

**SHARE A STORY  
MAKE A CONNECTION**



**NATIONAL  
HERITAGE  
WEEK 2018  
18-26 AUG**

**100 EVENT IDEAS**

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council



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From **18-26 August 2018**, hundreds of event organisers in national institutions and local community organisations will organise National Heritage Week events throughout the country.

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Coordinated by the Heritage Council, National Heritage Week is Ireland's most popular cultural event and this year over **570,000** 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 2018, Heritage Week is a highlight of Ireland's celebration of the European Year of Cultural Heritage. This initiative by the European Commission and coordinated in Ireland by the Heritage Council aims to involve all citizens in events that help to promote a sense of belonging to a common European space.

The theme for the Year in Ireland is 'Make a Connection' which aims to deepen the connection between people and heritage, and build a legacy of increased public engagement.

Heritage Week is exploring this theme through 'Sharing Stories'. The week is a chance to share heritage stories in new ways, with new people. Heritage Week is asking everyone from young people to new arrivals to Ireland to retired people to share their stories. During Heritage Week everyone will have the chance to connect with their heritage; to enjoy, appreciate and share it.

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**What 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](http://heritageweek.ie) to learn about planning and promoting your event
  3. Register your event at [heritageweek.ie](http://heritageweek.ie) from 1 May 2018
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# Share Stories



1. Our history in 10 objects. Ask your community to share the stories of objects that have historical significance to them like a family heirloom or an old family recipe.
2. Have a writing workshop based on telling your family history led by a genealogist or writer.
3. Show me your heritage and I will show you mine. Ask other nationalities living in your town to talk about the history, customs and traditions of their countries.
4. Record a podcast about an aspect of history that interests you. 
5. Plan lunchtime events so that office workers can come along.
6. Create a sound exhibition of **old recordings** of people, music etc.
7. Tell the story of a bird's migration trail. 
8. Tell the stories of the stars on an astronomy night.
9. Organise a Heritage Week talk in your workplace.
10. Explore the influence other European languages had on Irish or Hiberno-English.

11. Reach out to new audiences with interesting connections e.g. surfers and marine conservation, golfers and sand dunes.
12. Explore cultural routes e.g. the movement of monks around Europe or trade routes.
13. Explore traditional costumes and influences from Europe.
14. Run a heritage quiz based on your local area.
15. Answer puzzling historic questions like how did they build large monuments without out modern machinery?
16. Create a pop-up exhibition about an aspect of your county's heritage.
17. Organise an evening looking at how Ireland has inspired writers from across Europe.
18. Invite your local radio station to record a special Heritage Week show with music and chat at a heritage venue.
19. Make everyone welcome with sign language interpretation or **autism-friendly** events. 
20. Ask language students to give your tour in different languages.

# Share Experiences



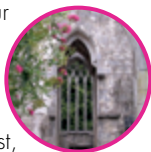
21. Organise a seisiún with a difference with both Irish music and musicians from other countries playing their traditional music.
22. Paint a public mural based on the story of your town. Speak with your local council, schools or businesses to find a suitable wall.
23. Take a spin on a cycling tour. Use a city bike scheme if available to encourage people who do not own bicycles.
24. Early risers can organise a sunrise walk to hear the dawn chorus.
25. Bring a group for a guided running tour.
26. Plan a guided walk or cycle along one of Ireland's beautiful **greenways**.
27. Have a clean-up day for your area around a local monument, a street etc.
28. Have a traditional dance night. Teach people new to Ireland some Irish dancing and have them teach the group their traditional dances.
29. Discover bats, owls, moths, stargazing etc. on a night walk.
30. Plan a traditional sports day. Why not use your local GAA pitch to show people new to Ireland the basics of football and hurling?
31. See how many **wildflowers** you can find and identify on a wildflower walk.
32. Plan a bumblebee hunt. Did you know there are **20 species of bumblebee** in Ireland? 
33. Organise a talk in an unusual location. A castle, a lighthouse, a cave!
34. Plan a **Dark Skies** night in your town or village. Encourage everyone to turn off their lights and go stargazing!
35. Bring people on a tree walk. **Identify trees** and tell the stories of how non-native trees arrived in Ireland.
36. Bring a group on a guided tour of a **National Park, Nature Reserve or Special Area of Conservation** near you.
37. Create a **butterfly garden** in your community. Have a weekend of volunteering to dig, plant and decorate the garden. 
38. Bring Heritage Week to those who cannot come to it e.g. events in retirement homes or creches.
39. Plan a day out in **the bog**. There are nearly 150 protected raised and **blanket bogs** in Ireland.
40. Plan an urban wildlife tour. Look at seagulls, foxes, pigeons, and even rats in a new light! 



# Share Places



41. Organise a heritage festival in your community. You can start small this year. From little acorns...
42. Organise a guided tour of an **industrial heritage** site by people who used to work there e.g. a mine, a factory.
43. Gather photos of a town now and then from groups of people to streetscapes.
44. Walk a river, canal or old pathway from one town to another.
45. Plan a shopfront trail. Ask local shop keepers to explore the history of their business with a window display e.g. a shop could display old advertisements.
46. Create a 'Secret Stories of...' tour. Focus on little known facts and forgotten places in your area.
47. Celebrate one aspect of heritage important to your community e.g. the river or an old ruin.
48. Hold an exhibition re-imagining disused heritage sites in your area e.g. like an old church.
49. Work with a neighbouring town to organise a walk between your two towns exploring your historic connections.
50. Explore how local historic buildings appeared in the past, and why they have evolved.
51. Organise a meeting to see what you can do as a community to preserve and appreciate the heritage of your town.
52. 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?
53. Explore how your local heritage relates to Europe. Visit local buildings that may have had influences from other countries.
54. Host an event exploring local place names. Visit [www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie) to start your research.
55. Plan a tour of your local **holy well**. Talk about the history and customs.
56. Bring visitors on a walk by your local river, reservoir or lake and talk about the ecosystem.
57. Gather support to tackle a heritage concern in your area e.g. a heritage monument at risk.
58. Is your town or village beside a significant landmark? Join nearby towns to celebrate your shared heritage.
59. Create a new online resource with the help of your community e.g. online database of local fieldnames or photos.
60. Create a heritage trail around your local area. A temporary trail during Heritage Week could inspire a permanent one in the future!



# Share Skills & Knowledge



61. Have a volunteer week for your archaeological excavations during Heritage Week. It will help local people understand what you're doing and why.
62. Host a skills swap where people share their skills with one another from lace making to dry stone walling!
63. Plan a photography workshop followed by a photography walk capturing people interacting with heritage e.g. exploring a castle or playing music.
64. Bring a heritage expert and artist together to host a sketching tour.
65. Organise a beekeeping demonstration with your local **beekeeping group**.
66. Bring a group together to build a bee hotel, **bug hotel**, bird boxes or **bat boxes**.
67. Get a knitting workshop together to learn skills and knit a local history scene.
68. Organise craft demonstrations and workshops e.g. thatching or **hedgework laying**.
69. Irish beer can be traced back no fewer than 5,000 years. Talk about how brewing techniques have changed through the ages.
70. Plan fishing demonstrations and teach young and old some new skills.
71. Explore the history of a craft comparing two countries e.g. **lace making in Ireland** and Italy.
72. Find other event organisers in your area and work together e.g. Tidy Towns or Mens Sheds.
73. If you're an academic share your research with a talk, seminar, tour etc.
74. Plan a genealogical tour of your local graveyard. Include interesting stories about its more colourful residents.
75. Hold a discussion on how heritage can create economic and social opportunities for your community.
76. Create a self-guided history or nature trail on paper or record it as a podcast.
77. Bring together a panel of historians, writers or journalists to discuss how stories become history.
78. Plan a discussion on Ireland's relationship with Europe throughout history.
79. Explore the links between Ireland and Europe in folklore through a talk or exhibition.
80. Host a discussion on sustainable cultural tourism.



# Share with Kids



81. Give children the chance to be tour guides for the day. Teach them some simple facts about the historic sites. Make sure to have a hat or badge ready for them so they know they're in charge!
82. Organise a children and grandparents storytelling session.
83. Ask teenagers to video a heritage tour of their town in 60 seconds. Arrange a video screening during Heritage Week with prizes (and popcorn!)
84. Run an imagining history workshop. Give children the outline of a moment in history and ask them to imagine they were there through writing stories, art or drama.
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. Organise a scooter tour. Encourage children to bring their scooters so you can cover longer distances. 
87. Go wild in the woods on a family campout.
88. Create **shoebox dioramas** with leaves, moss and other natural finds.
89. Encourage children to become heritage detectives. Solve clues together on a visit to a castle, wood, beach etc.
90. Work with an artist to run a wildlife drawing workshop.
91. Create a heritage hunt using a page of local historic landmarks which children can tick as they find them.
92. Plan simple heritage craft workshops e.g. make a castle from cardboard.
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 landmark.
95. Plan a scavenger hunt. Prepare a list of items e.g. oak leaf, dandelion etc.
96. Run an art, photography or writing competition for children culminating in an exhibition.
97. Print out a colouring competition for younger children.
98. Host a heritage fancy-dress competition with prizes for the best costume.
99. Listen to nature. Encourage children to identify **wildlife sounds** on a nature walk.
100. Bring magnifying glasses and identification sheets for a **mini-beast** hunt.

## HERITAGEWEEK.IE

