICE, MORRISSEY'S.

MONDAY 20TH JULY

MIND MOVEMENT AND MINDFULNESS

GUINNESS ENTERPRISE CENTRE

Through mindfulness, breathwork, meditation, and honest dialogue, Matt Burke from Magic Minds helps people release emotional tension, gain clarity, nurture inner peace, and reconnect with their deepest strength and identity.

BOOKING REQUIRED
SUGGESTED DONATION | €5

10:00AM

FREE EVENT

WELLNESS



PEARSE LYONS DISTILLERY TOUR

PEARSE LYONS DISTILLERY, JAMES'S STREET

Discover the fascinating story of this distillery which first opened in 2017, uniquely housed in the former St James's Church, with roots stretching back to the 12th century. Please note: This tour does not include a whiskey tasting.

€5 DONATION TOWARDS SOCIAL ENTERPRISE IN OUR SHOES WALKING TOURS

10.30AM

€5

CULTURE

WORKSHOP

FREE EVENT

11:00AM-1:00PM (DROP-IN BASIS)

AGES 6+



MAKE YOUR OWN PRINTED BOOKMARK

THE DEANERY MEWS

In this fun hands-on session, children will use foam shapes, ink pads, and bright colours to design and print their own designs onto card. They'll be able to layer patterns, mix shapes, and experiment with colour combinations. Later on, we'll transform their prints in unique bookmarks to take home and use in their favourite books.

All children must be accompanied by an adult.

BOOKING REQUIRED



6:00PM

FREE EVENT

WALKING TOUR

IN OUR SHOES WALKING TOURS

STARTING FROM DUBLIN CITY GATES, COOK ST

As recently featured in the New York Times, In Our Shoes invites you to discover the history, heart, and soul of the area in the company of local guides through their stories, yarns, and knowledge. It, also, doesn't flinch from pointing out the reality for those marginalised in an area in the throes of gentrification.

www.inourshoeswalkingtours.ie

BOOKING REQUIRED

SUGGESTED DONATION | €5



FREE EVENT

MUSIC

MUSIC IN ST AUDOEN'S: ORGANICUS & SACRED THREADS

ST AUDOEN'S

For its third year, the Liberties Festival at St. Audoen's presents its most ambitious programme to date: a week-long exploration of sound, listening, and space unfolding throughout one of Dublin's oldest active churches. Bringing together newly commissioned music, sacred traditions, improvisation, and site-specific performance, the programme invites audiences to experience St. Audoen's not simply as a historic building, but as a living acoustic environment.

The centrepiece of the week is *Organicus*, a newly commissioned three-hour work by New York-based composer Steve Long, performed by organist Olesia Borsuk. Structured around the eighteen letters of the Irish alphabet, the work unfolds across eighteen ten-minute sections, creating a vast sonic landscape that gradually reveals itself throughout the architecture of the church. Presented across two evenings, the performance reflects the festival's continuing interest in large-scale musical forms and follows the path opened by previous site-specific commissions, including Sebastian Adams' acclaimed *Singing Hollow*.

At 7pm, audiences move into the graveyard for *Sacred Threads*, a collaboration between Olesya Zdorovetska (voice, narration), Vsevolod Sadovyj (voice, winds, percussion), and Nick Roth (flutes, saxophones, percussion). Bringing together sacred chants preserved in medieval and baroque manuscripts from Ireland and Ukraine, the project reimagines ancient liturgical traditions through new settings for voice, winds, and percussion. Drawing on monastic song, oral tradition, and devotional practice, the work creates a dialogue between two musical cultures shaped by faith, memory, and survival across centuries.

Throughout the week, daily afternoon performances bring together a rotating group of festival artists and guest performers in a series of musical responses to the psalms and the liturgical life of St. Audoen's. Audiences can encounter organ improvisations, unexpected collaborations, and specially created performances that connect contemporary musical practice with one of Dublin's most historically resonant spaces. Highlights include a special organ and viola collaboration featuring Sebastian Adams.



Performances: Tuesday & Thursday, 6:00pm
Daily Performances: Monday to Friday, 3:30pm

Kindly supported by the OPW

The Liberties Festival
in association with the Dublin Night-Time Economy Advisor & The Dublin Inquirer
presents

TALKING SHOP

A series of conversations after-hours
with local business owners.

Tuesday July 21

Hopeless Botanics.....6.30pm

Thomas House.....7.30pm

Wednesday July 22

Some Neck Guitars.....6.30pm

Picado Mexican.....7.30pm

Thursday July 23

Martin Fennelly Antiques.....6.30pm

Betty Bojangles.....7.30pm

TICKETS ARE FREE 0.00
BUT BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

thelibertiesfestival.com

The Liberties Festival is brought to you by the Liberties Community Project.



DUBLIN
NIGHTS.IE

Dublin Inquirer



Ar Rannas Cultúir,
Cumannas agus Spóirt
Department of Culture,
Communications and Sport



TUESDAY 21ST JULY

7:45AM

€10

WELLNESS

SUNRISE YOGA AT THE GRAVITY BAR

GUINNESS STOREHOUSE (GRAVITY BAR)

Start your day with a special Sunrise Yoga session high above the city in the iconic Gravity Bar. Led by Hari (@fosyoga), each class will guide you through a mindful morning flow designed to awaken the body, calm the mind, and help you connect with the energy of a new day as the sun rises over Dublin's skyline. Surrounded by panoramic views of the city, this unique experience offers a moment of stillness, movement, and reflection before the day begins.

Participants need to bring their own mat and water. No prior yoga experience is necessary— all levels are warmly welcome.

BOOKING REQUIRED | €10 DONATION TOWARDS BEE8 INNER CITY BEEKEEPING INITIATIVE

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY DIAGEO IRELAND



WORKSHOP

FREE EVENT

11.30AM & 6.30PM

LIFE DRAWING PRACTICE

UNIT 2, LIBERTY VIEW, LONG'S PLACE

Join this special life drawing session for a relaxed and welcoming way to train your artistic muscles. All levels welcome.

All children under 18 need to be accompanied by an adult.

**BOOKING REQUIRED
SUGGESTED DONATION | €5**



WORKSHOP

€5

2:00PM



BEE8: BEE-KEEPING FOR BEGINNERS

**LEO FREEMAN MEADOW,
WATLING STREET**

Discover the fascinating world of bees with our Bee-keeping experience - an unforgettable opportunity to meet the bees, learn how they live and communicate, and gain hands-on insights into the essential role of beekeepers in sustaining our environment.

BOOKING REQUIRED | €5

SUGGESTED DONATION | €10

BELL-RINGING EXPERIENCE

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Climb the 86 steps up to the belfry, enjoy incredible city views from the gangway, before trying your hand at ringing the famous Christ Church bells. A 12+ event.

BOOKING REQUIRED

SUGGESTED DONATION | €5

2:00PM

FREE EVENT

CULTURE



6.15PM

FREE EVENT

PERFORMANCE

THIEVES & MAGPIES

DROP DEAD TWICE, 19 FRANCIS STREET

A curated, monthly night of works-in-progress, 10 minute excerpts, cast on the night from actors that attend, and then performed live. No feedback, just live audience reaction. There's a solo work, four scripted pieces (stage or screenplays) and a musical guest. Works in Irish are welcome. @thievesandmagpies

6.15pm (doors & casting), 7pm (cold reads)



7:00PM

FREE EVENT

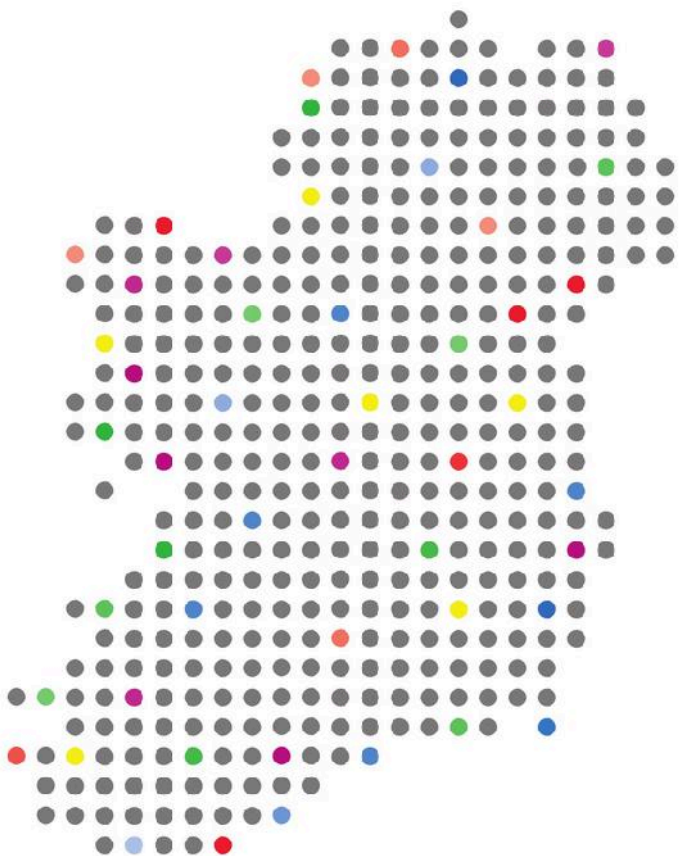
CLASSICS

GARDAÍ VS TRADERS

OLIVER BOND HOUSE FOOTBALL PITCH

The classic tussle returns. With everyone stoked after the World Cup, this showdown brings out of the best of the community, with the odd sliding tackle. Up for grabs is the Tony O'Rourke Memorial Cup. Ladies first. Guest of Honour will be Chris Forrester (St Patrick's Athletic)





**Every year, RTÉ supports more
than 160 arts events nationwide.**

Apply Now: www.rte.ie/supportingthearts

6.30PM - 8.30PM**FREE EVENT****CONVERSATIONS**

TALKING SHOP

A series of pop-up conversations after-hours with local businesses. The new series starts in Hopeless Botanics (6.30pm) followed by Thomas House (7.30pm). In association with Dublin Inquirer.

BOOKING REQUIRED**KINDLY SUPPORTED BY THE NIGHT-TIME ECONOMY ADVISOR****EXHIBITION LAUNCH****FREE EVENT****7:00PM**

A DISH TO REMEMBER

FUSCO'S, MEATH STREET

Emerging from our Open Call, artist Ayelet Lalor invited community members, old and new, to come together to share stories about food memories, and engage in a clay-making workshop to make the dishes come to life. These dishes will be exhibited and their memories, as captured, shared by Jennie Moran (Luncheonette) and designed by Nicky Hooper.

A Dish to Remember is a recipient of The Department of Culture, Communications and Sport Small Scale Local Festivals and Summer Schools Scheme.

9:00 - 11:00PM**FREE EVENT****MUSIC**

LIFFEY TONES

LIBERTY BELLE, FRANCIS STREET

For whom the trad tolls, join Áine Nally (whistle), Ian Kelly (banjo, bodhrán, guitar, vocals) & Tom O'Connor (bodhrán) for some classics.



OTHER EVENTS

6:00PM | MUSIC IN ST AUDOEN'S

See page 8 for more information

TAILORS' HALL SESSIONS

TAILORS' HALL



SESSION 1: LAOCH - BREANDÁN BREATHNACH, A LEGACY EXPLORED

DATE: WEDNESDAY 22ND JULY

TIME: 7:00PM - 8:15PM

To open our run of traditional arts programming at Tailor's Hall, join musicians Paddy Glackin and Peter Browne for this 'in conversation', exploring the life, work, and legacy of the iconic Breandán Breathnach (1912-1985); uilleann piper, collector, writer, publisher and Liberties native, whose influence is still felt as one of the most significant and enduring figures of Irish traditional music. As former career-long presenters and producers at RTÉ, Paddy and Peter will also respond to a selection of clips of Breathnach at his most astute, insightful, and entertaining.

Breandán Breathnach. Photograph by Liam McNulty, courtesy of ITMA



SESSION 2: LIFTING THE VEIL ON TOMMIE POTTS

DATE: THURSDAY 23RD JULY

TIME: 7PM

An 'in conversation' with fiddle players Liam O'Connor and Aoife Ní Bhriain alongside author and piper Seán Potts, to discuss the Irish Traditional Music Archive's publications on the legendary Liberties' fiddler Tommie Potts, The Sorrowful and the Great and The Unbroken Music of Heaven. Tommie's life and music will feature in the discussion along with audio-visual inserts and a performance of some of Potts's most famous pieces as transcribed by Aoife Ní Bhriain.



SESSION 3: THE PARTING GLASS

DATE: FRIDAY 24TH JULY

TIME: 8:00PM - 10.30PM

To close out our run at Tailor's Hall we have invited the mighty Eoghan O'Ceannabháin to host our open singing session. Singers, listeners, dreamers and schemers - all are welcome here. Eoghan O'Ceannabháin, much admired for his powerful and resonant voice, is a singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and community activist from Dublin, whose musical roots are in the Conamara sean-nós singing tradition.

Photo credit: Riona Ní Riagáin



Ceol na nDaoine

My curatorial guideline for this programme of events was an informative and entertaining 1970s RTÉ radio interview a young Paddy Glackin undertook with the iconic traditional music collector, editor, writer, piper and son of the Liberties, Breandán Breathnach.

When asked about the areas' status as a 'mecca of traditional music', Breathnach wryly reminds us that it was musicians migrating into the locale from rural Wexford, Meath, Wicklow, Galway, Clare and beyond that generated what would later come to be known as 'the music of the Liberties'.

Because the story of Irish traditional music in the Liberties, is not dissimilar to its story across the island of Ireland and out into the diaspora of Britain and America. One of migration and movement, into cities - for work, opportunity, out of necessity, or a desire for freedom and adventure.

From Bridget Kenny, dubbed 'The Queen of Irish Fiddlers' by collector Captain Francis O'Neill, and her daughter Christina Sheridan, whom fellow fiddle player and Liberties native Tommie Potts cites as a major influence on his playing. To concertina player Elizabeth Crotty from Kilrush, County Clare, visiting the Pipers' Club on Thomas St on regular trips to Dublin. To the piping of 'Old' John Potts, Tommy Reck, Dan Dowd, Breathnach himself, and the later flute playing of Mick O'Connor and on into younger generations of musicians - many of whom still reside in Dublin and will take part in this programme in celebration of the Liberties and its vibrant musical legacy.

My thanks to Festival Director Micheal McDermott and all at The Liberties Festival, to Niall Hackett, Nuala O'Connor, and the extraordinary line-up of musicians, singers, dancers, broadcasters, writers, makers, thinkers and talkers who will gather to share their art with you including - Peter Browne, Niamh Bury, Paddy Glackin, Edwina Guckian, Seamas Hyland, Sinéad Kennedy, Libby McCrohan, Sárán Mulligan, Aoife Ní Bhriain, Ultan O'Brien, Eoghan O'Ceannabháin, Liam O'Connor, and Seán Potts

Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine
Rósa Corcoran, July 2026

SUGGESTED DONATION | €5

WEDNESDAY 22ND JULY

12:00PM FREE EVENT WELLNESS

CHANGE YOUR BREATHING, CHANGE YOUR LIFE

GUINNESS ENTERPRISE CENTRE

Through mindfulness, breathwork, meditation, and honest dialogue, Matt Burke from Magic Minds helps people release emotional tension, gain clarity, nurture inner peace, and reconnect with their deepest strength and identity.

BOOKING REQUIRED

SUGGESTED DONATION | €5

NIVAL-GAZING: MAIREAD M. JOHNSTON'S FASHION CATALOGUES

NIVAL @ NATIONAL COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN (NCAD)

Join emerging curator Amelia O'Mahony-Brady to explore NIVAL's collection of exhibition catalogues by Mairead M. Johnston. These catalogues form a rare record of Mairead's Travelling Museum of Costume; a trailblazing project that brought museum-quality fashion into schoolhouses, shopping centres and other community spaces. A Warrenmount alumna, Mairead worked with local antiques dealers and factory workers to grow her collection, while her biggest exhibition – Footprints in Fashion (1978) – was staged in St. Catherine's Church. Amelia's talk will reintroduce this lost chapter of Liberties fashion and rewrite the myth that Ireland has no meaningful history of fashion curation.

BOOKING REQUIRED

SUGGESTED DONATION | €5

1.15PM

FREE EVENT

TALK



OTHER EVENTS

10:30AM | PEARSE LYONS DISTILLERY TOUR

3:30PM | MUSIC IN ST AUDOEN'S

6:00PM | IN OUR SHOES WALKING TOURS

6:30 - 8:30PM | TALKING SHOP

See page 7 for more information

See page 9 for more information

See page 9 for more information

See page 10 for more information

Dublin born and bred

Proudly rooted in Dublin 8,
Staycity are delighted to support
The Liberties Festival.

staycity 
aparthotels

9.30AM-6.30PM

FREE EVENT

SCREENING

LIVING CANVAS

IRISH MUSEUM OF MODERN ART (IMMA)

In partnership with IMMA Horizons, we are programming a community screening of a number of works selected from an Open Call process on its Living Canvas screen during the week of the Festival. Screenings will run from July 23rd -26th. The selected works are:

The Blocks (2026)

Gareth McGowran

The Blocks project has set out to capture the lived experience of the five members of the Step by Step group who meet every Friday in St. Andrews Community Centre for family support run by Rialto Community Drug Team.

Three Castles Crumbling (2025)

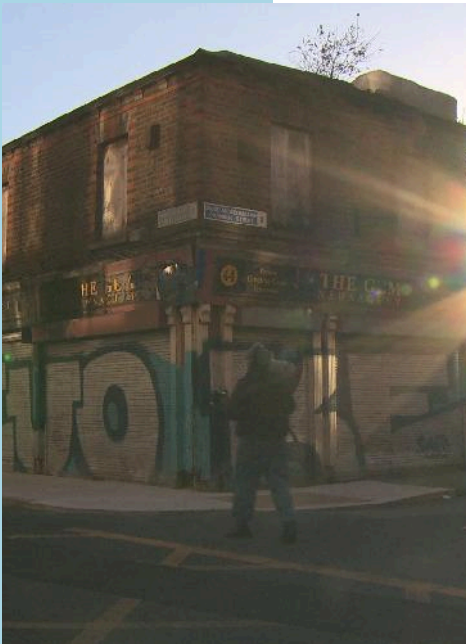
Emma Murphy

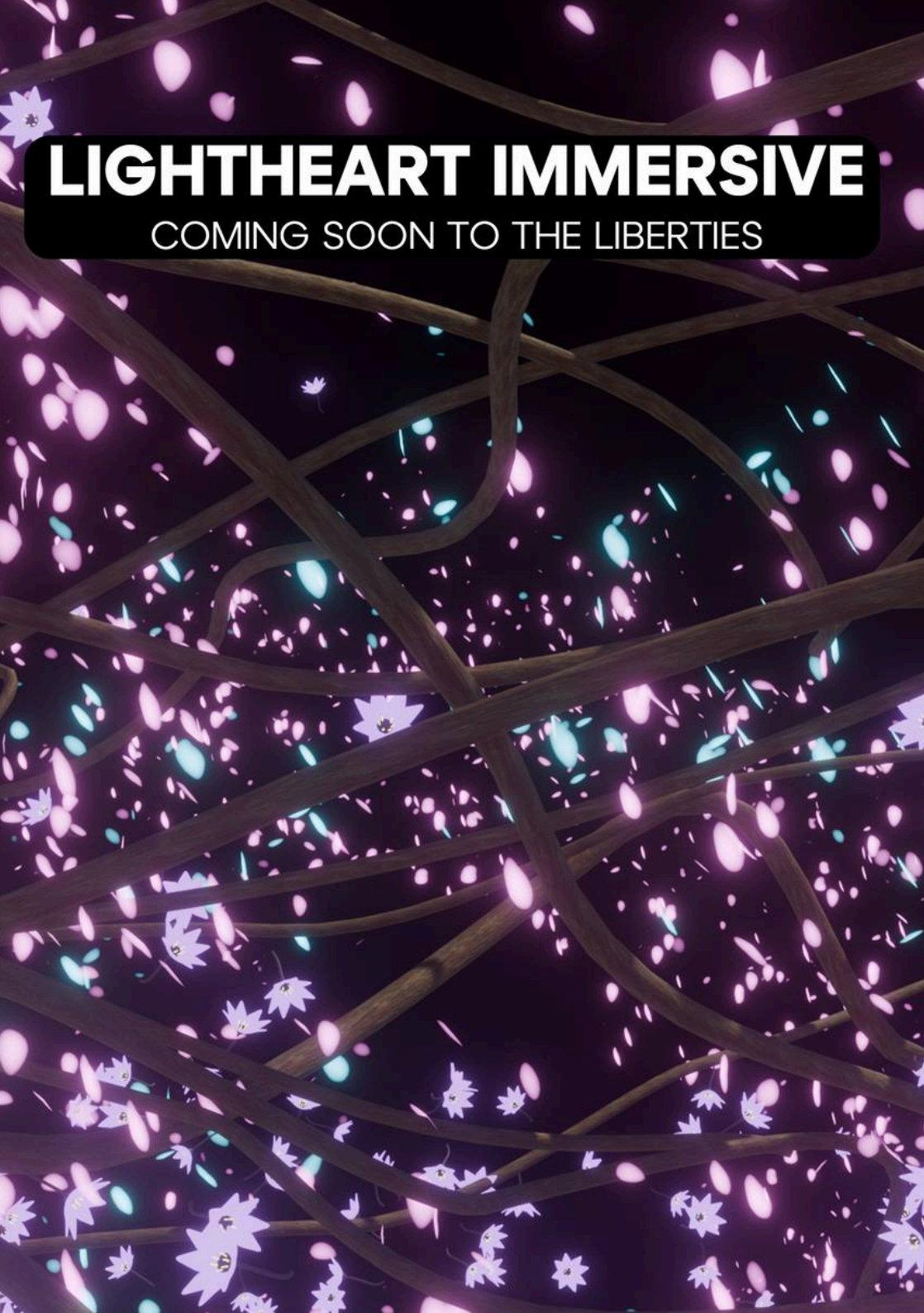
Three Castles Crumbling highlights sites of dereliction in Dublin's inner city, referencing the city's coat of arms where three castles burn, the piece reconstructs neglected sites, such as Iveagh Market, Ormond Quay and Cork Street, using photogrammetry and 3D modelling.

Echoes Between Noise and Nothingness (2025)

Friederike Jaich

A short, sound-led moving image work that explores the textures and rhythms of Dublin through a series of observational scenes. The film is driven by its audio, with minimal visuals accompanied by a small number of guiding questions presented through subtitles, inviting the viewer to reflect on the relationship between sound, place, and community.





LIGHTHEART IMMERSIVE

COMING SOON TO THE LIBERTIES

2:00PM - 4:00PM**FREE EVENT****WORKSHOP**

MUSIC

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

Discover the Cathedral's rich musical history and give your children hands-on experience with the WOOFYT organ (a wooden, one-octave organ designed for young technologists). In this engaging workshop, a skilled facilitator will explain how organs work, and children will have the chance to explore the connection between music, science, and technology. This workshop offers an exciting opportunity for the whole family to learn, create, and explore music in a beautiful and historic setting. Ages 6+ All children must be accompanied by an adult.

BOOKING REQUIRED**6:00PM - 9:00PM****FREE EVENT****BLOCK PARTY**

GUINNESS OPEN GATE BREWERY

53 JAMES'S ST, ST. JAMES'S GATE

Join us behind the gates for a Summer Block Party. Enjoy the Liberties Festival-exclusive Batch Bread Red Ale, alongside a BBQ, live music, and plenty of great company.

BOOKING REQUIRED

TRADITIONAL ARTS

FREE EVENT

7:00PM - 8.15PM

LAOCH - BREANDÁN BREATHNACH, A LEGACY EXPLORED

TAILORS' HALL

To open our run of traditional arts programming at Tailor's Hall, join musicians Paddy Glackin and Peter Browne for this 'in conversation', exploring the life, work, and legacy of the iconic Breandán Breathnach (1912-1985). See page 16 for more information

SUGGESTED DONATION | €5



Breandán Breathnach. Photograph by Liam McNulty, courtesy of ITMA

JONATHAN SWIFT'S LAST JOKE

ARTHUR'S (UPSTAIRS), 28 THOMAS STREET

This year marks the 300th anniversary of the publication Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift, one of the most influential books ever written. But did the writer have a secret satirical intent around the composition of his own epitaph at his resting place in St Patrick's Cathedral. Trinity College Law Professor David Kenny set about finding out. Subject of a recent New Yorker article, Kenny will be joined by much cherished historian Donal Fallon to discuss his discoveries.

BOOKING REQUIRED

SUGGESTED DONATION | €5



Illustration credit: Jan Robert Dünneweller

7.00PM

FREE EVENT

TALK

QUIZ NIGHT

7:30PM

FREE EVENT

CLASSIC

TOM KENNEDY'S THOMAS STREET

Test your smarts at the annual Festival quiz with quizmaster Damian McElligott before kicking back to some karaoke.

THURSDAY 23RD JULY

MEDIEVAL WALKING TOUR

DUBLINIA, ST MICHAEL'S HILL

Starting from their landmark building, located in Dublin's historic heart, join Dublinia's brilliant tour guide to hear the story of Viking and Medieval.

SUGGESTED DONATION | €5

10:30AM

FREE EVENT

WALK



WORKSHOP

FREE EVENT

11:00AM-1:00PM (DROP-IN BASIS)



MEDIEVAL CALLIGRAPHY

THE DEANERY MEWS

In this hands-on session, children will discover how paper, ink, and quills were made in the past. They'll get to touch real materials like parchment paper and oak gall ink and try their hand at writing with an authentic feather quill—just like medieval scribes! With their new calligraphy skills, children will be free to write their own diary entry or short story to take home. Ages 8+ All children must be accompanied by an adult.

BOOKING REQUIRED

OTHER EVENTS

7:45AM | SUNRISE YOGA AT THE GRAVITY BAR

10:30AM | PEARSE LYONS DISTILLERY TOUR

2:00PM | BELL-RINGING EXPERIENCE

2:00PM | BEE8: BEE-KEEPING FOR BEGINNERS

6:00PM | MUSIC IN ST AUDOEN'S

6:30 - 8:30PM | TALKING SHOP

See page 11 for more information

See page 7 for more information

See page 12 for more information

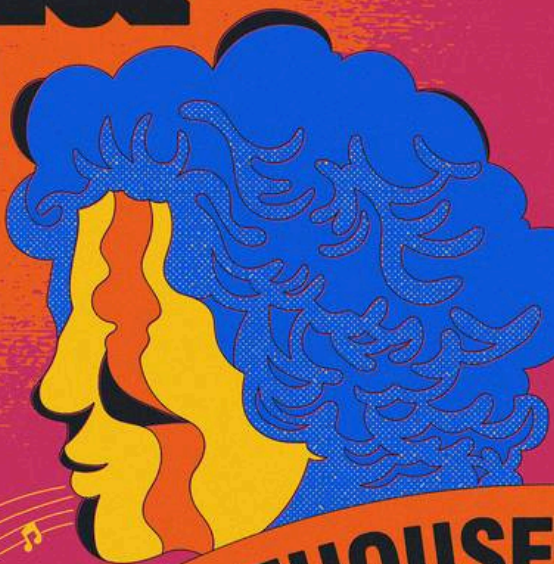
See page 12 for more information

See page 9 for more information

See page 10 for more information

The Liberties Festival presents

THE BLUE RINSE BALL



GUINNESS STOREHOUSE
THURS · JULY 23 · 7pm-10pm
ENTERTAINMENT BY LIZ DUFFY
& SPECIAL GUESTS

**RAFFLE
PRIZES
€10**

 **GUINNESS
STOREHOUSE**

**LIB
ERTIES**
FESTIVAL

**LIB
ERTIES**
COMMUNITY PROJECT

The Liberties Festival is brought to you
by The Liberties Community Project

Kindly Supported by **DIAGEO**
Ireland

WHERE DO WE ALL BELONG?

THE BANK, 85 JAMES STREET

Where do we all belong? is a socially engaged visual art project exploring experiences of loneliness, connection, and belonging in The Liberties.

The project began in May with a research phase that sought to better understand local attitudes, experiences, and insights relating to loneliness in the area. Feedback was gathered through conversations with residents, meetings with local community groups and organisations, and an anonymous questionnaire distributed locally and available online. The project was first realised in Sligo in autumn 2025, culminating in an exhibition at Abhainn Studio Gallery.

Where do we all belong? is a Liberties Festival commission which will culminate in a public exhibition at The Bank, 85 James Street on 24–25 July, presenting artwork developed in response to the research and engagement process.

The project is supported through the Dublin City Arts Office Neighbourhood Grant Scheme and the Digital Hub.

Exhibition opens Thursday July 23 at 6:30pm; limited spaces, booking advised. It is also open Friday July 24 & Saturday July 25, 12pm - 4pm.

There will be a lunchtime talk at 1.15pm on Friday July 24th around the project with its creators, participants and external insights.



Artist: Ronan Dillon
Photography: Peter Martin
Producer: Noel Feeney

wheredoweallbelong.com

With thanks to all the locals who took a survey and shared their stories with us. A special thanks to Fran, Sean, Olena and Hilda from the Liberties Community Project, Sarah Byrne, Ruth from Little Flower Penny Dinners and Kim from the Sister Shed, who introduced us to local community groups.



MOLLOYS

WINE | LIQUOR | BEER | MERCHANTS

LIBERTIES

125 Francis Street

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LIBERTIESFESTIVAL



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NIVAL-GAZING: ARTISTS' STUDIOS AND THE LIBERTIES

NIVAL @ NATIONAL COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN (NCAD)

Join us in NIVAL for a lunchtime talk about the rise and fall of artists' studios in the Liberties and the wider Dublin city centre and the importance of recording artists' activities in the locality. This talk will be presented by NIVAL's Library Assistant, Aoife Ward, whose artistic practice with collaborator Eve Woods (jointly known as Con:temporary Quarters) is a collaborative project which brings attention to the use and availability of public space and the replacement of cultural and community spaces with large, closed developments.

BOOKING REQUIRED

SUGGESTED DONATION | €5



"The Hidden Green (AB/1108), Artists; Books Collection. National Irish Visual Arts Library (NIVAL), NCAD, Dublin. Photograph by Clare Lymer."

OPEN STUDIO

FREE EVENT

6:00-9:00PM



THROWING SHAPES

MILL STREET

Throwing Shapes are opening up the studio for the evening.

Come in, have a look around, and find out what we're all about - classes, membership, markets, events and more. Whether you've been meaning to try ceramics or just want to see what goes on behind the Mill Street door, this one's for you.

GUINNESS 0.0

PROUD SPONSOR OF THE LIBERTIES FESTIVAL



be drinkaware.co.uk

Get the facts. Be [DRINK AWARE](http://drinkaware.ie)

Visit drinkaware.ie

6:00PM**FREE EVENT****WORKSHOP: ROE & CO**

IRISH COFFEE ROE-IMAGINED EXPERIENCE

ROE & CO DISTILLERY, 92 JAMES'S STREET

A special Irish Coffee workshop where you will explore the history of Irish Coffee, make your own Irish Coffee-style cocktail, and enjoy a guided tasting of two mini serves from our newly launched cocktail menu! This workshops takes place 23th and 24th July 2026.

BOOKING REQUIRED**SUGGESTED DONATION | €5****TRADITIONAL ARTS****FREE EVENT****7:00PM**

LIFTING THE VEIL ON TOMMIE POTTS TAILORS' HALL

An 'in conversation' with fiddle players Liam O'Connor and Aoife Ní Bhriain alongside author and piper Seán Potts, to discuss the Irish Traditional Music Archive's publications on the legendary Liberties' fiddler Tommie Potts, *The Sorrowful* and *The Great and The Unbroken Music of Heaven*. Tommie's life and music will feature in the discussion along with audio-visual inserts and a performance of some of Potts's most famous pieces as transcribed by Aoife Ní Bhriain.

SUGGESTED DONATION | €5

BLUE RINSE BALL

7:00PM - 10:00PM**€10****CLASSIC****GUINNESS STOREHOUSE**

It's the Liberties Met Gala, a celebration of, and for, members of the community who make The Liberties what it is.

KINDLY SUPPORTED BY DIAGEO IRELAND

FRIDAY 24TH JULY

10:00AM-3:00PM

FREE EVENT

DRAWING

SKETCH THE CATHEDRAL

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

Take part in a special drawing competition inspired by the beauty and history of Saint Patrick's Cathedral! Young artists will be able to explore the Cathedral, choose their favourite view and create their own artwork using the materials provided at our creative station. There is inspiration around every corner! Once completed, children can submit their artwork to take part in the competition. A jury panel will select winning and highly commended drawings from each category, with art prizes for the winners. Selected entries will be featured in an online exhibition

BOOKING REQUIRED



TOUR

FREE EVENT

10:30AM



DUBLINIA BUILDING TOUR

DUBLINIA, ST MICHAEL'S HILL

Take a tour of their magnificent landmark building in the centre of Dublin, the Synod Hall, which is now home to Dublinia, a museum exploring Viking and Medieval history. Learn about its history from medieval times, its connection to Christchurch Cathedral, and explore parts of the museum not open to the public.

BOOKING REQUIRED

OTHER EVENTS

10:30AM | PEARSE LYONS DISTILLERY TOUR

11:00AM | IN OUR SHOES WALKING TOURS

1:15PM | WHERE DO WE ALL BELONG?

3:30PM | MUSIC IN ST AUDOEN'S

6:00PM | IRISH COFFEE ROE-IMAGINED EXPERIENCE

See page 7 for more information

See page 9 for more information

See page 25 for more information

See page 9 for more information

See page 29 for more information

FOCUS IN MOTION

GUINNESS ENTERPRISE CENTRE

Through mindfulness, breathwork, meditation, and honest dialogue, Matt Burke from Magic Minds helps people release emotional tension, gain clarity, nurture inner peace, and reconnect with their deepest strength and identity.

BOOKING REQUIRED

SUGGESTED DONATION | €5

TALK

FREE EVENT

1:00PM



NIVAL-GAZING: A SENSE OF PLACE IN NIVAL'S ARTISTS' BOOKS COLLECTION

NIVAL @ NATIONAL COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN (NCAD)

The artist book considers space, content, and context. Does locality influence how an artist's book is made? Join Ruth Hallinan to explore the artist book collection of the National Irish Visual Arts Library (NIVAL) in terms of the Liberties and the artists who work here.

BOOKING REQUIRED

SUGGESTED DONATION | €5

LIBERTIES NEXT

**SAINT CATHERINE'S CHURCH,
THOMAS STREET**

Join Chats in the Flats and The Performance Corporation (Pretty Vacant) as they discuss creative responses in the community and issues of concern. MC: Anita Reilly

6.30PM

FREE EVENT

CONVERSATIONS



57 Clanbrassil St, Dublin 8 | thelibertinedublin.ie | 01 572 7100

DIP THE BEAK OR STAY A WEEK

The **LIBERTINE**

LOUNGE & LODGINGS

CLANBRASSIL ST



SOUTH CIRCULAR RD



7:00PM

FREE EVENT

CYCLE

IBIKE

**OUTSIDE IVEAGH MARKET,
FRANCIS STREET**

Join fellow bike enthusiasts for an hour-long, music-filled, leisurely cycle around the Liberties.

Suitable for people of all ages and abilities.
@ibikedublin



TRADITIONAL ARTS

FREE EVENT

8:00PM - 10.30PM



Photo credit: Ríona Ní Riagáin

THE PARTING GLASS

TAILORS' HALL

To close out our run at Tailor's Hall we have invited the mighty Eoghan O'Ceannabáin to host our open singing session. Singers, listeners, dreamers and schemers - all are welcome here.

Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin, much admired for his powerful and resonant voice, is a singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and community activist from Dublin, whose musical roots are in the Conamara sean-nós singing tradition.

SUGGESTED DONATION | €5

GRAND FINAL

MORRISSEY'S, 80 CORK STREET

The Grand Final of the local karaoke competition is here with €1000 up for grabs. Special guest is Liz Duffy from the Liberties Community Project, our very own singer extraordinaire.

9.30PM

FREE EVENT

KARAOKE

SATURDAY 25TH JULY

OPEN DAY FREE EVENT

11:00AM-2:00PM



WALDORF SCHOOL

92 MEATH STREET

Step inside the historic Dublin Waldorf School and enjoy a rare opportunity to experience this unique educational space at the heart of the Liberties. Housed in a beautiful former crèche building with deep roots in the local community, the school continues a long tradition of care, creativity, and connection.

Guests will also be able to browse and purchase a selection of beautiful handmade Waldorf-inspired crafts, seasonal items, and children’s books while meeting members of the school community and learning more about life inside this iconic Meath Street building.

11.30AM-5:00PM

FREE EVENT POP-UP MARKET

ART MART HEN'S TEETH, BLACKPITTS

Bringing together a vibrant mix of emerging and established talent, the market will showcase art and photography from some of Hen’s Teeth’s favourite artists, including Jacky Sheridan, Laura Callaghan, Shane O’Driscoll, BP Fallon, Chris Judge and Karl Magee, alongside a host of other exciting names. Visitors can pick up original works in a relaxed, social setting, with food and drinks served throughout the weekend.



OTHER EVENTS

12.30PM & 2.15PM | BELL-RINGING EXPERIENCE

See page 12 for more information

10:00AM - 3:00PM

FREE EVENT

SINGING

SACRED HARP

**ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH,
THOMAS STREET**

Sacred Harp is a participatory singing tradition, dating back to New England, in the late 1800s, that uses "shape-note" notation to make sight-reading easy. Singers arrange themselves in a "hollow square" and sing a cappella, focusing on communal enjoyment and powerful four-part harmony rather than performance. In 2025 a new revision of the Sacred Harp hymnal was published with over 80 songs added to the book, many by modern composers, highlighting the fact that Shapenote singing is a living, breathing tradition. The Dublin singers are excited to showcase many of these new tunes at the Liberties Festival

SUGGESTED DONATION | €5



WALK

FREE EVENT

1:00PM & 6:00PM

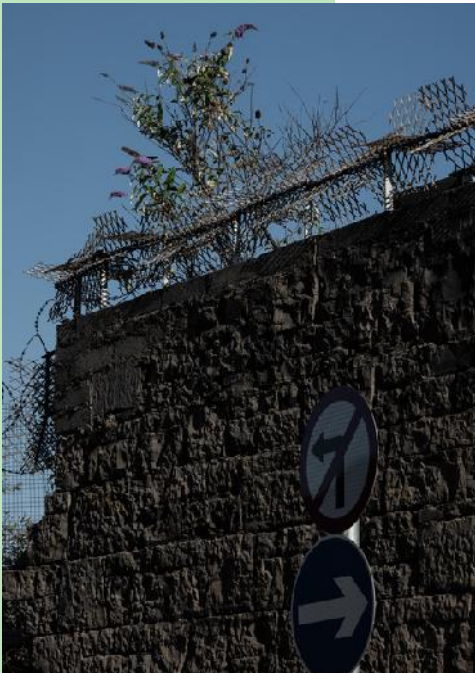
PHOTOWALK

**HOPELESS BOTANICS,
DEAN COURT**

Open Call 2026: Join photographer Ste Murray for a photo walk around The Liberties, where you will capture plant life that goes unnoticed in urban environments. The walk will focus on buddleia as a symbol of change, transition and regeneration - expect plenty of conversations around architecture, vacancy and the public realm.

Photographers of all ages and competencies are welcome. Participants must bring their own camera, or even smartphone.

**BOOKING REQUIRED
SUGGESTED DONATION | €5**



LIBERTIES @ SMOCK ALLEY DIVAS DOUBLE BILL: D'MINI GIRLOS X LIBERTIES LASSES + LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

DUBLIN MUNICIPAL THEATRE AT SMOCK ALLEY



The Liberties Festival proudly presents community groups on the stage of the iconic Smock Alley Theatre. "The world sees a postcode. People call them common. This is their answer."

Common is a bold, funny and deeply heartfelt new theatre piece following a group of teenage dance students as they navigate friendship, conflict and the pressures of growing up under the weight of other people's assumptions. Labelled, underestimated and judged for where they come from, the girls clash with one another before discovering the strength that comes from standing together.

This special work-in-progress showing presents three scenes from the production, offering a glimpse into a story inspired by the voices, experiences and imagination of the young people who created it. At its heart, Common is about challenging prejudice, celebrating working-class identity, and finding connection in unexpected places.

Created by the Mini Girlos from Oliver Bond Flats, Common is supported by The Liberties Festival, Dublin Youth Theatre and facilitated by D'Girlos Theatre Company.

12PM - 2PM (DOUBLE BILL: COMMON, ON MEATH STREET)

BOOKING REQUIRED
SUGGESTED DONATION | €5



On Meath Street - Come hear us bang on about The Liberties.

A community theatre performance created by the Liberty Lasses and organised by artists Hannah Scrine & Linda Hederman. Developed through a socially-engaged arts process cooked up with the Liberties Community Development Project, the work draws on the experiences, humour and perspectives of gentrification and change, by women living in and around The Liberties.

Support for this project was received from Dublin City Council Arts Office Community Development Grant & The Liberties Festival.

12PM - 2PM (DOUBLE BILL: COMMON, ON MEATH STREET)

Little Red Riding Hood – A New Version
A lively musical adaptation of the classic fairy tale, performed by the children of Kids Rock Theatre Studio. Familiar characters, catchy songs, humour, and an unexpected news-reporting twist bring the well-known story to life in a fresh and entertaining way. Suitable for audiences of all ages.

2.30PM - 3PM (LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD)





EVERY CHILD DESERVES SAFETY

Supporting children to stay safe, learn, and thrive in Cameroon

In Cameroon, ongoing insecurity, lockdowns, and climate shocks have made daily life increasingly difficult. As a result, many children are missing school, experiencing distress, and facing greater risks of violence and exploitation.

With funding from European Union Humanitarian Aid, Plan International, together with local partners Green Partners Association and Public Concern, are providing practical support to children and families in the North-West and Far North regions. This includes creating safe spaces for crisis-affected children, where they can play and receive psychosocial support, sexual and reproductive health information, and life skills trainings. In addition, out-of-school children are provided with accelerated, non-formal education programmes to support their learning and integration into formal schooling. To date, 8,649 people have been supported to feel safer, access education, and improve their wellbeing.



About Plan International

Plan International is a development and humanitarian organisation working in over 80 countries worldwide, including Ireland. We stand alongside girls and the communities around them to break down barriers, protect rights, and strive for a just world where we are all equal.

About EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid

The European Union and its Member States are among the world's leading donors of humanitarian aid. Relief assistance is an expression of European solidarity with people in need all around the world. It aims to save lives, prevent and alleviate human suffering, and safeguard the integrity and human dignity of populations affected by disasters and human-induced crises. Through its humanitarian aid operations and funding, the European Union helps millions of victims of conflict and disasters every year.

Join us!

We will be attending the Family Fun Day as a part of the Liberties Festival to showcase the impact of our project on children's safety, security, and protection. Come visit our stall and take part in the following activities:

- **Tree of Child Safety:** Decorate leaves with messages on keeping children safe and add them to a our child safety tree, symbolising collective protection. Surrounding elements on the tree will highlight protection risks in Cameroon and project actions.
- **Every Child Counts:** Create and decorate mock birth certificates for yourself, your child, their teddys, siblings, or pets, reflecting the project's work to support vulnerable children in obtaining birth certificates, enabling access to essential services such as education.
- **Information Leaflets:** Pick up one of our leaflets on the key project activities and results.



Funded by
the European Union



LIBERTIES X: COMMUNITY GOT TALENT

SACRED HEART STATUE ON REGNALD STREET

Our community talent showcase returns for its third outing. With locals musicians, choirs, majorettes, performers & surprises. MC: Anita (Gogglebox)



BANNER BASH AT COMMUNITY GOT TALENT



Banner Bash is a creative initiative responding to the growing association of the Irish flag with far-right movements and the fear and intimidation this can create. The workshop invites young people from the area to collaboratively design and create a new flag, with each participant contributing an individual piece that will be attached through sewing, gluing, or stapling. A simple instructional pamphlet demonstrating basic stitching techniques will be provided.

KINDLY SUPPORTED BY SMART D8

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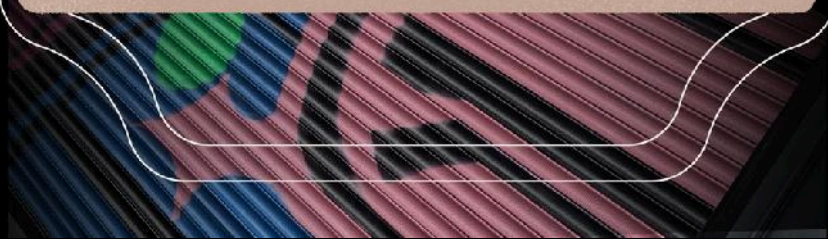


Phone : (01) 454 2852

Website : www.gilnaopticians.ie

Opening Hours : MON-FRI 9:30 AM-5:30 PM

| SAT : 9:30 AM-5:00 PM



2:00PM - 4:00PM

FREE EVENT

OPEN SESSION

TUNES IN THE BEE-LOUD GLADE

**LEO FREEMAN MEADOW,
WATLING STREET**

Musicians and listeners are invited to join fiddle player Sinéad Kennedy for tunes and chat amongst the hives of the Bee8 urban apiary garden.

Bee8 is Ireland's largest urban apiary project and social enterprise of the Liberties Community Project, managing 40 beehives across Dublin city. They provide free training and courses on beekeeping, biodiversity, and planting, to local community members, and manage sensors at hive sites that monitor local environmental performance.

Sinéad Kennedy is a fiddle player and visual artist from the Bronx NY / Co Meath. She teaches music and visual arts to adults in the community in City of Dublin FET College, Thomas Street.



Inclusive learner session, all welcome.

3:00PM - 5:00PM

FREE EVENT

TOURNAMENT

MICHAEL MALLIN PARK TOURNAMENT

MICHAEL MALLIN PARK

Michael Mallin Park Tournament is a community football event aimed at encouraging young people to engage in sport and outdoor activity. The tournament will provide an inclusive and social space for local young people to come together through football.

KINDLY SUPPORTED BY SMART D8

LUCKY'S

**78 MEATH ST
DUBLIN 8**



**COFFEE
FOOD
BEER
COCKTAILS**

@LUCKYSDUBLIN

3:00PM-9:00PM**FREE EVENT****EXHIBITION**

OUTLET

PALLAS OPEN PROJECTS

POP presents OUTLET, the inaugural exhibition at Pallas Open Projects. As the name suggests OUTLET is a series of workshops/events offering activities as a means of escape. OUTLET is hosted and presented by Pallas Projects/Studios staff, combining skills from their careers as Arts Workers, Artists and DJs. Taking its title from both the idea of an emotional or creative outlet and the electrical outlet as a point of connection and activation, the exhibition and surrounding events explore the ways people seek release, recharge and community within the conditions of contemporary working life.

Bringing together painting, textiles, and video works by participating artists and expanding beyond the gallery format, OUTLET will host an opening party alongside a programme of workshops, listening parties and a dedicated “work from home together” day. Transforming the space into a site of exchange, the gallery becomes an active social environment: a temporary infrastructure for exchange, rest, and participation. OUTLET invites audiences to engage with art not only as something to observe, but as something to plug into and as a shared space for circulation. Artists: Cristina Nicotra, Dámhín Mckeown, Emily Forster, Jowy Ahia, Lana May Fleming and Seán Kelly. Exhibition continues: 30/07-08/08 Wednesday-Saturday 12-6pm

**3.30PM****FREE EVENT****MUSIC**

MUSIC IN THE ROUND

KEVIN KAVANAGH GALLERY, CHANCERY LANE

Indie Rock Sweethearts Milk Rain, and some friends present an afternoon of blues, rock and roll, performed in the round inside the Kevin Kavanagh Contemporary Art Gallery. Milk Rain have been described as “a modern national treasure” (Timpeall on Torann, Zine, 2025) with sounds inspired by garage, surf and art rock, with an Irish twist. They hope to make you dance, laugh and reflect on the highs and lows of modern love in our capital city.



SUMMER AT IMMA



JUNE / JULY / AUGUST 2026

The Irish Museum Modern Art's vibrant summer programme welcomes you to enjoy free events and activities in the beautiful surroundings of IMMA in Dublin 8.

Explore the Programme
www.imma.ie
Or Scan the QR code

**Exhibitions / Performances /
Outdoor Screenings / Music /
Workshops / Family Activities /
Yoga / Café & lots more!**



#IMMA

IMMA ÁRAS NUA-EALÁINE
NA NEIREANN
IRISH MUSEUM OF
MODERN ART



An Roinn Cultúir,
Cumarsáide agus Spóirt
Department of Culture,
Communications and Sport



OPW

Óráig na
oifigeanna phobail
Office of Public Works

IPUT REAL ESTATE
DUBLIN

5:00PM

FREE EVENT

CLASSIC

CHURCH BINGO

SAINT CATHERINE'S CHURCH, THOMAS STREET

Eyes down and dabbers at the ready for a full house. Prizes for winners.

BOOKING REQUIRED

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY HEALTH SERVICES STAFFS CREDIT UNION (HSSCU)

PERFORMANCE

€5

7:00PM



UNRULY SPIRITS: REBELLIOUS WOMEN IN SONG

MARROWBONE BOOKS

Marrowbone Books will host singer and musician Niamh Bury for an intimate acoustic set of traditional and original songs. Niamh Bury is one of the chief organisers of the iconic traditional singing session, The Night Before Larry Got Stretched, which famously takes place in The Cobblestone pub. One of the first new artists in almost two decades to be signed to Ireland's most culturally important record label, Claddagh Records, she is recognised as a highly distinctive new voice.

BOOKING REQUIRED | €5

THE MEETING ROOM

TAILOR'S HALL, BACK LANE

Open Call 2026: The Meeting Room is an evening of performance and art by emerging artists from the Liberties and across Dublin, as part of the Liberties Festival 2026 programme, responding to the experience of being young in the city right now! Developed by Caoimhe O'Farrell (LEGROOM Collective) and Gabriela Wacławska (@gabubabubu), the project comes from a growing frustration with the lack of affordable, accessible spaces for 18–30-year-olds to make work, meet others and engage with the arts. With venues closing and the cost of living increasing, opportunities for emerging artists to share work are increasingly limited. The Meeting Room is a participatory, audience-focused experience linking people aged 18–30 with each other and the city around them. Join us in Tailor's Hall dressed in your most outrageous officewear!!

BOOKING REQUIRED | €5

7:30PM

€5

PERFORMANCE





THE LIBERTY BELLE



THE PERFECT PINT



**HOME OF "BEST LOCAL
PUB IN IRELAND 2024"**



**SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1845**

***Traditional Irish family-run pub in the
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Owned and run by the Young Family***

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f The Liberty Belle

https://www.thelibertybelle.ie

33 Francis Street, The Liberties, Dublin, D08A9T3

SUNDAY 26TH JULY

ZUMBA

ST CATHERINE'S PARK

This high energy Zumba class with X blends Latin inspired dance with easy to follow moves to get your heart punmping and body moving. Suitable for all ages and fitness levels.

BOOKING REQUIRED | €5
KINDLY SUPPORTED BY SMART D8

12:00PM

€5

WELLNESS



MARKET

FREE EVENT



11:00AM-5:00PM

WE LOVE MARKETS

DIGITAL HUB, THOMAS STREET

Join us for our Liberties Festival edition of our monthly Flea Market @The Digital Hub. With over 70 stalls, ranging from vintage to collectables and local crafters. Hot food and artisan food with great coffee from Gordon @Container Coffee. Have a rummage, find one of a kind items, unique finds and hidden treasures. A space to hang out and meet your mates. See you there!

OTHER EVENTS

10:30AM | PEARSE LYONS DISTILLERY TOUR

See page 7 for more information

11:00AM | IN OUR SHOES WALKING TOURS

See page 9 for more information

WHATEVER THE WEATHER,
THE ABBEY THEATRE IS HERE
FOR YOU THIS SUMMER



THE WHITE HEADED BOY

3 June-25 July 2026



Ulster American

12-22 August 2026



Mirandolina

28 August-5 September 2026



National Theatre Tours

5 Times a Week



Book your summer entertainment at abbeytheatre.ie

11:00AM - 3:00PM

FREE EVENT

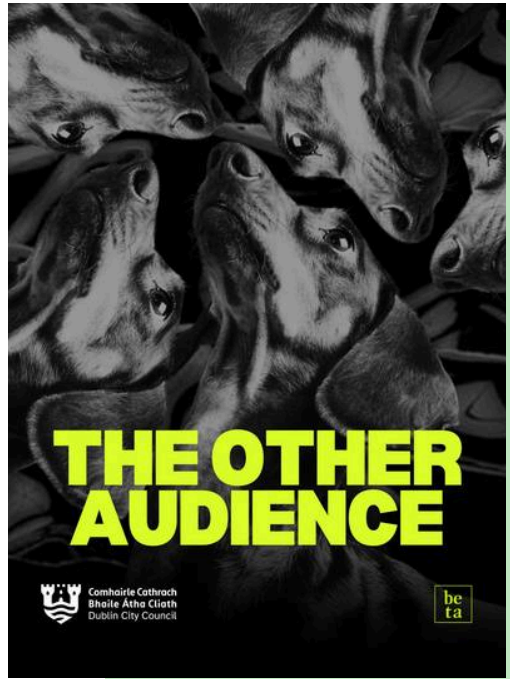
GATHERING

THE OTHER AUDIENCE

BRIDGEFOOT STREET PARK

Would your dog like to be part of a new artwork? Have you ever wondered how your dog experiences the city? 🐾

Beta Festival, Ireland's festival of art and technology, is launching a new strand of programming that asks: what does it mean to make art for someone who isn't human? For 2026, we begin with our most immediate non-human companions: our pets. Artist Gabriela Wacławska invites your dog (and you) to take part in a workshop exploring the city from a dog's perspective, gathering sounds, stories and sensory experiences that will contribute to a new artwork about how animals listen to and navigate urban environments. Beta is co-founded by The Digital Hub. The Other Audience initiative is funded by Dublin City Council Arts Office.



PERFORMANCE

FREE EVENT

2:00PM - 4:00PM



SAGE IN THE FIELDS

TAPLINS PARK, BRIDGEFOOT STREET PARK

Spend a summer afternoon in Taplin's Field Community Garden with White Sage, the experimental music project of Andy Walsh. Expect dreamy electronic soundscapes, live improvisation, guest musicians, and an exploration of the garden's natural acoustics. The afternoon will gradually move from ambient listening to a laid-back DJ set, with plenty of space to chat, relax, dance and enjoy one of the Liberties' hidden green spaces.

LYNOTT'S

— 61-63 MEATH STREET —

LIVE MUSIC EVERY FRI-SUN



WE SHOW ALL
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LIVE ON OUR SCREENS



CLASS PINTS
DEADLY COCKTAILS



PINT & TOASTIE
= €10
ALL WEEKEND



FULL KITCHEN
COMING SOON

— Come —
TRY OUT THE LIBERTIES'
NEWEST LOCAL
★



WE CAN CATER FOR ALOT OF EVENTS INCLUDING
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DIVORCES & MORE!

Booking enquiries



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01 558 4902

1:00PM - 4:00PM

FREE EVENT

CLASSIC

FAMILY FUN DAY

ST AUDOEN'S PARK

An afternoon of entertainment for children with magicians, face-painters, performers, tie-dye workshops, Party Bears and surprises...

KINDLY SUPPORTED BY STAYCITY



LUGHNASA IN

Presented by the Seán Corcoran Series

WORKSHOP

FREE EVENT

SUNDAY 19TH JULY

10:00AM AND 2:00PM



Image credit: Votive Illustration

STRAWBOYS COSTUME MAKING FACTORY

F2 CENTRE, RIALTO

Join us to make your own strawboys hat and costume for our Bilberry Ball the following Sunday, and come to the dance in your own creation!

All welcome. No experience necessary.
Refreshments served

BOOKING REQUIRED

11:00AM AND 2:30PM

SATURDAY 25TH JULY

FREE EVENT

WORKSHOP

SOWING THE SEED: PUBLISHING WORKSHOP

ID8 STUDIO AT THE DIGITAL HUB

Join creative producer and facilitator, Rita Hynes of Cailleach Books, for a publishing workshop following the Strawboys Costume Making Factory! Assemble a unique process-led workbook and play with the form of the book, the zine and the something in-between.

Your completed workbook will be archived at the National Irish Visual Arts Library (NIVAL) as part of an ongoing collaboration with NCAD.
cailleachbooks.com

All Strawboy costume makers welcome. No experience necessary.

BOOKING REQUIRED

Rita Hynes image credit: Josh Stanley, 2025.



THE LIBERTIES

in association with Edwina Guckian

SUNDAY 26TH JULY

FREE EVENT

12:00PM - 1.30PM



Image credit: Votive Illustration

THE LIBERTIES RAMBLE

VARIOUS LOCATIONS WITHIN THE LIBERTIES

Rambling, also referred to as Céilí-ing, Raking, and Bothántaíocht, is the rural tradition of house calling or visiting neighbours that was the custom for many generations in Ireland; sharing tea, chat, music, stories, songs, news, and playing cards. Our merry band of strawboys will ramble to a selection of homes and gardens within the Liberties in their woven costumes, for music, dance, and mischief. Keep an eye on our socials for the planned route, and you might catch a glimpse of them.

3:00PM - 5:00PM

SUNDAY 26TH JULY

FREE EVENT

BALL

THE BILBERRY BALL

MICHAEL MALLIN PARK



BOOKING REQUIRED
SUGGESTED DONATION | €10

The magic of the ancient festival of Lughnasa is coming to the heart of the Liberties at this specially curated Bilberry Ball where the strawboys (and girls!) will raise the dust of Michael Mallin Park for a dance party with Edwina Guckian and the Stray Sod Ceilí Band.

Bilberry or Fraochán Sunday, falls on the last Sunday in July. The small purple bilberry that grows wild amongst the heather, was picked and baked in cakes for prospective suitors on a celebratory day when communities gathered on mountain tops and lakesides to welcome the harvest festival of Lughnasa. Children must be accompanied by an adult

Edwina Guckian is dancer, artist, community activist and cultural curator from Leitrim, whose work is deeply rooted in the traditions, folklore and lived experience of rural Ireland. Recent projects include the critically acclaimed *The Devil's in the Dancehall*, an immersive dance theatre experience, inspired by the life and legacy of Jimmy Gralton, Ireland's dancehall era, and the 1935 Public Dance Halls Act. She is currently leading an ambitious community initiative to rebuild Jimmy Gralton's Dance Hall on the site of the original hall. edwinaguckian.com

Rósa Corcoran is creative producer and cultural curator from Louth, and Director of the Seán Corcoran Series festival, held annually in Drogheda in early September seancorcoranseries.com



GUINNESS
DRAUGHT

0.0



BAR TENDERS' RACE



Line
the
route
to
cheer
on
your
local
bartender,
and
join
us
at
The
Liberty
Belle
for
a
post-race
celebration
and
winners
ceremony!

SUNDAY 26TH JULY 2026
EVENT TIME: 17:15 - 18:45
STARTER'S GUN: 17:30
START LOCATION: THE LARK INN

THE
LIBERTIES
JULY 20TH -
26TH 2026
FESTIVAL

5.15PM

FREE EVENT

RACE

GUINNESS 0.0 BARTENDER'S RACE

THE LARK INN TO THE LIBERTY BELLE

In their role as sponsors of The Liberties Festival 2026, Diageo Ireland is excited to work alongside The Liberties Festival to bring a new event to the festival calendar, one which is rooted in the character and culture of The Liberties. The legendary Guinness Bartender's Race at the Liberties Festival was last run in in the 1960s. We're bringing it back to the fore. almost 60 years later! The Guinness 0.0 Bartender's Race at the Liberties Festival will give local bartenders from the Dublin 8 locale their moment in the sporting spotlight: celebrating the community of The Liberties, and of course, encouraging a bit of friendly rivalry between locals and regulars alike! The event is set to take place on the closing night of the festival after the Bilberry Ball in Michael Mallin Park. The Guinness 0.0 Bartender's Race at the Liberties Festival is sure to be a joyous end to this year's festival, that brings pride of place and good natured competition to the Liberties.



7:00PM

FREE EVENT

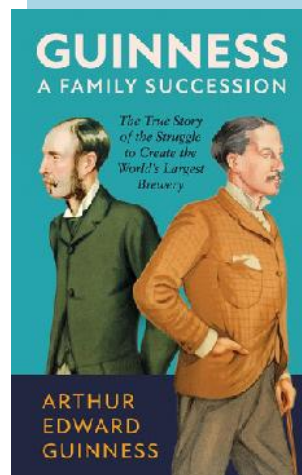
TALK

GUINNESS: A FAMILY SUCCESSION

TAILOR'S HALL, BACK LANE

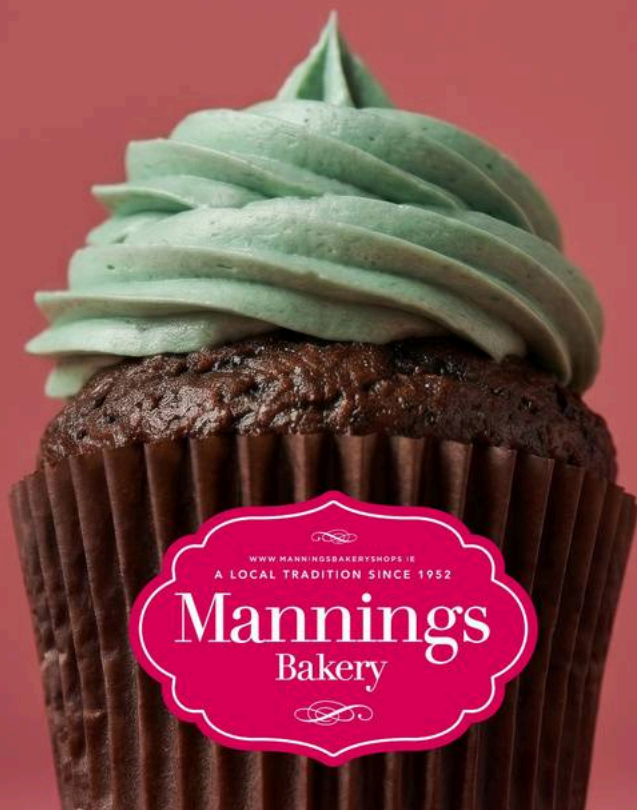
"As head of the Guinness family, I've always been fascinated by the lives of my ancestors, these personalities who in four generations took Guinness from nothing to the largest brewery in the world." Join Arthur Edward Guinness (Ned), and historian Dr Antonia Hart, as he shares he shares unique insights into the story of his family in the brewing business.

BOOKING REQUIRED



Sunday | www.thelibertiesfestival.com | 55

LOVE THE LIBERTIES



FESTIVAL FAQ's



Can I just turn up to most events?

Owing to capacity at most events we highly recommend you book tickets in advance to avoid disappointment. Or contact us at 01-4536098 if you are unable to book online. Please note all tickets will be distributed on a first come basis with a waitlist also.

Please, please, please... do not book tickets and then not notify us if you can't make it. You are taking the place of others and making it harder for us to keep as much as possible in the Festival free.



Are all events free?

We strive to make most of our events free. However, we have made a suggested donation for some events. This is for those who can afford to pay and wish to support our programming. A small number of events are also being used to fundraise for community charity initiatives.



What does 'Suggested Donation' mean?

A Festival costs money and while we have core funders and many great supporters, we want to expand the Festival out of season and put on more events. We can only do this with your support and appreciation of the fair suggested donation we assign to each event. Of course, additional generosity is most welcome.



Can I volunteer with the festival?

All our volunteers spaces have now been filled following an open call in May.



Where will I find out information about any event additions or changes?

The best place for information will be on our website - thelibertiesfestival.com or via our Instagram page @thelibertiesfestival.



What does subject to licence mean?

This means the events will only go ahead once we have approval from relevant authorities.



I have an idea or would like to be part of the 2027 festival? What should I do?

There will be an Open Call for ideas this autumn. You can see in our programme events which were chosen from the Open Call this year. We are always keen on ideas and projects with connections to The Liberties so do drop us a line, after the Festival.



Will there be photography or filming at the festival?

Photography and filming of attendees may take place during the festival. In buying a ticket or attending an event you agree that your image and likeness may be photographed or filmed and used by the Liberties Festival or Diageo Ireland for promotional purposes, advertising, inclusion on websites, social media, or any other purpose.

TOM KENNEDYS

IN THE HEART OF THE LIBERTIES

Live Music
Thursday to Monday

HEATED BEER GARDEN TO THE REAR



ALL LIVE SPORTS SHOWN ON **5** BIG SCREENS

THE
LIB
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FESTIVAL

JULY 20TH -
26TH 2026





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#LeaveMeathStreetAlone



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO OF THE LIBERTIES COMMUNITY PROJECT

2026 marks another important year in the story of The Liberties Festival and in the continuing journey of The Liberties Community Project. Following our first festival presented under the banner of The Liberties Community Project in 2025, we are delighted to build on that momentum and continue a tradition that has brought communities together in South West Inner City Dublin for generations.

The Liberties Festival reflects the spirit of this community — resilient, welcoming, creative and proud of its identity. It has long been more than a festival programme. It is a celebration of place, people and possibility; an opportunity for neighbours, families, artists, community groups and organisations to come together and showcase the very best of The Liberties.

This year's programme continues in this tradition while embracing new ideas, partnerships and opportunities. Across the coming days and weeks, you will see a rich mix of community events, arts and culture, family activities, heritage, sport and shared experiences that reflect both the history of this place and the diversity and energy of the community that calls it home today.

Importantly, the festival is not a stand-alone event. It provides an opportunity to celebrate and highlight the individuals, volunteers, residents and organisations whose work strengthens community life across The Liberties every day of the year. It also serves as a platform to connect people with the wider work of The Liberties Community Project across community development, employment, education, integration, social enterprise, regeneration and health and wellbeing initiatives. As a community development organisation, we know that strong communities are built through participation, relationships and shared experiences. Festivals matter because they create opportunities for connection, belonging and joy.

Many thanks to our Festival Director, advisory committee members, staff team, volunteers, partners, performers, funders and sponsors for once again making this festival possible. Most importantly, thank you to the wider community of The Liberties whose continued support, energy and participation gives the festival its meaning.

I look forward to celebrating The Liberties Festival 2026 with you.

**- Austin Campbell | CEO
The Liberties Community Project**

Credits

Festival Director & programming: Michael McDermott

Festival Production assistant: Sharon Greene

Volunteer Co-ordinator: Jasper Schmitz

Programmer/Producer: Rósa Corcoran

Programme design & layout: Alison Fernandes

Liberties Festival Advisory Committee: Con Kennedy, Laura Gibbons, Michael Quinn, Sarah Byrne.

Blue Rinse Ball poster: Brandon O'Rourke @brandonorourkeillustration

Talking Shop poster: Mr + Mrs Stevens @mrandmrsstevens

Brochure cover image: A Dish to Remember shot at Fusco's, Meath Street. Photo: Mark Stedman

Print: Grehan Printers

MONDAY 21ST

10:00AM

**MIND MOVEMENT AND
MINDFULNESS**
Guinness Enterprise Centre

10:30AM

**PEARSE LYONS
DISTILLERY TOUR**
Pearse Lyons Distillery

11:00AM-1:00PM
**MAKE YOUR OWN
PRINTED BOOKMARK**

The Deanery Mews

3:30PM

MUSIC IN ST AUDOEN'S
St Audoen's

6:00PM

**IN OUR SHOES
WALKING TOURS**
starting from Dublin City
Gates, Cook St

6:15PM

FESTIVAL LAUNCH
St Catherine's Church,
Thomas Street

TUESDAY 22ND

7:45AM

**SUNRISE YOGA AT THE
GRAVITY BAR**
Guinness Storehouse

11:30AM

LIFE DRAWING PRACTICE
Unit 2, Liberty View,
Long's Place

2:00PM

**BEE8: BEE-KEEPING FOR
BEGINNERS**
Leo Freeman Meadow,
Wating Street

2:00PM

BELL-RINGING EXPERIENCE
Christ Church Cathedral

6:00PM

MUSIC IN ST AUDOEN'S
St Audoen's

6:15PM

THIEVES & MAGPIES
Drop Dead Twice

6.30PM

LIFE DRAWING PRACTICE
Unit 2, Liberty View,
Long's Place

6:30PM

TALKING SHOP
Hopeless Botanics

7:00PM

A DISH TO REMEMBER
Fusco's, Meath Street

7:00PM

GARDAÍ VS TRADERS
Oliver Bond House
Football Pitch

7:30PM

TALKING SHOP
Thomas House

9:00PM

LIFFEY TONES
Liberty Belle, Francis
Street

WEDNESDAY 23RD

9:30AM-6:30PM LIVING CANVAS IMMA	10:30AM PEARSE LYONS DISTILLERY TOUR Pearse Lyons Distillery	12:00PM CHANGE YOUR BREATHING, CHANGE YOUR LIFE Guinness Enterprise Centre
1:15PM NIVAL-GAZING: MAIREAD M. JOHNSTON'S FASHION CATALOGUES NIVAL @ National College of Art & Design (NCAD)	2:00PM - 4:00PM MUSIC St Patrick's Cathedral	
3:30PM MUSIC IN ST AUDOEN'S St Audoen's	6:00PM IN OUR SHOES WALKING TOURS starting from Dublin City Gates, Cook St	7:00PM - 8:15PM SESSION: LAOCH - BREANDÁN BREATHNACH, A LEGACY EXPLORED Tailor's Hall
6:00PM - 9:00PM GUINNESS OPEN GATE BREWERY 53 James's St, St. James's Gate	6:30PM TALKING SHOP Some Neck Guitars	7:30PM TALKING SHOP Picado Mexican
7:00PM JONATHAN SWIFT'S LAST JOKE Arthur's (upstairs), 28 Thomas Street	7:30PM TALKING SHOP Betty Bonjangles	7:30PM QUIZ NIGHT Tom Kennedy's Thomas Street

THURSDAY 24TH

7:45AM SUNRISE YOGA AT THE GRAVITY BAR Guinness Storehouse	10:30AM PEARSE LYONS DISTILLERY TOUR Pearse Lyons Distillery	10:30AM MEDIEVAL WALKING TOUR Dublinia, St Michael's Hill
11:00AM-1:00PM MEDIEVAL CALLIGRAPHY The Deanery Mews	1:15PM NIVAL-GAZING: ARTISTS' STUDIOS AND THE LIBERTIES NIVAL @ National College of Art & Design (NCAD)	
2:00PM BEE8: BEE-KEEPING FOR BEGINNERS Watling Street, Leo Freeman Meadow	2:00PM BELL-RINGING EXPERIENCE Christ Church Cathedral	6:00PM IRISH COFFEE ROE- IMAGINED EXPERIENCE Roe & Co Distillery
6:00PM MUSIC IN ST AUDOEN'S St Audoen's	6:00-9:00PM THROWING SHAPES Mill Street	6:30PM WHERE DO WE ALL BELONG? The Bank, 85 James Street
6:30PM TALKING SHOP Martin Fennelly Antiques	7:00PM BLUE RINSE BALL Guinness Storehouse	7:00PM LIFTING THE VEIL ON TOMMIE POTTS Tailor's Hall
7:30PM TALKING SHOP Betty Bonjangles		

SATURDAY 26TH

10:00AM - 3:00PM
SACRED HARP
St Catherine's Church

11:00AM-2:00PM
WALDORF SCHOOL
92 Meath Street

11:30AM-5:00PM
ART MART
Hen's Teeth, Blackpitts

11:00AM AND 2:30PM
SOWING THE SEED:
PUBLISHING WORKSHOP
id8 Studio at The Digital Hub

12PM - 2PM
LIBERTIES @ SMOCK ALLEY
Dublin Municipal Theatre at
Smock Alley

12:30PM
BELL-RINGING EXPERIENCE
Christ Church Cathedral

1:00PM
PHOTOWALK
Hopeless Botanics, Dean Court

1:00PM - 4.30PM
LIBERTIES X - COMMUNITY
GOT TALENT
Sacred Heart statue on
Reginald Street

2:00PM - 4:00PM
TUNES IN THE BEE-
LOUD GLADE
Leo Freeman Meadow,
Watling Street

2:15PM
BELL-RINGING EXPERIENCE
Christ Church Cathedral

2.30PM - 3PM
LIBERTIES @ SMOCK ALLEY
Dublin Municipal Theatre at
Smock Alley

3:00PM-9:00PM
OUTLET
Pallas Open Projects

3:00PM - 5:00PM
MICHAEL MALLIN PARK
TOURNAMENT
Michael Mallin Park

3.30PM
MUSIC IN THE ROUND
Kevin Kavanagh Gallery,
Chancery Lane

5:00PM
CHURCH BINGO
Saint Catherine's Church,
Thomas Street

6:00PM
PHOTOWALK
Hopeless Botanics, Dean Court

7:00PM
UNRULY SPIRITS: REBELLIOUS
WOMEN IN SONG
Marrowbone Books

7:30PM
THE MEETING ROOM
Tailor's Hall, Back Lane

FRIDAY 25TH

10:30AM

PEARSE LYONS DISTILLERY TOUR

Pearse Lyons Distillery

10:00AM - 3:00PM

SKETCH THE CATHEDRAL

St Patrick's Cathedral

10:00AM

FOCUS IN MOTION

Guinness Enterprise Centre

10:30AM

DUBLINIA BUILDING TOUR

Dublinia

11:00AM

IN OUR SHOES WALKING TOURS

Starting from Dublin City Gates, Cook St

1:00PM

NIVAL-GAZING: A SENSE OF PLACE IN NIVAL'S ARTISTS' BOOKS COLLECTION

NIVAL @ National College of Art & Design (NCAD)

1:15PM

WHERE DO WE ALL BELONG?

The Bank, 85 James Street

3:30PM

MUSIC IN ST AUDOEN'S

St Audoen's

6:00PM

IRISH COFFEE ROE-IMAGINED EXPERIENCE

Roe & Co Distillery

6:30PM

LIBERTIES NEXT

Saint Catherine's Church, Thomas Street

7:00PM

IBIKE

Outside Iveagh Market, Francis Street

8:00PM - 10.30PM

SESSION: THE PARTING GLASS

Tailor's Hall

9.30PM

GRAND FINAL

Morrissey's, 80 Cork Street

SUNDAY 27TH

10:30AM

PEARSE LYONS DISTILLERY TOUR

Pearse Lyons Distillery

11:00AM

IN OUR SHOES WALKING TOURS

Starting from Dublin City Gates, Cook St

11:00AM

WE LOVE MARKETS

The Digital Hub

11:00AM - 3:00PM

THE OTHER AUDIENCE

Bridgefoot Street Park

12:00PM

ZUMBA

St Catherine's Park

12:00PM - 1.30PM

THE LIBERTIES RAMBLE

Various locations within the Liberties

1:00PM - 4.00PM

FAMILY FUN DAY

St Audoen's Park

2:00PM - 4:00PM

SAGE IN THE FIELDS

Taplins Park, Bridgefoot Street Park

5.15PM

GUINNESS 0.0 BARTENDER'S RACE

The Lark Inn to the Liberty Belle

7:00PM

GUINNESS: A FAMILY SUCCESSION

Tailor's Hall, Back Lane

