

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



Credit: National Library of Ireland

NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK 2019 17-25 AUG

Pastimes | Past Times

100 EVENT IDEAS

www.heritageweek.ie    

Pastimes | Past Times

From 17-25 August 2019, hundreds of event organisers in national institutions and local community organisations will organise National Heritage Week events throughout the country.

Coordinated by the Heritage Council, National Heritage Week is Ireland's most popular cultural event and this year over 450,000 people are expected to participate in over 2,000 heritage events. National Heritage Week is part of European Heritage Days which promote Europe's common cultural heritage.



In 2019, take a stroll through history and discover how our free time has evolved in often fascinating ways. Our pastimes today have been shaped by hundreds of years of storytelling, craft, sport and music.

Trace the story from fireside audiences thrilled by ancient epics to online communities bonding over boxsets. See how traditional crafts are growing in popularity as a new generation discovers the joy of hand-making. Explore hurling's long journey from Cú Chullainn to Croke Park. Learn how our modern music festivals have nothing on the hedonism of Donnybrook Fair in the 1800s!

During Heritage Week everyone will have the chance to connect with their heritage; to enjoy, appreciate and share it.

Want to get involved as an event organiser? It's as easy as 1,2,3.

- 1 Choose your event from this list or think of your own event idea!**
- 2 Visit heritageweek.ie to learn about planning and promoting your event.**
- 3 Register your event at heritageweek.ie from 1 May 2019.**

INDOORS

- 1** Our history in 10 objects. Ask your community to submit objects that have historical significance to their family. Host a night where each person shares the story of their object.
- 2** Explore the fascinating history of the ancient [Tailteann Games](#), Ireland's answer to the Olympics!
- 3** Hold a '[living library](#)' where visitors meet a selection of people with historical stories or crafts they share in 5 minute one-on-one conversations.
- 4** Discover the pastimes of monks from beer brewing to calligraphy!
- 5** Investigate the blurred line between crafting for practicality and for pleasure.
- 6** Show me your heritage and I will show you mine. Ask other nationalities living in your town to talk about the most popular pastimes in their countries.
- 7** Explore the history of factory workers' involvement in team sports.
- 8** Explore the evolution of festivals from Samhain to [Donnybrook Fair](#) to Electric Picnic!
- 9** Record a podcast on an aspect of history that interests you.
- 10** Roll up, roll up! Explore the history of travelling entertainment from circuses to travelling shows.
- 11** Organise a seisiún with both Irish music and musicians from other countries playing their traditional music.
- 12** Investigate the [history of traditional music](#) and how styles, instruments and ways of listening to music have changed.
- 13** Do a call-out for unusual personal collections from dolls to beer mats and curate a pop-up exhibition. Put the word out through social media and local media.
- 14** Look at how storytelling has evolved from the oral tradition to television series.
- 15** Host a skills swap where people share their skills with one another. From lacemaking to researching your family tree, everyone can learn from each other!
- 16** Organise a guided tour of an old theatre or ballroom by people who used to work or socialise there.

- 17 Curate an exhibition about an aspect of your county's heritage. Could it travel between towns during Heritage Week?
- 18 Examine the historical and social context of trends in hobbies from stamp collecting to video gaming.
- 19 Create a [sound exhibition](#) of old recordings of interviews, news clippings or music.
- 20 Invite your local radio station to record a special Heritage Week show with speakers, music and chat at a heritage venue.
- 21 Study folklore, fairytales and nurse rhymes as both entertainment and education.
- 22 Delve into the influence and impact of 'hobbyists' in history, science or engineering.
- 23 Explore the history of outdoor pursuits from the first mountaineers to modern geocaching!
- 24 If you're an academic share your research during Heritage Week. Organise a talk, seminar, workshop or conference on your area of expertise.
- 25 Bring together a panel of historians, writers or journalists to discuss Ireland's changing use of leisure time.



OUTDOORS

- 26 Take a stroll as you discuss the history of walking for pleasure, from 18th century promenades to modern hillwalking clubs.
- 27 Plan a traditional sports day. Why not use your local GAA pitch to show people new to Ireland the basics of football and hurling? Ask them to teach you their traditional games.
- 28 Explore the hobby of beekeeping from learning about bees to producing honey and candlemaking.
- 29 Team up with a local drama group to bring history to life on a tour led by historical characters.
- 30 Lead a [birdwatching](#) walk.
- 31 Paint a public mural based on the history of your town. Speak with your local council or businesses to find a suitable wall.
- 32 Take a spin on a cycling tour. Use a city bike scheme if available to encourage people who do not own bicycles.

- 33 Revive the tradition of dancing at the crossroads for a night out with a difference.
- 34 Look at the history of gardening for pleasure on a garden tour.
- 35 Create a self-guided history or nature trail on paper or record it as a podcast.
- 36 See how many [wildflowers](#) you can find and identify on a wildflower walk.
- 37 Early risers can organise a sunrise walk to hear the dawn chorus.
- 38 Plan a guided walk or cycle along one of Ireland's beautiful [greenways](#).
- 39 Fishing has its own rich heritage in Ireland. Teach new skills in workshops or on the water.
- 40 Discover bats, owls, moths or stargazing on a night walk.
- 41 [Identify trees](#) on a walking tour.
- 42 Bring a group on a guided tour of a [National Park](#), [Nature Reserve](#) or [Special Area of Conservation](#) near you.
- 43 Create a butterfly garden in your community. Have a weekend of volunteering to dig, plant and decorate the garden.
- 44 Plan a day out in [the bog](#). There are nearly 150 protected raised and blanket bogs in Ireland.
- 45 Plan an urban wildlife tour. Look at seagulls, foxes, pigeons, and even rats in a new light!
- 46 Bring a group for a guided running tour.
- 47 See how many [bumblebees](#) you can find on a walk.
- 48 Create a heritage trail around your local area. Maybe a temporary trail during Heritage Week will inspire your community to build a permanent one in the future!
- 49 Open your [archaeological excavations](#) to the community during Heritage Week. It will help local people find out what you're doing and why.
- 50 Plan a genealogical tour of your local graveyard and include some interesting stories about its more colourful residents.



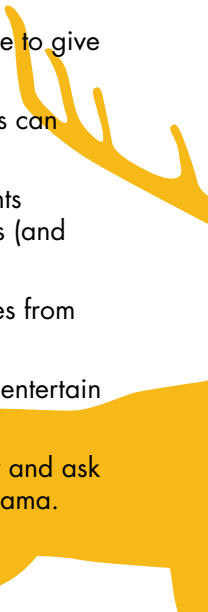
FOR COMMUNITIES



- 51** Plan a pastimes tour of your town. Take in sports grounds, forgotten ballrooms or former cinemas.
- 52** Suburbs have a history too! Look at the history of newer suburbs through your shared pastimes, from sports clubs to drama groups.
- 53** Organise a [heritage festival](#) in your community. You can start small this year. From little acorns...
- 54** Bring Heritage Week to those who cannot come to it e.g. events in retirement homes.
- 55** Bring a group together to build a bee hotel, bug hotel, bird boxes or bat boxes.
- 56** Gather photos of the town now and then from groups of people to streetscapes. Put them online too so more people can see them. See www.nli.ie for old photographic collections.
- 57** Plan a shopfront trail. Ask local shopkeepers to explore the history of their business with a window display e.g. a shop could display old photographs, ledgers or advertisements.
- 58** Create a 'Secret Stories of...' tour. Focus on little known facts and forgotten places in your area.
- 59** Hold a Dark Skies astronomy night. Encourage everyone to switch off their lights and go stargazing!
- 60** Organise a beekeeping demonstration with your local beekeeping group.
- 61** Invite people to bring along photos to share in a memory café.
- 62** Think about people in your community whose historical achievements might have been overlooked and put a spotlight on their stories.
- 63** Look at www.heritagemaps.ie to discover the built, cultural and natural heritage of your area and host a talk or walk based on your research.
- 64** Hold an exhibition on [regenerating your heritage town](#) in your area. Ask people to submit ideas and artwork to begin the discussion in your community.
- 65** Connect with heritage groups in other European countries and see if there is scope to work together. Why not approach your twinned town if you already have one?
- 66** Host an event exploring local placenames. Visit www.logainm.ie to start your research.

- 67 Bring visitors on a walk by your local river, reservoir or lake. Talk about the ecosystem our waters provide and how we can help protect it. Visit www.lawaters.ie for more information.
- 68 Raise awareness and gather support to tackle a heritage concern in your area e.g. a heritage monument at risk.
- 69 Is your town or village beside a significant landmark? Collaborate with nearby towns to celebrate your shared heritage.
- 70 Create a new online resource with the help of your community e.g. online database of local fieldnames or photos.
- 71 Organise a meeting of local businesses and groups to see what you can do as a community to build [sustainable heritage tourism](#).
- 72 Make everyone welcome with sign language interpretation or autism-friendly events.
- 73 Ask language students or native speakers to give your tour in different languages.
- 74 Have a clean-up day for your area around a local monument, a street etc.
- 75 Find other groups in your area and work together e.g. Tidy Towns or Men's Sheds.

FOR FAMILIES

- 76 Have children create their own pop-up 'Museum of Me'. Ask each child to bring one item of significance to their lives and allow them to curate the exhibition.
 - 77 Give children the chance to be tour guides for the day. Make sure to give them a hat or badge so they know they're in charge!
 - 78 Organise a family street games session. Parent and grandparents can share games they played as children.
 - 79 Ask children to create videos based on their parents/grandparents pastimes. Arrange a screening during Heritage Week with prizes (and popcorn!)
 - 80 Have an old games day with old board games, toys and activities from many years ago or as recent as the 1990s!
 - 81 Ask children to imagine a life before electricity. How would they entertain themselves?
 - 82 Run an imagining history workshop. Choose a moment in history and ask them to imagine they were there through writing stories, art or drama.
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- 83** Invite local crafters to organise workshops passing on their skills to younger generations.
- 84** Organise a children and grandparents storytelling session.
- 85** Create a selfie scavenger hunt. Prepare a list of photos participants must take within a certain time limit e.g. a [Georgian building](#), an oak tree etc.
- 86** Encourage children to become heritage detectives. Solve clues together on their visit to a castle, wood, beach etc.
- 87** Become a fossil explorer! Teach how to identify different rocks, minerals and fossils.
- 88** Create a historic [street trail](#) with a map and worksheet for your town.
- 89** Work with an artist to run a drawing workshop at a heritage site.
- 90** Create a heritage hunt using a page of local historic landmarks which children can tick as they find them.
- 91** Take a [wildflower walk](#) and then learn how to press flowers.
- 92** Choose an old photo and have a children's workshop to recreate it as accurately as possible. Costumes, poses and props all need to be considered!
- 93** Ask your local library to make a display of heritage books and have a storytelling morning.
- 94** Organise a Lego building competition. Build a historic building or event.
- 95** Lead a [butterfly walk](#) using identification guides and recording sheets.
- 96** Run an art, photography or writing competition for children culminating in an exhibition during Heritage Week.
- 97** Explore the myths and legends behind the game of hurling.
- 98** Host a heritage fancydress competition with prizes for the best costume.
- 99** A Day in the Life. Get in costume and lead a walk around a historic site. Talk about your daily life, clothing, food and pastimes.
- 100** For lots more ideas for fun children's heritage activities visit www.heritageinschools.ie and link to the teachers resources page.