Time to take up a new hobby or develop new skills at your local library!
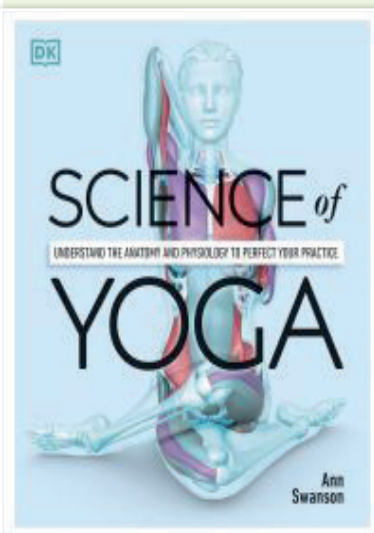
Kilkenny County Council Library Service offers a range of classes and activities to help people learn new skills and take up new hobbies.

Cycling

With the advent of the new Greenway in South Kilkenny, the 6 km New Ross to Glenmore stretch of the Southeast Greenway, there's never been a better time to take up cycling and explore the countryside using these safe amenities. Kilkenny County Council Library services has plenty of material to help you get started on cycling. Go to our app Libby for some useful magazines on cycling - Cycling Weekly and Bicycling to name just 2 of the popular titles.

Yoga and chair-based exercises

Resources in the library can also help us to find out more about the important area of exercise and movement as we get older. Many libraries have held workshops in this area and will continue to hold talks in winter and early in the new year. There are lots of books available in the library and through BorrowBox to help us with this hobby. The "Science of yoga : understand the anatomy and physiology to perfect your practice", by Ann Swanson is one such book.
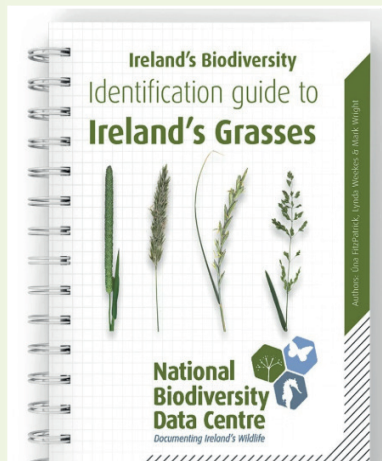
Sewing and crafts

Kilkenny County Council Library Service is a great place to develop skills in craftwork - with lots of classes coming up in the autumn - from sewing to felting and patchwork-making classes across branches throughout the county, you are sure to find something to suit. There are also knitting and craft groups active who meet regularly and are a great way of getting tips and making new friendships.
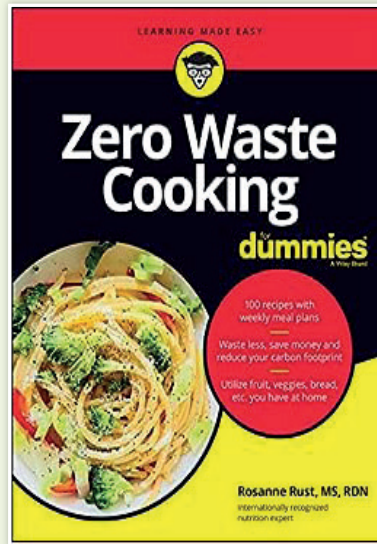
Creative writing is also another hobby that people have turned to and get great enjoyment from and there will be creative writing courses running in the autumn, one such course being in the art form of Haiga, combining watercolours with poetry. This course will start in September and will be advertised through online and social media. Creative writing groups are also active in many branches, another way to get in touch with like-minded people and work together to create some special pieces.

Biodiversity

The importance of the environment and biodiversity has never been clearer to us and all libraries have resources to help you to learn more about nature and the world in which we live. Kilkenny County Council Library Service has a Citizen Science Kit which is available for loan and has all the tools to observe nature and record data through the National Biodiversity Data Centre. In addition, workshops and walks are held in the area of biodiversity, seed-saving and Grow it Yourself in Kilkenny libraries, starting in September. Contact your local library for more information on any of these initiatives.

To help tackle food waste, there will also be workshops on this important topic and as a first step to becoming better informed, look for this book, available through the library system.
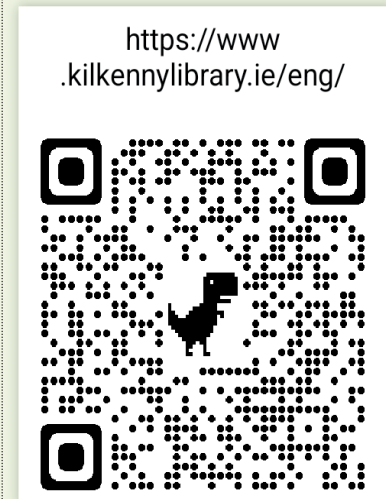
Get involved in a new group - library branches around Kilkenny have various groups - creative writing, knitting and crafts, Irish and French conversation groups as well as Book Clubs. Contact any local branch for further details on any of the groups or courses taking place this autumn and take the first step to enjoying a new hobby or skill!

So, contact your local library today and join up - membership is free and opens the door to lifelong learning!

Universal Class for online courses

Universal Class offers a wide range of interactive courses on an online platform, led by expert instructors and best of all - FREE with your library card!

Courses range in duration from 3 hrs to more than 30 hrs. Choose from subjects as diverse as algebra and aromatherapy. Courses are set out in modules with homework and feedback from a tutor. The most popular courses last month included courses on creative writing, genealogy, and human resources management.

It's a great stepping stone to more formal educational courses. Register today and start your educational journey.

To use Universal Class, go to the online learning section of the Kilkenny library website or scan the QR code. You will need your library card number. Not a library member, you can sign up for free online at www.kilkennylibrary.ie

For more information on Universal Class or any of our online resources you can contact your local library where staff will be happy to help.

https://www.kilkennylibrary.ie/eng/

July's Most Popular Courses

From July 1, 2023 to July 31, 2023

| 484 Course Activity — Creative Writing 101
| 264 Course Activity — Novel Writing 101
| 256 Course Activity — Genealogy 101
| 139 Course Activity — Data Analysis for Business
| 75 Course Activity — Screenwriting 101
| 53 Course Activity — Human Resources Management 101