

Spleodar
Halloween Arts Festival Nenagh

Éist
Sluchač

28TH-31ST OCTOBER 2025

NENAGH
ARTS
CENTRE



Lead-in Events



Poetry Outreach in School – Áine Ní Ghlinn

Venue: **Gaelscoil/N.A.C**

Áine Ní Ghlinn, Ireland's Laureate na nÓg, visited Gaelscoil Aonach Urmhumhan to run a poetry workshop with the students.

She encouraged them to play with words, listen closely to language, and try out their own ideas in Irish. The children explored rhythm, sound and story in a fun, creative way, and got to see how poetry can be part of everyday life.

A special exhibition of the children's work will be on display in Nenagh Arts Centre as part of the festival.



Éistigí, Éistigí – Nenagh Youth Theatre

Venue: **Various (click QR code for locations)**

Join Nenagh Youth Theatre as they give an audio tour of local Nenagh landmarks, celebrating our town's heritage and history.

Nenagh Youth Theatre created this audio exhibition to provide a space where you can stop, listen and get a glimpse into the lives and legends that shaped this historic town. Éistigí, Éistigí was written and directed by Calvin Magee, with audio editing by David Noonan. Voice actors include Nenagh Youth Theatre members.



SCAN
QR
CODE



Saturdays 18th & 25th Oct. from 2.30pm – 4pm

Sundays 19th & 26th Oct. from 10am – 11.30am

Lantern Making Workshops – Ellen Finnerty/Hug Casals

Venue: **Nenagh Arts Centre**

Lantern-building workshops open to all ages and abilities. The hour and a half long workshops will be facilitated by local artists Ellen Finnerty and Hug Casals and will run over two weekends in October. Come to as little as one, or as many as four.

A lovely opportunity to work with your hands and to learn traditional willow and paper construction techniques. We can't wait to see you there!

Bring your lanterns to the Garden Bathing Soundscape experience in Nenagh Castle Gardens on Wednesday 29th October between 4pm – 5pm.

€5 | Ages: Suitable for 7+

Éist



Słuchać

SPLEODAR FESTIVAL TIMETABLE 2025

Saturdays 18th & 25th Oct

Lantern Making Workshops from 2.30pm - 4pm

7+ years

Sundays 19th & 26th Oct

Lantern Making Workshops from 10am - 11.30am

7+ years

Tuesday 28th October

11am - 1pm

Haunted Sounds Workshop

8 - 14 years

Wednesday 29th October

12pm - 5pm

Stop Motion Animation

8 - 16 years

2pm - 4pm

Mandala Workshop - Drop in

Suitable for all ages

4pm - 5pm

Garden Bathing - Soundscape and Lantern Walk

Suitable for all ages

7pm - 8pm

Far Flung Trio - Family concert

Suitable for all ages

Thursday 30th October

11am - 12pm

Parent/Child Listen and Dance Workshop

Suitable for under 10 years
accompanied by an adult

12pm - 4pm

Hand Plaster Casting Workshop - Drop in

Suitable for all ages

2pm - 4pm

Art/Mask Workshop

6+ years

5pm - 6pm

Mobius from the Book of Fire - Show involves fire*

Suitable for all ages

7pm

Battle of the Bands

Suitable for all ages

Friday 31st October

2pm - 2.30pm

Storytelling

4 - 6 years

2.30pm - 3pm

Storytelling

7 - 10 years

2pm - 5pm

Facepainting - Drop in

Suitable for all ages

2pm - 5pm

Treasure Haunt - Drop in

Suitable for all ages

3.30pm - 5.30pm

Halloween Wreath Making

Suitable for all ages

Under 8s must be accompanied by an adult

4pm - 6pm

Witches & Wizards - Drop in

4 - 10 years

Under 8s must be accompanied by an adult

5.30pm - 6.30pm

Drumming & Dance Workshop

Suitable for all ages

6.30pm - 7pm

Street Parade

Suitable for all ages

7pm

Fireworks

Suitable for all ages



Booking information

Tickets available from:

**Nenagh Arts Centre (NAC),
Banba Square,
Nenagh, E45 NX26**

via: www.spleodar.ie or by
phone on: **067 34400**

Terms & conditions

**Places are limited, so book early
to avoid disappointment.**

Children under 16 must be
accompanied by an adult to all
events. Parents/guardians will be
advised at the time of booking
if they are required to remain with
their children during the workshops.

No refunds, except in the event of a
cancellation by the festival.

Disabled Access

Please tell us when booking if you
have any special requirements
and we will do our very best to
facilitate you. Wheelchair spaces are
available in the theatre and must be
allocated at the time of booking.

Venues

All events are held at Nenagh Arts
Centre unless advised otherwise.

Brochure designed by

dead creative.



Welcome to Spleodar 2025

Our annual spooktacular event, now in its 26th incarnation.

Spleodar 2025 will bring shadows to life and turn Nenagh into a cauldron of mystery and magic. Witches will whisper, ghosts may giggle, and jack-o'-lanterns will light your path as the town fills with music, laughter, and just a hint of mischief around candlelit corners and down eerie alleyways. Watch out for things that go bump in the night. And remember—listen closely to the sounds around you. ÉIST!

Expect the unexpected: strange sights, curious sounds, and spine-tingling surprises lurking around every corner. You might stumble upon **Rogu's fire performance** outside Nenagh's Gaol, a fiery fusion of circus, dance, martial arts, and magic. Or follow a ghoulish **treasure haunt** through the town's historic sites. Perhaps you'll dance with skeletons under the moonlit sky, or go **Garden Bathing** in the Castle Gardens, listening to a haunted soundscape and creating spooky sounds under the flickering lantern light. And don't miss **Far Flung Trio** in Nenagh Arts Centre's Theatre—a dizzying, uplifting musical experience for all the family to open this year's Halloween Festival.

This year's festival is brimming with tricks and treats for all ages. Children can conjure up crafts and join **spooky workshops**, while the bravest of souls may dare to venture into chilling performances, haunted happenings, and spectral spectacles. Try your hand at **Stop Motion Animation**, **Weirdy Witch and Wizard Workshops**, or **Mask Painting**. **Craft a mandala**, a festive wreath, or a paper-and-bamboo lantern—or simply settle in to listen to **ghostly stories**. Together, we'll celebrate the magic of imagination, the joy of community, and the thrill of a good Halloween scare—culminating in a fantastical **fireworks display** on the grounds of CBS this Halloween Night.

In September, Aosdána member Áine Ní Ghlinn worked with local primary school children to create poetry inspired by **ÉIST!**—their words will be on exhibition in NAC during the festival. Nenagh Youth Theatre's Calvin Magee has been conjuring **Éistigi, Éistigi** with David Noonan. Meanwhile, Ellen Finnerty and Hug Casals have been busy running **lantern-making workshops** for Garden Bathing in the Castle Gardens and for the Halloween Parade.

*Spleodar couldn't happen without the support of our funders:
The Arts Council, Tipperary County Council, and Nenagh Arts Centre.
Special thanks also to St. Joseph's CBS, Nenagh Municipal District,
Nenagh Tourist Office, and the OPW. Most importantly, thank you—
our participants and audiences—for bringing the festival to life.
Without you, the festival would surely be doomed!*

So, sharpen your fangs, dust off your broomsticks, and bring your lanterns to light the way. At Spleodar 2025, every ghoul, ghost, and goblin have a place to play as Nenagh comes alive... especially after dark.

And remember—listen well. The town is calling. ÉIST!



Trish Taylor Thompson
Artistic Director,
Nenagh Arts Centre



11AM-1PM : Tuesday 28th October

'Strange instruments, electronics and things that go bump in the night!'

HAUNTED SOUNDS WORKSHOP

- Nenagh Art Centre Theatre

Join musician and sound artist Andy Spearpoint to explore and make strange and spooky sounds!

The results will be recorded and turned into a soundscape to be played in Nenagh Castle Garden the next day.

You'll be playing all sorts of strange instruments, electronics and things that go bump in the night!

€5 | Ages: 8 – 14 year olds | Duration: 2 hours

12PM–5PM : Wednesday 29th October

**STOP MOTION ANIMATION**

– Nenagh Arts Centre Theatre

Want to create your very own stop motion animation? Mike Byrne will deliver his stop motion animation workshop that will show you the various techniques required to bring your stories to life. Learn how to create characters and miniature sets using plasticine clay, coloured cards, and other materials. You will also have the opportunity to add sound effects and even voice overs. It's a super fun, immersive experience, and once complete, all animations will be shared on Mike's YouTube channel.

Bring a packed lunch!

€8 for children | Ages: 8 – 16 year olds
| Duration: 5 hours

2PM–4PM : Wednesday 29th October

**MANDALA WORKSHOP**

– Nenagh Castle Grounds

Join Mayumi for the Nature Mandala Making Workshop! We will create a large circular geometric pattern (mandala) using natural materials.

Following the theme of this year's festival, we will explore the idea of listening while creating, immersed in nature and nighttime sounds in the grounds of Nenagh Castle. No experience necessary. All ages and abilities welcome.

FREE | Ages: Suitable for all ages | Duration: Drop in

4PM–5PM : Wednesday 29th October

**GARDEN BATHING – SOUNDSCAPE AND LANTERN WALK**

– Nenagh Castle Garden

Relax and unwind in a special Garden Bathing session, surrounded by a unique soundscape created by Andy Spearpoint. The evening will feature lanterns made by locals who participated in the lantern-making workshops with Ellen Finnerty and Hug Casals in the lead-up to the festival. Come enjoy the atmosphere, the music, and the glow of handmade lanterns in this calm, immersive experience.

FREE | Ages: Suitable for all ages | Duration: 1 hour



7PM–8PM : Wednesday 29th October

FAR FLUNG TRIO – FAMILY CONCERT

– Nenagh Arts Centre Theatre

An evening with the Far Flung Trio is guaranteed to lift your spooky spirits! Their playful and virtuosic repertoire comprises a dizzying array of styles that would topple any witch off her broomstick.

Join Katherine Hunka (violin) Dermot Dunne (accordion) and Malachy Robinson (double bass) for an exciting, richly musical journey.

€5 for children/€10 for adults/Family ticket – €20 (2 adults/2 children)
| Suitable for all ages | Duration: 1 hour

“The trio’s enthusiasm and sense of enjoyment in what they were doing simply oozed from the stage and the audience loved it”

– The Irish Examiner

‘Guaranteed to lift your spirits!’

11AM-12PM : Thursday 30th October**LISTEN AND DANCE**

- Nenagh Arts Centre

Join us for Listen and Dance, a joyful workshop designed for children under 10 and their grown ups, as part of this year's Spleodar Festival. Inspired by this year's theme, ÉIST, meaning "listen" in Irish, this playful session blends movement, rhythm, and imagination. Through guided listening and creative dance, you'll explore sound and connection in a fun, relaxed space. A perfect way to find new dance moves and celebrate Spleodar magic together!

€5 for adults. Children Free. | Ages: Suitable for children under 10 accompanied by an adult
| Duration: 1 hour

Adults must remain for the duration of the workshop*12PM – 4PM** : Thursday 30th October**HAND PLASTER CASTING WORKSHOP**

- Nenagh Arts Centre

Come and try your hand at plaster casting with Philip Quinn! You'll get to make your own plaster creations, exploring shapes, textures, and patterns as you go. No experience is needed — just bring your imagination and have fun getting messy and creative.

€5 | Ages: Suitable for all ages | Duration: Drop in

2PM-4PM : Thursday 30th October**ART/MASK WORKSHOP**

- Nenagh Arts Centre

Join local artist Ellie Cullen for a Halloween themed art and masks workshop. Learn quick and easy techniques that are vibrant and fun.

Participants can opt to work on paper to create a Halloween picture or design a colourful Halloween mask to wear during the parade.

€5 | Ages: 6+ | Duration: 2 hours



5PM-6PM : Thursday 30th October



MOBIUS FROM THE BOOK OF FIRE

- Nenagh Gaol Car Park

**'An
atmosphere
that draws
audiences in.'**

Join ROGU for a fire performance that combines circus, dance, martial arts and magic. Mobius uses fire, movement and light to tell stories in a clear and striking way.

The show features strong choreography, inventive fire techniques and an atmosphere that draws audiences in.

FREE | Ages: Suitable for all ages | Duration: 1 hour

*** Please be aware that this show involves fire.**

Please follow the guidance of the stewards and Safety Officers at all times.





7PM : Thursday 30th October

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

– Nenagh Arts Centre Theatre

We are delighted to partner with Music Generation Tipperary to bring you a celebration of our emerging Rock bands from across Tipperary.

Everyone's a winner in this battle as it promises to be a highly entertaining musical evening and a highlight of the festival for all the family. This is how to go out with a bang!

FREE | Ages: Suitable for all ages | Duration: 2 hours

**'A highly
entertaining
musical
event!'**



**Music Generation
Tipperary**
Thiobraid Árann



**Tipperary
ETB**
Local Enterprise Office for the Tipperary Region
Tipperary Education & Training Board



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council



2PM–3PM : Friday 31st October

2pm–2:30pm : 4–6 year olds
2:30pm–3pm : 7–10 year olds

STORYTELLING WITH HELENA BYRNE – Nenagh Arts Centre

Join Helena for a storytelling session full of Irish folklore, including leprechauns, fairy folk and spooky ghost stories. Children will be invited to listen, use their imagination, and take part in the stories as they unfold. There will be plenty of chances to join in, add ideas, and enjoy the fun of traditional stories retold in a lively way.

FREE | Ages: 4–6yrs/7–10yrs | Duration: 30 minutes



2PM–5PM : Friday 31st October

FACEPAINTING

– Nenagh Arts Centre

Let our talented artist transform your face into a work of art. Skeletons or Witches, scary or fun, come transform with Nenagh Arts Centre – a design for everyone!

Don't miss out on this colourful and creative experience, and get your face painted ready for Halloween!

€2 | Ages: Suitable all ages | Duration: Drop in

2PM–5PM : Friday 31st October



TREASURE HAUNT

– Nenagh Arts Centre

Join us as we transform the town into a mysterious playground of riddles and clues. Navigate through spooky locations, uncover hidden secrets and solve mind-bending puzzles to unlock the ultimate Halloween treasure. Gather your friends and family for a quest filled with excitement, teamwork and a dash of Halloween magic. Get ready for a hauntingly fun experience like no other!

Activity sheet and Map on page 14 and 15

FREE | Ages: Suitable all ages | Duration: Drop in

3.30PM–5.30PM : Friday 31st October



HALLOWEEN WREATH MAKING

– Nenagh Arts Centre Theatre

Join Kay O'Donoghue for a relaxed wreath making workshop using natural, seasonal materials. Kay will guide you through the steps to make your own wreath, while also encouraging a slower pace and time to notice the colours, textures and scents of the materials. The workshop is open to all ages and no experience is needed. All materials are provided. It's a chance to make something with your hands, learn a few simple techniques, and bring home your own handmade wreath.

€5 | Ages: Suitable for all ages. Under 8s must be accompanied by an adult | Duration: 2 hours

4PM-6PM : Friday 31st October

**WITCHES AND WIZARDS WORKSHOP**

- Nenagh Arts Centre

Gerardine Wisdom will show you how to create Witches and Wizards by twisting coloured pipe cleaners, threading beads, sticking on eyes, cutting fabric, wool, feathers, and paper to make your very own Halloween icon.

FREE | Ages: 4 - 10yrs. (Under 8s must be accompanied by an adult) | Duration: Drop in

5.30PM-6.30PM : Friday 31st October

**DRUMMING & DANCE WORKSHOP**

- Nenagh Arts Centre Theatre

Urs Wenk of Drum Dance Ireland brings a high-energy and accessible drumming workshop for everyone to enjoy.

Follow the simple but fun moves choreographed by award-winning dance instructor Katrina Galvin ahead of this evening's parade. So dust off your Halloween costume, fine tune your moves and shake it out!

FREE | Ages: Suitable for all ages | Duration: 1 hour

6.30PM-7PM : Friday 31st October

**STREET PARADE**

- Meet at Nenagh Arts Centre

Get your costume ready! Step into the enchanting world of Halloween as our vibrant parade takes to the streets! Come together to celebrate the spirit of the season with costumes, lights and music.

Manoeuvre through the streets of Nenagh with our chief Mummer, lots of ghastly ghouls and spooky companions. Be amazed (and terrified!) by the frightening array of masks on display, gathering people as we go and culminating at the CBS school for our annual spectacle

FREE firework show. Let's ignite the night sky!

FREE | Ages: Suitable for all ages | Duration: Drop in

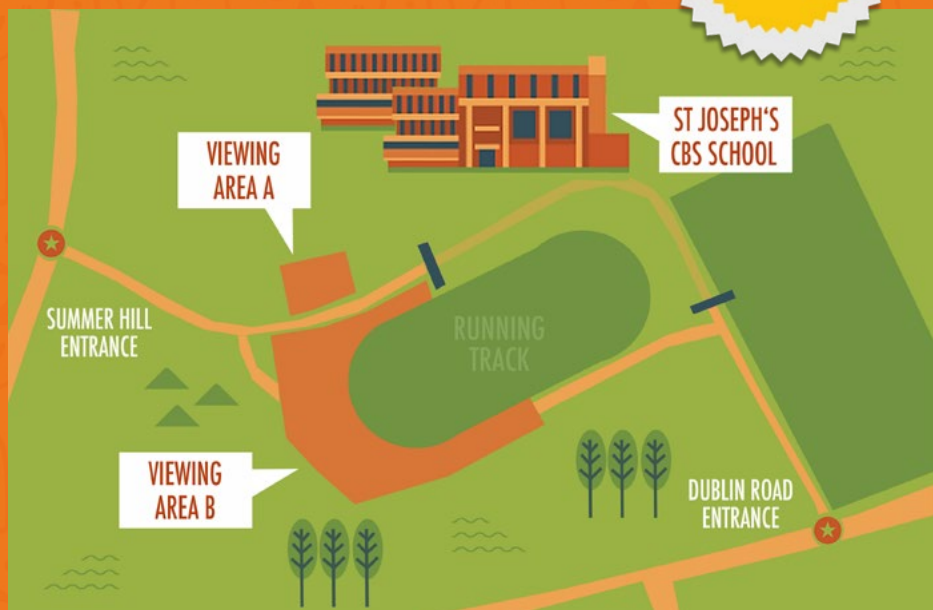
Parade leaves Nenagh Arts Centre at 6.30pm and processes to CBS School. Fireworks at 7pm at CBS School sports field.

7PM : Friday 31st October

FIREWORKS

– CBS Field

FREE



FRIDAY OCTOBER 31ST

Please note there are only two viewing areas.

VIEWING AREA A is for wheelchair & buggy users with access from Summerhill only.

VIEWING AREA B access is from both Dublin Road & Summerhill.

Please move to these areas as instructed by a steward.

✓ DO'S

- Access at Dublin Road entrance for Viewing Area B only.
Gate closes 6.50pm
- Access at Summerhill for Viewing Area A & B.
- Follow the stewards' instructions at all times
- Remain inside the barrier area at all times.
- Children should be accompanied by a supervising adult at all times.
- Dress warmly – it may be cold and damp.
- Once the fireworks are over move in an orderly manner to exits as instructed by the stewards.
- Enjoy the evening!

✗ DONT'S

- No firework or sparkler other than the licensed fireworks will be allowed in the grounds.
- Alcohol is not permitted inside the CBS grounds.
- No pets allowed.



Treasure Hunt Clues

Location 1 Clue:

"First step on your journey, on the wall you will see;
A sign that shows deals that you wouldn't believe!
For this sign has a plan that's beyond description,
Get a ticket to every movie for a monthly _____"

ANSWER

Location 2 Clue:

"Take a few steps down the lane,
To where folks go for their prayin'.
Beware of spirits that may creep and lurch,
Around the St. Mary of the Rosary _____"

ANSWER

Location 3 Clue:

"If you get a shiver from October's windy chill,
Your next stop has treats that are sure to thrill!
With so many yummy drinks for you to explore,
Steeple is the place for coffee _____"

ANSWER

Location 4 Clue:

"The district court is your next stop,
Where three statues stand, bronze from bottom to top.
Focus on one, a runner who trained for days,
A marathon he ran, his name was Johnny _____"

ANSWER

Location 5 Clue:

"Hanley's Place is where holds your next clue,
Where a mural has been made, using paint and glue.
Take time to admire the painting that is chosen
Within this quiet you'll find that silence is _____"

ANSWER

Location 6 Clue:

"A few steps to your left, a sign is strung up.
For an acting group that has the town completely hung-up!
Here lies The Nenagh Players Store,
Where they prepare for comedies, dramas, _____"

ANSWER

Location 7 Clue:

"Around the corner, and up the wall,
A tribute to a local musician is scrawled.
A musician whose music eased people's pain,
A mural for a musician called McGowan, first name _____"

ANSWER

Location 8 Clue:

"Up the road, blue building on the corner.
Where protection for your health, life, or car you can order.
This location is strange, might throw you for a loop,
The insurance you're looking for is under the name _____"

ANSWER

Location 9 Clue:

"Almost done now, just two stops remain!
Go now to the Arts Centre, where you started this game!
I'm sure on this haunt you have had a ball,
Up above the door are the words _____"

ANSWER

Location 10 Clue:

"You final stop stands tall and high,
A castle full of history, and frights for the night!
Before you enter, look at the sign of rules saying;
No dogs, no bicycles, and no _____"

ANSWER

**You've braved the
ghouls and tramped
the streets...
Now hurry back to
claim your treats!**



Treasure Hunt



