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# 72ND WEXFORD FESTIVAL OPERA

# 24 OCTOBER | 5 NOVEMBER 2023



Kate O'Brien

GAETANO DONIZETTI ZORAIDA DI GRANATA

> CAMILLE ERLANGER L'AUBE ROUGE

MARCO TUTINO LA CIOCIARA (Two Women)

# 1 FESTIVAL 13 DAYS 70 EVENTS



TICKETS AVAILABLE ON WEXFORDOPERA.COM

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# wexford FRifige 2023

3	County Wexford Chamber President's Welcome
4	Map of Wexford town
6	History of Wexford
8	Wexford Singing & Swinging Pubs Competition
9	Festival Walking Tours
12	Music & Opera
14	Music & Concerts
16	Theatre, Family, & Spoken Word
18	Exhibitions in Town and Out of Town
22	Daytime Recitals

26 Festival Art Exhibition

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# County Wexford Chamber

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As President of County Wexford Chamber of Commerce, I am delighted to welcome you to our 69th Fringe Festival. Again, to those making a return visit to Wexford and to those enjoying their first visit, I can assure you that a fantastic, broad, and varied range of entertainment awaits you.

The Fringe Festival has always run side-by-side with our very special Opera Festival. Offering something different in terms of music and entertainment alongside the three featured operas being performed this year, we are delighted to welcome the return of the Singing Pubs Competition. Sponsored by Diageo, the competition sees many local pubs, hotels and bars pit their best singers and musicians against each other for a series of coveted awards. Please see the schedule for performances on pages 8 and 9 of this Guide. This excellent entertainment is enjoyed equally by locals, visitors, and the large number of performers from the operas who frequently join in to add their voices to the exciting atmosphere.

For those of you who prefer something different such as "hits from the musicals", the Wexford Light Opera Society will perform shows including all your favourites at the Clayton Whites Hotel. So, it's fair to say that this year's festival will offer musical entertainment for all tastes.

Throughout the festival, a range of art exhibitions featuring the creative work of many of our local talented artists is available for your viewing and perhaps to tempt you during the day. We are also very lucky in Wexford to have a fantastic shopping experience with many family-owned businesses on our doorstep for you to enjoy throughout your visit.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the National Opera house. The current modern theatre, which replaced the historic old Opera House in High Street in the heart of our town, is second to none, with excellent acoustics and all the modern technology required to ensure the quality of production, especially for classical opera.

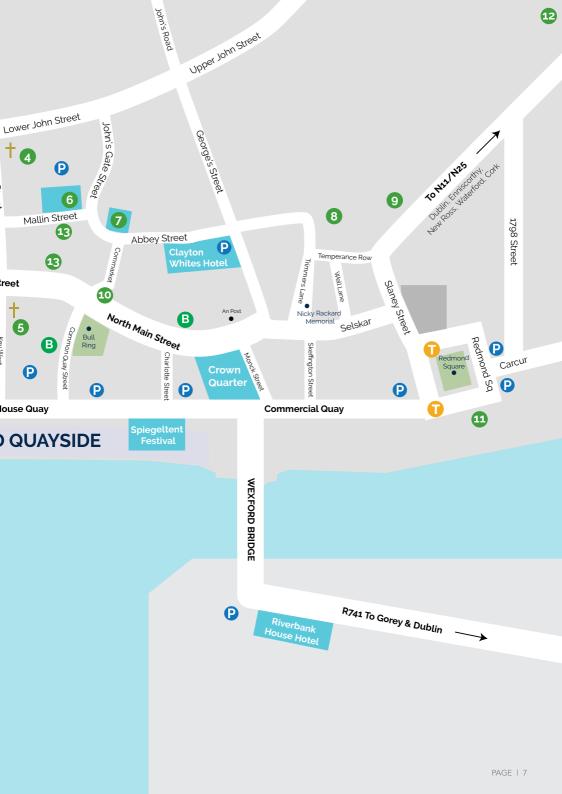
So, on behalf of County Wexford Chamber and Wexford Fringe, I hope you thoroughly enjoy your time with us in our historic town.

Brendan Crowley

President | County Wexford Chamber







# HISTORY OF WEXFORD

In a country steeped in myth and legend, Wexford's history is no exception. Read further about the history of our beautiful town.

### WESTGATE HERITAGE CENTRE

This tower once guarded the western entrance to the Selskar monastic precincts. It was built c.1300 by Sir Stephen Devereux. Like the other town gates, it consisted of a toll-taking area, cells for offenders and accommodation for guards.

### **SELSKAR ABBEY**

This is one of the oldest sites of worship in Wexford. An abbey was built on the site by Alexander Roche who, upon returning from the Crusades, was informed of the decision of his true love to enter a convent believing him dead. The abbey, the tower of which still stands, was the site of synods and parliaments over the centuries. The roofless church is of much later construction.

## CORNMARKET

The prehistoric market place building dates back to 1775. As the name suggests this was once the central market place of the town with its lower floor an open selling area. It has been a market area, dance venue, concert hall and Municipal offices. The Cornmarket is now home to Wexford Arts Centre and the new Wexford County Library close by in Mallin Street.

## **THE BULLRING**

The Bullring got its present name from the medieval sport of Bull-baiting, introduced to the town by The Butchers' Guild. From 1621 until 1770, bulls were baited twice a year and their hides presented to the Mayor. During the 1798 rebellion, the Bullring became an open-air factory, making and repairing pikes and other weapons for the insurgents. The Bullring has been the venue of many political rallies and protests: Daniel O'Connell, Charles Stewart Parnell, John Edward Redmond and Eamon de Valera are among the many political figures who have addressed audiences in this historic square at the heart of Wexford.

The Pikeman statue, sculpted in bronze by Oliver Sheppard, commemorates Wexford's brave but failed rebellion of 1798. It was unveiled in an elaborate ceremony attended by 30,000 people in 1905. In 2009, conservation works to the Pikeman statue took place.

A re-construction of the Bullring was carried out as a 1798 bicentenary project and was officially opened by President Mary McAleese on 31st May, 1998. A

'Tree of Liberty", an Oak, was planted in the centre of the Bullring. Embedded in the ground behind the Pikeman statue is a 'time capsule' taking the form of a metal cylinder containing items reflective of Wexford life in the bicentenary year. The limestone setts which sit on either side of the monument feature inscriptions relating to 1798, while bollards in the shape of cannonballs line the area. Extensive conservation and repair work to the Market Place in the Bull Ring was carried out in 2008.

### **THE REDMOND MONUMENT**

This monument commemorating the Redmond family dominates Redmond Square at the northern end of Wexford Town. The Redmond family was prominent in the business, social and political life of Wexford in the 19th century. They represented the town and county in Parliament, and also instigated the reclamation of great tracts of land including the very ground upon which Redmond Square stands. In 2007, following conservation and cleaning works to the monument, floodlighting was put in place to highlight the monument at night.

Redmond Square, with its obelisk near the railway station, commemorates the elder John Edward Redmond (1806-1865) who was Liberal MP for the city of Wexford. The inscription reads: "My heart is with the city of Wexford. Nothing can extinguish that love but the cold soil of the grave."

Nearby a memorial commemorates the Wexford men who lost their lives in World War One.

## **COUNTY HALL**

The imposing facade of the former headquarters of Wexford County Council was originally a gaol, built in 1812, with walls twenty feet high enclosing 58 cells and 16 exercising yards. Public executions took place on a green in front of the gaol until 1860. A memorial garden to the men executed during Ireland's Civil War (1922-1923) is sited in the gaol's graveyard.

## **WEXFORD QUAYS**

As with all port towns, the quays are a focal point of Wexford. Over the past thousand years they have extended from their original shoreline close to the present North Main Street. In September 2000, this progression continued with an extension width of 25 metres. A central decked area reminiscent of the old woodenworks of the 1870s provides a pleasant area to stroll. An inner cobbled area with seating is the perfect place to relax and enjoy the view of the River Slaney. Today Wexford Quay is home to a fleet of commercial mussel harvesters.

### **CRESCENT QUAY**

The Crescent Quay of today is the former 'Deep Pool' of Wexford. It was here that deep water ships berthed. The present stone front which dates back to the early 1800s extended the length of the quays until the railway arrived in 1880, and threw its viaduct across the mouth of the Crescent to carry the main line to the Rosslare Europort.

The bronze statue facing out to sea at Crescent Quay is that of Commodore John Barry, "Father of the American Navy". Barry was born some miles outside Wexford town. The statue was a gift of the American people in 1956. U.S. Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy are among the dignitaries who have laid wreaths here. In the days of sail up to one hundred vessels brought cargoes of superb Co. Wexford malting barley across the Mediterranean, through the Black Sea as far as Odessa and Galati on the Danube.

Behind John Barry is the Old Ballast Office. It was from this building for many decades that the Wexford Harbour Commissioners oversaw the smooth running of the busy port which traded with many parts of the world. A reminder of our nautical past is to be found in the quay bollards and the window sills to the side of the building where sailors sharpening their knives made unintentional sculptures in the soft stone.

### **THE BALLAST BANK**

The unusual rock foundation island which can be seen from the quays is the ballast bank. It was a place where ships entering or leaving the port could take on or off-load their ballast of sand or stones which they needed to remain stable at sea while travelling without cargo.

### THE MAIN STREET

Wexford's Main Street, the principal shopping area, is a unique reminder of Wexford's heritage. Its narrow, irregular paths developed from market trails between the Gaelic municipality to the north and the Norse to the south. It gives local people and visitors a taste of the friendly intimacy of this ancient town.

### **ST IBERIUS CHURCH, MAIN STREET**

Saint Iberius Church of Ireland is situated on the site of the early Christian missionary lubhars' church. The name Iberius is used in other forms such as Saint Ibar or St. Ivers. The present building is of a 1760 style and contains memorials to several notable Wexford people.



### **THE NATIONAL OPERA HOUSE**

This venue in High Street is the headquarters of the world renowned international Wexford Festival Opera. The original theatre opened in January 1832. In 2006, it closed its doors to undergo a major reconstruction which took just over two years to complete. On Friday 5th September 2008, the National Opera House was officially opened by An Taoiseach, Brian Cowen. This was an historic moment for Wexford and for Ireland. This impressive, landmark building (and Ireland's first custom-built Opera House) was designed and project-managed by the Office of Public Works. This skyline-changing building hosts a multitude of events all year round of theatre, dance, concerts and other events in addition to the Wexford Festival Opera.

### **TWIN CHURCHES**

Dominating the skyline of Wexford are the Twin Churches (the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Rowe Street and The Church of the Assumption, Bride Street). These two churches built between 1851 and 1858 just after the Great Famine are a monument to the devotion of Wexford people and the determination of Father James Roche who saw them to completion. An interesting feature at the main door of both churches is the cobbled mosaic showing relevant names and dates.

### **FRANCISCAN FRIARY**

The Franciscans are the longest established religious order in Wexford, having first come c.1240. Since then they have attended to the spiritual needs of the town through good times and bad. For many years, theirs was the only Catholic Church. It was outside the walls of Wexford town. Friars were among the victims of Cromwellian soldiers in 1649. The grounds of the Church were the venue of huge Temperance rallies in the 1840s. One of the features of the Friary Church is the effigy of the young boy St. Adjutor, Roman martyr. This lifelike figure shows the wounds inflicted by the youth's father. It is a much visited shrine.

# THE KNIGHTS HOSPITALLERS, ST. JOHN'S GATE STREET

The remains of the Knights Hospital and Church of that militant Church Order contains the graves of interesting Wexford citizens, including the tomb of John Edward Redmond M.P. the leader of the Irish Nationalist Party in Westminster and his family. Nearby is the birthplace of the great revivalist Robert Brennan, later head of Ireland's Diplomatic Corps in wartime Washington. His memorial is framed by the old town wall in Abbey Street. His daughter was the famed writer, Maeve Brennan of the New Yorker. Redmond Park, Spawell Road, is a delightful park dedicated to the memory of Major William Redmond where a fine memorial was completed on the centenary of his death in 1917 in World War One.



The Guinness Singing and Swinging Pubs competition has come a long way since it first started in 1952, and it hasn't lost an ounce of its unique character since then!

People travel from all over the world to soak up the atmosphere and indulge in the everexpanding talent that Wexford has to offer. Apart from the fact that this is an over-18s event, there are no written rules beyond an appropriate time period. We invite you to visit some, or all, of the pubs and hotels taking part to see if you agree with the adjudicator's decision. The main sections in the competition are Singing, Swinging, Variety and Traditional Style.

# Monday, October 23

Maggie May's Bar	9.15pm
T Morris Bar	10.00pm
McGee's Bar	10.45pm

# **Tuesday, October 24**

Mocking Monck	9.15pm
Crown Bar	10.00pm
The Bank	10.45pm

# Wednesday, October 25

Macken's Bar	9.15pm
The Sky & The Ground	10.00pm
Casey's	10.45pm

# Thursday, October 26

The Pike Bar	9.15pm
Sailing Cot	10.00pm
Bugler Doyle's	10.45pm

# Friday, October 27

Billy Kelly's Pub	9.15pm
The John Barry Bar	10.00pm
The Foggy Dew Inn	10.45pm

# Saturday, October 28

Kelly's Corner	9.15pm
Mary's Bar	10.00pm
Farmer's Kitchen	10.45pm

# Sunday, October 29

Browne's Bar	9.00pm
The Swan	9.45pm
Culleton's Bar	10.30pm

# Monday, October 30

Sinnott's	9.15pm
Talbot Hotel	10.00pm

# **Thursday, November 2**

Ballast Bank Bar, Talbot Hotel 9.3

9.30pm

# FESTIVAL TOURS 2023

Wexford Festival Tours, in association with Wexford Festival Opera and the National Opera House, are organised by Bernard Browne on behalf of Wexford Historical Society. The Festival Tours, which have been running since the first Festival, are led by expert guides who take you to interesting and intriguing places throughout Wexford town and county, some known, some lesser-known.

The tours are open to everyone and are free of charge. The tours leave the Talbot Hotel car park at 10.30am sharp and are scheduled to return to Wexford at 1pm, in time to enjoy the afternoon Festival events. If you don't have a car, don't worry; people with cars make room for those without. This is an opportunity to explore Co. Wexford's 'Hidden Gems' and make new friends.



# Wednesday, October 25

Wexford Town - South End

Wexford town is small in size but huge in story. The Vikings built it, the Normans captured it, Cromwell's soldiers overran it. The rebels of 1798 kept prisoners here, the lockout riots of the early 20th Century took place here. It contained castles, a watermill, bishops' houses, an RIC barracks, a prison, and even a clay pipe factory. Find out more about the town's rich history with author Monica Crofton.



# Thursday, October 26

Oulart Hill

A visit to historic Oulart Hill and Tulach a' tSolais, a monument which interprets the 1790s in their particular context of the European Enlightenment, and its 25 enigmatic memorial stones , each with a unique story. Guided by author and historian Brian O Cleirigh. (24km round trip)



# Friday, October 27

Lady's Island

A walk around the grassed path around the perimeter of Lady's Island (1.6km), a site of long-standing and significant importance for several aspects of Wexford's rich heritage and history, with local naturalist Jim Hurley. (40km round trip)

# Saturday, October 28

# Carne and coastal surroundings

A Festival first with a visit to Carne pier and the spectacular coastal surrounding area, including the old village of Churchtown nearby. Guided by Peter Miller, Chairman of the National Agricultural Museum at Johnstown Castle. (40km round trip)



# Sunday, October 29

## Tintern Abbey

The Colclough family had the walled gardens at Tintern Abbey built from 1831 to 1838. Restoration on the gardens started in 2010 and is well worth seeing. Walk with veteran festival tour guide Brian Matthews. (60km round trip)

# Monday, October 30

Wexford town Heritage Tour The Vikings found a safe haven in the sheltered inlet of Wexford harbour. They called it Waesfjord, the bay of mud flats and the river

Slaney served as the Norse highway. Explore this fascinating history of Viking Wexford with expert Cllr. Maura Bell.

# Tuesday, October 31

The historical architecture of Wexford town A walking tour that examines the rich and varied architecture of Wexford town with distinguished author and local historian Jarlath Glynn.

# Wednesday, November 1

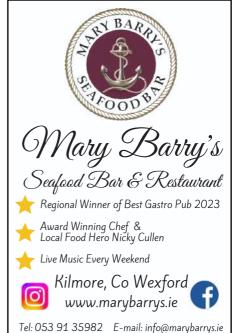
## Bree

A Festival first – A visit to Ballybrittas to view the magnificent and enigmatic portal tomb and majestic woodland with leading local historian and historical society member author Willie French. The site has recently been made accessible. A sturdy pair of walking shoes is recommended. (36 km round trip)

# **Thursday, November 2**

Polehore to Browne's Castle Explore the Wexford Pale boundary from Polehore to Taghmon and learn how topography determined the location of the boundary and the central role of the Furlongs. A fascinating tour looking at this neglected aspect of the county history with author and historian Greg Walsh. (40km round trip)





# Wexford Lions Club guided tours of Selskar Abbey

# Wednesday, October 25 to Saturday, October 28

# Monday, October 30 to Saturday, November 4

Wexford Lions Club is conducting guided tours of Selskar Abbey at 11 am during the Opera Festival.

Duration approximately 45-60 minutes.

Tour fee: €5 per adult, €1 per child. All proceeds go directly to the services provided by Wexford Lions Club.

Meeting point: The Nicky Rackard statue, just outside Greenacres, 2 Lower George's St, Selskar St, Townparks, Wexford Y35 RW7C



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www.kkwindows.ie, info@kkwindows.ie or Freephone: 1800 250 260

# Friday, November 3

## Rathmacknee

A visit to Rathmacknee Castle and its magnificent Tower, five-sided Bawn Wall, ruined church and fascinating graveyard in the shadow of the castle Church. Led by History teacher John McCormack. (15km round trip)

Saturday, November 4

Wexford town Heritage Tour The Heritage of Wexford - one of Ireland's oldest towns. Continuing the exploration of Wexford's hidden heritage, experienced tour guides Ray Corish and Anne Gubbins promise a tour full of historic surprises.

# WexWalks Historical Walking Tours

Take a vivid journey through the historical streets and winding lanes of Wexford Town, an ancient Viking city.

Explore the worlds of medieval ports, bullrings, bloody insurrections, ghostly graveyards and cavernous churches. Hear about local characters, from monstrous murderers to vicious Vikings to Oliver Cromwell himself. Join local actor and history buff, Paul Walsh, as he expertly weaves over 1000 years of history into one highly entertaining hour.

Mon-Fri 3.30pm, Sat and Sun 12pm and 2.30pm. Fee: €15

Guests can show up in the Bullring to join a tour at the times specified but pre-booking is highly advised and can be done through tour guide Paul on 086 2138062



Photo credits: Lady's Island © Wexford County Council; Oulart Hill, OulartHill.ie.

# MUSIC AND OPERA 72<sup>ND</sup> WEXFORD FESTIVAL OPERA



For the **72nd Wexford Festival Opera**, Artistic Director Rosetta Cucchi centres the festival programme around the theme of **Women and War** with the mainstage operas confirmed as *Zoraida di Granata* by Gaetano Donizetti (1822), *L'Aube rouge* by Camille Erlanger (1911) and *La Ciociara* [Two Women] by Marco Tutino (2015).

The festival theme of **Women and War** has been one Rosetta has been developing over several years, and it is as relevant today as when these operas were first written. Each chosen work highlights a different aspect of the struggles which women face; in war, fighting prejudice or making women's voices heard.



# Wexford Light Opera Society's "Hits From The Musicals 2023"

'Hits from the Musicals 2023' is an evening of musical theatre treats from one of Ireland's leading musical societies: Wexford Light Opera Society.

## **Clayton Whites Hotel**

Monday & Tuesday, October 30 & 31; Wednesday & Thursday, November 1 & 2 @ 8pm

Tickets: €25. Available from the National Opera House. Tel: 053 912 2144 . Monday -Saturday, 9.30am - 5pm or on www.nationaloperahouse.ie.

# Opera - *Zoraida di Granata* by <u>Gaetano Don</u>izetti 1822



A modern premiere, Zoraida di Granata follows the experience of a woman drawn into war against her will, in a battle to save her love.

O'Reilly Theatre, National Opera House October 24, 27, 31; November 3 at 8pm



# Opera - *L'Aube rouge* by Camille Erlanger 1911

This tragic opera follows the story of Olga, who strives to save her nihilistic and blinkered partner Serge,

who believes that change comes only through violence. Their inevitable fate plays out against a nuanced score.

O'Reilly Theatre, National Opera House Octobe 25, 29\*; November 1, 4; at 8pm (\*performance on Oct 29 at 5pm)



# Opera - *La Ciociara (Two Women)* by Marco Tutino 2015

A contemporary opera depicting the devastating impact of the end of the

Second World War in Italy, *La Ciociara* follows a mother trying to shield and protect her daughter from the horrors of war in the aftermath of the Battle of Monte Cassino. Based on a novel by Alberto Moravia, the film version entitled *La Ciociara* (1960), directed by celebrated Italian director Vittorio De Sica, starred Sophia Loren. Audiences will have the chance to see a screening of the film before each performance as part of WFO 2023.

O'Reilly Theatre, National Opera House October 26, 28; November 2, 5\* at 8pm (\*performance on Nov 5 at 5pm)



# Factory Opera -L'italiana in Algeri by Rossini 1813

Wexford Factory, WFO's academy, which nurtures

young Irish and Irish-based artists, will perform *L'italiana in Algeri by Rossini* in WFO 2023. In this popular opera, a strong woman outwits her kidnapper with intelligence and charm.

O'Reilly Theatre, National Opera House October 28; November 2\*, 5 at 11am (\*performance on Nov 2 at 3pm)



# Pocket Opera - *La Fille du régiment* by Gaetano Donizetti 1840

This well-loved comic opera follows the story of an orphan girl 'adopted' by a regiment of soldiers.

# Jerome Hynes Theatre, National Opera House October 25\*, 26, 28, 30\*; November 1, 3, 4

at 3.30pm (\*performances on Oct 25, 30 at 11am)



# Pocket Opera - Suor Angelica by Giacomo Puccini 1918

Puccini's beautiful score tells of one woman's ultimate sacrifice when caught in

circumstances enforced upon her by both her family and society.

Jerome Hynes Theatre, National Opera House

October 25\*, 27, 29, 31\*; November 1, 2, 4 at 11am (\*performances on Oct 25, 31 at 3.30pm)

For more details and bookings, visit www.wexfordopera.com, call 053 912 2144 or email boxoffice@wexfordopera.com



# Community Opera - *Gianni Schicchi* by Giacomo Puccini

Community opera is a new initiative in WFO 2023. This expanded version of

Puccini's much-loved one-act comic opera will include specially commissioned dialogue and feature artists of the Wexford Factory alongside a group of local volunteers. In these performances, the audience will move with the action and experience the opera by being part of it – and perhaps recognising themselves in it.

The Grain Store at Stonebridge, Paul Quay, Wexford, Y35 TR28

October 24, 27, 30\*; November 3, 4\* at 5.30pm (\*performance on Oct 30 at 8pm, performance on Nov 4 at 5pm)



# **Lunchtime Recitals**

The Lunchtime Recitals provide an insight into the artistic personalities of some of the principal singers of the Festival. Taking on dual homes again

this year, the concerts will be held in the atmospheric surroundings of the O'Reilly Theatre and the beautiful eighteenth-century church of St. Iberius. Thanks to the unique atmosphere and the crisp acoustic of both venues, audiences can appreciate the musical versatility of solo singers who perform a wide variety of music from across the repertoire, including operatic arias, lieder, oratorio, concert and popular songs.

# **St Iberius Church**

25, 26, 27, 28, 31 October and 2 November O'Reilly Theatre, National Opera House 29, 30 October and 1, 3, 4 November



# **Gala Concert**

The Gala Concert is undoubtedly one of the highlights of Wexford Festival Opera and features a collection of favourite party pieces from members of the

Festival company. O'Reilly Theatre, National Opera House October 29 at 9pm

# **MUSIC & CONCERTS**



# Brian Brody & the Ghost Ensemble

A collaboration between singer and songwriter Brian Brody and composer Simon Quigley, who create and

perform songs of love, loss and hope, shaped around Brody's big baritone voice.

Wexford Arts Centre, Cornmarket, Wexford Y35 X5HF

Saturday, October 21, 8pm Tickets: Adult €20, concession €18 Booking available at 053 912 3764, boxoffice@wexfordartscentre.ie or www.wexfordartscentre.ie



# Live Music at T Morris Bar

Monck Street, Wexford

Live Music with Jilly Cox Tuesday, October 24, and Tuesday, October 31; at 9.30pm

Tuesday residency with super talented Jilly Cox. A real musical treat

# Acoustic Thursday

Thursday, October 26, from 2pm; at 9.30pm A relaxing evening of blues and folk with amazing harmonies that provide the perfect atmosphere for a great evening out.

Friday Night Request Fest with DJ Lar Friday, October 27, and Friday, November 3; at 9.30pm Playing all your favourites, classics, and new

Live DJ in the Garden Saturday, October 28; Sunday, October 29; Saturday, November 4; at 9.30pm All your favourite tunes





# WB Yeats in Story & Song

An hour-long programme of music, song, and story with the enchanting much-loved Yeats poems set to music

by Anna Skrine. Narrated by Denise Leahy as Maud Gonne. Songs and music performed by Anna Skrine, and Gordon and Liz Jones.

St Iberius Church, North Main Street, Wexford Thursday, October 26, 3.30pm Tickets: Eventbrite and on the door. For further details, contact Anna Skrine (annaskrine@hotmail.com) or Denise Leahy (denisemleahy@gmail.com)



# New Dublin Voices Choral Concert

International award-winning New Dublin Voices is a leading Irish chamber choir. Founded by conductor Bernie

Sherlock in 2005, the choir has presented concert programmes that are fresh, innovative, and exciting, ranging widely in style and period from the medieval to the contemporary. The choir takes particular pleasure in exploring the music of living composers and has given numerous Irish and world premieres.

Church of the Immaculate Conception, Rowe Street, Wexford

Monday, October 30, 3pm

Booking available at www.wexfordopera.com; Festival Box Office Team, 053 912 2144; or boxoffice@wexfordopera.com



# Wexford Folk Orchestra

Annual concert of Irish and Scottish folk music and song. Special guest: Cláirsí Neamhaí – Harp Ensemble.

Riverbank Hotel, Ferrybank, Wexford Thursday, November 2; doors open at 7.30pm, concert begins at 8pm Tickets: €12 (cash only), available on the door



# "Le Jazz Est Revenue"

A celebration of French Songs and Songwriters in Jazz and Film. Join Melanie O'Reilly and her Trio for this very special night. With Dave

Mooney on bass, Michael Behan on guitar, and Leopoldo Osio on piano.

Wexford Arts Centre, Cornmarket, Wexford Y35 X5HF

Thursday, November 2, 8pm Tickets: Adult €20, concession €18 Booking available at 053 912 3764, boxoffice@wexfordartscentre.ie or www.wexfordartscentre.ie



**The Lost Brothers** 

Irish song writing duo The Lost Brothers featuring vocalist Oisin Leech and guitarist Mark McCausland.

Wexford Arts Centre, Cornmarket, Wexford Y35 X5HF

Saturday, November 4, 8pm Tickets: €22 Booking available at 053 912 3764, boxoffice@wexfordartscentre.ie or www.wexfordartscentre.ie





Awarded 2 AA Rosettes for 7 years in a row.

Named Best Hotel Restaurant in Wexford for two years and listed in the top 5 restaurants in Leinster.



# Wexford Festival Singers Annual Festival Concert

Presenting Dan Forrest's 'Requiem for The Living' and Felix Mendelssohn

Bartholdy's 'Psalm Opus 42'. Repetiteur Ethne Corrigan with orchestra and leader. Conductor: Kevin O'Carroll.

Rowe Street Church, Rowe Street Upper, Wexford Y35 KX66

Sunday, November 5; 2.30pm Tickets: €20; students €10; under-12s, free. Tickets available from Choir members and www.wexfordartscentre.ie

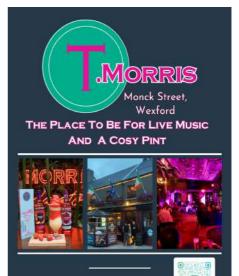


# **Pop-Up Events**

Wexford Festival Opera's Pop-Up events are a series of multi-disciplinary performances featuring music, drama, singing, and

dance presented in non-traditional settings around Wexford town.

Admission is free to these events, which occur daily in various locations around Wexford town.



P: (053) 9174984 W: www.info@tmorris.ie Check out our Socials for Live Music Listings

# THEATRE, FAMILY & SPOKEN WORD .....





# Large Scale Willow Lantern Workshop

Join artist Caoimhe Dunn and help create a unique event for Wexford town. During these workshops, participants

will get the chance to be involved in the construction of Giant Willow creations for a Lantern Procession to mark this Halloween.

Wexford Arts Centre, Cornmarket, Wexford. Y35 X5HF

Thursday, October 26, & Friday, October 27; 3pm

Tickets: Adult €10, Child €5 Bookings available at 053 912 3764, boxoffice@wexfordartscentre.ie or www.wexfordartscentre.ie

# **Wexford Drama Group**



"The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abrig'd)", directed by Annmarie Walsh. Written by Long, Singer, and Winfield, this play parodies the works of William Shakespeare, all of

them being performed in comically shortened or merged form by three Wexford stalwarts of stage, Dylan Walsh, Ruth Donegan and Pat Sinnott.

Wexford Arts Centre, Cornmarket, Wexford. Y35 X5HF

Thursday, October 26; Friday, October 27; Saturday, October 28; and Saturday, October 29; 8pm Tickets: €16

Bookings available at 053 912 3764, boxoffice@wexfordartscentre.ie or www.wexfordartscentre.ie





# Family Willow Lantern Workshop

In this workshop with Caoimhe Dunn, you will create a willow structure, learn how willow bends and

changes with manipulation and soaking. Wexford Arts Centre, Cornmarket, Wexford Y35 X5HF

Sunday, October 29; 11am & 2pm Tickets: Adult €10, Child €5 Bookings available at 053 912 3764, boxoffice@wexfordartscentre.ie or www.wexfordartscentre.ie



# **National Hunt Racing**

Enjoy the thrill of the chase at one of Ireland' leading tracks. Food, bar, and music available.

Wexford Racecourse, Bettyville, Newtown Rd, Coolcots, Wexford

Sunday, October 29, and Monday, October 30; 1pm Tickets: Buy online at

www.wexfordraces.ie or at the gate



# Impossible Interviews

Florence Nightingale, British nurse, statistician, and social reformer who was the foundational philosopher of modern nursing, spent hours in the wards tending to wounded

soldiers. Her nightly rounds established her image as the "Lady with the Lamp".

Michael Dervan hosts an impossible interview with the lady whose efforts formalised nursing education and led to the establishment of the first scientifically based nursing school opening in London in 1860.

Jerome Hynes Theatre, National Opera House Tuesday, October 31; 11am

Booking available at www.wexfordopera.com; Festival Box Office Team, 053 912 2144 or boxoffice@wexfordopera.com



# The Ballycogley Players Present a Night of Comedy

Two one-act plays and comedy sketches. A night not to be missed.

Wexford Arts Centre, Cornmarket, Wexford Y35 X5HF

Tuesday, October 31; Wednesday, November 1; 8pm Tickets: €14

Bookings available at 053 912 3764, boxoffice@wexfordartscentre.ie or www.wexfordartscentre.ie



# **Dr Tom Walsh Lecture**

The 2023 Dr Tom Walsh Lecture titled, From Innocent Victims to Daring Warriors; Real-life Stories of Women in War, will be given by Lara Marlowe.

A journalist for more than 40 years, when she was not writing about French and US politics, she covered wars in Afghanistan, Algeria, the Central African Republic, Iraq, the Israelioccupied territories, Lebanon, Somalia, former Yugoslavia, and most recently Ukraine. Lara has witnessed firsthand the impact of war on women. At the Wexford Festival Opera, she will recount her experiences on how the loss of loved ones, rape, bombardment, and exile transformed the lives of women she met.

## Jerome Hynes Theatre, National Opera House, Y35 FEP3

Friday, November 3; 11am

Booking available at www.wexfordopera.com; Festival Box Office Team, 053 912 2144 or boxoffice@wexfordopera.com



# Festival Forum | Marina Carr, Playwright

Marina Carr is one of the most distinguished Irish playwrights of her generation. Author of over 30 plays,

Marina is celebrated for writing tense and dark plays and for her range of female characters, united in their struggle against the limited role ascribed to them as women.

Friday November 3, 3pm Admission: Free, reservation required.

Greenacres Gallery, 2 Lower George's St, Wexford Y35 RW7C

Bookings available at www.wexfordopera.com, 053 912 2144 or boxoffice@wexfordopera.com



# How to Get the Menopause & Enjoy It

Anne Gildea is waxing her mustache, slathering on the oestrogel and boiling with excitement about returning to

Wexford with her fabulous Hit Show! Wexford Arts Centre, Cornmarket, Wexford Y35 X5HF

Friday, November 3; 8pm Tickets: Adult €22, Concession €20 Bookings available at 053 912 3764, boxoffice@wexfordartscentre.ie or www.wexfordartscentre.ie



# Teddy's Haunted House Theatre

Sammy Ragdoll and her best friend, Eddy the Teddy, find themselves staying overnight away from home, of course

around Halloween. It's easy to let your imagination run away with you, especially if you are a timid Teddy Bear.

Wexford Arts Centre, Cornmarket, Wexford Y35 X5HF

Saturday, November 4; 12 noon Tickets: Adult €10 Adult, Child €7.50, Family €30

Bookings available at 053 912 3764, boxoffice@wexfordartscentre.ie or www.wexfordartscentre.ie



# The Ghost of Dorothy Dingley

"The Ghost of Dorothy Dingley" is a supposedly true story by English author Daniel De Foe. Mind you, he said

that Robinson Crusoe was a true story too. A perfect treat for Halloween, suitable for children aged 5 to 10 years.

Wexford Arts Centre, Cornmarket, Wexford Y35 X5HF

Saturday, November 4; 2.30pm Tickets: Adult €10, Child €7.50, Family €30 Bookings available at 053 912 3764, boxoffice@wexfordartscentre.ie or www.wexfordartscentre.ie

# **EXHIBITIONS IN TOWN**

# Festival Art Exhibition – Clayton Whites Hotel

# Friday, October 27 - Sunday, November 5; 9am-5pm

# **Hotel Reception (Ground Floor)**



# Jean English

Inspired by nature, and trying to catch the light. Medium: Oil



Carol Ann Waldron A symphony of colour and movement. Colours are balanced with abstract care in the impressionist style. Her painting is an orchestration of

colour, influenced by emotion before ideas. Medium: Oil



# South East Makers Market

Assemblage of quality artisan pieces by master craftspeople using mixed and single media.

# Business Centre Reception (First Floor)



# Mary Wallace

Exquisite paintings merging the elegance of Japanese pottery with the beauty of an Irish garden. Medium: Mixed Media – wax, pigment, goldleaf



# Pauline Quigley

Bright, interesting, transparent, and transcendent art, using a medium which is hard and unforgiving to create art which is soft and gentle.

# Pembroke Suite: Business Centre (1st Floor)



# Marley Irish

Collection of vivid oils and acrylics titled "Romance of Life". Her caption of The Ballerina Dancers to the earthly portrayal of The Friesian Cows in palette knife is quite mood evoking.



# Eamon Byrne

A calm reflection of the artist's experiences in nature. Medium: Oil

# Selskar Suite, Business Centre (First Floor)



# I Love My Pearls

Hand-crafted quality freshwater pearl jewellery from an artisan pearl jewellery business based in Co Wexford.

# McCarthy Suite 2: Business Centre (First Floor)



# WWETB Community Education

Community Education - informal learning contributing to the development of the local community. Medium: Arts & Crafts

# Walter Dene Suite: Business Centre (First Floor)



# Carmel Fenlon

Award-winning artist who paints atmospheric soft pastel paintings of the Irish landscape, and wild flowers. Medium: Pastel on Paper

# Westgate Suite: Business Centre (First Floor)



# Awe Walk

Part of 'The Celtic Gods and Goddesses' series – Artist: E.L Sanby. Medium: Photograph, body art & costume design

# WEXFORD COMES ALIVE AT FESTIVAL TIME



# CLAYTON WHITES HOTEL IS IN THE HEART OF IT ALL

# WINE & DINE AT CLAYTON WHITES HOTEL

- Homemade treats served daily in the Coffee Dock
- Daily lunch & evening barfood menu in the Library Bar
- Á la carte dining at the Terrace Restaurant

# **EVENTS AT CLAYTON WHITES HOTEL**

- Art & craft exhibition from 27th October 5th November 2023
- Host of the Wexford Light Opera Society, Hits from the Musicals 30th October - 2nd November 2023
- 3 MINUTES WALK FROM THE NATIONAL OPERA HOUSE

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# **EXHIBITIONS IN TOWN**

# **Talbot Hotel**



# Jacinta Crowley-Long

Oil Paintings Pike Suite Thursday, October 26 – Sunday, November 5



# Family Family of Four Artists Webb Suite

Thursday, October 26 – Sunday, November 5



# Lar Joyce

Charcoal and Oil Paintings O'Brien Suite Thursday, October 26 – Sunday, November 5



# Darragh Treacy

Original Oil Paintings Maguire Suite Thursday, October 26 – Sunday, November 5



# Annette Byrne

Handmade Jewellery Ground Floor Weekends During the Festival



# Wexford Book, Coin & Collectables Fair

Antiquarian, out-of-print and second-hand books; collectable coins, banknotes; china, ceramics,

antiques, postcards, and vintage items. Slaney Suite Sunday, November 5; 11am – 5pm Admission: €3, Children free



# 51<sup>st</sup> Wexford Antique & Fine Arts Fair

30+ Antique dealers selling furniture, jewellery, retro clothing, pictures, and porcelain.

Slaney Suite Thursday, October 26 – Sunday, October 29; 11am - 8pm Monday, October 30; 11am - 6pm

Admission: Adults €4

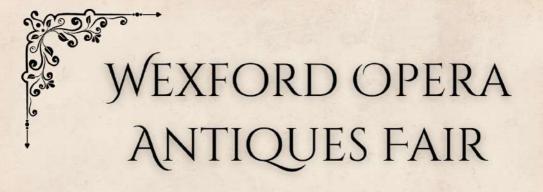


Wexford's Largest Craft Fair Slaney Suite

Saturday, November 4, 12 noon – 4.30pm

Admission: €5. Children free







Talbot Hotel Wexford October 26th - 30th Open 11am - 8pm daily

Antique furniture, jewellery, retro clothing, pictures and more from 30+ dealers Organizer: John Barber jb@annefield.ie

**EAENTRY** PAY AT THE DOOR

# **DAYTIME RECITALS**

The perfect introduction to Wexford Festival Opera, the package can be enjoyed over a few hours in Wexford without staying overnight. It has proved particularly attractive to groups of people as a day out for their organisation.

The package includes two Festival favourites, a Lunchtime Recital and a Pocket Opera in the afternoon performed in the Jerome Hynes Theatre in the National Opera House.

All Daytime Events Package bookings (group and individual) must be made through the Box Office: 053 912 2144 or email boxoffice@ wexfordopera.com

# **Daytime Events Package**

- 1pm Lunchtime Recital at St. Iberius Church or The O'Reilly Theatre (ORT) in the National Opera House, given by one of the principal artists of the Festival. The schedule will be announced closer to the Festival. Duration approx. 60 minutes.
- 2.15pm Lunch in Clayton Whites Hotel.

• 3.30pm\* Pocket Opera in the Jerome Hynes Theatre (JHT)\*, National Opera House, a small-stage opera production. Duration approx. 60-90 minutes.

Wednesday, October 25, Recital (St Iberius) -Lunch - Suor Angelica (JHT)

**Thursday, October 26**, Recital (St Iberius) -Lunch - *La Fille du régiment* (JHT)

**Saturday, October 28**, Recital (St Iberius) -Lunch - *La Fille du régiment* (JHT)

**Tuesday, October 31**, Recital (St Iberius) -Lunch - *Suor Angelica* (JHT)

**Wednesday, November 1**, Recital (ORT) -Lunch - *La Fille du régiment* (JHT)

Friday, November 3, Recital (ORT) - Lunch - La Fille du régiment (JHT)

**Saturday, November 4**, Recital (ORT) - Lunch - La Fille du régiment (JHT)

For groups of 10 or more, the group organiser receives a complimentary package ticket.



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# **EXHIBITIONS** AROUND **TOWN**



# **"OPUS V" Art Exhibition**

Oil Paintings by Rose-Mary Clancy La Vista Café & Restaurant, National Opera House,

Wexford

Tuesday, October 24 – Saturday, November 11 Monday – Saturday, 9.30am – 4pm Free

Information available at www.lavista.ie



# From the Sloblands to the Sea

An exhibition of paintings by Tom King featuring the rich and varied landscape around Ireland's coastline. From bogs

to beaches, mountains, marshes and pastures, all come under the gaze of the artists brush in Tom's free-flowing spontaneous style.

# The Pigyard Gallery, Spectrum, 13 Selskar Street, Wexford

Saturday, October 14 – Sunday, November 5 Monday – Saturday, 10am – 5.30pm; Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday, 12.30pm – 4pm Free



# Wexford Camera Club Annual Fringe Festival Exhibition

A presentation of photographic prints by Club members.

The exhibition covers a wide range of subjects, from Landscape to Portrait, Abstract to Documentary, Colour to Black and White. Many of the images are of local Wexford locations, events and people.

Friends' Meeting House, High St, Slippery Green, Wexford Wednesday, October 25 - Sunday, November 5; 1pm – 7pm



# LOOP

A solo exhibition by Emma Roche, EMERGENCE Visual Art Award Winner 2021, presented by Wexford Arts Centre and Wexford

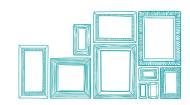
County Council, in partnership with South East Technological University.

Emma Roche's works shift between the figurative and abstract, combining the methodologies of knitting with paint to create layered and textured works. Roche's preparatory drawings, made quickly and obsessively, are informed by the humdrum of repetitive daily tasks. In contrast, the processes employed by Roche in the knitted paintings are slow and arduous, where long lines of paint are prepared and dried to be used like wool or thread.

Emma Roche lives and works in Wexford. She is a 2023 Artist in Residence at the Sam and Adele Golden Foundation, New York. She is also shortlisted for the John Moore's Painting Prize, Liverpool, 2023. She is the 2021 recipient of the EMERGENCE Visual Art Award, Wexford Arts Centre: Visual Arts, Arts Council Bursary Award, 2021 and 2020, and a Creative Ireland Bursary Award, 2020.

# Wexford Arts Centre, Cornmarket, Wexford Y35 X5HF

Tuesday, October 17 – Saturday, November 25 Open: Tuesday – Friday, 10am – 5pm; Saturday, 10am – 4pm During the Wexford Festival Opera (October 24 – November 5), the galleries will open: Saturday, October 28, 11am – 5pm Sunday, October 29, and Bank Holiday Monday, October 30, 11am – 4pm Sunday, November 5, 11am – 4pm Free







# Judith Tutin 'Seek the Light'

An Exhibition of Spiritual and Abstract Paintings.

Judith is a Wexford-born artist who explores religious

and spiritual ideas through her colourful and abstract oil paintings. Her work can be seen in Enniscorthy cathedral, and she takes commissions for public places of worship as well as private collectors.

She is delighted to be presenting her first solo show in partnership with the Franciscan Friary, Wexford.

www.judithtutinart.com

Friary Hall, School Street, Wexford

Tuesday, October 24 – Wednesday, November 1 Tuesday, October 24, 6pm – 8pm; Wednesday & Thursday, October 25 & 26, Tuesday, October 31, 11am – 2pm; Saturday, October 28, 3pm – 6pm; Sunday, October 29, 12 noon – 2pm. Closed, Friday, October 27 & Bank Holiday

Monday, October 30 Free



# Creativity Counts Exhibition 2023

Wexford Mental Health Association is delighted

to showcase wonderful art, photography, sculpture, and poetry from talented artists across County Wexford.

These artistic pieces are from amateurs who use the above mediums of creativity to promote positive mental health and wellbeing.

## Wexford Mental Health Association, Henrietta Street, Wexford

Saturday & Sunday, October 21 & 22; Saturday, Sunday, & Monday, October 28-30; Saturday & Sunday, November 4 & 5; 11am – 4pm Free

# **2023 Window Display Competition**

Wexford businesses have been invited to use Wexford Festival Opera 2023 as an opportunity to congratulate Wexford on its successful Fleadh Cheoil bid.

Interested businesses should email a photograph of your creative window display by Monday, October 23, 5pm to windowscompetition@wexfordopera.com.

# LOOP

# EMMA ROCHE EMERGENCE Visual Award Winner 2021 Curated by Catherine Bowe

Wexford Arts Centre 17 October - 25 November 2023

Wexford

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# **EXHIBITIONS** OUT OF **TOWN**



## **Irish Gothic**

A solo exhibition by Patricia Hurl in association with IMMA, presented by Wexford County Council and Wexford Arts Centre, in partnership with the Modern Art (IMMA)

Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA).

The exhibition, selected from a major retrospective hosted by IMMA earlier this year, presents one of Ireland's most accomplished artists. Hurl's work is by its nature political, and traverses the disciplines of painting, multimedia and collaborative art practice. Since the 1970s, she has created work that deals with loss, pain, frustration and loneliness.

Patricia Hurl's work was recently included in The Narrow Gate of the Here and Now: IMMA 30 Years of the Global Contemporary: Queer Embodiment; IMMA, Dublin 2021– 2022; Elliptical Affinities: Irish Women Artists and the Politics of the Body, 1984 to the present, Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda, Co Louth and Limerick City Art Gallery, 2019– 2020. Hurl has exhibited in selected group and solo shows and has represented Ireland in symposiums in Atlanta USA, Caversham, S.A., and Zaragossa, Spain.

# Wexford County Council, Carricklawn, Wexford Y35 WY93

Monday, October 16 – Wednesday, Nov 29 Open: Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm

Free



## Open Studio at Precious Pebbles by Verna

Verna's range of pebble art and creations will be on display and you can meet the artist working on her most

recent pieces.

Precious Pebbles by Verna, Forge House, Harristown, Ballymitty, Co. Wexford Y35 YK84 Saturday, October 21, 28, and November 4; 11am - 5pm Sunday, October 22, 29, and November 5, 11am - 5pm

Monday-Friday, October 23-27, 10am - 2pm Wednesday-Friday, November 1-3, 10am - 2pm Free



# Ute Baur Photography Exhibition

Exhibition of photography work by Ute Baur.

Ufucoffee Coffee Shop, Clonard Village Centre, Y35 E434

Tuesday, October 24 - Saturday, October 28, 8am - 4pm; Sunday, October 29, 9am - 3pm Free



# Acquired Brain Injury Ireland – Creative Arts and Crafts Exhibition

A showcase of all the creative art and craft work completed by ABI Ireland Clubhouse Members.

ABI Ireland, Applegreen Station, Drinagh, Co. Wexford Y35 HD9X

Thursday, October 26 & Friday, October 27; 1pm – 4pm

Free



## **Boutique** Dunbrody

Showcasing local artists and artisan crafters, located on the idyllic grounds of Dunbrody Country House Hotel.

Dunbrody Country House Hotel, Arthurstown, Co. Wexford Y34 R597

Thursday, October 26 – Sunday, November 5 Open: Monday, Thursday & Friday, 10am –1pm; Saturday & Sunday, 10am – 4pm Free



# **FESTIVAL ART EXHIBITION**

# **The Makers House Wexford**

A visit to The Makers House is a unique experience. A creative venture set in the heart of Wexford town. their journey began only five years ago and they are aoing from strength to strength. Where else would you see the work of 21 of the finest designer makers from the county, meet with them, talk about their ideas and inspiration?

They exhibit and sell contemporary Irish art, craft and design created in Wexford. A member of the Design Craft Council of Ireland and Wexford Craft Trail. the Makers are professional artists, designers and craftspeople who simply love what they do - and hope you will too.

Come see their stunning range of art, candles, ceramics, environmental art, enamel, felted sculpture, glass, herbal soaps and balms, jewellery, leatherwork, metalwork, painting, photography, pottery, printmaking, sculpture, seaglass, stained glass, textiles, woodturning.

Drop in soon and take the opportunity to meet with the Makers themselves. Talk to them about their inspiration, their designs, ideas and approach to art and design.

The Makers House, Bullring Mall, North Main Street, Wexford Tel: 089 422 9619 Open all year round For Festival: Daily 10.30am - 5pm; Sundays 12 noon - 5pm Free



Deborah Cogley Her collection of colourful and vibrant textiles - cushions and lampshades - are designed to be a reflection of the joy of living in the moment.



Gallagher Leather Roy creates handstitched, handcrafted practical leather goods - handbags, satchels, book and passport covers, and more.



Kristin Gray Primarily a landscape and astrophotographer, her inspiration comes directly from Mother Nature.





# Iohn Holden

Lar Joyce

Iulsuluv

Wildlife and street photographer who spends countless hours in the van, on boats, riverbanks, muddy fields and clifftops to capture that perfect shot!

Works mainly in charcoal and oils painting animals, sea and

beautiful scenery in Ireland and

landscapes inspired by the

his love of animals.



Handcrafted jewellery designed and inspired by the beauty, properties and stunning colours of precious stones given to us by Mother Earth.

## Ann Kennv

Printmaker and illustrator. An accidental texture becomes a landscape; Ann adds a character and suddenly a story appears.



## Dmitrij Kushnar

A print artist working with linocut, inspired by nature and architecture found by walking and exploring the natural landscape.



Mara Coastal Creations Creates environmental art and jewellery, using beachcombed materials, including rare sea glass.



# Heather McCann

Creates stunning mandalas which are mesmerising to behold, with a precision that leaves you wondering how she does it!

### New Wool

Ioan makes guirky and collectable sculptural characters and animals. needle-felted, using colourful wools from the fleece of her own sheep.

# Pauline Quigley

Has a passion for fused and stained glass. Inspired by her rural surroundings, she has designed new pieces for the garden.

PAGE | 28



John Sinnott Making the first cut reveals colours and grain to inspire this fine collection of woodturned bowls and vases created from locally sourced fallen trees.



Mairead Stafford Makes ceramic sculpture stargazers and ceramic pictures with houses full of dreams and butterflies, wild blossoms vases and bowls.



Emily Stamp Paints quirky watercolour portraits of colourful and characterful animals designed to make you smile.



The Handmade Studio Sharon creates magic with her fabulous range of fabric bags, polymer clay jewellery and buttons. If you love colour, you'll love her designs.



Gilly Thomas Creates stunning sculpture for those of us who enjoy the country life and lifestyle. Simple and refined designs in bronze and composite materials.









# Three Moon Candles

Handmade candles with a focus on all things spiritual. The very popular reed diffusers are sublime and a flame-free home fragrance option.

### Mary Wallace

An artist whose sense of colour sings. Imbued with light, her Japanese-inspired kintsugi bowls with golden cracks are exquisite to behold.

Wild Herb Elixir creates totally natural elixirs, soaps, and remedies infused with healing intention in the herbal studio on a farm in the heart of rural Wexford.

### Helen Woods

Encaustic artist who captures the spirit and light of the Irish landscape in her beautiful paintings created with molten wax and resin.



Creative Hub, Bullring Mall, Wexford Y35XNX7 WEXFORD ART - CRAFT - DESIG

OPEN Monday to Saturday Bank Holiday Monday 10:30am to 5pm Talbot Hotel Wexford

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# **Wexford Fringe Guide Coordinators:**

Anne Dwyer, Deirdre O'Flynn, and Pauline Doyle

# **Photographs and Images Supplied Courtesy of:**

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# **Design and Artwork:**

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