

IRISH LIBRARY NEWS

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Contents

- Readiscover 2
- Poetry in the Library



- Celts Connect

news & events

- 2007 Public Library Building Awards
- Academic and Special Libraries Section – Informal Networking Evenings
- Bealtaine and *The Lost Art of Letter Writing*
- Clare County Library's adult education initiative
- Dun Laoghaire Rathdown's A-Z of poetry
- *Empower Óg*
- Ennis Book Club Festival
- HSE Libraries online wins the Health Sector eGovernment Award for 2007
- IAML (UK & IRL) Annual Study Weekend 2007
- New services in Longford library

publications

- Wexford women's experiences of home and abroad

calendar of events

READISCOVER 2007



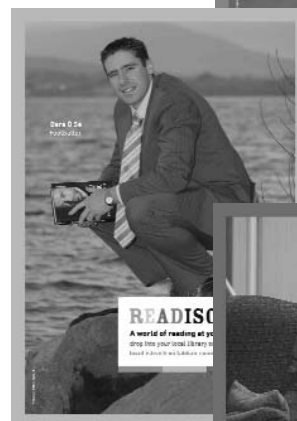
Readiscover, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna's national reading promotion campaign, will take place during *Library Ireland Week*, 5th - 11th March 2007. As part of this campaign there will be a series of book promotion and live literature events, such as author visits, poetry readings and talks in public libraries throughout the country.

The campaign will be supported by local and national radio

advertising and the distribution of branded library bags, posters and bookmarks to libraries and to library users. This year's posters feature footballer Darragh Ó Sé; IMPAC Dublin Award winner Colm Tóibín; television presenter Kathryn Thomas, and broadcaster John Kelly.



This year's campaign also features, for the first time, a national bus advertising campaign, so watch out for the adverts on buses in the capital and around the country.



This will be the third national reading promotion campaign coordinated by An Chomhairle and we look forward to building on the success of the previous two years.



For further information on *Readiscover* events, please log on to: www.library.ie/Readiscover

2007 Public Library Building Awards UK and Republic of Ireland: applications are now invited for the *2007 Public Library Building Awards UK and Republic of Ireland*. The Awards recognise the best in library design and innovation and Irish libraries have frequently featured amongst the winners. Most recently, Waterford City Library won *The Heart of the Community Award* in 2005, while Tubbercurry, County Sligo, was highly commended.



← Lady Lane Library, Waterford City

Tubbercurry library, County Sligo →

The categories for the 2007 Awards are:

- **Architecture Meets Practicality:** New or refurbished libraries of architectural interest which are practical and user friendly, where the building reflects the brief/specification, vision of the architect and delivers the needs of a 21st Century service.
- **Heart of the Community:** New or refurbished libraries which have been designed to enhance and/or regenerate the library space to facilitate the delivery of new, inclusive, innovative services to the whole community.
- **Interior Design:** New or refurbished libraries which demonstrate excellence in interior design. Individual sections of libraries e.g. teen zones or a floor of a library would be considered in this category. The area of the refurbished/new space must be no less than 100 m²
- **Partnership:** New or refurbished libraries built and/or managed in partnership with other agencies including dual or multi purpose libraries, PFI/PPP libraries etc.

Libraries opened between 1 January 2005 and 31 March 2007 are eligible. Entries must not have been submitted previously and library authorities may enter individual libraries for one category only.

Full details and application forms are available at www.librarycouncil.ie/buildingawards.shtml.

The Public Library Building Awards are organised by the Public Libraries Section of CILIP and An Chomhairle Leabharlanna.

Academic & Special Libraries Section: the committee of the A&SL Section is delighted to announce that the next meeting in the series of informal networking evenings will be held in Cork on Monday, 12th March 2007 in the Imperial Hotel.

Cronán Ó Doibhlin, Head of Special Collections, Archives & Repository Services at the Boole Library, UCC, will give a talk on George Boole and his papers at 7pm, and the A&SL Committee will host a Reception from 6.30pm.

The aim of the Informal Networking Evenings is to provide an opportunity for librarians and information professionals to meet and to share news, views and experiences. Everyone is welcome. Monday, 12th March 2007 at 6.30pm. in the Duchess Room, Imperial Hotel, South Mall, Cork

Cost €5 (payable on the night). RSVP Olivia Fitzpatrick Olivia.fitzpatrick@ucc.ie

or Ann O'Sullivan (Secretary) ann.osullivan@oireachtas.ie by Thursday, 8th March 2007.

Bealtaine, the nationwide celebration of creativity in older age, is inviting all libraries nationwide to participate in an unique project backed by An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, entitled *The Lost Art of Letter Writing; a project of letters and libraries*. In these days of instant communication, email and text messages, the art of letter writing is almost becoming extinct. With postal deliveries now consisting mostly of bills and junk mail, we no longer listen with rising excitement for the postman's tread bringing tales from abroad, news from relatives, or the romance of a love letter.

So while there are still some of us around who can remember how a letter is put together, Bealtaine is inviting people to put pen to paper and write a letter.

In keeping with festival's 2007 theme, forever begin the letter should be written about anything people now know, that they didn't when they were younger. It could be a new skill they've picked up, something they've had time to learn in the course of their life, an art form or experience they've just dipped into or simply something that has occurred as they have matured.

This letter might be to a friend or family member, or, imaginatively, to one's younger self or parents.

Some letters will be selected for publication in a book later in 2007. Others will be featured in a radio broadcast during Bealtaine, and exhibited on the Bealtaine website.

Libraries are very important to the success of this project and can get involved by:

- Hosting exhibitions of letters from their existing archives or collections
- Creating opportunities to write – for example a workshop on letter writing, a lecture by a writer, open to the general public or existing writers groups
- Exhibiting some of the letters produced

The theme of Bealtaine 2007 is *forever begin* which reminds us that new opportunities, experiences and talents are there to be discovered each day no matter what age we are. Bealtaine events take place nationwide in public libraries, arts centres, residential care centres, theatres and community centres. The Festival is coordinated by Age & Opportunity in partnership with the Irish Film Centre, the Irish Museum of Modern Art and the National Gallery. Further information on the festival is available from Age & Opportunity, Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9: t: 01 805 7709; w: www.olderinireland.ie; e: bealtaine@mie.ie

Clare County Libraries: in an initiative between the Shannon Branch of Clare County Library, the Brothers of Charity, and the Clare Adult Basic Education Services [previously Clare Reading and Writing Scheme], students from the Brothers of Charity service regularly use the resources in the library.

They learn desk top publishing and access the Internet with the educational support of CABES. There they have been introduced to DTP, particularly Microsoft Word, and learn to develop their IT skills under the guidance and supervision of their tutor on Tuesday afternoons for blocks of six weeks, after which reviews take place. The students are guided by the library staff to the library's book stock on all subjects and in various reading levels. They indicate a preference for well illustrated non fiction books. They are very enthusiastic to learn and progress their IT skills, and eager to use reading material.

The students live in the South Clare area and some work part time in supported employment. It appears that they would not seek or avail of library services or membership without the combined support of agencies working in partnership. Their library learning experience is making a positive difference to their lives, and to that of their families, and contributes to a more socially inclusive community.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Library: The celebration of winning poems from the 18th annual Féile Filíochta will take place in the Assembly Room, County Hall, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown on Friday, 30th March at 7pm.



*Kieran Furey Féile
Filíochta Poem of
Europe Award Winner*



This year emerging poets from over sixty countries as diverse as Argentina to Zambia submitted some 6,176 poems into our ten different language categories: English, Gaeilge, Polish, Swedish, Spanish, German, French, Italian, Scots Gaelic and Welsh. The overall winner of the *Féile Filíochta Poem of Europe Award* this year is Kieran Furey.

Kieran's winning entry to the competition is called *El Tren*, which also won in the Spanish language category. He will receive the *Féile Filíochta Poem of Europe Perpetual Award*, a beautiful crystal trophy presented by the Assembly of European Regions along with prize money of €6,000. The overall prize-fund for the *Féile Filíochta* this year was €25,000.

Kieran was born in Roscommon in 1953 and grew up on a small farm. He has travelled extensively and lived for considerable periods outside of Ireland, mainly in Latin America, but also London, India, Africa and the US. Kieran has published several books and booklets of poetry, short stories, satire and travel stories. For the last number of years he has concentrated on writing poetry, mainly in English but also in Spanish. The international panel of judges for the 18th *Féile Filíochta* comprised of Zdenka Becker, Annika Burholm, Maoilios Caimbeul, Patrick Gallagher, Mereid Hopwood, Jean-Philippe Imbert, Kevin Kiely, Jacek Kozik, Antonello Morea, Louis de Paor and Enda Wyley. For further information please contact mowens@dlrcoco.ie or cpeople@dlrcoco.ie

Empower Óg DVD is a new family drug awareness guide developed by the HSE and TRYS (Tipperary Regional Youth Service) and supported by Schering-Plough Pharmaceuticals (Ireland). This new campaign will encourage parents, teenagers and the community at large, to educate themselves about drug addiction in Ireland, and to empower themselves in a positive way in the struggle against drugs abuse.



A planned national launch of this new *Empower Óg* campaign will take place in early April. The primary aim of the campaign is to educate and generate family discussion around this important topic. A new 20-minute DVD, which is primarily aimed at parents and their children who are at the transition stage between coming to the final stages of primary school and entering secondary school, will be the focal point of this campaign.

The *Empower Óg* team wishes to educate and generate family discussion around the topic. This transition phase can be an intimidating and daunting experience for children, and can lead to vulnerability and insecurity. How this vulnerability is dealt with by parents, teachers and the wider community can determine the direction that the young person's life can take. A prevailing theme

throughout the DVD is how strong the 'power of example' can be. The various problems that children can encounter are described in stages: smoking, drinking, marijuana, inhalants, and speed.

Copies of the new *Empower Óg* DVD will be distributed to each of the primary schools in Ireland and every public library around Ireland. The distribution of the DVD will enable families, parents and students to borrow the DVD whenever they like, to learn more about drug addiction and to "empower" themselves with drug education.

Ennis Book Club Festival: enthusiasts from all over Europe purchased tickets for the Ennis Book Club Festival in County Clare which was held from March 2nd-4th 2007. The inaugural Festival had drawn interest from book club members and interested individuals in the UK, France, Denmark and many of the 150 library book clubs and 300 private book clubs that exist nationwide.

Ticket sales had been described as "hugely encouraging" by the Festival Organising Committee, which launched the official Festival programme at Glór Irish Music Centre in Ennis. The 12-page glossy programme features information on the wide array of events taking place during the three-day festival.



Committee member, Mary Kenneally said, "Ticket sales have primarily been driven by a quality programme of events that contains some of the UK and Ireland's most popular authors. Others have been attracted by the wide variety of events scheduled to take place during the festival. I look forward to welcoming book club members and individuals from all over Ireland, the UK and Europe to Ennis next month."

The **HSE Libraries Online project** (www.hslibrary.ie) has won the *Health Sector eGovernment Award 2007*.

It had been short listed for both Best Project Management Irish eGovernment Award and Best Health Sector eGovernment Award.

HSE Libraries Online is a gateway to health information and 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.

The Irish Health Sector eGovernment Award is awarded to the organisation who has succeeded in harnessing ICT to deliver better services, information and efficiencies to its target audience (both internal and external). Key factors include:

- innovation
- enhanced customer service
- an increase in efficiencies
- access to local information
- resource savings
- simplicity or ease of use and problem solving

The full list of winners can be seen on www.irishgovernmentawards.ie

IAML (UK & IRL) Annual Study Weekend 2007: this year's annual Study Weekend will take place at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, England on 13th-16th April. This annual event provides a wonderful opportunity to all who work with music in libraries to meet colleagues from all library sectors, to discuss issues of current concern and to hear reports of the latest developments in the world of music libraries. Full details of the programme are available on the IAML (UK & Irl) website www.iaml-uk-irl.org. Bookings may be made online, and the closing date is 16th March.

In case of difficulty in obtaining funding, MLT (Music Libraries Trust) makes available a small number of bursaries. Forms are available from:

Robert Foster, Maughan Library, King's College London, Chancery Lane, London. WC2A 1LR; tel: +44 (0)20 7848 2132 or +44 (0)20 7848 2424; email: robert.foster@kcl.ac.uk.

Longford Library has responded to a growing immigrant community by developing a number of new services. A plain English Guide to the services offered by the library was developed by the staff and is now available in the following languages: English, Irish, French, Polish and Russian. A simplified and enlarged membership form has also been produced in English and Irish. The English Language Learning section has grown considerably over the last year with the addition of English grammar and vocabulary books and exam preparation materials. A selection of CDs and DVD-ROMs were also purchased from Worldlanguagesystems at beginner, intermediate and advanced level for learners of English, Spanish, French and Italian. The material on each tape can be accessed in 28 different languages. Books in Polish, Russian, Lithuanian, Latvian and Slovenian, for both children and adults, have been acquired on a rental scheme from Bright Books and may be exchanged on a regular basis. The Polish books are extremely popular and there is a steady demand for items in the other languages.



A Polish mother and toddler group has also been set up in Longford Branch Library. The group meets on a weekly basis for one and a half hours and is facilitated by a bilingual Polish woman and one member of staff. Each meeting consists of a very relaxed and enjoyable mixture of English lessons, stories and songs for the children and general advice on a variety of issues such as work, education and childcare. This project is co-funded by the Adult Education Office, Longford VEC. The library hopes to nurture this relationship with our new immigrants in 2007 by developing projects with the local schools to aid mutual understanding and integration.

Guide to Adaptive Technology: a plain English guide to adaptive technology has been developed by a visually impaired Longford Library user with the assistance of library staff. This guide provides step by step instructions on how to use three different accessibility programmes: ZoomText, JAWS and Kurzweil 1000. The guide, which was developed as part of Longford Local Authorities Disability Strategy, proved very useful during recent staff training sessions on accessibility software. Copies of the guide may be obtained by contacting Theresa at 043-41124.

Young at Heart Group, **Returning: Wexford women's experiences of home and abroad.** edited by Suzanne Power. Wexford. Wexford County Council Public Library Service, 2007. ISBN: 978 0 9551467 4 9. €5.00

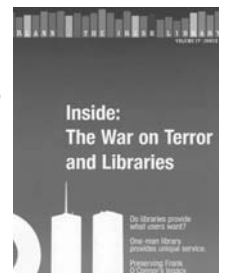
Returning celebrates the lives and experiences of nine Wexford women over the past 50 years. Their book provides a window into women's lives in County Wexford in the recent past. It also sheds light on the emigration experience from the female point of view. Many were reared in Wexford and emigrated to work in the industrial towns of the United Kingdom as young women. For Wexford Public Library Service, *Returning* is the culmination of a three year reading and writing programme, part-funded by the County Wexford VEC. Two reading and writing courses flourished throughout 2004 – 2006 and provide the foundation for the publication. Further information from Librarian, Hazel Percival, t: 053 9121637; e: Hazel.percival@wexfordcoco.ie

and welcome back

After a period of some three years and a radical makeover, *An Leabharlann: The Irish Library* is back with us.

The latest volume contains articles on the War on Terror and how it has impacted on libraries by Stuart Hamilton, a report by Olivia Fitzpatrick on a seminar on skills development, Gerard Duddy's view from a small library, *Lámhscríbhinní Gaeilge i Leabharlanna sa Tuaisceart* by Crónán Doibhlin, *Preserving Frank O'Connor's Legacy* by Michael Steiman, an account of Centralised Information Management in the 15 Institutes of Technology by Donna Ó Doibhlin, book reviews and more.

For details go to www.anleabharlann.ie



poetry in the library

Poetry in the Library, a joint initiative of Poetry Ireland and An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, aimed at promoting poetry in public libraries in Ireland, is to be launched this month. The objectives are:

- To promote poetry to existing library-based readers and writers groups throughout Ireland
- To establish long-term poetry events/tours of public libraries (2-3 annually)
- To include Irish language/bilingual poetry events as part of the initiative
- To introduce a structured poetry element to Children's Book Festival
- To incorporate a cross-border element to the initiative

The initiative will be launched with an event during Library Ireland Week in Pearse Street Library, on March 6th at 6pm. Niall MacMonagle will be speaking at the launch and, following a wine reception, Tony Curtis and Macdara Woods will read from their poetry.

The next event will take place in Clonmel Library, where an evening of poetry takes place on Thursday 8th March at 7pm, with readings from Michael Coady and Tom McCarthy. Staying in Munster, Cork City Libraries will host an event to celebrate World Book and Copyright Day on 22nd April at 19.30. Poets Gerald Dawe and Derek Mahon will read from their work.

Galway County Libraries have invited Yvonne Cullen to read in Inishbofin Library as part of the Inishbofin Arts Festival on Saturday 12th May at 5pm. Dramatist/poet Neil Donnelly has been invited to read in Leenane and Eyrecourt Libraries in June.

Westmeath County Libraries will be hosting a poetry event in the Aidan Heavey Library in Athlone in the autumn.

For further information on events please contact Gillian Colton (gcolton@librarycouncil.ie) or log on to www.library.ie

CELTIC CO-OPERATION

Mr. Dick Roche, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government hosted a study visit on 1st February for Mr. Alan Pugh, AM, Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport. As the Welsh Government is embarking on a programme to develop their library service, the Minister invited them to see a number of Irish public libraries and to examine how the library service has developed here in recent years.

Welcoming Mr. Pugh, Minister Roche said "the timing of the study visit is opportune as I am currently finalising a review of Branching Out: A New Public Library Service which over the past eight years has allowed us to bring the public library service into the 21st century through significant investment in library buildings and the development of ICT throughout the service. I hope shortly to publish an updated policy and vision for the public library service six years hence."

Ministers Roche and Pugh visited Dublin City's libraries in Cabra and Pearse Street. Ashbourne in County Meath and Blessington in County Wicklow.

These libraries have been constructed or redeveloped in recent years as part of the public library capital programme under Branching Out. Minister Roche said "he hoped the study visit would assist Minister Pugh and his department in developing a library programme for Wales."

Mr. Pugh AM, thanked the Minister and all the staff in the authorities who organised the visit, particularly Norma McDermott, for sharing their experiences in developing Ireland's impressive library development programme. The Welsh Assembly Government has recently announced a £2.5 million investment programme to improve library services and library buildings in Wales. Mr. Pugh said, "This has been a very helpful opportunity to see the best practice established in Ireland which will be used to inform our work in Wales."

Minister Roche concluded by saying that he hopes "the relationship between the library service here and in Wales can be further developed and I have asked my Department and An Chomhairle Leabharlanna to work with their Welsh counterparts to look at developing joint library projects, particularly in the area of culture."

Blessington Library ➤

Ashbourne Library



Cabra Library ▲

*Dublin City
Public Library & Archive, ➤
Pearse Street*



L-R: Deirdre Ellis King with Ministers Roche and Pugh in Dublin City Public Library & Archive, Pearse Street

Library Ireland Week 2007

Library Ireland Week 2007 [5-11th March] was officially launched on 26th February in the National Library of Ireland. In her introductory remarks, Deirdre Ellis-King, Dublin City Librarian welcomed the guest of honour, writer Colm Tóibín and the assembled 'librarians and lovers of libraries, literature and learning'.

LIW is organised under the auspices of the Library Association of Ireland and in referring to the role of the Association as a representative body for the LIS sector, Ms. Ellis-King observed that:

Our focus as a professional association is on highlighting the work of librarians and information professionals generally but it is particularly aimed at re-enforcing in the public mind, the value of libraries, which, quietly, perhaps too quietly, underpin so many aspects of our society... Our members, professional librarians who work across the spectrum of information provision are the key to unlocking the world of knowledge for those who use a library not just during Library Ireland Week, but in every week of the year. The Library Association of Ireland believes therefore that it is worth celebrating the difference libraries make in changing peoples lives for the better.

Colm Tóibín spoke eloquently of the development of his own reading habit and importance of the contribution made by the staff and stock of Wexford County Libraries. He recalled his later visits to the National Library of Ireland the pleasures of serendipitous discovery, other readers and their call to the bar of Buswells.

For details of LIW events, see www.libraryirelandweek.ie

The redesigned website of the Library Association of Ireland was also officially launched on the night [www.libraryassociation.ie]

North/South Chief Librarian's Seminar

A historic North/South Seminar was held in Athlone on 21-22 February when County and City Librarians from the South and Chief Librarians from the Education and Library Boards from the North came together in Athlone Library for a two-day seminar. This was the first ever occasion when such a joint seminar took place and it came after a series of meetings between the City and County Librarians section of the Library Association of Ireland represented by Eileen Burgess, Seán Ó Suilleabháin and Joe McElvanny and the Chief Librarians from the North represented by Helen Osborne and Kathleen Ryan.

The seminar was on the theme of Performance Indicators and was also attended by Mary McKenna from Dept of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Alun Bevan from An Chomhairle Leabharlanna. A total of seventeen authorities from the South were represented and four of the five Education and Library Boards from the North. The seminar was most useful and the discussions on performance indicators covered a wide range of possible measurements. The seminar was hosted by Mary Farrell and the staff of Westmeath County Library and included a visit to the Heavey Collection at the new Athlone Library, conducted by Gearóid O'Brien, Librarian.

March 2007

5th -11th *Library Ireland Week*. For further information see www.libraryirelandweek.ie

8th AGM of the Library Association of Ireland, Lloyd Building, Trinity College Dublin, 10.30am.

11th-13th *EUSIDIC Annual Conference 2007*, Roskilde University, Denmark. The theme of the conference is : What will be the impact of Web2.0 and Library 2.0 applications on user services in library and information services management. Registration is via the EUSIDIC website: www.eusidic.net

21st World Poetry Day

April 2007

18th-19th *Library + Information Show, 2007*: NEC, Birmingham. Details: <http://www.lishow.co.uk/>

23rd World Book and Copyright Day

24th-26th *INSPIRING PROGRESS: good practice and new developments*: Annual Joint Conference of the Library Association of Ireland and the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals – Ireland, Tuesday 24th to Thursday 26th April 2007, at The Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise. See www.libraryassociation.ie for details and booking form.

26th *Hugh M. Fitzpatrick Lectures in Legal Bibliography*: Professor Fergus Kelly, Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, will give the sixteenth lecture in this series entitled *Evidence in early Irish law: what do the documents tell us?* The venue is The Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, Helen Roe Theatre, 63 Merrion Square, Dublin 2 at 7.30 pm. Previous booking not required. Enquiries: phone Hugh M. Fitzpatrick. t: 01-269 2202.

May 2007

1-31st *Bealtaine 2007: Celebrating creativity in older age, 1-31 May 2007*. The theme of the Festival this year is 'forever begin'. Details: Age & Opportunity, 01 805 7709; www.olderinireland.ie; bealtaine@mie.ie

24-25th LIBER Think Tank on the future value of the book as artefact and the future value of digital documentary heritage, National Library of Sweden, Stockholm. Programme, etc. <http://abm-centrum.se/ThinkTankPresentation.htm>

June 2007

14th-15th *IUG 6*: The annual Irish Innovative Users Group conference will be held in Sligo Institute of Technology on 14-15th June 2007. Topics include Millennium library systems and issues in higher education in Ireland. Non members welcome. Further details available soon at <http://www.millennium-users.org/> Initial enquiries to: info@millennium-users.org

july 2007

3-6th *European integration: conditions and challenges for libraries* – LIBER 36th Annual General Conference, National Library of Poland, Warsaw. Conference programme, etc. <http://liber2007.buw.uw.edu.pl/>

October 2007

18th-20th *A Mirror on the World*: conference to commemorate the 1707 Act of Parliament establishing the library. Marsh's Library. For information and booking form contact Ann Simmons, Marsh's Library, St. Patrick's Close, Dublin 8. Email: keeper@marshlibrary.ie Tel: 01-4543511. Accommodation is limited, early booking essential.



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