ADVERTISE WITH US | (HTTPS://WWW.IRELAND-LIVE.IE/SECTION/2403/ADVERTISE-WITH-US) SPONSORED CONTENT | (HTTPS://WWW.IRELAND-LIVE.IE/SECTION/2395/SPONSORED-CONTENT) CONTACT US | (HTTPS://WWW.IRELAND-LIVE.IE/SECTION/2404/CONTACT-US)

Login

irelandlive

ADVERTISEMENT

01 Oct 2025

Advertise with Ireland Live ()

Artist invites Kildare locals to recreate historic image in Athy

Anthony Haughey and Athy historian Frank Taaffe are inviting locals in Kildare recreate the iconic gathering in Emily Square in 19 mark the squares refurbishment



Image taken by John Minihan depicting a large gathering in Emily Square in ...

By Daragh Nolan

08 Jul 2025 5:33 PM

FREE NE
Sign U
(/regist

In 2024, artist *Anthony Haughey (https://www.kildarenow.com/news/local-news/1775159/kildare-creative-sphere-launches-connections-exhibition-at-na and-cultural-centre.html)* launched Art House Athy, a gallery and workshop space on Leinster Street as part of his *Creative Places Athy: Collect and Gather (https://www.kildarenow.com/news/home/1570417/artist-and-academic-to-set-up-creative-projects-in-athy.html)*. Conceived as a prototype for small-tow infrastructure across Ireland, Art House offers a dedicated space for communities to come together and celebrate local culture and creativity.

ADVERTISEMENT - CONTINUE READING BELOW

During his residency, Haughey visited the home of Athy historian Frank Taaffe to explore his photographic archive while preparing for Art House's inaugu exhibition. He discovered a powerful image by John Minihan, depicting a large gathering in Emily Square in 1987. Inspired by the photograph – and by the opportunity to mark the recent refurbishment of the square, Haughey reached out to Minihan to propose a new collaborative project.

ADVERTISE WITH US | (HTTPS://WWW.IRELAND-LIVE.IE/SECTION/2403/ADVERTISE-WITH-US) SPONSORED CONTENT | (HTTPS://WWW.IRELAND-LIVE.IE/SECTION/2395/SPONSORED-CONTENT) CONTACT US | (HTTPS://WWW.IRELAND-LIVE.IE/SECTION/2404/CONTACT-US)

Login

irelandlive

01 Oct 2025

Together, they now invite the people of Athy to help recreate this iconic moment. On Saturday, July 19 at 2:00pm, residents are warmly invited to gather in t refurbished Emily Square to have their photograph taken, adding a new chapter to the town's living history.

In September, during the official launch of Emily Square, Minihan's original 1987 photograph and Haughey's new version will be displayed side by side in tl windows of Art House. Both images will be available to purchase, with a special limited edition printed for future public exhibition.

ADVERTISEMENT - CONTINUE READING BELOW

This initiative is proudly supported by *Kildare (https://www.kildarenow.com/)* County Council and Creative Places, Athy.

READ NEXT: €4.7m residential development to go ahead in Kildare (https://www.kildarenow.com/news/local-news/1843843/4-7m-residential-development-to-go-ahea kildare.html)

celebration of women

Exhibition opens on 19 April



Athy native and poet Denise Curtin

FRANK TAAFFE

'Where Hazel Darling

Taps every known Irish Dance

into tiny feet.

A musty hall

Reels with the shoes

And the echoes Of swing and Dance.

Our baby steps

March with history.'

Do you remember the above lines, which you might have seen attached to the wall in the town hall as you approached the first landing while walking the stairs to the town library on the first floor? They were taken from Denise Curtin's book of poetry, *Heartland*.

Denise, a native of Athy, is married and has lived in Portlaoise for many years. She has not lost her love for the town of her birth and Athy and its people have featured in her poetry for many years. Her work has appeared in the *Irish Times*, *Poetry Ireland*, The *Sunday Tribune* and many other journals, and her work achieved on at least two occasions nominations for the Hennessy Literary Award.

The reason Denise is featured in this week's 'Eye' is because her exhibition *O'Mhna* will open in the Art House, Leinster Street, Athy on Easter Saturday, 19 April, at 3pm. It will run for at least two weeks, with opening times from 11am-1pm (Monday) and 11am-3pm (Wednesday and Thursday) and otherwise by appointment (email haughey.anthony@gmail.com). Admission is free. The Art House is two doors from Bradbury's restaurant.

The *O'Mhna* exhibition is a celebration of women who have made a difference and was opened in the Arts House, Stradbally on Women's International Day 2025. The poet dedicated the exhibition to her great grandmother Catherine O'Brien Delaney [1889-1969], who lived in Stradbally and Denise wrote *'whether it concerns knitting wraps for babies or conflict zones, creating a tiny museum in a community hospital, working as an inspirational teacher or a volunteer with the homeless, this exhibition celebrates the difference these women have made to the lives of others'.*

Among those featured in the exhibition are a number of Athy women, including the late Mary O'Murchú, who worked

as a teacher in Scoil Mhuire, Athy and who taught Denise. She is remembered in the poem *Modern English*, the final verse of which reads:

You could have been the centre-piece

Of any Yeats's poems,

Or Shakespeare's flower,

Instead you were the length and breadth

Of great words; true to you

We remain their guardians.

Another Athy woman remembered in the exhibition is the late Mrs Hughes of Leinster Street, whom the poet reminds us:

Mrs Hughes and her assistants

Know you better than you know yourself

They've dressed your mother,

Aunts, Cousins and Grandmothers.

They'll figure you out.

Between all of them.

But perhaps the fondest tribute was paid by Denise to her mother, the former Lal Malone, once of St Patrick's Avenue, who is still happily with us and now living for some time past in Portlaoise.

She always seemed so happy,

Designing and creating

For us and our dolls,

we felt so proud of her

without knowing it,

as we learned from her

the craft of love.

Many of my readers may not know that the Art House, recently opened, is intended to stimulate interest in the visual arts, which is regarded as a vital part of Athy's heritage. The visual arts along with music, literary work and many other elements of Athy's cultural heritage give the historic town an enhanced background to its growth over the generations. We are currently short of literary figures in Athy so the opportunity to bring Denise's work to her home town, where the exhibition will be opened by Athy novelist Niamh Boyce, is a welcome treat for readers.

Do come along on Saturday 26 April, at 3pm and give your support to poet Denise Curtin and novelist Niamh Boyce in what is their home town.

THU, 13 FEB, 2025 - 16:00

Athy Brigid event celebrates 'extraordinary women'

The exhibition showcases work by Kildare Traveller Action Women's Group, and Athy Men and Women's Sheds in collaboration with Cathy Callan



Artists Johanna Lyons and Cathy Callan

REBECCA POLLARD

THE BEAUTY of Brigid exhibition, hosted by artists Anthony Haughey and Cathy Callan, opened in Art House Athy over the Brigid bank holiday with many guests in attendance.

Attendees included Frank, Bríd and Séamus Taaffe, Mary Pat Moloney from Croí Anú, Dr Teevan from Kilkenny, creative producer and art consultant, and Colm Walsh after a



Kildare Readers Festival set for October

READ NOW



Local artist Johanna Lyons, Carmel Day Sinder, performer and youth mentor, Cathaoirleach Aoife Breslin, artist Cathy Callan

Carmel Day, singer, performer and local youth mentor opened the exhibition. Cathy spoke about the inspiration behind the artworks including St Brigid's shawl, a knitted creation by Carol Shaughnessy and Athy Women's Shed. After that cathaoirleach Aoife Breslin gave a thought-provoking speech referencing women from the exhibition titled "in honour of those that sowed the seed" about the powerful women who had inspired her own journey.





Kildare Readers Festival set for October

READ NOW

The exhibition showcases work by Kildare Traveller Action Women's Group, and Athy Men and Women's Sheds in collaboration with Cathy.



Beauty of Brigid at Arthouse, art workshop participants Megan, Rebecca and Johanna

Championing themes connected to the life of St Brigid the contributing artists highlighted our responsibility in caring for the environment with many artworks produced from recycled materials. Artist and organiser Cathy Callan said: "Artworks also celebrated the ordinary and extraordinary women in our lives."

Exhibitors include Jeannette Landcaster, Breda Gavagan, Muriel Hendy, Mary Farrell, Theresa Cleary Bridgette, Maree Keogh, Agnes Quinn, Carol Shaughnessy, Johanna Lyons, Anthony O'Grady, Clifford Reid and Mick Dunne.



Kildare Readers Festival set for October

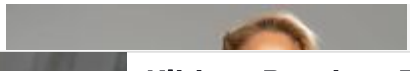
READ NOW



Baby Rose and Kate Deering with the Beauty of Brigid painting (inspired by William Earley stained glass studios), Arthouse Athy

The exhibition will run until 20 February and visitors are invited to join Cathy in completing a large painting of St Brigid in the meantime. Students from teacher Irene Bond's class in Scoil Mhichíl Naofa have already contributed as well as many other visitors.

MORE IN THIS SECTION



St Mary's College, Naas celebrates 80



Kildare Readers Festival set for October

READ NOW

Kildare NATIONALIST

SAT, 26 JUL, 2025 - 16:00

Athy captured in a moment in time

The idea came from artist Anthony Haughey



A reneacted drone photograph by Anthony Hubbock taken on Saturday 19 July 2025 of the newly refurbished Emily Square in Athy

It was a moment to remember in Athy as gathered in the freshly paved ti Emily Square to have their photograph taken – adding a new chapter to the town's living history.

The idea came from artist Anthony Haughey who had launched Art House Athy – a gallery and workshop space on Leinster Street as part of his Creative Places Athy: Collect and Gather residency.



The youngest of the square at 6 days old the beausiful Bonnie Sue with her family the Mulhalls and Sharkeys

During his residency, Haughney visited the home of Athy historian Frank Taaffe to explore his photographic archive while preparing for Art House's inaugural exhibition.



Anthony Haughey and John Minihan

He discovered a powerful image by John Minihan, depicting a large gathering in Emily Square in 1987. Inspired by the photograph – and by the opportunity to mark the recent refurbishment of the square, Haughey reached out to Minihan to propose a new collaborative project.



Denis Smyth originally from Offaly street said Emily Square was his playground growing up, pictured along side Cha Chanders

In September, during the official launch of Emily Square, Minihan's original 1987 photograph and Haughey's new version will be displayed side by side in the windows of Art House. Both images will be available to purchase, with a special limited edition printed for future public exhibition. More photos in next week's paper.

Kildare NATIONALIST

WED, 05 MAR, 2025 - 20:20

Athy mother and child image mirrored through time



Kate Dunne holding baby Rose Deering at the 'Beauty of Brigid' art exhibition (left) and (right)

REBECCA POLLARD

A BEAUTIFUL mother and child photo reproduction was found by artist Cathy Callan after the recent ‘Beauty of Brigid’ art exhibition held at Art House in Athy.

This year’s Brigid festival hosted a wide array of activities, performances, and community days throughout the county. A two-day event took place in Athy’s Art House with the Beauty of Brigid exhibition, which celebrated women from all walks of life.



Ellen Dunne holding Kate Dunne at an art exhibition in 1992

After the success of the workshops and talks with many visitors to the exhibition, artist Cathy Callan's sister Ellie discovered a striking coincidental resemblance between a photo from this year's event and an art exhibition in 1992.

Back in the 90s, Cathy completed a 'Mother and Child' painting series, which featured a painting of her then-baby niece, Kate Dunne, and her mother Ellen Dunne. At the exhibition, a photo was taken of baby Kate in her mother's arms as she pointed to a painting of herself, which was then published in *The Nationalist*.

More than 30 years later, history repeated itself when Kate attended the Beauty of Brigid exhibition and coincidentally had a strikingly similar photo taken of her and her baby Rose Deering pointing to a painting of St Brigid.



Katie Dunne holding baby Rose Deering at the 'Beauty of Brigid' art exhibition

Both Cathy and her niece Kate had not realised the connection, until the recently taken photo was published in a recent *Kildare Nationalist* edition.

The photos, though strikingly similar, were taken that way by coincidence and serve as a lovely and accidental record of the passing of time, artistically documenting the lineage of women in the Callan family.

MORE IN THIS SECTION

FRI, 09 MAY, 2025 - 20:30

Athy poet celebrates everyday heroines in exhibition

> **Poet, Denise Curtin, celebrates the ordinary women who make a difference in their communities in her exhibition, 'Ó Mhná'**

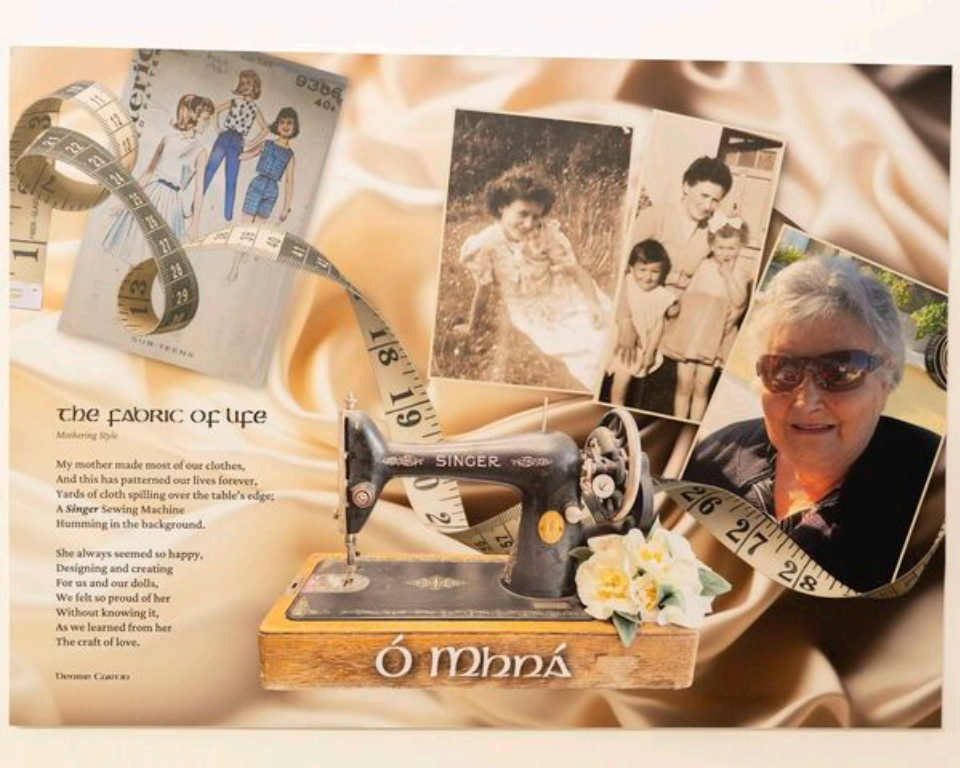


Denise Curtin and Niamh Boyce Photos: Aisling Hyland

REBECCA POLLARD

ATHY poet, Denise Curtin, launched her exhibition ‘Ó Mnhá – Celebrating Women who Make a Difference’ at Athy’s Art House last weekend, which was opened by novelist Niamh Boyce.

and was opened on International Women's Day this year.



A poem dedicated to Denise Curtin's mother

The exhibition then moved to the poet's proud homeland of Athy, and features encounters with some brilliant local Athy women, and women from elsewhere that have had an impact on their communities, and of course, the poet.



A poem at the exhibition about a woman who dedicates her evenings to helping the homeless

Denise found herself writing poems about women that inspired her, without any real intention of creating the Ó Mhná project.

She said: “The exhibition shows ordinary women who inspired me. A number of poems are about Athy women. Some stretch back to when I was a kid. Some are women I bumped into on the train, at events or in care services. All ordinary women, except for what they brought to their communities.”



Anthony Haughy and Niamh Boyce open the event

Denise recalled these women and their stories. She remembered the woman she had met on the train knitting wraps for babies in conflict zones, and the woman she who was creating a small museum in Abbeyleix Community Hospital where her mother was in care.

She remembered the teacher from Dublin who made her students “feel like they could shine,” and the Athy shopkeeper Mrs Hughes who “treated everyone like they were princess Grace.”



Brid Brophy and Denise Curtin

She remembered her own mother, who raised her to be the woman she is today, even while she "didn't have time to bless herself." And she remembered all of the women who shaped both the poet and their communities with the wonderful ways they interact with the world around them.



Lily Bracken and Breda Joyce

Denise recounted growing up in Athy, surrounded by strong women, and how that impacted and shaped her: “We grew up in an estate where women were in charge of everything,” she laughed.

“Everything I do is shaped by growing up in Athy. It comes everywhere with me. When I think of Athy I think people in Athy are fearless. If they really believe in something they wanted to do, they would do it!”



Cllr Aoife Breslin and Colm Walsh

While each woman exhibited at Art House are uniquely different, they all had the same effect on Denise.

“These poems are about women who wouldn’t usually be written about. They’re ordinary women, but what they bring is so hugely important. I want to honour them. I felt I need to write about them.”

“I’m honouring them for the type of people they are, for doing something for no gain. That’s what I’m celebrating,” she concluded.



Francis Boyce and Dave Daly

The exhibition will run until 22 May.

MORE IN THIS SECTION



St Mary's College, Naas celebrates 90 years with concert

MON, 03 MAR, 2025 - 08:30

Athy primary school gets creative with artist Cathy Callan

> **"We had a blast experimenting with the art materials provided by Cathy"**



Scoil Naofa at 'Spirit of Brigid' workshop with Cathy Callan

of Brigid' exhibition and the wider Spirit of Brigid festival.

Two classes attended the workshop, Mrs Irene Bond's class and Ms Edel Downey's class. Both classes support children with varying educational needs, ranging from 2nd to 6th class.

The students had great fun getting creative, with some students, Nocha Diasivim Jimmy Knee, Mary Harty and Merika Knee, helping to add a square to the portrait of St Brigid on display in Art House.



The students used stencils and paint to border the beautiful painting of our patron saint.

Teacher Irene Bond said: “We had a blast experimenting with the art materials provided by Cathy. The space was wonderful to work in.” “Cathy did a fantastic job engaging the children, showing them the work displayed on the walls, and connecting the work to the people in our community.” “There was a palpable sense of pride in the room when

MON, 03 MAR, 2025 - 08:30

Athy primary school gets creative with artist Cathy Callan

> **"We had a blast experimenting with the art materials provided by Cathy"**



Scoil Naofa at 'Spirit of Brigid' workshop with Cathy Callan

of Brigid' exhibition and the wider Spirit of Brigid festival.

Two classes attended the workshop, Mrs Irene Bond's class and Ms Edel Downey's class. Both classes support children with varying educational needs, ranging from 2nd to 6th class.

The students had great fun getting creative, with some students, Nocha Diasivim Jimmy Knee, Mary Harty and Merika Knee, helping to add a square to the portrait of St Brigid on display in Art House.



The students used stencils and paint to border the beautiful painting of our patron saint.

Teacher Irene Bond said: “We had a blast experimenting with the art materials provided by Cathy. The space was wonderful to work in.” “Cathy did a fantastic job engaging the children, showing them the work displayed on the walls, and connecting the work to the people in our community.” “There was a palpable sense of pride in the room when

Kildare NATIONALIST

TUE, 29 JUL, 2025 - 19:30

Athy rehabilitation exhibition a huge success

This was so well-attended the organisers had to use Bradbury's Café beside them for the crowd overflow



Dr Sindy Joyce, James Mahon, Antoinette Foley and Laura Buckley(Kildare County Council)

LAST Saturday (19 July) saw the second of a trio of initiatives to celebrate the story of 'The Hawk aagainst the Dove' with an exhibition of photographs in the Art House on Leinster Street in Athy.

This was so well-attended the organisers had to use Bradbury's Café beside them for the crowd overflow.

'The Hawk against the Dove' is a photo book by local businessman and photographer James Mahon and his collaboration with former local addict Antoinette Foley which charted her successful four-year battle to get clean.



James Mahon, Judge Desmond Zaidan and Antoinette Foley

The book wasoriginally launched in April and the exhibition of all the photos was held on Saturday “immediately after the re-creation of John Minihan’s iconic photo of a crowd in Emily Square,” according to James.

“There were a few 100 in the crowd, it was a very big turnout, and we had to use Bradbury’s for the overflow,” he revealed.

The glossy, 132-page hardback has been so popular it has already gone for a second print run with over 400 now sold.

“[Judge] Des Zaidan bought a copy, he’s very interested as it touches a lot on what he deals with,” said James.

“He was very happy with it, which is great!” Also in attendance was Annette Aspell, deputy CEO of Kildare County Council, Grainne Johnson from the Housing First programme.



Antoinette signs a book for Dave Daly.

The exhibition was opened by Dr Sindi Joyce, a lecturer in UL, a member of the President's Council of State, and the first Traveller to be awarded a doctorate from an Irish university.

The third event is to be the 'HawkTalk' in Athy Library on Thursday, 31 July where James and Antoinette will be interviewed by Anthony Haughey from the Art House discussing the project and the use of art in community awareness.

MORE IN THIS SECTION

TUE, 15 JUL, 2025 - 19:05

Book on former Athy addict now set to go on exhibition



x

FINIAN GOGHLAN

A POWERFUL new exhibition confronting addiction in small-town Ireland will launch at the Art House in Athy on Saturday (19 July) at 3.30pm, with acclaimed Athy photographer John Minihan.

This exhibition is 'The Hawk Against the Dove', and it reveals the deeply moving collaboration between Antoinette Foley and local store owner – and amateur photographer - James Mahon, which began life as a highly successful book launched in April, and now on its second print run.



Driver arrested for dangerous driving on Kildare motorway

READ NOW

could take her picture, and this continued until it was published as a 132-page hardback book three months ago.

This powerful collaborative photography exhibition offers an unflinching portrait of addiction, resilience, and redemption in rural Ireland.

Once associated primarily with urban centres, drug addiction has increasingly taken root in small towns and rural communities.

The Hawk Against the Dove traces this shift through the lived experience of Antoinette Foley, whose personal journey lays bare the often-invisible cost of substance abuse in towns like Athy.

Born into a Traveller family in Kilkenny , Antoinette's life spirals following teenage love, heartbreak, and the trauma of family separation.

Her descent into addiction is chronicled with raw honesty, from the streets of Athy to the banks of the River Barrow.

Yet, at the heart of this story is not only pain, but a fragile, persistent hope – the memory of the girl she once was, and the future she still dares to imagine.

Blending documentary insight with poetic reflection, The Hawk Against the Dove is both a personal and political statement.

It confronts the weight of judgment placed on women, Travellers, and addicts, while affirming the power of storytelling as a path to healing and change.



Driver arrested for dangerous driving on Kildare motorway

READ NOW

SUN, 20 OCT, 2024 - 16:00

Creative project takes on Athy Workhouse

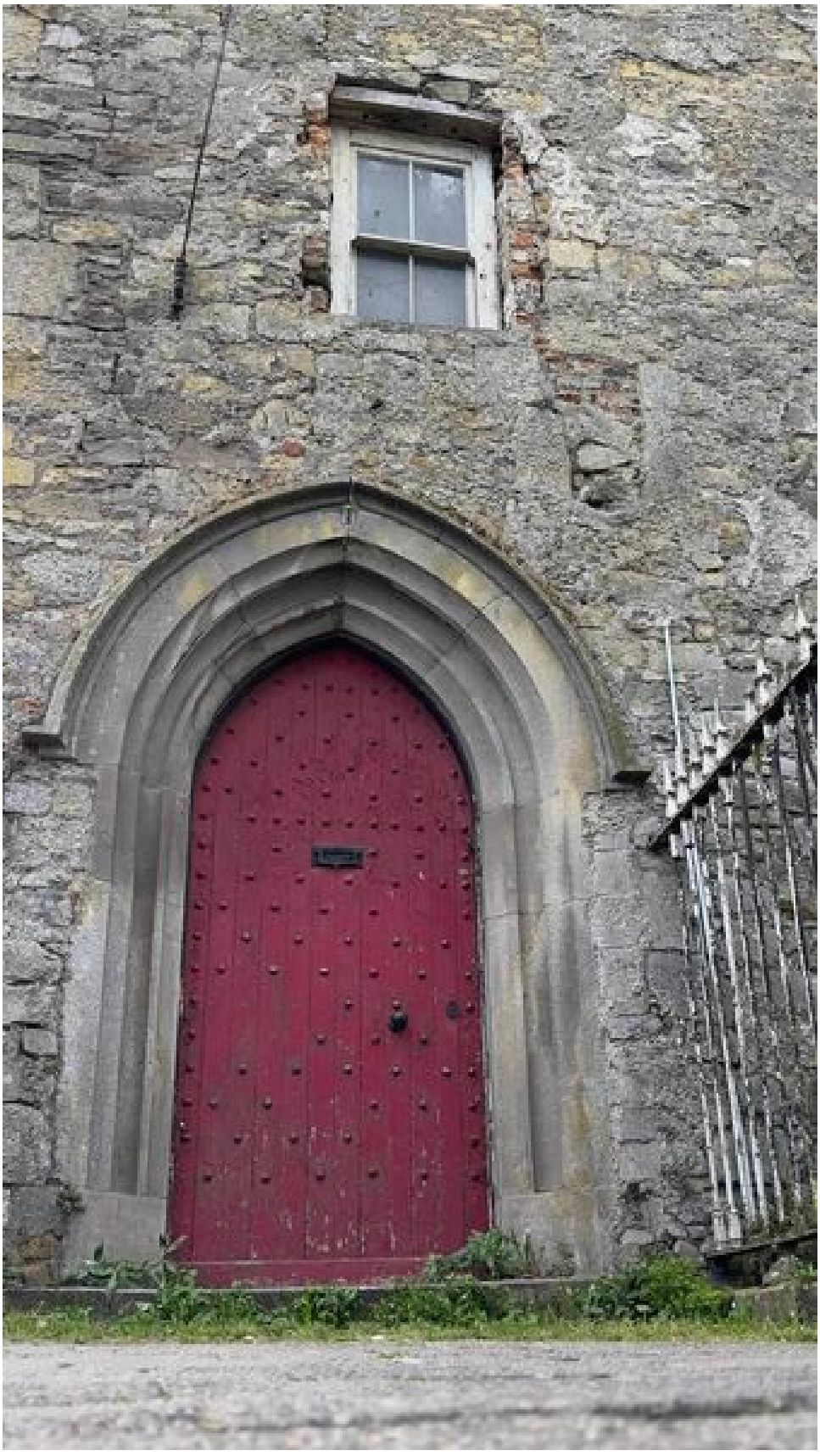
‘Reclaiming the Workhouse’ sees artist photographer Brian Cregan work with local communities to explore and reflect on the heritage and history of the workhouse in Athy



Interior of Athy Workhouse Photo: Brian Cregan

THE workhouse in Athy has been the subject of engaging art project.

‘Reclaiming the Workhouse’ sees artist photographer Brian Cregan work with local communities to explore and reflect on the heritage and history of the workhouse in Athy through a series of creative workshops this autumn.



Doorway of White's Castle Photo: Susan Laverty

"In 2023, Creative Ireland Kildare funded a county archives project to conserve and digitise Athy Workhouse records

from this successful project, the county archives was invited to photograph the unused part of the former workhouse/county home to ensure there was a record of this unique building.

“Workhouses and county homes have a unique place in Irish history; they operated from the early 1840s to the early 1920s and were described by historian John O’Connor as ‘the most feared and hated institution ever established in Ireland’, a place for those who are often lost and forgotten to history.

"Brian’s project will use the digital photographic archive of the building to provide creative opportunities to explore a sense of place, heritage, and identity, enhance and support Co Kildare's local cultural and creative community and enhance wellbeing through creative participation."



Plain behind the River Barrow

Like many of its kind in Ireland, Athy Workhouse has undergone several transformations over time. From an institution that symbolised oppression and despair to a hospital providing care for older people, the building is an important part of the area's history, both architecturally and socially.

The project hopes to enhance well-being through creative participation with the local community. A key element has been a series of photography workshops at Athy Library and with Athy Photographic Society. Brian is currently working with teacher Clodagh Doyle from Scoil Phádraig Naofa and

5th-class pupils and their teachers. Pupils are learning to take better photographs and improve their visual literacy skills by looking at old photographs of Athy.



Athy Courthouse

The project will also include talks and presentations about the workhouse.

For more information on the project see: https://www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en/event/reclaiming-the-workhouse/.

TUE, 18 MAR, 2025 - 12:30

Exhibition honours the complex history of Athy workhouse

> **Make sure to check it out before it finishes on Thursday**



Artist and photographer Brian Cregan

REBECCA POLLARD

ATHY's Art House is hosting another wonderful art project, which started on 6 March and continues until 20 March.



Kildare Readers Festival set for October

READ NOW



Harry, Trinity, Arianna, Lilianna, Caoimhe, Mia and Brooke with photographs they did with Brian Cregan

‘Reclaiming the workhouse’ is a collaborative, socially-engaged art project between artist-photographer Brian Cregan and communities from Athy District. Together they set out to explore and reflect on the heritage and history of the workhouse in Athy through a series of creative workshops.





Kildare Readers Festival set for October

READ NOW

Ben and Fionn from Scoil Phádraig Naofa with their photos in the 'Reclaiming the workhouse' exhibition at Athy's Art House Photos: Aisling Hyland

Like many workhouses in Ireland, Athy workhouse has undergone significant transformations, from an institution associated with hardship and oppression to a hospital providing care for older people. The project seeks to honour this complex history while engaging new generations in meaningful discussions about the past.



Fifth class students from Scoil Padraig with Brian

'Reclaiming the workhouse' provided creative opportunities to explore themes of place, heritage, and identity reflecting Kildare's cultural and creative community while fostering well-being through creative participation. Brian collaborated with Scoil Phádraig Naofa teacher Clodagh Doyle, fifth class pupils and their teachers to create a series of photographs reflecting the heritage and natural environment of Athy.

Brian Cregan said: "Photography is a great tool that enables children to express themselves and the way they look at the world. As an artist, I am constantly inspired by their



Kildare Readers Festival set for October

READ NOW



One of the images from the exhibition

The exhibition also includes photographs taken by adult participants during a series of photography workshops at Athy Library and with Athy Photographic Society.

For more information on the project, see Reclaiming the Workhouse – Creative Ireland Programme at



Kildare Readers Festival set for October

READ NOW

SAT, 14 DEC, 2024 - 11:24

Historical photos of Athy form first exhibition at new 'Art House'



Frank Goggin, courtesy of Andrew Kelly Collection

Anthony Haughey will launch ‘Art House’, which will be an art gallery and collaborative space for the people of Athy on Saturday 14 December at 6pm.



Kildare gardaí appeal for info on anniversary of murder of Dessie Fox

READ NOW



Archbishop John Charles McQuaid at the opening of parish church in 1964. Fr Joe Corbett local curate next to him. Photo courtesy of Frank Taaffe

Anthony will be joined by Labour TD Mark Wall to launch the project on 42a Leinser Street with Athy local Sheeza Kanwal also speaking at the event, and a wonderful performance from Athy's own, all-girl band IF.

The gallery will also work as a cultural space, where people can gather for art installations, talks, film screenings and other cultural activities.





Kildare gardaí appeal for info on anniversary of murder of Dessie Fox

READ NOW

The inaugural exhibition, ‘Here Comes Everybody’, will show a series of historical and contemporary photographs of Athy, featuring Athy residents over the last hundred years.

Anthony explained: “There's about 900 portraits of people on the streets of Athy. They're absolutely amazing. Photographs from just after the Second World War, from late 1940s through the 50s and 60s, and they're remarkable. They're all shot on the streets, around the bridge, around the streets. So they're quite special.”

He added: “Photography is just a great art form for both creating these beautiful aesthetic images, but also documenting history.”

The exhibition will run until the middle of January, so there’s plenty of time to go and have a look.

MORE IN THIS SECTION



Kildare County Council embracing "challenge" to deliver more homes annually



Kildare gardaí appeal for info on anniversary of murder of Dessie Fox

READ NOW



One in seven commercial properties vacant in Kildare



Bereaved Kildare mum fights for new mental health legislation

LATEST

2 minutes ago
Man who headbutted garda looking at jail sentence

4 minutes ago
Athy band win national wedding award

3 hours ago
Driver arrested for dangerous driving on Kildare motorway

4 hours ago
Salmon Leap's Sean Butterly caps brilliant season with Olympic Hopes gold





Kildare gardaí appeal for info on anniversary of murder of Dessie Fox

READ NOW

Kildare (/regionals/kildare)

Change county (/regionals/change-county)

History to be repeated in Kildare as artist appeals to public for help recreating historic photo

The original photograph of Emily Square in Athy, Co Kildare was taken by Irish photographer John Minihan in 1987. Now artist, Anthony Haughey, wants to recreate that photo with the help of the public



The original photo of Emily Square in Athy taken by photographer John Minihan in 1987 will be recreated this month. Photo: John Minihan

Aisling Bolton-Dowling

Tue 8 Jul 2025 at 16:36

History will be repeated this month in a Co Kildare town as an artist and a photographer are joining forces in order to recreate a historic photo.

Privacy

MON, 04 AUG, 2025 - 17:07

Homeless in Kildare, Antoinette shares how stranger's kindness saved her life



Antoinette Foley in front of the Art House Photos: Aisling Hyland

GRÁINNE NÍ AODHA, PA

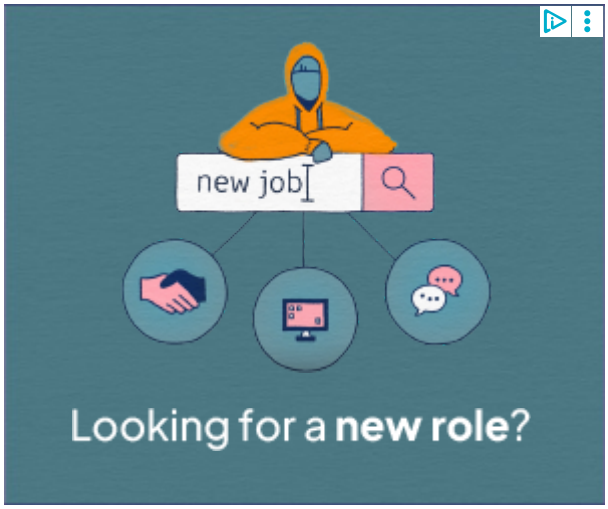
A woman who was homeless in Kildare for years says the kindness of a shop owner she did not know saved her life.

Antoinette Foley, who is recovering from addiction to heroin and crack cocaine, has urged people not to make assumptions about people who are sleeping rough.

She was sleeping in a tent in a car park near the River Barrow in Athy in 2021 when she asked a nearby shop owner, James Mahon, if he had any spare change.

He reached into his pocket, gave her a fiver and she thanked him.

A few days later he came to her tent to ask if she would take part in a photography exhibition he was doing, sparking a friendship that would culminate in Ms Foley being housed and recovering from addiction.



Mr Mahon, an amateur photographer, now has an exhibition of photos taken of Ms Foley in the Art House gallery in Athy. He also released a book this year about Ms Foley's story called The Hawk Against The Dove: Addiction In Small-Town Ireland.

Ms Foley said she is telling her story for her own children's sake, and in order to help inform others about the dangers

boyfriend gave her heroin, when she did not know what it was, to help ease a toothache.

She said it was hard for her to trust Mr Mahon at first and he tried to help her several times.

"She had been used and abused over the years so she was wondering 'what's he after?'" Mr Mahon said.

"We used the photography, really, as a way of communicating and of building up that friendship." Ms Foley said: "I was like death alive basically, a lost soul.

"People just looked at a girl sitting with a cup, they just looked at a tent. They didn't know what was going on, they didn't know the story.

"Don't judge a book by its cover, and don't look down on anyone unless you're giving them your hand to help them up." She added: "There was photos there that James didn't want to take, and I begged him to take them because I wanted youngsters to see what can happen to them." Mr Mahon said she reduced her heroin use substantially by December 2023 with the help of daily visits to a methadone clinic, before going completely clean.



Antoinette

Mr Mahon said drug addiction in a small town is harder to hide than in a city, and Ms Foley used to beg outside the local Aldi with a torn coffee cup on a daily basis.

"This story played out so much in public, the tent was right opposite the parish church, right beside the secondary school, beside a car park where the parents would come and collect the children, so that anybody could see it," he said.

"She came here and she was in Athy with three hooks on her back that people could hang their prejudice and their

preconceived ideas: she was living rough, she was suffering from substance abuse addiction, and she was a Traveller.

"When this project started, it wouldn't have been the most popular, I was nearly seen to be encouraging her.

"It was covered over a four-year period. In the first couple of years of that, I could see things were improving and you could sense that it was improving. From the outside, the behaviour was the same." Asked whether many shop owners would have had his reaction to someone sleeping rough near his shop, he said: "You can't stand back and look at something unfolding without being touched by it. There's a human being there." He said she came into the shop for a cup of tea and to talk, and it served as a "refuge" and a "safe space" for her.

"It was great to be able to offer that," he said.

"Sometimes you've got to go beyond having those thoughts of pity and you've got to do something concrete, you've got to go and hold out a hand of friendship and say 'come on'." Ms Foley said: "I look at James like a second father," adding that her life is "a million times better now".

She added: "There was mornings I woke up in that tent and I could pull the ice off from the inside of it like tiles. James used to fill my flask with boiling water in his shop so I could make tea in the tent. I would have been dead only for this man.

"This man woke at five o'clock every morning to bring me in hot water bottles.

"There was times he should have walked away from me, and from that day he handed me that fiver until now, no-one will ever get between us, because I looked at him like a father, and he always treated me like a daughter."

Kildare (/regionals/kildare)

Change county (/regionals/change-county)

History to be repeated in Kildare as artist appeals to public for help recreating historic photo

The original photograph of Emily Square in Athy, Co Kildare was taken by Irish photographer John Minihan in 1987. Now artist, Anthony Haughey, wants to recreate that photo with the help of the public



The original photo of Emily Square in Athy taken by photographer John Minihan in 1987 will be recreated this month. Photo: John Minihan

Aisling Bolton-Dowling

Tue 8 Jul 2025 at 16:36

History will be repeated this month in a Co Kildare town as an artist and a photographer are joining forces in order to recreate a historic photo.

Privacy

Kildare NATIONALIST

FRI, 27 DEC, 2024 - 16:00

Memories live on in Athy's Arthouse exhibition



Archbishop John Charles McQuaid at the opening of parish church in 1964. Fr Joe Corbett local curate next to him. Photo courtesy of Frank Taaffe

FRANK TAAFFE

FOR a historian there are many windows into the past. Sources such as letters, diaries, and newspapers give us good records of our predecessors, but for me photography can give a vivid and intimate link to the past that is difficult to replicate anywhere else.

A simple image, whether in black and white, gives us a direct connection to people or events long past. I was reminded of this with the recent opening of the exhibition 'Here Comes Everybody' at Arthouse which is described as an art gallery



Rescheduled KWWSPCA dog show this weekend at Punchestown
READ NOW

Though small, the exhibition was well presented with some fine reproductions of photographs of people and places in Athy over the last 80-100 years. Peering out from the photographs were faces of many people I had known in my youth who are now long gone, but their memory lives on in the photographic images which survive then.



There was one thing lacking from the exhibition which I think could add to its interest. None of the images that I viewed were captioned and while I could happily identify many people and places from the photographs, from a historian's point of view it would add immeasurably to the exhibition if there was some guide or captions to the images on display. It's a worthwhile endeavour and the exhibition itself will run until the middle of January.

Athy Photographic Society, which from my reckoning is now running for almost forty years, has released their annual photographic calendar. The 2025 edition is an interesting digression from previous calendars as rather than just simply featuring images of the town and locality this year, rather imaginatively, the society have used local images to recreate twelve iconic music album covers. It was nice to see the juxtaposition between local people and local places paying homage to classic music albums. My musical heritage



Rescheduled KWWSPCA dog show this weekend at Punchestown
READ NOW

particularly enjoyed the recreation of the British rock band Jethro Tull's album cover, 'Songs from the Woods'.

One of the more curiously titled bands, their name derives from a pioneering English agriculturalist Jethro Tull who developed the horsedrawn seed drill in the early 18th century that revolutionised agriculture in providing farmers with a modern and economic method of sowing seeds in neat rows for tillage purposes. His master work on the subject *The New Horse Houghing Husbandry: or, An essay on the principles of tillage and vegetation* was published in Dublin in 1731 and it was one of the earliest works on agriculture published in Ireland at the time. This invention had a huge impact on both the economic life and landscape of south Kildare as Athy has some of the best tillage land in the country.



This is reflected in a detailed report on the agriculture of Athy and district published in the Leinster Leader on 26 March 1898. Athy's agricultural economy was prospering and it seemed to have avoided the agricultural depression which dogged much of the country at the time. The article focused on the mills run by Messrs H. Hannon and Sons. The reporter interviewed the manager of the mills, a Mr Price, who treated the journalist to a detailed description of the



Rescheduled KWWSPCA dog show this weekend at Punchestown
READ NOW

Dobbin and mentioned that twenty men were employed in the three mills.

The mills in Ardreigh and Prumplestown were focused on the manufacturing of flour, while the Athy mills were solely devoted to Indian meal. Much of the land around the town at that time was devoted to wheat growing. In 1897 the Prumplestown mills produced 9,338 barrels of wheat which were manufactured into flour while the Ardreigh mill produced 8,500 barrels of wheat which were manufactured into flours of various qualities.

The market for the produce was local and would have been sold in Carlow, Tullow, Baltinglass, Castledermot, Stradbally, Castlecomer, Monasterevin, Portarlington and Edenderry. Wheat from both mills was sold at one shilling and six pence per barrel. That price was apparently very good from a local farmers' perspective. Sadly this prosperity was not to last as by the early 1920s imports of cheaper grain from the US devastated the grain industry to the point where none of the mills were operating by the late 1920s.

MORE IN THIS SECTION





Rescheduled KWWSPCA dog show this weekend at Punchestown

READ NOW

Join the Celebration: Recreating History in Athy with Anthony Haughey and John Minihan

A Unique Opportunity to Be Part of Athy's Living History

08 July 2025: In 2024, artist Anthony Haughey launched Art House Athy – a gallery and workshop space on Leinster Street as part of his Creative Places Athy: Collect and Gather residency. Conceived as a prototype for small-town arts infrastructure across Ireland, Art House offers a dedicated space for communities to come together and celebrate local culture and creativity.

During his residency, Haughey visited the home of Athy historian Frank Taaffe to explore his photographic archive while preparing for Art House's inaugural exhibition. He discovered a powerful image by John Minihan, depicting a large gathering in Emily Square in 1987. Inspired by the photograph – and by the opportunity to mark the recent refurbishment of the square, Haughey reached out to Minihan to propose a new collaborative project.

Together, they now invite the people of Athy to help recreate this iconic moment. On Saturday, 19th July at 2:00pm, residents are warmly invited to gather in the newly refurbished Emily Square to have their photograph taken – adding a new chapter to the town's living history.

In September, during the official launch of Emily Square, Minihan's original 1987 photograph and Haughey's new version will be displayed side by side in the windows of Art House. Both images will be available to purchase, with a special limited edition printed for future public exhibition.

This initiative is proudly supported by Kildare County Council and Creative Places, Athy.

THU, 08 AUG, 2024 - 11:00

Renowned artist named as Athy’s Artist-in-Residence

> **Anthony's artworks and research have been widely exhibited and published and are collected nationally and internationally**



Athy's new Artist in Residence Anthony Haughey.

FINIAN COGHLAN

Visual artist and academic Anthony Haughey has been announced as the recipient of a new ‘Connect & Gather Award’ by Creative Places Athy.

This came following an open call, shortlisting and interview process, which took place earlier this summer, and the award is for the Good News Bureau, an Athy-based project that will create a space for “communities to come together, be curious, share, experiment, learn and be creative”. Over the next 12 months Anthony will establish a base in Athy

town centre and host a series of talks, workshops and community gatherings where new creative projects can be

founder of The Centre for Socially Engaged Practice-Based Research (SEPR) at TU Dublin, where he supervises practice-based doctorates.

His artworks and research have been widely exhibited and published and are collected nationally and internationally.

More recently, he has completed a three-year residency at the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, instigating conversations and facilitating workshops that explore how we understand and embrace cultural identities, in an exciting time of change in Ireland.

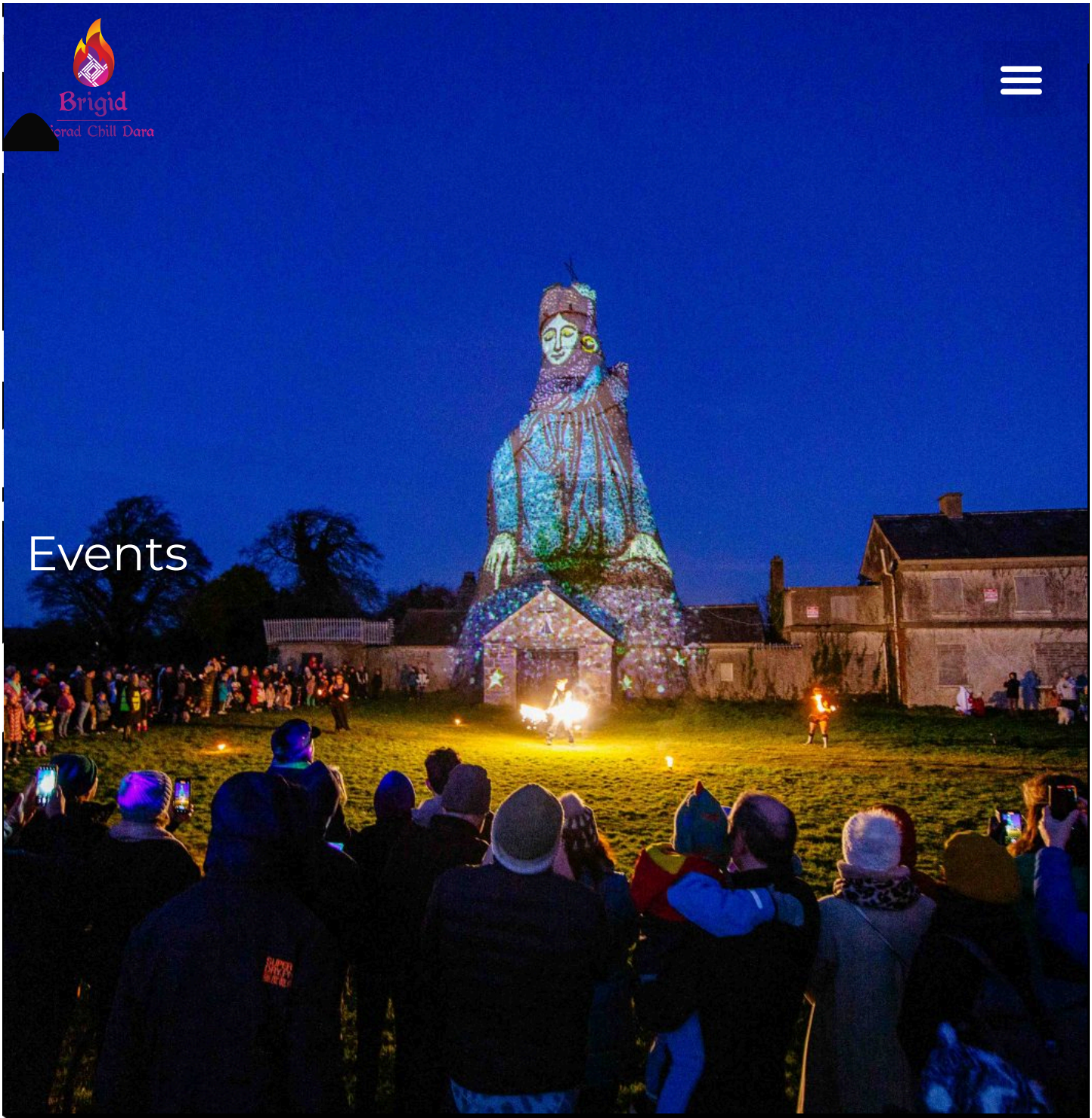
"It is a great opportunity to establish the Good News Bureau – a community hub and living gallery space for all in Athy, and I would like to extend an invitation to individuals and community groups to join me in this exciting adventure," said Anthony.

As part of the submission process, expressions of interest were welcomed from local, national and international professional artists/creatives, or arts organisation/collectives.

Anthony would like to hear from local community groups and artists keen to be involved in the Good News Bureau in the months ahead.

He can be contacted at haughey.anthony@googlemail.com.

Brigid
Forad Chill Dara



Events

This event has passed.

The Beauty of Brigid

English

January 30 @ 2:00 pm – February 3 @ 4:00 pm

ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND

THE BEAUTY OF BRIGID

EXHIBITION DATES: 30 January - 20 February

ART HOUSE 42a LEINSTER STREET ATHY

FREE ADMISSION

KILDARE TRAVELLER ACTION WOMEN'S GROUP
ATHY WOMEN & MEN'S SHEDS
ANTHONY HAUGHEY
CATHY CALLAN

EXHIBITION - TALKS - WORKSHOPS

SATURDAY 1 FEBRUARY
LAUNCH : 2.00pm
CARMEL DAY
Singer Performer and Youth Arts Mentor, will open our exhibition
'THE BEAUTY OF BRIGID'

CATHAOIRLEACH AOIFE BRESLIN
Drawing on her own family history, Aoife will give a talk on
"INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN IN OUR LIVES"
CREATIVE WORKSHOP
Aoife's Talk will be followed by an opportunity to meet and paint with artist
CATHY CALLAN

SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY TALK: 2.00 - 4.00 pm
DR SHARON GREENE
Dr Sharon Greene is an archeologist & historian from Kilkea, Co. Kildare who has been researching the lives of the Shackleton family
Sharon will give a talk on the portrait artist Kathleen Shackleton
JOSEPHINE HARDIMAN
Josephine Hardiman is an Irish Artist and Calligrapher based in Co. Kildare.
Jopsephine will tell us about creating
The Book of Kildare

MONDAY 3 FEBRUARY: 2.00 - 4.00 pm
CATHY CALLAN
Creative Workshop with Cathy Callan

Brigid | Spiorad Chill Dara Spirit of Kildare

"During the 'Athy, Spirit of Kildare Festival 2025' artists Anthony Haughey and Cathy Callan will host a legacy exhibition by local communities and a series of talks to celebrate Brigid's weekend on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of February 2025, at Anthony's

new Athy Art House on Leinster Street, Athy. Carmel Day, singer performer and youth arts mentor will launch the exhibition. Drawing on her own familial history, Cathaoirleach Aoife Breslin will speak on the inspirational women in her life. Dr. Sharon Greene will talk about the renowned local portrait artist Kathleen Shackleton and artist Josephine Hardiman will show us images and tell us about creating the Book of Kildare.

Looking at "iconic" imagery, including the St. Brigid's cross, our "Beauty of Brigid" exhibition will display earlier creative community collage and painting projects by Kildare Traveller Action Women's Group, and Athy Men and Women's Sheds in collaboration with local artist Cathy Callan. Championing themes of Brigid and the significant women in our lives, Anthony has dedicated his time and expertise to creating a print on demand artbook featuring artwork from the exhibition which will be displayed publicly at the gallery. Supporting Climate Change, many of the artworks highlight biodiversity and also the reuse and recycling of materials through the medium of collage. Focusing on our natural world we hope to inspire visitors to the exhibition, workshops and talks to reflect on their own responsibility to care for the environment through everyday conversation and themes of reduce, reuse and recycle.

There will be two creative workshops with artist Cathy Callan where participants will be encouraged to explore their own creativity and complete a large original painting of Brigid, inspired by an old and original stained glass window after the William Earley stained glass studios.

Kildare Traveller Action Group. Athy Community Women & Men's Sheds, Artists Anthony Haughey and Cathy Callan

Venue : Art House Athy 42a Leinster Street

Exhibition Dates 30/1/25 – 20/2/25

Festival dates 1st,2nd & 3rd February 2025

‹ Kilcullen Bridge Cinema presents Brigid Film Season

Lá Féile Bríd – St. Brigid's Day workshop at Newbridge Library

Brigid
Spiorad Chill Dara

Contact us

Head office Aras Chill Dara
Devoy Park,
Naas
Co Kildare W91 X77F

Phone: 045 980200

Spiritofbrigid@kildarecoco.ie

Follow us

Privacy policy | Terms and conditions

Powered by **DataDyne**