

# IRISH LIBRARY NEWS

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European Commissioner for Internal Market & Services, Charlie McCreevy paid an official visit to Dooradoyle Library on Monday, February 27th as part of a whistle-stop tour of Limerick City & County. Mr. McCreevy was greeted at Limerick County Hall by the Council Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Brigid Teefy, and other members of Limerick County Council.



*Commissioner McCreevy with County Librarian Damien Brady in Dooradoyle Library*

Mr. McCreevy, the official party, Councillors and Council staff then proceeded to the library to visit the Europe Direct Information Relay Centre, where library staff were on hand to answer questions and introduce the Commissioner and other guests to the services provided by the Centre.

These services include:

- An information point providing a wide range of free publications, brochures and guides;
- An on the spot question and answer service;
- Computers with access to the EU's Europa website;
- Freephone access to the Europe Direct call centre.

Mr. McCreevy toured the Centre with great interest, asking questions about the type of queries received by the Centre and commending both the facilities on offer and the dedication and interest of library staff.

Light refreshments were then served before the Commissioner had to rush to another engagement as part of his packed itinerary in Limerick that day, which included lunch with the Limerick City Chamber of Commerce and an address to the Jim Kemmy Business School at the University of Limerick.

**Donegal County Council:** the new Ballyshannon Community Library was officially opened by Minister Mary Coughlan TD on Monday May 15th 2006, as an integral part of Ballyshannon Public Services Centre. Speakers on the day included Ms Eileen Burgess, Donegal County Librarian & Cultural Services Divisional Manager, plus representatives of various Council and community services, which can be accessed via the building.



*Ballyshannon Public Services Centre/Library.*

Librarian, May Walsh has worked as branch librarian in Ballyshannon for 20 years and moved to her new premises in October 2005. The library's opening hours have increased by 30% from 6 to 20 hours per week. Over 5,000 items of stock are available in the fully automated library including 120 new audio CDs, and a good range of adult and junior fiction and non-fiction. Members also have access to Donegal County Library's catalogue of 200,000 listed items. They can browse the catalogue online and reserve items to be delivered to Ballyshannon library.

There are two public computers with Internet access plus photocopying and fax services. Ordinance Survey of Ireland equipment has recently been installed, enabling members to download and print off historical maps.

The new library is bright, comfortable and welcoming and as a prominent part of the new Public Services Centre, is situated at the hub of Donegal County Council's community services.



*Martina Boyle, Senior Library Assistant Donegal County Library; Helen McNutt, A/Assistant Librarian, Bundoran Community Library, Eileen Burgess, County Librarian and May Walsh, Ballyshannon Branch Librarian.*

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the start of the Spanish Civil War, which occurred between 1936-39. As part of this year's commemoration, Moville Branch Library recently organised an

historical talk on Ireland and the Spanish Civil War. The event was held in a local hotel and was attended by over 50 people including historians and academics.

Some five men from County Donegal joined the Irish Brigade and supported Franco's revolt while nearly double this figure volunteered for the International Brigade and fought on the Republican side.



*L-R: Liam MacLochlainn (academic) Seamus McTague (local historian) and Gerard Duddy (Branch Librarian).*

Part of the historical talk also included acknowledging a local connection between Ireland and the Spanish Civil War. Moville Branch Librarian, Gerard Duddy, provided information on Inishowen man Paddy Roe McLaughlin (1902-1974) that may otherwise have been lost from the annals of history and forgotten. Paddy Roe was a veteran of the War of Independence and a volunteer in the International Brigade. This year has witnessed a push among solidarity groups, academics and historians to document this history as part of our collective heritage.

A pictorial exhibition reflecting Ireland's involvement in the Spanish Civil War is currently on tour, visiting schools and public libraries in Counties Derry and Donegal.

For more information/comments: please don't hesitate to contact Gerard Duddy at 074 93 85110 or [Movillelib@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:Movillelib@donegalcoco.ie)

The One Book project being organised by the Western Education and Library Board with Donegal County Libraries [see ILN May 2006] has launched the *One Book Catalyst Award*. Readers are asked to nominate one book which has made a real difference to their lives.

Amidst all the celebrations taking place for the centenary of Samuel Beckett's birth, **Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown** took a very local view of one of its most famous literary sons. Dún Laoghaire is just two and a half miles from the house where Beckett was born and raised and on his date of birth (April 13th) in County Hall, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council hosted the Beckett Country exhibition by Beckett scholar and renowned cardiologist, Eoin O'Brien.

Edward Beckett and Caroline Murphy, Beckett's nephew and niece attended the event and his first cousin Deirdre Hamilton was there too chatting to Eoin O'Brien, close friend of Beckett's and author of *The Beckett Country*. Other literary people included (amongst many others) artist Robert Ballagh, Raymond Keaveney, Director of the National Gallery, theatre director Caroline Fitzgerald, actors Mary McEvoy, Anne Kent and Des Nealon and numerous well known writers from the County.

The exhibition explores the childhood and early adult Irish influences of our most international of writers. Eoin O'Brien was assisted by Samuel Beckett in this project and as he said 'I walk those back roads with closed eyes'.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown has a unique literary heritage and walking those back roads with closed eyes these days you would be more than likely to bump into a host of other literary icons from

both the past and the present: Joyce's Tower in Sandycove is the mecca of Irish literature, George Bernard Shaw spent the happiest days of his youth on Dalkey Hill, Flann O'Brien lived in the area for most of his life writing *At Swim Two Birds* in Blackrock. Current writers of the area include Joseph O'Connor, Hugo Hamilton, Julie Parsons, Marian Keyes, Gerald Dawe, Leo Cullen, Maeve Binchy, Sarah Webb, Colum McCann, Colm O'Gaora, Paul Murray, Frank McGuinness, Martina Devlin, and so many more.

To continue the local theme Caroline Murphy, the niece of Samuel Beckett, launched the Beckett Centenary Travel Bursary for an artist to travel from this part of the country to Paris in the footsteps of Samuel Beckett in search of artistic inspiration.

The exhibition and associated events were coordinated by Marian Keyes (Senior Librarian, Culture), Tim Carey (Heritage Officer) and Sharon Murphy (Arts Officer).

**Kerry County Library:** the contract for the building of Castleisland Library & Area Service Centre in Co. Kerry has been awarded to Galvin Developments (Killarney) Ltd. Overall cost will be €7.8m. The site contract was signed on Thursday, 11 May 2006 and work has commenced on the site, with occupation expected within 15 months.



*At the signing of the contract for the new Castleisland Library were: Jerry O'Sullivan (builder), Mary O'Connell (O'Sullivan Campbell architects), Toiréasa Ferris (Mayor of Kerry), Martin Riordan (Kerry County Manager).*

42 members of the staff of Kerry County Library got together on Friday, 5 May for an all day Staff Consultation & Development Day, under the direction of John Breen, Director of Service and Tommy O'Connor, Acting Co. Librarian. Staff got an opportunity to discuss aspects of the library service with a view towards inputting into the forthcoming new Library Development Plan 2007–2011.



*Kerry County Library Staff.*

Ms. Valerie Coghlan, President IBBY Ireland and Librarian of the Church of Ireland College of Education was the key speaker at a recent **Meath County Council Library Service** training day on the theme of library services to children and young people.

Mr. Tadhg McDonnell, Director of Community Enterprise, Recreation, Culture and Heritage officially opened the seminar. Welcoming the participants he highlighted the commitment of the local authority to staff development especially in the context of PMDS which is being piloted in the library service at present.



*Mary Murray, Ciaran Mangan, Valerie Coghlan and Mary Murphy*

Mrs. Bernadette McHugh, Director of Navan Education Centre presented an overview of the education sector at primary level in the county. Ms. Mary Murray gave a very enjoyable and informative talk on the Primary Schools service in Meath from 1968 to date. Reflecting on over forty years of service to Meath County Council Library Service almost all of which was spent administering the schools service, Mary reminded staff that prior to the purchase of a library van in 1968, books were actually delivered to schools by taxi.

Mary Murphy, Acting Executive Librarian provided an overview of the Post Primary School Library Service. The seminar concluded with a series of workshops on running junior reading groups facilitated by library staff members Tom French, Maedhbh Rogan, Mary Murphy and Suzanne Mahon.

The **School Library Association (Republic of Ireland)** AGM was held in a beautiful library room at the RDS on Saturday, 8th April 2006. It was very well attended and delegates were able to enjoy the Education Show downstairs when proceedings were over. The new officers are: Sue Miller (Chair), Aileen Ivory (Secretary) and Jane O'Loughlin (Treasurer). After the AGM, Dr Richard Murphy from Strangford College (<http://www.strangfordcollege.org>) in Northern Ireland gave a very informative presentation on "Weaving the Web". He covered many aspects of using the Internet in schools and proffered very useful tips on incorporating this into project work.

For further information about SLARI and events please contact Aileen Ivory at: [ivory.aileen@alexendracollege.ie](mailto:ivory.aileen@alexendracollege.ie) or phone: 4977571.

**Waterford City Council** has purchased the Annie Brophy Collection of photographs (over 60,000 negatives) and Mr Donal Moore, City Archivist, is indexing the photographs and exhibiting selections from the collection in the Library. These photographs play an important part in Waterford's 20th century social history and there is huge public interest in the exhibition and in access to the collection.

Waterford City library also hosted a travelling exhibition on Anne Frank. The exhibition was launched by Councillor Tom Cunningham on behalf of Waterford City Council. Both Lynn Jackson from the Holocaust Educational Trust and Tomi Reichental, a survivor of Bergen-Belsen camp, spoke of the significance of this exhibition and their views were echoed by Brother Columbanus who was in the audience but decided to speak about his experiences as a soldier who witnessed the liberation of Bergen/Belsen camp.



*Donal Brady, Waterford County Librarian and Jane Cantwell, Waterford City Librarian, pictured at the launch of the Annie Brophy photographic archive.*



*Tomi Reichental, Mary Conway, Lynn Jackson, Tom Cunningham, Jane Cantwell and Brother Columbanus at the opening of the Anne Frank exhibition.*

## REMEMBERING 1916

**Shannon Town Council's** 1916 commemoration took place on the 24th April with the raising of the tricolour by members of the Organisation of National Ex-servicemen outside the Shannon Town Hall.

This was followed by a public event in the **Sean Lemass Library** where traditional music was played by pupils of the Deirdre O'Brien Vaughan School of Music. Children from schools throughout the town played an active roll in the commemoration reading the Proclamation of the Republic in Irish and English and also contributing biographical portraits of each of the seven signatories.

Keynote speaker was well known sociologist priest and Clare senior hurling selector, Fr. Harry Bohan.



▲ *Fr. Harry Bohan*

The theme of Fr. Harry's talk was Ireland since the Rising, and he used the occasion to question whether the sacrifices of 1916 are reflected in people's values today.

Fr. Harry spoke about the background and the mindset of broken dreams that produced the Rising. He believes that the seeds for 1916 were sown during the 1880's which saw the revivalist movements such as the Land League, the Gaelic League, the GAA, and the Cooperative movement which began in this area. He reflected on Ireland's economic and social story over the decades since 1916.

Fr. Harry said, "If we are to be faithful to the people of 1916 we must remember that the people of 1916 didn't die for a land, they died for the people".

Regarding Shannon Town, looking around pointing to the Library, he said it is all a success story direct from 1916 and from economic planning in 1958 and the 1960's.



It was only by being independent and being able to pursue our own policies in education, taxation, and the development of industry that we have what we have today.

Shannon's Meara Bhaile, Cllr. Tony Mulcahy, presented a copy of the Proclamation of the Republic to Assistant Librarian, Carmel Daly, Sean Lemass Library Shannon, on behalf of the Shannon Town Council. He thanked all who had participated, and brought a formal close to proceedings.

*[Photographs courtesy of The Clare Courier]*

**Westmeath County Library and Archives Service** hosted an exhibition commemorating the ninetieth anniversary of the Easter Rising in the Aidan Heavey Library, Athlone, from 4 May to 18 May. The exhibition was an opportunity to showcase a selection of the material available in the Aidan Heavey Collection, including original documents written by Roger Casement, P.H. Pearse, Thomas MacDonagh and Eoin MacNeill. Also included was a very unusual item, a note book kept by Sean Milroy while a prisoner at Lincoln Gaol, in which he sketched his fellow prisoners, including Eamon DeValera.



▲ *Harman Murtagh, Paddy Cooney and Gearoid O'Brien (photograph by kind permission of Joe Relihan)*

The other part of the exhibition was entitled Casement in Germany, available on loan courtesy of Clare County Archives. This travelling exhibition is based on a collection of letters which were donated to Clare County Council in 1969, and which relate to Casement's attempts to organise German help for a rebellion in Ireland. Casement hoped to raise an 'Irish Brigade' from amongst Irishmen in the British forces who were being held as prisoners of war in Germany. He was unsuccessful in his attempts. The exhibition was formally opened on 4th May by the former Minister, Senator and M.E.P, Mr Patrick Cooney, who is also a trustee of the Old Athlone Society.

## THE LIBRARY OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND



The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland has been in existence for just over 350 years and has had a library for almost 300 years. The College was founded in 1654, originally as an ancillary to Trinity College but a Royal Charter of 1692 established it as an independent college. The man who was President and chiefly responsible for negotiating the 1692 Royal Charter was Sir Patrick Dun and when he died in 1713, he bequeathed all his property, including extensive land holdings, to the College. The income from this bequest was later to enable the College to build the famous Dublin hospital that bore Sir Patrick's name.

Dun's property included his personal library of several hundred books that formed the basis of the College library, which, in acknowledgement, has always had the official title of "Dun's Library". The College, unfortunately, did not have a permanent home of its own for over 100 years after leaving Trinity in 1692. The Library led a nomadic existence, passing among the homes of various Presidents, with books being added but many more going missing. Not until 1815, with the opening of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, which became the College's headquarters, did the Library find a permanent abode.

Almost 50 years later, the College acquired its present building in Kildare Street. The premises of the Kildare Street Club were purchased by the College in 1860 and, shortly afterwards, these buildings were destroyed by fire. The College then had a new building built to their own design. This was opened in 1864.

The upper front room, stretching the full length of the building, was designed as the Library and has remained so ever since. Its bookcases, running the full length of the inner wall, were later augmented with an upper level, reached via an iron spiral staircase and gallery. Extra shelving and bookcases were added over the years in other rooms of the building to accommodate the ever-increasing numbers of books. A most comprehensive collection of all the major medical works from the early 16th century onwards was built up and regularly added to until the 1960s when the College decided that it was no longer feasible, both financially and practically, to purchase copies of all new medical publications. Since then, the collection has been maintained as a medical-historical library and is much used by those researching medical and social history at all levels.

Pressures on space in the building, particularly in the last twenty years or so, to accommodate the increasing activities of the College in the field of postgraduate medical training resulted in various attempts to utilise extra space below street level where the Club's old wine cellars were situated. These attempts culminated in the latest, and most ambitious, scheme to transform the College building.

The decision was taken to move all the College's administrative staff to a new location and convert the Kildare Street building into a modern, state of the art, conference centre where College official functions, such as conferring ceremonies, major meetings and dinners, could be held and, at other times, the rooms could be hired out to other bodies and organisations for conferences, meetings, presentations etc

The scale of the planned renovation necessitated the total clearing of the building of all moveable objects and personnel. This meant that the entire contents of the Library that were housed in the College building (some 15,000 volumes) and the College's large collection of archives had to be packed into boxes and removed to secure storage. Another 15,000 volumes were already in off-site storage.

For over two years, passers-by would have seen the College building boarded up and inaccessible while the renovation work was carried on. Finally, in October 2005, the building re-opened to unanimous praise for its totally re-furnished rooms, state of the art audio-visual facilities, up-graded central heating and air-conditioning and a new lift for mobility impaired access.

The books of the Library have been restored to their traditional home in their elegantly re-decorated room. For additional security, wire mesh doors have been fitted to the bookcases as the room will now be used for meetings and lectures while readers will be accommodated in a special study section in the newly created Librarian's Office in the lower part of the building.

Particular attention has been paid to the College's extensive archive collection. This contains material dating back to the formation of the College, including an unbroken sequence of minute books from 1692 to the present. Other material includes the records of several Dublin hospitals and personal papers of prominent physicians. Of particular value is the vast collection of biographical information on Irish-born doctors formed by the distinguished medical historian, Dr. T. P. C. Kirkpatrick. This collection is in constant demand from genealogical researchers.

As part of the renovation of the building, a new archive store, with moveable shelving and environmental controls, has been created in the basement. These priceless documents can now, for the first time, be kept together in safety in one location and systematically organised so that they will be much more easily accessible.

The College Library has undergone considerable turmoil and upheaval over the past three years but the result has been well worth waiting for. The Library is once again housed in a safe and elegant setting and an electronic catalogue of its holdings is in the course of preparation and should shortly be available on-line. The archives are now secure and accessible.

While not directly open to the public, it has always been the Library's policy to make its resources available to anyone with a genuine reason for using them and it is hoped that researchers and those with an interest in medical and social history will continue to avail of the riches to be found in No. 6, Kildare Street.



## COLICO UPDATES

The Annual Report for 2004 is now available on line at [www.librarycouncil/colico/report.shtml](http://www.librarycouncil/colico/report.shtml). If you wish to receive a hard copy of the report please contact Domitilla Fagan or Rónán Mac Lochlainn at [colico@librarycouncil.ie](mailto:colico@librarycouncil.ie). The Annual Report for 2005 will also be published shortly.



COLICO would like to take this opportunity to thank staff of libraries and information services for their continuing co-operation in the interlending and document supply system. For those who have not yet managed to submit their inter-library loan statistics for 2005, could they please submit them at their earliest convenience or contact Rónán ([rmaclochlainn@librarycouncil.ie](mailto:rmaclochlainn@librarycouncil.ie)) if they need any assistance. In this issue COLICO would also like to bring to your attention the following initiatives.

### *HSE Libraries Online*

On Wednesday 10th May, Professor Brendan Drumm launched the Health Service Executive's new online library service ([www.hselibrary.ie](http://www.hselibrary.ie)). This gateway to health information is provided by the HSE Regional Library & Information Services in Ireland. This site is for HSE employees to assist evidence-based practice and improve patient care. Access to databases, library catalogues and electronic resources is made available throughout the site. The services on offer include;

- Fulltext electronic journals
- Databases of journal articles
- Irish Health Publications Archive
- Directory of HSE Libraries

For further details, please visit [www.hselibrary.ie](http://www.hselibrary.ie) or contact Jean Harrison, Regional Librarian, HSE/North Eastern Area at [jean.harrison@maile.hse.ie](mailto:jean.harrison@maile.hse.ie)

### *Inspire: Celebrate, Challenge, Create*

This conference on the Inspire programme (British Library, London, 25th April) offered the opportunity to hear how UK libraries are fulfilling the commitment of providing a cross-sectoral pathway for learners to their rich resources.

The event included a wide range of presenters who represent the Inspire activities in different sectors and parts of the UK and who have extended the ideas behind opening up access to libraries in new and exciting ways. For example, the impressive plans for innovative cross-sectoral libraries such as the Barking Learning Centre and Worcester's libraries where all users will avail of both academic and public library collections.

The Conference also included the launch of *Find it!* ([www.findit.org.uk](http://www.findit.org.uk)) the public website which underpins the Inspire service by providing one source of information on resources in libraries from all sectors across the UK.

The event offered a comprehensive overview of the Inspire programme and its activities showing what has been achieved so far. On the other hand, it also outlined that more partners need to be involved and projects need to expand and develop in order to achieve the target of including all UK libraries in the programme by 2013.

For more information on this initiative please check [www.inspire.gov.uk](http://www.inspire.gov.uk)

### *COLICO Conference*

As outlined in the previous issue, COLICO is organising the conference *Pathways to learning: exploring the potential for cross-sectoral library service provision* which will take place next autumn. The event will address the challenges in providing equal access to the rich resources of Irish libraries investigating the potential for the Inspire programme in an Irish context.

Full details on this conference will be available in the next issue and on the COLICO web site ([www.librarycouncil.ie/colico](http://www.librarycouncil.ie/colico)) shortly.

## wanted

The Ecoshop in the Glen of the Downs Garden Centre is looking for library shelving units to hold their expanding selection of books and serials on the environment, organic gardening, self-sufficiency, small-holding, green economics, sustainable building, real food and alternative health matters. They would like to hear from any library with surplus shelving - preferably free standing island units. If you can help, please contact Jane Hall at 01 2872914, mobile 086 8207443 or email [jane@ecoshop.ie](mailto:jane@ecoshop.ie).

## calendar of events

### June 2006

29th-1/7 *New directions for service delivery* – INULS (Irish National and University Library Staff) conference, Queen's University, Belfast  
[www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/InformationServices/TheLibrary/INULS/INULSHomePage/](http://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/InformationServices/TheLibrary/INULS/INULSHomePage/)

### July 2006

3-7th *The multiple faces of literacy: reading, knowing, doing* – International Association of School Librarianship conference, Lisbon.  
Details: [www.iasl-slo.org/](http://www.iasl-slo.org/)

4-7th *Turning the library inside out* – LIBER 35th annual general conference, Uppsala, Sweden.  
Further details: [www.conference.slu.se/LIBER/index.htm](http://www.conference.slu.se/LIBER/index.htm) or [www.kb.dk/liber/](http://www.kb.dk/liber/)

### August 2006

20-24th *Libraries: dynamic engines for the knowledge and information society* – 72nd IFLA General Conference and Council: Venue: Seoul, Korea.  
Details: [www.ifla2006seoul.org](http://www.ifla2006seoul.org)

26th-3rd Heritage Week – libraries are asked to register planned events with [www.heritageweek.ie](http://www.heritageweek.ie)

### October 2006

11-13th Public Library Authorities conference, De Vere Grand Harbour Hotel, Southampton [further details to follow].

23-26th *XIV World Cochrane Library Colloquium*  
For more information on the programme and registration details of the Cochrane Colloquium, please check out [www.colloquium.info](http://www.colloquium.info)

### March 2007

2-4th *The Ennis Book Club Festival*  
Details: [frances.ogorman@clarelibrary.ie](mailto:frances.ogorman@clarelibrary.ie)

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