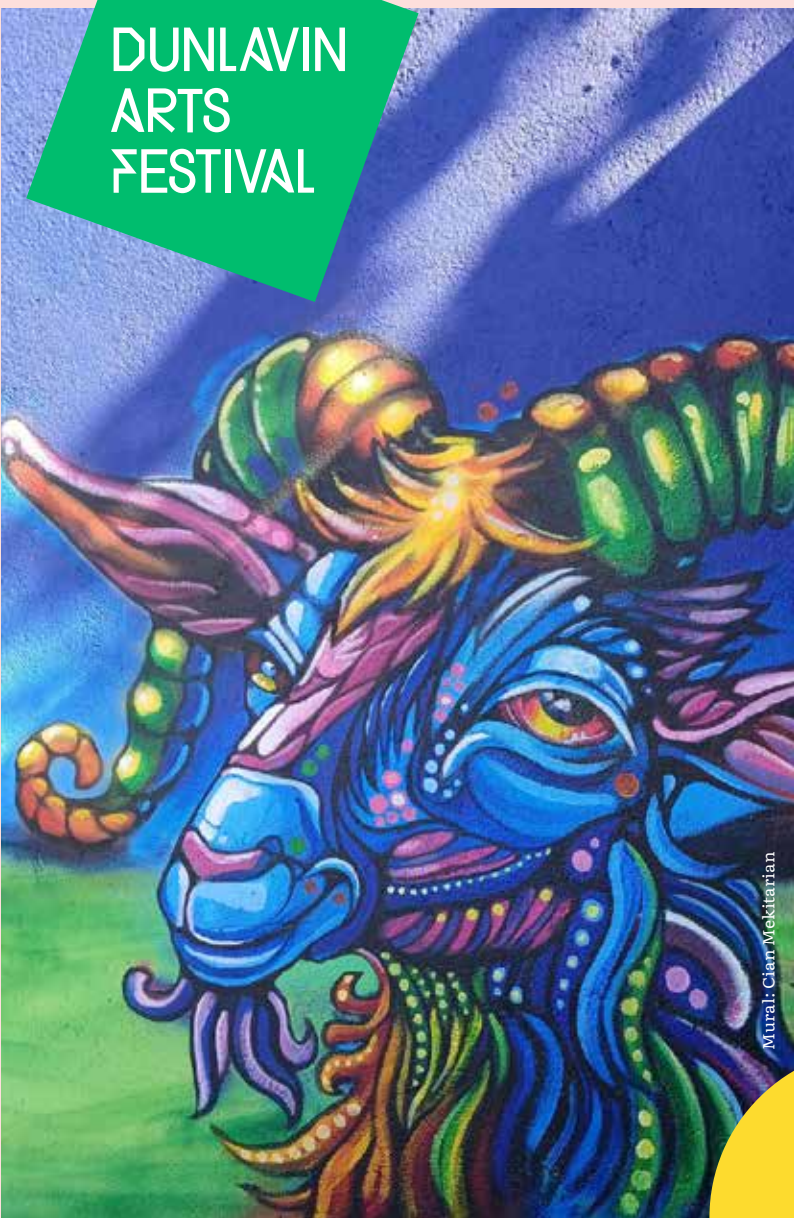


18-21 June 2026

A weekend of art, sculpture, film, music, storytelling and celebration. From sunrise to sunset, there's something for everyone.

DUNLAVIN ARTS FESTIVAL



Mural: Cian Mektarian

Dunlavin Arts Festival is supported by Creative Ireland through the Innovation Award and the Creative Wicklow Award, by Wicklow County Council Arts Office through the Arts Festival Award Scheme, and by the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration through the Integration Fund.

Clár Fairsí Bliantúcháin
Creative Ireland
Programme



Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin
Wicklow County Council

Wicklow County
Arts Office



An Roinn Dlí agus Cúir,
Craobhadh Bialtóir agus Ionadair
Department of Justice,
Home Affairs and Migration



Wicklow County Council
Wicklow County Council
Wicklow County Council



Prelude

Thursday 18th June

3:00pm — Lámh 'Finding Your Voice' Choir, St. Nicholas Church

Lámh 'Finding Your Voice Choir' and 'Baltinglass Sings' come together for an uplifting afternoon performance. Officially opened Wicklow Co. Council Cathaoirleach.

3pm & 4pm, Cailleachs + Vizzards Mask-making workshop

Children's mask-making, free via Eventbrite.

8:00pm — An Evening of Words & Music, St. Nicholas Church

The Dunlavin Writers' Group present a miscellany of short stories, poetry and reflections, interwoven with musical interludes and special performances.

Opening Night

Friday 19th June

6:00-9:00pm — Exhibitions open, various locations throughout the town

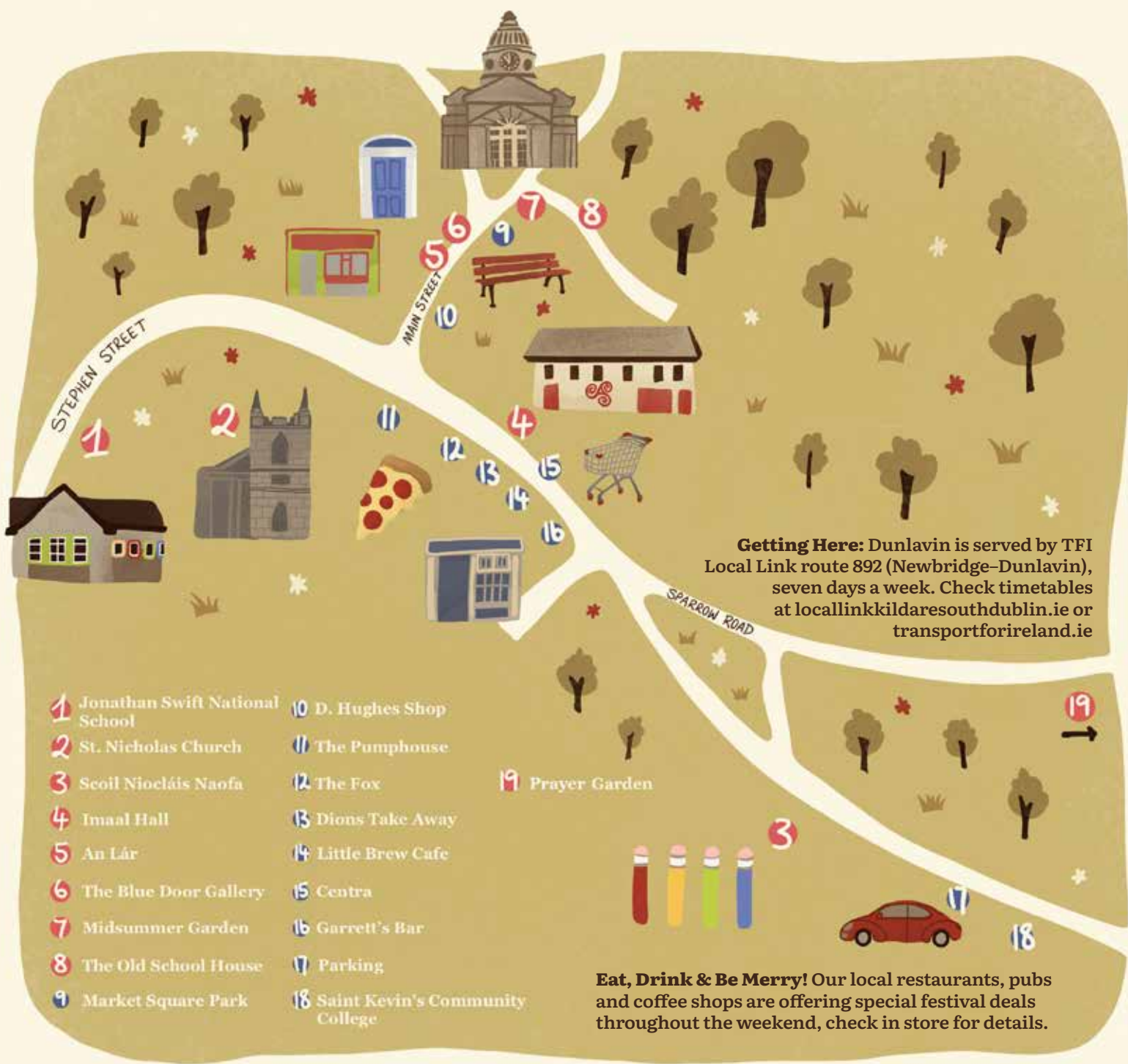
Venues across town will open their doors to showcase some of the best local and emerging artists, with something to discover around every corner. See overleaf for further details.

7:00pm — Official Opening, The Old School House Gallery

Local historian Chris Lawlor officially opens this year's festival. All welcome!

8:00-10:00pm — Line Dancing Social Night, Imaal Hall

€5 which includes supper. In aid of Imaal Hall and Dunlavin Meals on Wheels.



Saturday 20th June

10:00am — West Wicklow Fitness, Ability Inclusive Warm-Up & Healthy Brunch at An Lar
Inclusive, all-ages movement warm-up to kick off the day!

11:00–6:00pm — Exhibitions Open, various locations

11.00am–4pm — Drawing on a Maypole Ritual, Midsummer Garden by Maurice Caplice
A midsummer maypole celebration! Drop in to take part in a communal drawing installation, an evolving work created together throughout the day.

10:00am–12:50pm — Townland Tales: 1926, Storytelling Tent, The Prayer Garden
Join actor Carmel Stephens for ‘Townland Tales: 1926’ an adult storytelling and creative writing workshop that uses the 1926 Census to imagine the hidden lives behind the names, ages and occupations on the page. Tickets €20 through Eventbrite.

1:00–3:00pm — Puppet Show, Market Square Park

1:00–3:00pm — Secret Sonic Cinémathèque, Imaal Hall
An unmissable afternoon of experimental cinema, with live improvised soundtracks and composed scores breathing fresh life into specially selected silent film clips, hidden moving image gems, and collaborations with contemporary film artists. Tickets €10 via Eventbrite.



1:00–1:50pm — Drawing Gulliver! Storytelling Tent, The Prayer Garden
Celebrated illustrator PJ Lynch guides young artists through the fantastical imagery of Gulliver’s Travels, sharing practical tips and bringing Jonathan Swift’s giant imagination onto the page. Tickets free through Eventbrite. Ages 8–10



2:00–2:50pm — Éanna Ní Lamhna, Storytelling Tent, The Prayer Garden
Éanna Ní Lamhna, biologist, broadcaster and national treasure brings us tales from the natural world in an Irish midsummer. Open to all ages. Tickets €5 through Eventbrite.

3:00–3:45pm — Miltown Murder, Storytelling Tent, The Prayer Garden
Local resident and host of the West Cork podcast Jennifer Forde talks with local historian Chris Lawlor about Dunlavin’s 1921 ‘Milltown Murder’ the story of a murder, suicide, and the only execution of a Black and Tan. Tickets free through Eventbrite.

2:00–4:00pm — Drumming, Fair Green
Hands-on drumming session, drop in anytime.

3:00pm — Ballymore Brass Band, Market Square Park
Performing film, classical & brass favourites.

4.30 — 6.30pm Cailleach + Vizzard’s + Parade and Céilí. Departing from The Market House/Library
In 1982, RTÉ cameras caught The Vizzards of Co. Wicklow on film. This weekend, they’re coming back. Join us for a spectacular parade that winds through the town before returning to the Imaal Hall for a céilí.



8:00pm — Midsummer Musical Melodies, St Nicholas Church
Soprano Niamh Murray and Ronan Byrne, accompanied by the Gormanstown Choir and the The Dara String Quartet Church. Tickets €25 via Eventbrite.

Sunday 21st June

4:15am sharp — Ancestral Dawning, Scoil Niocláis Naofa meeting point
Mark midsummer at first light on Tornant Moate, voice artist Signe joiking to the landscape, three jugglers tracing the sunrise sky. Walking distance over uneven terrain is about 1.3 km and includes fording a small stream on a narrow wooden plank.

11:00–5:00pm — Exhibitions Open

11:00–5:00pm — Craft Fair, Imaal Hall & beside the Old School House
Browse and buy from a wonderful range of local makers and craftspeople.

10:00am–4.30pm — Plein air painting, Old School House
Local and visiting artists take to the streets and green spaces of Dunlavin for this year’s plein air painting competition. Browse entries throughout the day and join us at the Old School House at 4:30pm for the winners’ announcement. Taking part? Register for €10 on Eventbrite.



Image: William Kenny, Wood Kratts

1:00–3:00pm — Puppet Show, Market Square Park

1:00–3:00pm — Secret Sonic Cinémathèque, Imaal Hall
See Saturday description



2:00–2:50pm & 3:30–4:20pm — Seed Bomb Workshop with Siobhan Madden, St. Nicholas Church Garden

Connected to Brennan & Grace’s Don’t Look at Me That Way, make seed bombs from heritage seeds and explore Irish biodiversity and healing plants. Free booking via Eventbrite.

2:00–4:00pm — Drumming, Fair Green
See Saturday description

3:00pm — Drawing on a Maypole Ritual Midsummer Garden
Gather at the maypole for a dance display led by An Cailleach, the ancient Irish figure who presides over the turning of the seasons.

4:30pm Plein Air Awards, Old School House

5pm — Dunlavin Tidy Towns Festival Tidy-up with tea/coffee afterwards

Exhibitions

All: Fri 6pm–9pm, Sat 11am–6pm, Sun 11am–5pm

The Market House, our cornerstone exhibition space, is taking a well-earned break this year while undergoing renovation.

Old School House Gallery Exhibition

An exhibition packed with exciting work by emerging artists.

The Wicklow Hills Arts Collective, Jonathan Swift National School

The Wicklow Hills Arts Collective presents 'Dwell' – an exhibition by visual artists from across West Wicklow that invites festivalgoers to reflect on our connection to space and place. The artworks in the exhibition create moments of dwelling for the viewer, as the being-in-time of the Grianstad/Summer Solstice encounters the being-in-space of our built and natural environments.



Image: Seamus O'Byrne



Image: Cruthú

Cruthú Art Collective, Scoil Niocláis Naofa

A warm welcome back to local art group Cruthú.

Joan and Norman Styles, The Blue Door Gallery

Intricate hand-carved sculptures and vibrant paintings that celebrate the richness and wonder of the natural world.

Redline Art Group, An Lár (upstairs)

The group return with a new collective show.

Uisce Beath, Weaving the Alchemy of Water, Pop-up window gallery (beside Centra).

A showcase of pieces created over two foraging and dye-making workshops.

Workshops

Natural dye-making
Sunday 7 June and 14,
11am–3pm, Free via
Eventbrite



Gulliver's Travels Postcard Exhibition, Scoil Niocláis Naofa Hall

Tiny works, big imaginations. Local schoolchildren reimagine the world of Gulliver's Travels in this postcard-sized exhibition. Midsummer Garden Exhibition

Midsummer Garden Exhibition

This year's outdoor exhibition, hosted in a private garden, brings together selected sculptures by local professional artists alongside a special commission by Maurice Caplice. A rare chance to experience work beneath open skies with a new perspective on our beloved Market House, the garden is conceived as a space of celebration, ritual,

and thanksgiving and all works are available for sale. Maurice's installation centres on a Maypole reinterpreted in a post-colonial spirit, drawing on Nordic and African visual traditions to deliberately move away from the form's quintessentially British associations, and animated by a beat box stereo to create a living, contemporary energy. Maurice will be present throughout the festival weekend, and the public are invited to take free chalk and add their own drawings to a blackboard-painted plywood base around the pole; a communal artwork that grows over the four days. The weekend culminates on Sunday 21st June at 3pm with a Maypole thanksgiving ritual.



Cailleachs + Vizzards Midsummer Parade and Céilí

The Vizzards, masked, costumed figures travelling in disguise, were once a living West Wicklow Halloween tradition. This parade brings that tradition back at midsummer, alongside An Cailleach, the ancient Gaelic figure whose year turns precisely at midsummer. Led through the village by Stefan on his penny farthing, the whole community joins in handmade masks, hats and costumes. Finishing at Imaal Hall for live music and dance. Special thanks to Emperors Robes Festival Company for their support.

Workshops:

Mask Making Workshop: Get creative and make your own mask to wear at the parade! Age 6+. Wednesday 16th June, 3pm & 4pm. Above An Lár. Tickets: Free, book via Eventbrite.

Drop-in Costume and Flag Making Workshops: Transform discarded festival tents into flags and costumes. Tuesday 9th of June from 10am–1pm and Sunday 13th June 2pm–5pm. Imaal Hall. Tickets: Free, no booking required, just drop in.

Mummers Hat Making Workshop: Make your own traditional mummers hat to wear at the parade! Watch out for straw and stop by to make your own hat. Friday 20th June, from 6pm (opening evening), Stephen's Street, Dunlavin, Tickets: Free, no booking required.

'Don't Look at Me That Way' by Noel Brennan and James Grace, St Nicholas Church

What would a living, growing artwork in the heart of Dunlavin look like? This year's festival presents the third piece in the "Don't" trilogy by Brennan and Grace. Built from organic and industrial materials with native Irish planting and illuminated growing systems, the work was initially developed around the Market House and is intended to evolve across Wicklow over time. The prototype is both artwork and tool: something to gather around, observe and respond to. Supported by the Creative Wicklow Innovation Award 2026, with contributions from former Director of the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland Peter Wyse Jackson and eco-artist Siobhán Madden.



'Sceach' by Rónán Ó Raghallaigh, Imaal Hall Squash court screening

What did Irish sound like in West Wicklow when it was still the language of everyday life? Drawing on a rare 1933 pamphlet, this project re-imagines the regional pronunciation and vocabulary of East Leinster Irish as it may have been spoken locally and brings it back to the place it came from.

At the heart of the work is a short film, shot in Dunlavin, in which Rónán collaborates with two Wicklow Irish speakers. They create their own roaming contemporary hedge school to explore and practice distinctive local dialect features. Subtitled in Irish and English, with vernacular spellings drawn from the source text, the film is both a creative document and an act of linguistic recovery and recreation. Alongside the screening, visitors are invited to take away a free illustrated A4 worksheet, part artwork, part playful language exercise.



Ancestral Dawning

Before the town wakes up, come and witness the turning of the year. This outdoor gathering is midsummer at first light, a brief and luminous threshold between night and day. Come and mark for yourself the height of summer, between days lengthening and days shortening. It is a moment that has been marked by people in this landscape for millennia.

At the heart of the spectacle will be one voice, as local voice artist Signe sounds out to the landscape, inspired by Sámi Joiking. This is a practice rooted in a tradition where voice does not simply describe a place, it enacts a living relationship with it. Woven into relationship with the voice, see afresh the Tournant Moate and surrounding landscape, ancient magnet for our ancestors. Finally witness juggling, an embodied language of rhythm, repetition, and harmony. Three local jugglers will stand on top of the Moate, Nick, Uisce and Peadar as the sun comes up. The arc of a thrown object in the early morning light become a way of marking time, holding the season, and being present together in a living and breathing place. Meet at Scoil Niocláis Naofa 4:15am and you will be led up to the Moate.