**05/10/18 Prepare for a wild and wondrous adventure as Wainfest**



Donegal County Council’s Culture Division are currently putting the finishing touches to their events, as the festival opens with their first events this Saturday morning. Over the 8 days of the festival, there are 40 family friendly events planned throughout Donegal, the vast majority of which are free to attend.

With events taking place in Ballybofey, Ballyshannon, Buncrana, Bundoran, Carndonagh, Gaoth Dobhair, Letterkenny, Milford, Na Rossa, Raphoe this Saturday and Sunday there’s lots to choose from. Speaking about the festival, Denis McGeady, joint festival co-ordinator says “We’re absolutely blown away by the response the festival has got since the programme was launched on the 21st September. Some events have already sold out, which is encouraging for us, but perhaps disappointing for those who are only hearing about the events now.”

Adding to this, Denis relays his enthusiasm for the Author events that are coming up in libraries throughout next week, “we have some magnificent authors visiting us over the coming week and to be able to extend such invaluable experiences of meeting bestselling authors to families on a greater scale this year, is something we’re very proud of.” Steve Cole, Tom Palmer, Shane Hegarty, Jonathan Meres, Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre  will be making appearances at different libraries, including Aislann Kilcar next week. All author visits are free and booking is advised to ensure you don’t miss out.

For all information relating to Wainfest, including bookings visit [www.wainfest.ie](http://www.wainfest.ie/) and follow @DonegalCountyLibrary on facebook for updates.

Events for this weekend include:

**HARRY POTTER AND HOGWART'S EXPRESS AT OAKFIELD PARK**

Oakfield Park has partnered with Wainfest on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th, to host a not-to-be-missed Harry Potter Experience. Visitors to the park are invited to dress as their favourite characters, take a ride on the Hogwart’s Express, meet famous characters from the world-famous books, enjoy storytelling from Mabel’s Fables and even get the chance to play a refereed game of Quidditch on Donegal’s first Quidditch pitch. There will also be free Harry Potter themed crafts. In Buffers Restaurant, visitors can enjoy Harry Potter movies, feast on Harry Potter themed candies and sample some Butter Beer. No booking is required for this event and there is no additional cost; just entry fees to the park as normal. The park is open 12pm – 6pm and the event runs throughout the day. For more information visit [oakfieldpark.com](http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=6600&d=k5qz24xjH7169CKntbq16kMCEcbyVWH-CieOp8zvHg&s=373&u=http%3a%2f%2foakfieldpark%2ecom%2f) or call +353 (0) 74 91 73068.

**PERFORMANCE**

**Amharclann  Ghaoth Dobhair welcome Fíbín Theatre Company and their stage production of Jeremy, Hartleby agus Oooglemore** on Saturday 6th at 2pm. This event is free to attend. Don’t be disappointed, book your tickets at Wainfest.ie

Wrap up and come and visit the **Donegal Bay and Bluestacks Festival Carnival Parade**, which takes place in Ballyshannon at 7.30pm. Watch the streets of Ballyshannon come to life with some very special theatrical and musical performances.

Families will love the **Snail and the Whale stage performances at An Grianán Theatre**, Letterkenny on Sunday 7th October. Inspired by Julia Donaldson’s bestselling picturebook, follow the tiny snail’s exciting journey in this magical, musical production best suited for those age 4 upwards. Call the box office on 0749120777 or book online at Wainfest.ie

**The Balor Theatre, Ballybofey presents Goldilocks and the Three Bears** by Miriam Lambert on Sunday 7th October. See the story come to life within her original two-tier puppet booth. Call the box office on 0749131840 or book online at Wainfest.ie

**YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY AND COUNTY MUSEUM**

Discover the past with Dig it Kids, get creative with Bricí Spraoi, perform with Zara Holmes and hear great stories from Mr Hullabaloo this weekend across the County for free. Some of our events are sold out, and there limited availability for some remaining events. Donegal County Museum are running “A Long Farewell” exhibition, documenting those that emigrated from Donegal, which is well worth a visit. All information is available from Wainfest.ie.