

# IRISH LIBRARY NEWS

Issued by An Chomhairle Leabharlanna (The Library Council)

No. 247 January/February 2005

ISSN 0332-0049

## CULTURA-LEE SPEAKING

Cork City Libraries formally launched details of its European Capital of Culture programme for Cork 2005. Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Mary Shields, formally launched the extensive programme at a reception in Cork's Central Library, Grand Parade on 16 December.

Cork City Libraries, the most popular cultural institution in the City, is playing a central role in the city's year as European Capital of Culture. The range of activities planned reflects the range of activities to be found in a modern public library. Highlights of the year's programme include:

### *Library architecture*

What kind of building can a city library be in the 21st century? What kind of building should a library be? The Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland (RIAI) and Cork City Libraries will invite young European architects and architectural students to design an ideal central library for a city of approximately Cork's size.

### *Books and reading*

One of the main projects being organised by Cork City Libraries will be a celebration of books and reading on World Book Day, 23 April 2005, with the Grand Parade in front of the Central Library becoming an outdoor library and literature centre for the day. Cork City Libraries will also celebrate childhood during the summer, with events for children and events celebrating childhood, as well as adults' remembrances of childhood.

### *Music and sport*

Cork City Libraries in partnership with *The Irish Examiner* will organise a seminar and exhibition in September on the history and current state of sports writing in Europe.

The Music Library will organize three special exhibitions: on the balladeers and songwriters of Cork; on Rory Gallagher, songwriter; and on the classical composers of 19th & 20th century Cork.

### *Other highlights*

Libraries have always been a 'safe haven for the word' to paraphrase the city's own motto, and many libraries have suffered for this. *The Word Endures*, a seminar with an accompanying exhibition, will bring together speakers from Europe and the Middle East to discuss this still relevant topic.

Further information: Liam Ronayne, Cork City Libraries: 021 4924900.

## CLICK ABOUT IRELAND

Mr. Dick Roche, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government launched the *Ask About Ireland* Website [www.askaboutireland.ie](http://www.askaboutireland.ie) and *Our Cultural Heritage: building the gateway* Report 2004. *Ask about Ireland* is a showcase of the wonderful images of our Irish heritage from the collections of local libraries, museums and archives countrywide. The website focuses on the digitisation and provision of new means of access to cultural heritage material in museums, libraries and archives and includes key national institutions such as the National Museum. It makes a range of our national treasures available on-line. Moreover, it makes local treasures available to those who would not otherwise have the time or opportunity to access them. These "treasures" include those elements of Irish history locked up in 19th Century Law Union records, or in the beautifully artistic posters which were the pop art of the 1920's and 30's in Ireland. Users can look at true-to-life three dimension images of artifacts from the National Museum of Ireland. They can browse through the flora and fauna of the sloblands of Wexford, the pages of the *Dublin Evening Telegraph* of 1904 or follow the spectacular walking route of the North Kerry Way, all samples of the material from the local studies collections in public libraries.

The report: *Our Cultural Heritage: building the gateway*, also launched on 9th December 2004 builds on *Our Cultural Heritage: a strategy for action for public libraries*, launched in 2003. This strategy provided for the digitization and online publication of the significant store of history and culture in Irish public libraries. The report documents the development of the [www.askaboutireland.ie](http://www.askaboutireland.ie) gateway and its findings encourage the view that the Irish cultural sector can be a significant player in the emerging eContent industry.

The Cultural Heritage Project is an initiative co-ordinated by the *Branching Out* Steering Group Cultural Heritage Panel, managed by An Chomhairle Leabharlanna and funded by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government with support from the Information Society Fund. The *Ask About Ireland* website and the report *Our Cultural Heritage: building the gateway*, are products of the combined effort of the local studies librarians and the staff of local museums and archives around the country, The National Museum and the project team at An Chomhairle Leabharlanna. For further information on *Ask About Ireland* and the Cultural Heritage Project, please contact Annette Kelly, [akelly@librarycouncil.ie](mailto:akelly@librarycouncil.ie), or Joan Ward, [jward@librarycouncil.ie](mailto:jward@librarycouncil.ie) An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, 53/54 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2, t: 01 676 1167, f: 01 676 6721.

## tips of the trade, no. 97

According to *The Definitive Book of Body Language* (Orion, 2004), which Allen Pease co-wrote with his wife Barbara, the best place to touch someone is on the elbow, because it is outside their personal space and usually prompts a positive response.

"The touch should be light and last for less than three seconds. We have done experiments on elbow-touching and the results were quite dramatic," says Pease.

"When librarians touched customers' elbows as they told them when to bring a book back, four times as many returned it on time," he adds.



▲ At the official launch of the Cork City Libraries programme for Cork 2005 / European Capital of Culture: Assistant Director Cork 2005 Tom McCarthy, Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr Mary Shields, and Cork City Librarian Liam Ronayne.

The **11th Hugh M. Fitzpatrick Lecture in Legal Bibliography** was held recently in Dublin City Library and Archive, Pearse Street.



▲ L-r: *The Hon. Mr. Justice Joseph Finnegan, President of the High Court; A.W. Brian Simpson, Charles F. and Edith J. Clune Professor of Law, University of Michigan (Speaker); Deirdre Ellis-King, Dublin City Librarian; Dr. Maurice Manning, President, Irish Human Rights Commission (Chairperson); Hugh M. Fitzpatrick, Solicitor/Library and Information Consultant (Series Founder and Organiser).*

**CLÉ** in association with The Arts Council, Foras na Gaeilge and ÁIS are organising a promotion of Irish language books for Seachtain na Gaeilge, 5 to 17 March 2005.

There will be promotional packs available to libraries on request. Packs will include posters, postcards, bookmarks, programmes and other goodies. A special edition of *An Leathóir*, which will include a guest editor and recommended title lists, will also be published. Packs will also go to bookshops across the country and there will be events for both adults and children organised with bookshops and publishers throughout Seachtain na Gaeilge.

Promotional packs are available on a first come first served basis. Please contact Breandán Mac Craith, Foras na Gaeilge, [bmaccraith@forasnagaeilge.ie](mailto:bmaccraith@forasnagaeilge.ie), to request a pack.

If you are organising events yourself make sure you inform Seachtain na Gaeilge, [eolas@snag.ie](mailto:eolas@snag.ie)

Also, please look at [www.ealain.ie](http://www.ealain.ie) to see if you are eligible for funding for activities based in Gaeltacht areas. Contact Ealain na Gaeltachta Arts Officer, Micheál Ó Fearraigh (Director); or Ealain na Gaeltachta Facilitators in each region: North – Dominic Mac Giolla Bhríde; West (and Meath) – Majella Ní Chríocháin; South – Eileen de Paor, or email [ealain@udaras.ie](mailto:ealain@udaras.ie) for information.

If you would like to be put in touch with a local bookshop or book publishers please contact Jolly Ronan, CLÉ – Irish Book Publishers' Association, [info@publishingireland.com](mailto:info@publishingireland.com)

**Dublin City Public Libraries** has announced the commencement of a research and development project (November 2004 – October 2005) aimed at developing a blueprint for assisting the delivery of e-Government Services in Irish public libraries.

The project will examine how public libraries can assist access to Government information and services. The role of staff in delivering services will be identified and demonstrated. Pilot programmes are planned for testing in selected public libraries in Dublin City and in Co. Longford.

The project is funded under the Public Library Research Programme. Further details are available from: Deirdre Ellis-King, Dublin City Librarian or Bernadette Cogan, Project Officer, Dublin City Library and Archive, 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2.

t: 01 6744800; f: 01 6744880; e: [Research.Library@Dublincity.ie](mailto:Research.Library@Dublincity.ie)

**IFLA** has announced the appointment of Professor Peter Lor to the post of Secretary General. Professor Lor, who is Professor Extraordinary at the Department of Information Science at the University of Pretoria, takes up his new post on 15th February.

The first **Ireland Library Week** will be celebrated during the week

of 7th - 12th March 2005. All libraries are encouraged to take part and organise events to commemorate the week. Libraries are also encouraged to promote events which would usually take place in the library including book clubs, competitions, exhibitions, launches, storytimes, etc.

Libraries will be contacted with suggested events to mark the week to promote the library in the community. Details from Antoinette Robinson [manager@libraryassociation.ie](mailto:manager@libraryassociation.ie).

**South Dublin Libraries** were honoured to accept the group award in the Arts and Culture Category at the recent 21st annual Person of the Year Awards ceremony. Enda Kenny T.D., Leader of the Fine Gael Party presented the award.

The Awards, given by Tallaght Community Council, recognise the contribution made by everyone involved to improving the quality of life in Tallaght and also in promoting the area. South Dublin Libraries are delighted to accept the award and are committed to continuing their contribution to and interaction with the community of Tallaght and South Dublin.



▲ *County Librarian, Teresa Walsh with staff at the County Library, Tallaght after receiving the award.*

Readers Day which was held in the Plaza Hotel, Tallaght on 6th November 2004 attracted an audience of over 160 people. The line up for the day included Sebastian Barry, Anthony Cronin, Pat McCabe, Theo Dorgan, John Waters and Christine Dwyer-Hickey. The MC for the event was author Dermot Bolger who will shortly join South Dublin County Council as writer in residence. The day consisted of readings, discussions (including a lively one entitled 'Voices in my Head' with authors Christine Dwyer-Hickey, Noelle Harrison and June Considine). Afternoon workshops were hugely popular and featured topics such as 'Beyond Harry Potter' with Niall McMonigal and 'A Matter of Opinion' with John Waters. Readers enjoyed a glass of wine and mingled with the authors at the end of the day. Plans are already underway for Readers Day 2005!

**Terence MacSwiney Community College**, in Cork, is one of eleven schools involved in the Junior Certificate School Programme Demonstration Library Project. The school library was officially opened on 10th December 2004 by the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Micheal Martin T.D. He was joined by guest speaker Dr. Tracey Connolly of UCC's *Bridging the Gap Programme*. Dr. Connolly spoke of the importance of the library in creating an active learning space for students. She was impressed with the way the library has been absorbed into the fabric of the school, evident from the numerous cross-curricular projects and art and crafts pieces on display and the fact that the students were so comfortable in this print-rich environment. Minister Martin was very positive towards the project. He emphasised the importance of literacy and reading, referring to the need to ensure that all our young people have access to quality education in order to create an enterprising workforce. The Minister was impressed by the spacious open library and its variety and volume of books. It was his belief that such a library would play a significant role in shaping the desired workforce of the future.



▲ Ian O'Connor presents the Minister with his drawing of the North Cathedral.

Other speakers on the day included Mr. Frank Nash (Chairman Board of Management), Ms. Margaret Bentley (National Co-ordinator of the Library Project), Ms. Bernie Kiely (National Co-ordinator JCSP) and Ms. Eibhlin Cassidy (School Librarian).

In addition to the literacy role of the library it also aims to expose students to visitors that have a positive impact on the learning experience. This occasion saw a return of the very popular Mr. Ezeke Grey, Jamaican percussionist and DJ of Cork's 96 FM. who gave an energetic percussion workshop to students who attended the opening.

The positive impact the library has had in the life of Terence McSwiney Community school was evident in the interest, enthusiasm and co-operation shown by the staff and students in making the official opening a successful and memorable occasion.

The **University of Limerick Library** was successful in accessing funding from the HEA to create a Traveller/Roma Centre within the library which is due to be officially launched in 2005. This Collection is the first Collection in Ireland relating to the history of the Travellers and the Roma. It includes a wide range of material relating to the history/culture of Travellers and Roma and includes books, prints, audio, multimedia, video and music materials as well as furniture and computer equipment. The Collection is intended as a resource for both Traveller/Roma students UL students and Irish scholars generally who can access items through Interlibrary Loan. In addition to historical/cultural material the Collection also includes children's material and literacy material which is available to the Traveller students who are attending UL and their families.

The Collection was a source for material used in the recently broadcast documentary on Cant.

The types of Traveller language used in Ireland and Scotland are referred to by different labels and names. The most common is Cant, but in Ireland it is also known among native speakers as Gammon and among scholars as Shelta. Most speakers of Cant are resident in Ireland with some speakers in Great Britain and others scattered throughout the United States and Canada. Cant is also reportedly spoken in Australia and South Africa. The exact number of speakers is unknown but it is acknowledged that there has been a rapid decline in Cant vocabulary in recent decades as a consequence of rapid social change in Ireland.

Among those taking part in the documentary were Pádraig Mac Gréine from Ballinallee, Co. Longford who is now 104 years of age and who collected Cant from travellers in his native area during the 1930's on behalf of the Irish Folklore Commission, Dr. Marion Browne and Dr. Micheál Ó hAodha who have studied and written about Cant, Limerick Traveller and artist William Cawley, West of Ireland Travellers Martin Ward, Elizabeth Mc Donagh and Gus Sweeney, Margaret Mc Inerney and Thomas O'Brien - members

of the Travelling community who have a particular interest in Cant, as well as a group of pupils from Scoil Mhuire Newbridge who co-operated with Kids' Own Publishing Partnership in compiling *Can't lose Cant* – the world's first book on Cant.

The documentary entitled *Cant* is a *Scannáin Dobharchú* production and was shown on TG4 on Sunday January 16th with a repeat showing on Tuesday January 18th. It is likely to be repeated again on TG4 in the coming months and is well worth tuning into.

Further information on this Collection can be obtained from Project Manager *Traveller-Roma Access Resource Collection*, Dr. Micheál Ó hAodha, University of Limerick Library. [micheal.ohaodha@ul.ie](mailto:micheal.ohaodha@ul.ie).

**Your move!** Tubbercurry Community Library has been running a weekly Chess and Draughts Club for Primary School Children for almost a year and would like to hear from other libraries that may be running similar clubs with a view to hosting some inter-county competitions. Please contact Pauline Brennan [pbrenn@sligococo.ie](mailto:pbrenn@sligococo.ie) or telephone 071 9120405.

## publications

Micheál Ó hAodha of the University of Limerick library has edited two recent books, both biographies: *Parley poet and chanter: a life of Pecker Dunne* and *The candlelight painter: the life and work of William Cawley, Traveller, painter and poet*. The books are the outcome of cooperative research coordinated between the University of Limerick HEA Traveller Initiative, Kemmy Business School, the Irish Heritage Council, UL Library and the Nomad Project, Irish World Music Centre, UL.

The Pecker Dunne is a member of one of the oldest Travelling families in Ireland and a well-known character throughout Ireland. The Dunnes are a well-known musical family who, for the past hundred years, have brought their unique style of Traveller music to audiences all over the length of breadth of Ireland. This book traces Pecker's upbringing on the road, his travels in a horse-drawn caravan to country fairs, race meetings and sporting events and the development of his own unique ballad-style of singing. It also gives his insight into many aspects of Traveller language and culture and the Traveller fight for self-recognition as a distinct cultural group in Ireland.

*Parley poet and chanter: a life of Pecker Dunne*. Dublin: A. and A. Farmar Press, 2004. 128 pages including picture section, price €14.99 (including free CD)

William Cawley is an acknowledged painter, poet and musician. He is known as the Candlelight Painter because he paints at night, by the flicker of candles, in his trailer parked at the front of his house. His story covers his life on the road as a child, his time spent in reform school and as an emigrant in London. He discusses his leaving of the road, his settling in a house and his discovery of painting when in his late thirties. He also discusses his community's culture, traditions and ways of earning a living. The book includes reproductions of his poetry and some of the eight hundred paintings he has completed to date.

Travelling community have lived on the margins of Irish society for hundreds of years. Their culture including their language Cant/Gammon, has been much-maligned and little appreciated. This book is a small window through which we can see glimpses of a unique Irish culture, a culture with a long and proud history.

*The candlelight painter: the life and work of William Cawley, Traveller, painter and poet*. Dublin: A. and A. Farmar Press. 128 pages paperback including full colour reproductions of W. Cauley's unique paintings. €14.99.

To order these books please contact Micheál Ó hAodha, University of Limerick Library, or post, fax or email your order to: A. and A. Farmar, 78 Ranelagh Village, Dublin 6. Tel: (01) 496 3625, Fax: (01) 497 0107, Email: [afarmar@iol.ie](mailto:afarmar@iol.ie) Payment by cheque, VISA, Mastercard or AM EX.

## INCREASED GRANTS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL LIBRARY BOOKS ANNOUNCED

On November 5th 2004, the Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin, T.D. announced the allocation of €500,000 for books for primary schools serving disadvantaged communities. Having consulted with both An Chomhairle Leabharlanna and the Library Association of Ireland, the Department decided to channel this additional funding through the National School Library Scheme, which is administered through the local authority library system. This once-off grant will be disbursed on the basis of enrolments in those primary schools targeted for participation in each local authority area.

The announcement was made by the Minister during the launching of the report *Reading Literacy in Disadvantaged Primary Schools*. The report which surveyed the reading habits and levels of over 6,500 pupils in first, third and sixth classes provides the first comprehensive baseline information on literacy achievement in disadvantaged schools. Minister Hanafin said the findings of the report highlight very clearly the challenge for her as Minister for Education and Science, for schools, for teachers and for parents in tackling literacy difficulties in disadvantaged schools. "We know from previous research that about 10 per cent of children in our schools would have serious reading difficulties" she said. "Yet this report shows that the number of children in designated disadvantaged schools with serious reading difficulties is between 25 and 30 per cent. Addressing this issue presents a major challenge for all of us." The Minister said that the allocation of €500,000 for books was just one small initiative that she will be taking immediately to improve literacy levels in disadvantaged schools. "It was clear", she said "that more training support and greater encouragement for teachers was needed."

The Department of Education and Science has also increased its contribution towards the National Schools Library service by 35% - from €1.5 million in 2004 to €2.026 million in 2005.

## PLAN CALLS FOR LITERACY SUPPORT FOR 50,000 ADULTS ANNUALLY

The National Adult Literacy Advisory Group which has devised a national plan to fulfil the aims of the Government White Paper for development of literacy which aims to boost the number of adults receiving support to 50,000 annually. The plan contains 28 recommendations and is entitled the *National Adult Literacy and Numeracy Programme Implementation Plan*. These recommendations were agreed by an expert group representing all the major organisations involved in literacy development in Ireland.

As well as aiming for an increase in the number of adults attending literacy tuition by 40%, this plan recommends that:

- o each learner should have an individual plan for boosting his or her skills over time;
- o a system for monitoring learner progress should be adopted nationwide;
- o distance learning should be further developed;
- o all literacy workers should have an appropriate qualification;
- o more development workers are needed to enhance services at local level; and
- o all local literacy support organisations should work together more closely and systematically.

This publication involved nearly three years work by the National Adult Literacy Advisory Group with representatives from: The Chief Executive and Education Officers' Association / Irish Vocational Education Association; Adult Education Organisers' Association; Adult Literacy Organisers Association; National Adult Literacy Agency; FÁS; An Chomhairle Leabharlanna and literacy practitioners. For further details contact: Tommy Byrne at NALA (01) 809 9195 / 087 2262610.

## calendar of events



### february 2005

21st *Preservation for access: managing paper-based collections in museums, libraries and archives.* For further details contact: National Preservation Office, British Library Conference Centre, 96 Euston Road, London, NW1 2DB

### march 2005

2nd *Customer Care in Libraries* – a one-day course presented by McGrath Barrett & Associates in Dublin. To register, or for further details, please contact Dr. Brid McGrath, McGrath Barrett & Associates, 2 Richmond Hill, Rathmines, Dublin 6. 'phone 01-4977043 / 087-2476424. Fax 01-4977043. mcgrathbarrett@eircom.net

5-17th Seachtain na Gaeilge [see News & Events: CLÉ]

7-12th *Ireland Library Week*

10th Annual General Meeting of the Library Association of Ireland, 10.30 a.m. in the Clarion Hotel, Lapps Quay, Cork. Details from: Denis Murphy, tel: 021 454 6499 email: honsec@libraryassociation.ie

10-11th *The Word Endures: libraries and freedom of expression.* Details citylibrary@corkcity.ie

### april 2005

19-21st Joint Annual Conference of the Library Association of Ireland & CILIP-Ireland, City Hotel, Derry City.

23rd World Book and Copyright Day

### august 2005

11-12th *The physical library and beyond: library as place and the library in cyberspace* – IFLA 2005 satellite meeting organised by the Library Building and Equipment Section in co-operation with the Reference Work Section. Venue: Järvenpää, Finland. Conference language is English. For information and registration see: [www.fl.fi/PHYSICALvsVIRTUAL05/](http://www.fl.fi/PHYSICALvsVIRTUAL05/)

14-18th *Libraries: a voyage of discovery* – 71st IFLA General Conference and Council, Oslo. Details: e: [ifla2005@norskbiotekforening.no](mailto:ifla2005@norskbiotekforening.no) w: [www.ifla2005oslo.no](http://www.ifla2005oslo.no)

### october 2005

11-12th *Library Ireland 2005* - The library, education and cultural resources exhibition will take place at the RDS, Dublin. Organisations interested in exhibiting should contact Key Events Ltd, 24 Terenure Road East, Rathgar, Dublin 6. t: 01-4901790; f: 4901792; e: [info@keyevents.ie](mailto:info@keyevents.ie); w: [www.keyevents.ie](http://www.keyevents.ie)

### COPY DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 20th February 2005.

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