



The Past in my Place

HOW THE LIBRARY CAN HELP



Project Research

There are families in County Kilkenny who have taken a crash-course in local history research, without ever meaning to! This could sound familiar to households with a secondary school History student. When the answer to 'when is your project due?' is 'tomorrow' or 'Monday', the panic sets in. Only twenty-four to 72 hours to scour the bookshelves, search the internet and visit the local library. **Here is how the library can help.**

(Very) Local Knowledge

One of the quickest and easiest ways to find out information is to ask someone with expertise, or someone with good local connections. Often there is a family member or neighbour who is known for their knowledge in a particular area; 'Joe's a great man for the GAA history'. 'Betty's done the family tree, she knows where to go for that kind of thing'. 'Your grandmother worked in the boot factory.'

Family, friends, and people in your neighbourhood can provide leads to other sources of information.

Ask at your local library



— photo by Dylan Vaughan

Library staff answer queries on a daily basis, so it is a good idea to go to your local library and ask for help finding books and other sources for your project. Think before you ask: are you searching for ideas? Are you looking for, or confirming facts? Or are you searching for primary sources (first-hand accounts of an historical period)?

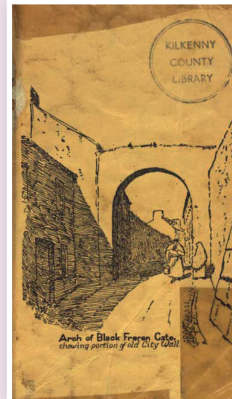
Here is a quick guide to finding ideas, and research sources for History projects before the weeks slip away. Project deadlines are always closer than they seem at the beginning of the school year!

Local History in the local library



Most libraries have a local history section, with books and journals relevant to County Kilkenny, and to the local area. In the adult Non-Fiction section, under History look for the numbers 941.89 on the book spine. This indicates it is a Local History book.

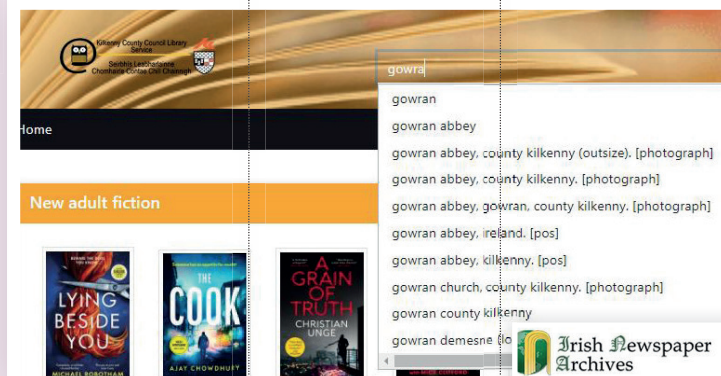
On the library website, under Local Studies, take a look at the Local Sources. This lists of some of the general sources covering Kilkenny city and county. Some of these books may be accessible online (eBooks on askaboutireland.ie) or there may be a loan copy in your local library.



Nooks and Corners of County Kilkenny, Paris Anderson (1848)

Search the Library Catalogue Online

If you cannot visit the library, the online catalogue is easy to use.



Go to www.kilkenny-library.ie select Search for Books and More. In the Search box type what you are looking for. Keep it general to begin with e.g. Gowran Abbey.

Your search results might include books, periodicals, journals, and photographs. Click View Availability to find out

how to access the item.

If its location is Kilkenny Local Studies, take a note of the book or item details.

Check with your local library to see if they have a copy of the item, or another similar title. If not, contact Local Studies to make an appointment to view the items. Local Studies, John's Green: 056 7794160/ info@kilkennylibrary.ie

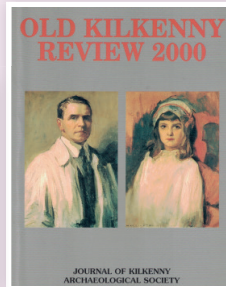
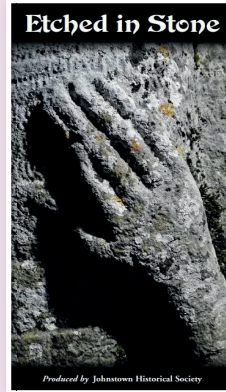
Wiki

Did you know that Wikipedia is a combination of two words? Wiki (meaning 'quick' or 'fast' in Hawaiian) and encyclopaedia = Wikipedia



It is fine to use Wikipedia to get a broad overview of a place, historical period or event. At the bottom of a Wikipedia page, the External Links section contains links which usually bring you to sources that are more appropriate for researching a project, e.g. a newspaper archive or the National Library. Wikipedia should only be used to get a general idea and to provide stepping stones to further research.

Local History and Historical Societies & Groups



Local history and heritage societies are a great source for knowledge of local places. The societies often publish their own journals, with detailed and well-researched articles on a variety of local people, places, events and history. Ask at your local library about borrowing these journals or contact the society directly through their website or social media.

- Callan Heritage Society
- Conahy Heritage Society

- Duchas Tullaherin Heritage Society
- Fassadinin History Society
- Graiguenamanagh Historical Society
- Johnstown Historical Society: Facebook
- Kilkenny Archaeological Society
- South Kilkenny Historical Society

History of Glenmore: <https://glenmore-history.com/>

This website is a history of Glenmore, as researched and recorded by the late Danny Dowling (1927- 2021). Danny's extraordinary work is edited and presented on the website and blog by Dr. Kathleen Moore Walsh, of Rathinure, Glenmore, with Louise Walsh and Richard Lacey.

Newspaper Archive Online

Historical newspapers are available to view on microfilm at the Local Studies service. However, the Irish News Archive is available on library PCs in your local branch. This newspaper archive contains local, regional and national newspapers, one of the earliest from 1738 (Belfast News-Letter). The archive includes the Kilkenny People and the Leinster Express.

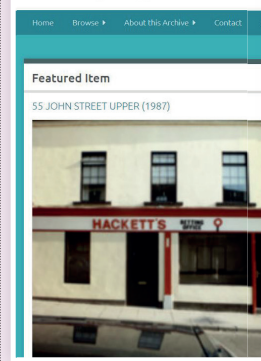


Newspapers provide primary source material; documents, reports or images that provide first-hand testimony or evidence and were created at the time of the historical period in question.



Local Studies Audio Series

Kilkenny Digital Archive

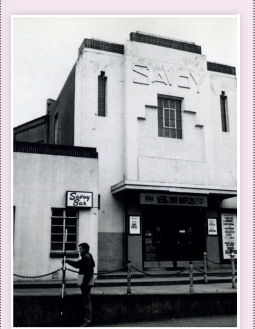


The Kilkenny Digital Archive is an initiative of Kilkenny County Council in favour of the collections of images and memories and organisations to both digitise and mount collections where Kilkenny Library has worked with the local community to archive aims to gather information and safeguard it.

A picture is worth a thousand words

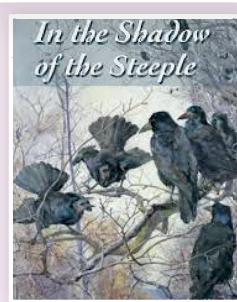
The Kilkenny Digital Archive is a collection of photographs and postcards is an initiative Kilkenny County Council's Library service and ICT department.

An interesting collection is the Graiguenamanagh Memories Archive, containing images of Graiguenamanagh and hinterlands, collected by the library from local people.



Other useful resources

- Local Studies Podcast Series: <https://www.rockart.ie/>
- Ask About Ireland: <https://www.askaboutireland.ie/>
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage: <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/>
- The Heritage Maps viewer is a web-based spatial data viewer which focuses on the built, cultural and natural heritage around Ireland and off shore: <https://heritagemaps.ie/>
- Heritage Council of Ireland publications: <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/publications>



Irish Newspaper Archives

