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WORLD BOOK DAY – APRIL 23RD 2

SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE 2

DELL Foundation Grant for Limerick City Library

Limerick City Library Service is delighted to announce the receipt of a DELL Foundation Grant of US \$10,000.

The DELL Foundation is committed to contributing significantly to community programmes which provide access to technology to enable individuals to learn critical skills to enhance their lives. These programmes promote digital inclusion and enable communities to progress and excel in a world driven by the digital economy.

This grant will facilitate the implementation in Watch House Cross Community Library of the FÁS eCollege Learning Online Project, developed jointly by, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna and FÁS.

The eCollege Online Learning Course is aimed at people with low skill levels, those who are low paid and the unemployed. It is a community based lifelong learning project, which is at pilot stage in a number of public libraries in RAPID areas in the country. The project provides an opportunity to develop the Internet service and highlight public libraries role in lifelong learning and social inclusion.

Watch House Cross Branch Library, Moyross, Limerick, opened on May 31 2007, to a total catchment population of 15,500.



The interior of the Watch House Cross Community Library

Moyross itself, which has a population of 5,500, is an area of high unemployment (70%), 25%-30% are single parent families, 27% complete primary education and family illiteracy is a major problem in the area.

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World Book Day – April 23rd

World Book Fest brought books and reading to the centre of Cork life from April 23-26 2008. The highlight of the Fest was the street fair on Saturday, with more than thirty stalls plus street entertainment just outside the Central Library on the Grand Parade. The Fest is organized by **Cork City Libraries**, in association with Triskel Arts Centre, Munster Literature Centre and Tigh Filí.



At the Civic Reception are David Marcus and Cllr. Donal Counihan, Lord Mayor

World Book Fest 2008 began on Wednesday 23, recognized as World Book Day for more than a century. The highlight of the day was the homage for David Marcus in his native city, combining a Civic Reception hosted by the Lord Mayor, Cllr. Donal Counihan, and an evening of readings in Marcus' honour, by Dermot Bolger, Mary Leland, Bill Wall and Joe Shanahan – all writers first published by Marcus.

The evening was in recognition of David Marcus' unique contribution to Irish letters – as author, editor, memoirist, anthologist and mentor to generations of writers.

Thursday evening was a Polish / Irish affair, while on Friday a large audience was in attendance at the Central Library to hear Bernard O'Donoghue and Gina Moxley read.

The street fair – featuring books stalls, food stalls, and a marquee with a variety of readings and performances – brought books and reading out on the street, and was attended by up to 14,000 people during the day.

Saturday evening saw another large attendance in the Central Library for Amiri Baraka, the African-American poet, academic and activist, who delivered an unforgettable performance. [ILN](#)

↑ WORLD BOOK DAY

↓ SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Libraries in **County Leitrim** hosted numerous events during *Seachtain na Gaeilge*, which ran from March 3 to March 17 2008. There were a number of workshops as Gaeilge, and quizzes for primary schools. *Comhrá as Gaeilge*, which ran every Tuesday night over the winter months in Ballinamore Library, ended during *Seachtain na Gaeilge* with ceól agus damhsa.

Éan Scéal, a bilingual tale, was produced by **Cork City Libraries** Children's and Young People's Department and was grant aided by Foras na Gaeilge. RED, the bird now identified as the logo for Cork City Libraries Children's Services, was named by Seán Walsh as part of a competition, and features as the primary character in this story, which is written in both Irish and English. Glitter na Gig performer Seán Ó Laoghaire, created a puppet of RED and, in cooperation with Gaelscoileanna in Cork city, a storyline of his origins and how he came to the library was written.

The launch, which was attended by over 200 children, took place during *Seachtain na Gaeilge*. Copies of the book were circulated to all schools in the city and to libraries nationwide.



In Carrick-on-Shannon library are the winners of a quiz for Gaelscoil Liatroma – Chloe Glancy, Jay Mulhern, Kate McCabe, Derval (Teacher) – being presented with their prizes by Padraig Griffin, quiz master on the day. Missing from the picture is Aidan Healy.

Fingal County Library: as part of the celebrations for *Seachtain na Gaeilge*, Swords Library had an author reading by the distinguished biographer, Liam Mac an Iomaire. Previously, Liam has written a biography of the well-known Irish broadcaster and writer, Breandan Ó hEithir. Liam's latest work is a biography of the famous sean-nós singer, Seosamh Ó hÉanaí / Joe Heaney who is acknowledged as the greatest exponent of Irish sean-nós singing.

The biography also includes a recording of Seosamh Ó hÉanaí singing many of his songs which the audience in Swords Library much appreciated. [ILN](#)

World Book Day Images

→ | FROM COVER



At the Central Library are Gina Moxley and Bernard O'Donoghue with Liam Ronayne



The World Book Day street fair



Amiri Baraka speaking at the Central Library

↓ DELL FOUNDATION (CONTD)

↑ WORLD BOOK DAY (CONTD)

| → The Information Society Commission has highlighted the need to have technology made available to the community at large, and emphasises in its second report that: "training in the technologies itself act as a catalyst in a community and the role of a number of agencies, particularly public libraries and community partnerships is highly significant".

The library's mission in Watch House Cross aims to help users make lifestyle changes, to help reduce the number of early school leavers, to provide lifelong learning, reduce illiteracy and to achieve early intervention. Through its services, the library also aims to help reduce unemployment and poverty, provide community information and services and, finally, to reduce criminal activity.

DELL has already provided the library with an earlier grant of US \$20,000, which permitted the purchase of top of the range hardware and software packages for Watch House Cross Library. This recent DELL foundation grant is a most welcome contribution towards furthering the library's vital role in the regeneration of the north side of Limerick City. [ILN](#)



Outside the Watch House Cross Community Library

CORK CITY LIBRARIES

The libraries celebrated their 2nd annual Teen Day on April 28 2008. Teens city-wide attended the launch of Cork City Libraries Teen Survey Results 2008. A questionnaire was designed in consultation with Cork City Libraries Teen Focus Groups and 500 copies were made available through branch libraries, post primary schools, the focus groups, Cork Association for the Deaf, Teen parents group, the Youth Information Centre and cafés in the city centre. The results will be used to identify barriers to use, improve existing facilities and to create new programmes.

The Rainbow of Learning, a book produced by the Children's and Young People's Department in association with teenagers from Scoil Bernadette/COPE Foundation, was also launched, marking the culmination of a series of artwork shops attended by the teenagers in the library. *The Land of Saints and Scholars* art installation, produced by students from the National Council for the Blind, was on view

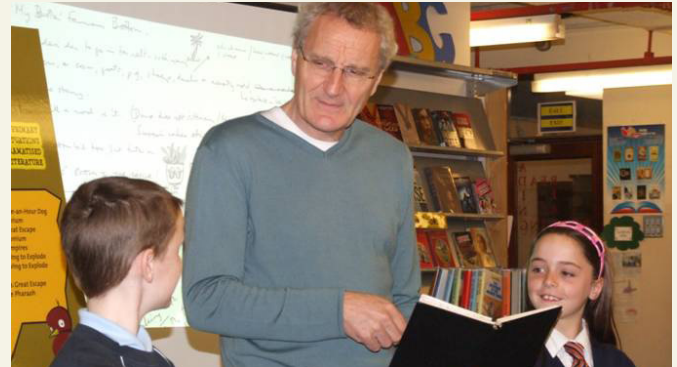
in the foyer of the City Library. Writer Kevin Doyle read from the winning entries for the *Teen Literary Award*. The €200 first prize was presented to Johannes Ruckstuhl for his short story *The Trial of Galileo*.

Children's author Jeremy Strong visited Cork City Library on April 23, as part of the library's celebration of World Book Day. The author of over seventy books for children brought tales such as *The Hundred-Mile-an-Hour Dog*, *My Mum's going to explode*, *My Granny's Great Escape* and *My Brother's famous Bottom*, to life for over 120 children in the Children's Library, Grand Parade.

The humour in his books was reflected in his performance and this, along with images and stories from his childhood, kept the children enthralled. Jeremy's accessibility made for a very interactive session – he answered numerous questions from an enthusiastic audience. The good news is that due to the success of this visit he has already confirmed a revisit in 2009. **ILN**



Pictured at Cork City Libraries 2nd Annual Teen Day: (L-R) Kathleen Lynch T.D., Valerie O'Sullivan, Director of Services RAC, Noreen Mulcahy, Liam Ronayne, Cork City Librarian and Ciarán Lynch T.D.



Jeremy Strong at Cork City Library

↑ CORK

↓ AN CHOMHAIRLE

↓ BOOK CLUBS

AN CHOMHAIRLE LEABHARLANNA



To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the first meeting of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, a commemorative tree – a native species, Wild Cherry (*Prunus Avium*) – was planted in the garden at the rear of the building by the Chairman, Cllr. Mark Dearey. **ILN**



Planting the tree are Norma McDermott, Director and Mark Dearey, Chair of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna

ONLINE BOOK CLUBS

Clare County Library has recently established an online book club, which can be found on the "Your library your Forum" section on www.clarelibrary.ie. Readers everywhere are invited to read and discuss the chosen book of the month. The book selected for review in June is *Christine Falls* by Benjamin Black. To become involved just register online and post your comments.

Further information is available from mailbox@clarelibrary.ie or t: 065 6846350.

www.letstalkbooks.org.uk was launched in November 2007 with the aim of reaching out to people who cannot attend a book group due to isolation, ill-health or disability – such as deafness or loss of sight. LetsTalkBooks would also like to involve carers and single parents. **ILN**

IRISH BOOK AWARDS 2008

The Irish Book Awards 2008 were announced at a gala dinner in Dublin's Mansion House on April 24. Anne Enright claimed the Hughes & Hughes Irish Novel of the Year, with her Booker-winning, *The Gathering*. Other winners included Diarmuid Ferriter, Trevor Brennan, Roddy Doyle and Anita Notaru. William Trevor was the recipient of The Bob Hughes Lifetime Achievement Award.

This year saw, for the first time, the involvement of librarians in the voting process, in the Newcomer of the Year Award, which was won by Julia Kelly, for her novel, *With my Lazy Eye*. Event organisers are hoping to develop further the involvement of libraries and librarians in the future. [ILN](#)

GALWAY COUNTY LIBRARY

Des Bishop, described as the nation's favourite young Irish-American comic, spent the year 2007 in the Connemara Gaeltacht, taking on the challenge of learning enough Irish to perform his stand-up comedy as Gaeilge.

His attempts at immersing himself not only in the language, but in the Gaeltacht community itself, was the subject of a six-part series entitled *In The Name Of The Fada* which was screened on RTÉ television earlier this year.

During his time in Connemara, Des Bishop, or Deasún Mac an Easpaig as Gaeilge, became a regular user of the Carraroe Library. He participated in a number of library events, and the library supplied him with books and other materials in support of his research into the Irish language and culture. [ILN](#)



Fada figure, Des Bishop in Carraroe Library

↑ BOOK AWARDS

↓ LAOIS

↑ GALWAY

↓ KERRY

LAOIS COUNTY LIBRARY

Mountrath Library, which opened in May 2007, has fast become a mainstay of the community. Tuesday evenings in particular, have become a hive of activity – with two junior book groups meeting to digest and discuss books both old and new.

Last month, Bookbiters, the 8-10yr old group, discussed *Cows are Vegetarians* and *Animals don't have Ghosts* both by Siobhan Parkinson. Children wrote reviews about these amusing tales – about the differences between 'culchies and dubs' – which were displayed in the library. Bookworms, which is for 10-12yr olds, tackled *Artemis Fowl*, by Eoin Colfer – a book that manages to incorporate both fairies and heavy weaponry.

This group have also taken part in a quiz and interviewed each other to build up reader profiles. This month, the groups are looking at the *Witch-in-Training* series by Maeve Friel and *The Giggler Treatment* by Roddy Doyle, before

dipping their toes into the Dahl collection next month.

The library has been holding Senior Citizens' computer classes since the end of 2007, covering internet and general computer skills. Library staff and Laois Leader tutors conduct the classes which are funded by Laois Leader.

Portarlington library held Internet Classes for Senior Citizens each Wednesday for 8 weeks, during February and March. They proved very successful and more internet classes will be held during the year. The library also provides training to after school groups. [ILN](#)

KERRY LIBRARY

Art for the young at heart is a joint initiative between Kerry Library and the Art's Office, Kerry County Council, consisting of a series of six art sessions at Caherciveen Library, under the guidance of artist Ruth Summer. The aim of the project is to bring the joy of art to senior citizens in the local area.

This project is part of the Bealtaine festival series of events, which are held at various branches of Kerry Library. This programme took place in Caherciveen Library for the first time last year and was a great success. Participants can work in many mediums – oil pastels, soft pastels, water colours, acrylics and oils.

There is an important social dimension to this type of art session – many of the people taking part are living alone in isolated areas of South Kerry and this gives them the opportunity to interact with a wider social network.

This project brings art to people who cannot get to other arts

venues. It also gives them the opportunity to visit their local library, where staff members Noreen O'Sullivan and Barthy Flynn help with book selection, internet sessions and generally welcome this group to what is an excellent public resource in rural Kerry.

Ruth Summer says that her goal in working with the group 'is for them to enjoy the artistic and creative process and, with her help and guidance, create art that uses the imagination to full capacity'. The sound of laughter from the participants certainly suggests that this goal is being achieved. [ILN](#)



Participants at the Kerry Library art sessions

June 2008

19–21

Talent and Innovation – Reshaping for Success

This year's INULs Conference will take place at Dublin City University. The theme of the conference explores the library of the 21st century as it responds to significant and rapid change. The conference will examine how libraries can foster and manage talent to enable and sustain a culture of innovation. It will also ask how effectively libraries are successfully reshaping their services, systems, structures and roles. Details, as they become available, will be at: <http://www.library.dcu.ie/inuls2008/index.htm>

23–28

Towards a new information space – innovations and renovations – 11th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries (EAHIL). Helsinki, Finland. Details: http://www.congreszon.fi/eahil_2008/

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Annual General Meeting of the Academic & Special Libraries Section of the LAI will take place at 6.30 pm in the Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2.

26–27

The Irish Innovative Users Group 7th Annual Conference will be held in University College Cork. The conference is organised for libraries that use the Millennium library management system from Innovative, but it is open to non-members. Topics include developments in library management systems and issues in Irish libraries. Conference Fee is €100 including Conference Dinner (non-members €110).

Details will be posted on the Group's website shortly: <http://www.millennium-users.org/> or contact: info@millennium-users.org

July 2008

1–5

Bridging the Digital Divide: Effective Library Partnerships in the Digital Age 37th LIBER Annual Conference, Istanbul, Turkey.

Further information: <http://liber2008.ku.edu.tr>

August 2008

10–14

Libraries without borders: navigating towards global understanding World Library & Information Congress: 74th IFLA General Conference and Council, Québec. Details: www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/index.htm

October 2008

6

International School Library Day www.iasl-online.org/advocacy/

↑ CALENDER OF EVENTS

↓ BOOKS ARE ALIVE

↓ CONTACT DETAILS

Books are alive: magic is afoot in Woodford

The blue and light blue of the building, the distinctive plaster detail surrounding the windows, and the decorative features of the parapet roof identify the new Credit Union premises in Woodford in which a Public Library service is now housed.

The decision of the Loughrea Credit Union to share its new Woodford building with the library service is a fine example of Credit Union operating principles in action, principles which are based on "the concept of human development, expressed through people working together to achieve a better life for themselves and their children."

On an April Tuesday evening the artist Astrid Hofmann introduced some further blues and lilac colours inside the library building when her exhibition of felt and silk art pieces was launched. Her dominant and vibrant reds caught by the evening light shining through the front windows suggested that magic was afoot in Woodford.



The Woodford Roses

Her two small sculptures entitled Einstein's curl old and Einstein's curl young sitting on top of book shelves seemed made for any library, while her Orbital Mongolia, a piece made from a yew tree, encompassed the knowledge and vision of a library.

To inaugurate the service in its new location a set of beautifully bound hardcover books with decorative endpapers and silk ribbon markers were added to stock. This selection of 100 books is intended to provide in Woodford an enduring hardcover library of classic and contemporary

works from literature to history to philosophy. This initiative forms part of a programme to place a strong, but unchanging, collection in Woodford branch library and promote its use with readings, talks, and discussions.

World Book Day was celebrated in Woodford as part of the Slógadh Eachtaí, the Aughty Gathering. The people of Woodford joined with people in over 100 countries in following the tradition of exchanging books and roses on Saint Jordi's Day, April 23rd.

Next Issue

Copy date for next issue is July 20th 2008

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