 **Bealtaine 2021**

**The theme for this year’s Bealtaine Festival is In(ter)dependence – Interdependence and the specially selected book for Bealtaine is ‘As If By Magic’; Selected poems by Paula Meehan**

* **17th– 21t May: ‘Mobile music machine’:** A quartet of professional musicians led by well-known Longford Soprano Emer Barry will perform 10 live concerts at nursing homes and day care centres around the county. They will distribute the programme to the venues where they will perform in advance of the concert so that the audience can fully participate.
* **4th– 30th May ‘Every picture tells a story’:** Award winning photographer Brian Farrell will visit the homes of thirty willing older citizens from all walks of life for a conversation and a photograph. He will compile thirty iconic images and stories that will form part of an exhibition and a book which will be held later in the year.
* **1st-30th ‘May Through the window’:** A creative project in partnership with Backstage Theatre, Longford Library and Longford Older Persons Council. Three older people living alone with an interest in any art form will be paired with a professional artist. Backstage theatre Artist in Residence Maisie Lee will coordinate and curate the project. The artists will include visual artists, musicians, dancers, writers and theatre makers and will be selected based on the older persons interests and personality.
* **10th –30th May ‘Celebrating Local Heroes’:** An Intergenerational project with local primary schools. Pupils and teachers will identify, research and interview an older person living in their local community who they admire. The interviews will be recorded in Longford Community TV studio and will be shared on social media.

**Creative events scheduled online during the month**

* **Artist Mary Gray will do a weekly art class through Zoom with residents from St. Joseph’s Hospital and Nursing Home**
* **Singalong with Angela. Local music director Angela Reynolds will present a weekly programme of songs and reminiscence. Residents of nursing homes and older people can send in their favourite requests each week. Each Friday at 2pm.**
* **Gardening tips and ideas for creating colourful window boxes and gardens from Gardener Mary Holmes**
* **Cloughan Farm Cookery School and Fiona Egan will deliver some delicious ideas for summer cooking.**
* **As If by Magic the very evocative collection of poetry by poet Paul Meehan which has been chosen as this year’s Bealtaine Book Choice. Longford Writers group and Longford library staff will read their favourite poems throughout the month.**

**For more information please contact Fiona at Longford library 0433341124 or email: library@longfordcoco.ie.**

**Please note all events will take place online on Longford Libraries and Creative Ireland Longford social media.**

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