

IRISH LIBRARY NEWS

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MINISTER COUGHLAN LAUNCHES TAOBH TÍRE REPORT

The interim report of the Taobh Tíre project was launched by Minister Mary Coughlan on Friday the 13th of May in Bundoran Community Library. Minister Coughlan spoke very highly of the innovative research being carried out by Donegal County Library. County Librarian, Eileen Burgess, said during her speech that she used the term library service to encourage the concept of the 'service' being something that takes place both inside and outside the library building. This is certainly true of the Taobh Tíre Project.



▲ Minister Coughlan at the launch in Bundoran Library.

Taobh Tíre is an action research project carried out by Donegal County Council with the support of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna under the Public Libraries Research Programme with additional assistance from the Information Society Fund, Donegal County Council and the EU Peace II cross border programme. The project is developing and implementing new and innovative ways to deliver library services to remote and isolated communities across County Donegal, including two offshore islands. The interim report launched concentrated on the work carried out in phase I of the project. This work included the establishment of 10 new service points in a variety of locations. New service points are established in partnership with local communities and consist of a small collection of books, provided by Donegal County Library (a taster collection) with one or more PCs connected to the Internet, thereby providing access to the library's online catalogue. Taobh Tíre users can log onto the website (www.donegallibrary.ie) and request items from any main library branch and have them delivered to the Taobh Tíre service point as soon as the item is available.

Speaking at the launch the vice chairperson of the County Council, Councillor Sean McEniff, said that Donegal County Council was very pleased to be taking a lead role in this research and that the success of the project to date is encouraging so much so that he hoped that the recommendations in the project's final report will be adopted by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for replication on a national basis.

The project has now moved into phase II and will run until the end of December 2005 when a final report will be prepared. Phase II is concentrating on reader development, access to online information and the extension of the project to six new locations. For more information on any aspect of the project contact the project coordinator, Donna Quinn on 074 9168743 or by email dquinn@donegalcoco.ie

Printed copies of the report are available from An Chomhairle Leabharlanna. It can also be downloaded from our website at <http://www.librarycouncil.ie/policies/taobh3.shtml>

Taobh Tíre: a better library service for rural areas. Interim project report. Dublin: An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, 2005. (Public library research programme report; 1) ISBN: 1-873512-12-0

PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND THE ANTI- POVERTY LEARNING NETWORK

The recent meeting of the Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network heard three presentations on the role of the public library service in promoting social inclusion. Norma McDermott, Director of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, gave an overview of library development in the *Branching Out*¹ programme before identifying those social groupings which, according to the results of a 2003 survey² do not make regular use of the services available to them. How libraries can target these groupings, and how other agencies can join with libraries to provide a collective approach to inclusion was the subject of two case studies presented by Josephine Brady, Cavan County Librarian (access for people with disabilities) and Ciaran Mangan, Meath County Librarian (promoting multiculturalism through the public library).

The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Mr. Dick Roche, T.D., referred to the role of the library service in the community when he said:

Public libraries come in all shapes and sizes and can be found in rural villages and in the major cities, in historical market towns and in modern suburbs. What they all have in common is a commitment to providing the best possible service to the library user and specifically a commitment to promoting and ensuring social inclusion and equality of access.

Management of the Network is passing from the Combat Poverty Agency to the IPA. During their stewardship the Agency commissioned and published a report on public library services to marginalised groups.³

1. *Branching out: a new public library service.* – Dublin: Stationery Office, 1998.
2. *A public space for all: use and non-use of public libraries.* – Dublin: An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, 2003.
3. *Access to public libraries for marginalised groups / Fitzpatrick Associates.* – Dublin: Combat Poverty Agency, 2004.

STOP PRESS

50 MORE ACTION LIBRARIANS PLANNED

The Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin, T.D. has launched an Action Plan for Educational Inclusion¹. This document is the first integrated strategy for promoting equality of opportunity that has been developed for 3 – 18 year olds in this country. The Action Plan will build on the success of existing measures while tackling the issues that have undermined their overall effectiveness. One successful area which will receive further support under the Action Plan is the JSCP Library Project. The report promises to enhance school library facilities at second level whilst also seeking to develop, through partnership, services provided by the local authority public library service. School library and librarian support will be extended to the 50 second-level schools with the highest concentrations of disadvantage. This will take place on a phased basis over a five year period.

¹ *Deis: an action plan for educational inclusion.* (Dublin: Department of Education & Science, 2005).

The full and/or summary report may be downloaded from: www.education.ie

There will be more details in the July issue

Clare County Library's latest book promotion entitled *Wonderfully wild: books on the biodiversity of Clare* was launched by Éanna Ní Lamhna in Dromore Woods on Sunday May 22nd, as part of the Clare celebration of International Biodiversity Day. The promotion is a cooperative venture between the Library and the Planning Section of Clare County Council, made possible with grant funding from The Heritage Council. The funding allowed for the purchase of many titles to add to the collection on wildlife in Clare's libraries. The aim of this promotion is to increase awareness of and access to materials available within the library service on the rich diversity of wildlife and natural heritage which occurs in Clare and throughout Ireland. Twenty titles on the Burren, marine life, animals and general wildlife, birds, flowers and plants are recommended and reviewed with many other titles listed. After the launch the book promotion will be on display in the De Valera Library, Ennis for 3 months from where it will travel to all branch libraries within the county.

As previewed in *Irish Library News* 249, **Cork City Libraries** organized a spectacular celebration of the book and literature to mark *World Book Day* on 23rd April. Highlights of the celebration were the round the clock opening of the Central Library – from 10.00am on Friday 22nd to 5.30pm on Saturday 23rd – and the street fair on the Grand Parade right in front of the library, all day on the 23rd, with stalls selling books, flowers and food. The event attracted huge crowds, even the late night/early morning sessions. As one member of the public, in congratulating staff on 'a splendid series of events' said "it is reassuring that the library is resolutely in the mainstream of cultural life in the city". Cllr. Máirín Quill, a member of the Cork 2005 Board was quoted as saying "the public response was great. A ripple of excitement ran down the spine of the Grand Parade". Below are some photographs of *World Book Day* in the Central Library.



▲ *Street stalls.*



▲ *Putting the world into World Book Day*

Cork County Library: the *West Cork Literary Festival* runs this year from June 25th to July 1st. Bantry Library will hold its usual series of lunchtime readings and with a line-up of authors that includes Frank Delaney, Sebastian Barry and Booker Prize-nominated David Mitchell, there should be something to suit everybody's literary taste. In addition to the readings, a series of Children's Poetry Writing Classes (for ages 11-14) takes place at Bantry Library every morning during the festival.

Cork County Council's Library and Arts Service sponsor the *West Cork Literary Festival*. The support of Fish Publishing and West Cork Music is also acknowledged. In recent years, the Festival has attracted top writers including Roddy Doyle, Pat McCabe, Jennifer Johnston and Nuala O'Faoláin.

From small beginnings when it was established nine years ago, the *West Cork Literary Festival* has now grown into one of the premier literary gatherings in the country. Back in 1997, the lunchtime readings were first initiated with poet Michael Longley having the honour of performing the inaugural reading. When Denise Hall was appointed as Writer-in-Residence with Cork County Council in 1999, part of her brief was to develop the Festival. At that time, it was called the *Literary Fringe* and was arranged to coincide with the well-established *West Cork Chamber Music Festival*.

The Festival now offers an extensive programme of readings, workshops, exhibitions and even some fringe events. The focal point of this literary feast is Bantry Library, which continues to host most of the public readings during the Festival.

The Festival aims to bring the best and most inspiring literary figures to an audience in West Cork with events that allow the maximum involvement between the writers, the local community and the many visitors who come each year to the Festival.

For further information about any of this year's literary events, contact Bantry Library at 027-50460 or email: bantrylibrary@eircom.net. Also, many other seminars and workshops are taking place in Bantry during the Festival. Full details are available at: www.corkcoco.ie. Admission is free to all library events.

*Said Carnegie 'For all to be Free
A Library and Books are the Key'
So one of his best
That outshone all the rest
In 05 came to Blackrock for me!*

So wrote Ursula O'Farrell from Booterstown, whose Limerick won first prize in the Blackrock Library Centenary Limerick Competition. **Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Libraries** celebrated Blackrock's birthday in great style with a series of events throughout the week beginning 16th May. Paul Howard, author of the hilarious Ross O'Carroll-Kelly books entertained a capacity audience in 'Rock Library on the Tuesday night with his fans demanding more and more. He performed for almost two hours and the event was featured on *Morning Ireland* next day. In addition he had been the judge for the Limerick competition which attracted over 300 entries.

On Wednesday morning, Billy Morrison, former swimming champion and Irish highboard diving champion gave a talk on Blackrock Baths which attracted many nostalgic swimmers from the halcyon days of the 50's and 60's. His talk complemented an exhibition of photos, many belonging to Billy on *Blackrock Baths* which was created especially for the celebrations. Other exhibitions included *100 Years of Carnegie Libraries*, a selection of photos from the well-known exhibition produced by An Taisce in 2002 and *Postcards of Blackrock* taken from Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Library's Local History Collection. Many of these postcards are featured on the askaboutireland.ie site as part of the digitisation project coordinated by An Chomhairle Leabharlanna.

The week culminated in Blackrock's Birthday Bash on Thursday 19th May with An Cathaoirleach Councillor Niamh Bhreathnach hosting a party in the library for all those associated with the area



▲ *County Librarian, Muiris Ó Raghail and Cllr. Niamh Bhreathnach, Cathaoirleach, Dún Laoghaire County Council with Blackrock library's birthday cake.*

and its well-loved library. She gave a wonderful talk about the library and how much it meant to her as a child growing up in Blackrock, recalling with fondness Lil Kennedy who used to work in Blackrock Library for many years. The event was attended by library borrowers and staff, members of the Blackrock Society and local businesses, winners of the Limerick and Wordsearch competitions, Norma McDermott from An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, Brendan Grimes, author of *Irish Carnegie Libraries*, Fionnuala Murphy who used to work in Blackrock Library, Maurice Walsh, close relative of the famous namesake and author who used to live in Blackrock and many more. The beautiful birthday cake, featuring Blackrock library was enjoyed by the many guests who attended the happy occasion. A leaflet entitled *Blackrock Library's 100th Birthday* was produced by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Libraries and includes a smattering of history about the area, an excerpt, courtesy of Brendan Grimes, from *Irish Carnegie Libraries*, and some images from 1905. It can be viewed from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown's recently revamped homepage at www.dlrco.ie/library

And speaking of cakes, the **2005 Edible Book Festival** attracted a record number of entries at the offices of An Chomhairle with seven edible examples representing *Hamlet, James and the Giant Peach, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, Murder on the Orient Express, Postcards from the Edge, Zed's Bread* and a pop-up edition of Brendan Grimes' *Irish Carnegie Libraries*. The popularly acclaimed winner was Niamh from the *Ask About Ireland* project team with her edition of *James and the Giant Peach*.



EBLIDA, the European Bureau of Library, Information & Documentation Associations, held its annual Council meeting in the National University of Ireland, Cork from 13th to 14th May 2005; the EBLIDA Executive Committee held its meeting there on the 12th May. EBLIDA's main role is to liaise with the various agencies of the European Union, in particular the European Parliament and European Commission, and to ensure that the needs of libraries and librarians are taken into account at EU level. The annual Council meeting is the organization's main forum, bringing delegates from the 25 member states of the EU plus some



▲ *Jan-Ewout van der Putten, President of EBLIDA, Liam Ronanyne, Cork City Librarian, Sean Martin, Lord Mayor of Cork.*

associate members from other European countries. Jan-Ewout van der Putten was re-elected as President for the next 2 years, his second term, and a new 10-member Executive was also elected. Cork City Council hosted the EBLIDA Council in partnership with the Library Association of Ireland and National University of Ireland, Cork. The LAI held a reception for delegates on the eve of the Council, and the City Council hosted a reception in Cork City Hall on the following evening.

Fingal Schools Library Service recently held its 8th Annual Art Competition, which attracted huge entries. This extremely popular art competition is open to all primary schools in the Fingal area and this year's theme was to 'Create a Book Title and design a Book Cover to match'.

There were 2 categories in the competition: Junior Infants-2nd Class and 3rd class-6th class.

The winners were presented with their prizes, which consisted of books for themselves and their respective schools, at a prize-giving ceremony held in Coolmine recently. The schools library staff wish to thank all the teachers and pupils who entered the competition.

Meath County Library's Ashbourne branch has just launched its Graphic Novels collection with the help of transition year students from Ashbourne Community School and McDonalds Ashbourne. The collection includes a *Heroes and Villains* section covering well-known heroes such as Spiderman, Batman, Flash Gordon, Dan Dare, X-Men and many more. The collection has also a humorous selection, which includes the popular *Simpsons* series. There is also a science fiction selection covering *Star Wars* and *Star Trek* material.



McDonalds Ashbourne sponsored the collection and students from Ashbourne Community School chose the items. The transition year students voted for two students Darragh Farrell and Mark Lyons to join their teacher Anu Meehan and Executive Librarian Mary Murphy to the Forbidden Planet shop in Dublin to choose items for the collection.

caught in the web

Mary Murphy said "We were delighted with the sponsorship from McDonalds, and we had a great day choosing the items for the collection, graphic novels are a great way of keeping teenagers interested in reading".

The Graphic Novels collection is available to borrow in the Teen Zone area of the library. Children under 12 can borrow some of the collection with parental consent.

On Monday 7th March, as part of the *Library Ireland* activities of **South Dublin Libraries**, Mayor Robert Dowds of South Dublin accepted the thesis *Urbanisation in Dublin, Tallaght – a case study* from its author Kenneth Shine for the local studies collection at the County Library in Tallaght where it is now available for consultation.



▲ *County Librarian Teresa Walsh, Tallaght Person of the Year David Kennedy, thesis author Kenneth Shine, Mayor Robert Dowds and Local Studies Librarian Kieran Sword at thesis handover.*

Two days later on Wednesday 9th March, Mayor Dowds officiated at another Library Ireland Week activity, the launch of the book, *If those trees could speak*, in the Rotunda of the National Museum of Ireland. The book, written by Frank Tracy, tells the story of the Massy family of Duntrileague and is published by South Dublin Libraries Local Studies Section. There was a capacity attendance of 170 at the function. The Mayor presented the first copies of the book to David Massy and to his brother Paul who had travelled from the U.K. for the launch. David Massy is current holder of the title, Lord Massy, a title he does not use. His cousin Dr. John Massy also travelled from the U.K. for the launch. Also present was a contingent from County Limerick led by Councillor John Gallahue of Ballylanders.

On the following Sunday, 13th March, the author Frank Tracy led a guided tour of Lord Massy's Woods which is located near Rathfarnham, in South Dublin County. The woods, now tended by Coillte were part of Killakee Estate which was owned by the Massy family. A very large group of 300 people joined the guided tour. The author, capably assisted by Coillte staff led the walkers on a most informative tour of the woods. As well as being Library Ireland Week, the book launch and the walk also coincided with National Tree Week.

On Wednesday 27th April South Dublin Libraries Local Studies Section launched another book based on the manuscripts of the late Paddy Healy, a noted field archaeologist who did much work in the South Dublin area. The book *Rathfarnham Roads*, was officially launched by Deputy Mayor Eamonn Walsh in Ballyroan Library.

Copies of both books: Frank Tracy's *If those trees could speak, the story of an ascendancy family in Ireland*. (South Dublin Libraries, 2005. ISBN 0954766027, price €5.00) and Patrick Healy's *Rathfarnham Roads*. (South Dublin Libraries, 2005. ISBN 0954766032, price €5.00) are available from Kieran Swords, Local Studies Librarian, County Library, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24, ph. 01 4620073, e-mail localstudies@sdblincoco.ie. These books have been also been made available in pdf format on the local studies section of South Dublin Libraries website (www.southdublinlibraries.ie).

A new website devoted to public library buildings is available at www.designinglibraries.co.uk.

Currently it includes a database of descriptions and images of recent UK public library building projects and is intended as a resource for sharing expertise and experience on library planning and design. It also contains links to a range of web resources useful to anyone involved in planning, designing or building libraries. The site was designed and developed by the Information Services Department of the University of Wales Aberystwyth and is managed by CILIP. It is planned to extend coverage to include different types of libraries from various countries.

www.informationcity.com is a virtual global community of librarians and information professionals established by two highly experienced information experts, Stuart Urwin and Gunnell Stjernvall. The *informationcity.com* community has a collection of 31 features, which bring together a unique set of benefits for information professionals, wherever they are. Every member gets their own blog, website, webmail account, electronic briefcase, photo album and calendar, as well as a whole range of common facilities.

Its primary aim is to enable information specialists to build a global network of professional and personal contacts and to improve their professional skills. At the same time, it keeps its members up to date with a wide range of the latest LIS news, comment, jobs, useful websites, books, blogs and much more.

In addition to all this, members get a package of useful tools to help them organize their essential daily activities more effectively, as well as a number of entertainment modules to keep them amused in their occasional spare moments.

And – it's free (for the time being)

The EU Publications Office has launched an online bookshop which provides a single access point to the various publications of the EU institutions, agencies and other bodies. <http://bookshop.eu.int>. Search facilities are available in 19 of the 20 EU official languages (no, not yet – the missing one is Maltese) and the site allows for the downloading of free as well as priced publications.

career opportunity

Librarian for **Architectural** practices. Excellent opportunity to own your own business. Owner retiring. Contact Pam O'Neill on 087 686 4408.

suppliers update

D.B. Office Supplies have been appointed the distributor in Ireland for **HALO Security Systems** in association with 2CQR. Full product information is available at www.2CQR.com. For ordering and quotations, please contact dbofficesupplies@eircom.net

offers

UCD library has some duplicate issues of *Studies: an Irish quarterly review* which they would like to offer to other libraries. They consist of miscellaneous volumes from 1934-1995. The volumes available are: vols. 23; 24; 35; 43; 52; 53 (Summer); 55; 57; 61; 62; 63; 65; 67 (Winter missing); 68; 70; 72 (Spring missing); 73-79; 81(Summer missing); 82-84; Index v.1-50,1961. Anyone interested should contact Claire Moran at UCD, Main Library, t: 7167117 or e: claire.moran@ucd.ie

PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDINGS AWARDS 2005

Four Irish libraries feature in the recently announced Public Library Building Awards for 2005.

Two, Sligo County Council's branch library in Tubbercurry and Waterford City's Central Library have been shortlisted for the prestigious awards. Ballymena library in the North Eastern Education and Library Board and Ashbourne library in County Meath were placed on the long list and are still in with a chance of picking up an award.



▲ *Tubbercurry Library, Sligo County Council – shortlisted.*



▲ *Central Library, Lady Lane, Waterford City Council – shortlisted.*



▲ *Ashbourne Library, Meath County Council – longlisted.*



▲ *Ballymena Library, NEELB - longlisted*

Launched in 1995, the awards recognise the highest level of new and refurbished library development across the UK and Ireland. They are recognised as benchmarks for modern public library facilities and indicators of professional library development. Awarded biennially, this round recognises new and refurbished libraries opened between 1st January 2003 through to 31st March 2005. Sixty-nine entries from libraries, discovery centres and one-stop shops were received and the following ten were shortlisted by the judges:

Explore Music (Gateshead Council); Garston Library & One Stop Shop (Liverpool Libraries & Information Services); Gorbals Library (Glasgow City Council); Gosport Discovery Centre (Hampshire County Council); Hamilton Town House (South Lanarkshire Council); Jubilee Library (Brighton & Hove City Council); Sutton

Central Library (London Borough of Sutton); Swiss Cottage Central Library (London Borough of Camden); Tubbercurry Civic Offices & Library (Sligo County Council); and Waterford City Library (Waterford City Council).

A further seven, including Ashbourne and Ballymena were 'long listed'. Overall winners will be announced at the public library authorities' annual conference later this year. If you enjoyed EuroStar, you might like to participate in the PLA's version known as *Delegates Choice*. This is awarded to the library receiving the most votes from delegates attending the conference in October, and electronic votes from members of the group via the group's website [<http://www.cilip.org.uk/groups/plg/plg.html>]. Both short and long-listed libraries are eligible.

LIBRARY SUCCESS STORIES WANTED FOR INTERNATIONAL DATABASE

Within the framework of its activities for World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and in order to contribute to the ongoing and long term presence of libraries in the world, IFLA has set up a database that aims to showcase the value of libraries to society as a whole.

The aims of the WSIS Declaration of Principles and Action Plan take into account the place of libraries in society today. However, in order to ensure that the actions described become a lasting reality they must become better known so that the funding agencies for the information society, whether they be government or private enterprise, will become more aware of libraries' achievements and the services they provide in making knowledge and information available, and therefore be encouraged to fund future activities.

Libraries are invited to list their achievements under the following categories and to submit them for inclusion in the database.

- Libraries as access point
- Libraries as ICT learning centres
- Libraries for continuing education
- Libraries for specific needs
- Libraries for cultural heritage

This database is not restricted to projects developed in one institution alone. On the contrary, the strength of libraries in the world today is to cooperate and network on all levels, local, regional, national and international. Please list any such initiatives, especially those with partnerships between advanced and emerging economies.

Submissions should be made via a questionnaire [www.ifla.org/III/wsis/announce02052005-e.html] and forwarded to: Danielle Mincio, Success stories database, Bibliothèque cantonale et universitaire de Lausanne, Bâtiment central CH 1015 LAUSANNE, Suisse. F: + 4121 692 48 45; e: Danielle.Mincio@bcu.unil.ch

The replies will be transferred to the success stories database and the information peer reviewed by IFLA colleagues.

A CD-ROM will be distributed at the IFLA pre-conference to the WSIS Second phase which will take place in Alexandria, Egypt in November 2005 and at the Summit itself in Tunis.

It is planned to make this database a permanently updated record of library achievements so that both the general public and funding bodies can see and appreciate the extraordinary contribution libraries all over the world make to society. It is hoped that in addition it will spark new ideas for cooperative efforts and encourage us all to continue to develop and innovate new services and activities.

calendar of events

june 2005

23rd-25th

European Association for Health Information and Libraries (EAHIL) Workshop will take place in Palermo, Sicily on June 23-25 2005. This year's theme is *Implementation of quality systems and certification of biomedical libraries*. For details see: <http://www.eahil.net/conferences.htm>

july 2005

13-15th

ARCLIB 2005: Articulating Architecture. ARCLIB is the Architecture Librarians Group (Ireland/UK). It will be holding its Annual Conference in University College Dublin on July 13th-15th. Various themes will be explored including information skills; marketing; digitising and imaging projects; Googling ... and MUCH MORE! The full Programme is available on ARCLIB's Website at: www.arclib.org.uk Further details are available from Julia Barrett, Architecture/Planning Librarian, UCD. Tel: 01-716 2741; email: julia.barrett@ucd.ie

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/

13-17th

Expectations and experiences: children, childhood and children's literature. The 17th biennial conference of the IRSCSL (International Research Society for Children's Literature) will take place in Trinity College, Dublin from 13th to 17th August 2005. Keynote speakers are Declan Kiberd, Anne Higonnet, Michael Rosen and Paul Muldoon. Other speakers include Morag Styles, P.J. Lynch, Niamh Sharkey, Kimberley Reynolds, Gillian Cross, Siobhán Parkinson, Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick and many others from America, Asia, Australia and Europe. Further information is available from www.irscl.ac.uk or from vcoghlan@cice.ie

14-18th

Libraries: a voyage of discovery – 71st IFLA General Conference and Council, Oslo. Details: e: ifla2005@norskbiotekforening.no w: 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; w: www.keyevents.ie

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