

# IRISH | LIBRARY | NEWS

APRIL 2009 · #289

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DUBLIN: ONE CITY, ONE BOOK 2

## Seamus Heaney chooses Poetry Aloud for the Clarissa Luard Award

The [David Cohen Prize for Literature](#) 2009 has been awarded to Irish poet Seamus Heaney. This prestigious biennial prize is funded by the John S. Cohen Foundation and administered by [Arts Council England](#). It honours a living writer from the UK and Ireland for a lifetime's achievement in literature.

The National Library's POETRY ALOUD competition, hosted annually in conjunction with Poetry Ireland, was chosen by Seamus Heaney to receive the Clarissa Luard Award. The recipient of this award is chosen by the winner of the David Cohen Prize and the award, funded by the Arts Council England, is given to a literature organisation that supports young writers or an individual writer under the age of thirty-five.

POETRY ALOUD, now in its fourth year, is a spoken poetry competition which seeks to celebrate the joy of speaking and listening to poetry. Organised by the National Library of Ireland and Poetry Ireland, it is open to all post primary school students in the North and South of Ireland. Last year's event attracted almost 900 entries from post-primary schools in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Speaking following the presentation ceremony in London, Aongus Ó hAonghusa, Director, National Library of Ireland, and Jane O'Hanlon, Poetry Ireland, said they were delighted that Seamus Heaney had decided to highlight the POETRY ALOUD competition in such a public manner. They said his unswerving belief in the power of the event to foster a love of poetry in young people on the island of Ireland gave everyone involved great heart and a huge determination to make future competitions even more successful.



At the David Cohen Prize ceremony are Aongus Ó hAonghusa, Director, National Library of Ireland, Jane O'Hanlon, Poetry Ireland, Seamus Heaney and Andrew Motion, Chair of the prize judging panel. (Photo by Graham Jepson at Writer Pictures)

Originally entitled *Yeats Aloud*, the competition began in 2006 to coincide with the launch of the Library's exhibition *Yeats: the Life & Works of WB Yeats*. Every year since then participants celebrate Irish poetry by speaking poems of their choice from a wide selection which includes the work of new Irish poets as well as Nobel Laureates W.B. Yeats and Seamus Heaney. Regional heats of POETRY ALOUD are held in locations throughout the island and winners go forward to the finals held in Dublin at the National Library of Ireland. There are three winning categories – Junior, Intermediate and Senior. An overall winner is also chosen from the winners of the three categories.

More information on POETRY ALOUD and the 2008 event is available on National Library of Ireland's website. The finals of the 2009 POETRY ALOUD competition will take place in November. Entry forms will be posted on the [National Library of Ireland](#) website ([www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie)) and on the [Poetry Ireland](#) website ([www.poetryireland.ie/education](http://www.poetryireland.ie/education)) in September. ILN

# Cork County Library and Arts Service

Cork County Library and Arts Service recently held Open Days in Midleton and Youghal Branch Libraries. The Open Days were organised by the staff to celebrate the success of these libraries since Youghal Library was relocated to a new premises in 2007 and Midleton Library was refurbished in 2008 and to also highlight the many services and events offered by both libraries.

Midleton Library started their Open Day on Wednesday February 11 2009 with a storytime for pre-school children, hosted by Cuidiu followed by a drama presentation by the local Gaelscoil Mhainistir na Corrann aptly entitled "Recession". Other activities on the day included Music, a Crochet Group Exhibition, Gramophone Recital, Citizens' Information event and Face Painting.

The day's activities in Youghal Library began with a reading by local author John Stack from his book *Ship of Rome* followed by an enthusiastic questions and answer session. Following this visitors to the library were entertained by local musician Bobby Lee, with storytimes and library orientation sessions happening throughout the day.

There was much activity at the information stands provided by local services such as the Citizen's Information Board, Social Welfare, SECAD, Youghal Municipal Heritage and Youghal Fair-Trade committee.



Children enjoying the musical recital at Midleton Library Open Day

The Open Days were officially launched by Library Committee members Cllr. Noel Collins and Cllr Barbara Murray on behalf of the Mayor of Cork County. The County Librarian, Ruth Flanagan congratulated both the staff and the many community and school groups who contributed to making the day such an outstanding success.

Both libraries received very positive feedback with local paper the *East Cork Journal* producing multi-page spreads on both libraries and their services. **ILN**

↑ CORK COUNTY LIBRARY

↓ DUBLIN: ONE CITY, ONE BOOK

## Dublin: One City, One Book

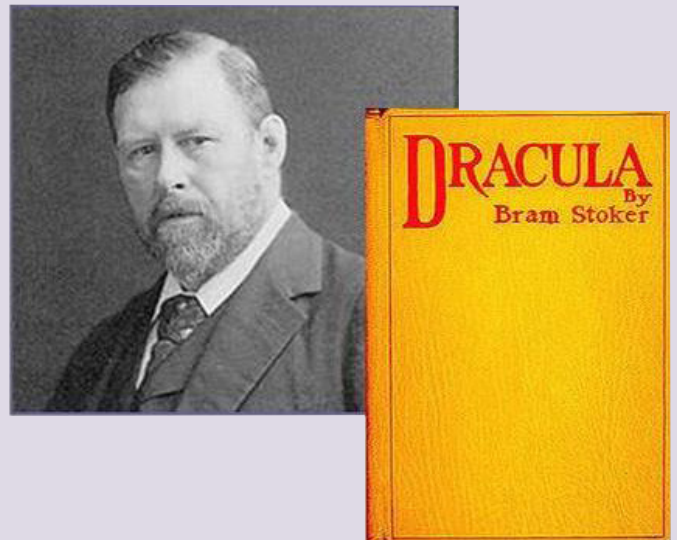
The chosen book for the 2009 **Dublin: One City, One Book** is *Dracula* by Dublin born author Bram Stoker. Throughout April there will be a host of activities including readings, lectures, guided tours, film shows and re-enactments.

Dracula himself will be making a number of personal appearances on public transport, in book shops and Temple Bar book market.

Dublin City Library and Archive and the National Library of Ireland will both host exhibitions on different aspects of *Dracula*, the book. The Sunday Tribune will be running a short story competition.

"...the soft, shivering touch of the lips on the supersensitive skin of my throat, and the hard dents of two sharp teeth, just touching and pausing there." or, then again, you could just go down to the Irish Blood Transfusion Service which is planning a donor awareness campaign in April in association with *Dracula* – Dublin: One City, One Book. Yes, really.

Dublin: One City, One Book is an initiative of Dublin City Public Libraries. **ILN**



Bram Stoker & the cover of the 1st edition of *Dracula*

# Limerick Institute of Technology

Limerick Institute of Technology kicked off a week of activities with the launch of Library Ireland Week for the Limerick Region. The event was held in LIT's Millennium Theatre and was attended by local and regional librarians, members of the Institute and members of Limerick's business community. In keeping with the theme of Library Ireland Week 2009, "Libraries: Inspiring Entrepreneurship" and incorporating International Women's Day, the guest speaker was Dorothy Quinn, President of "Network Limerick" an organisation for women in business, the professions and the arts. Dorothy spoke highly about the benefit of both academic and public libraries for any entrepreneurs, of the vital role that libraries play in our communities, and finished with some anecdotes about her own personal experiences.

Throughout Library Ireland Week the librarians gave tutorials on databases, bibliographic software and search engines. A stand was placed on the LIT Streetscape, where librarians were at hand to offer advice and information on library resources (while also giving away a few generously donated promotional gifts!).

The Library also held some competitions, a library quiz, which was a great success as the simple multiple choice questions encouraged many applicants while also helping to reinforce some library information. Another competition, "Write a Limerick about the Library" asked the patrons to compose a Limerick beginning with the line; "The Library is a wonderful space...".



At the launch of "Libraries: inspiring entrepreneurship" for Library Ireland Week were: Dorothy Quinn, President and Valerie Dolan, Vice President of Network Limerick; Jerald Cavanagh, LIT Institute Librarian; and Marion Duggan, Head of the LIT School of Business; with librarians from Limerick City and County. Picture: Keith Wiseman - The Limerick Independent.

Here is one of the winners:

*The Library is a wonderful space.  
I borrow my books by the case  
Someday –for the crack...  
I'll bring them all back  
In a truck with a smile on my face.*

All in all a busy week was had by both staff and patrons. ILN

↑ LIMERICK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

↓ SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY LIBRARIES

## South Dublin County Libraries

South Dublin County Libraries celebrated their annual Seachtain na Gaeilge festival recently.

The festivities kicked off with a great night's entertainment at the County Library Tallaght on Thursday 26th February, when Mayor Marie Corr launched Seachtain na Gaeilge 2009.

Highlights of the evening included a rousing performance by John Spillane, who was joined on stage by the talented Ronán O Snódaigh of Kila.



Local band NÁ Bac join John Spillane and Ronán O'Snódaigh for the finale of the launch of South Dublin County Libraries' Seachtain na Gaeilge 2009.

Local talent was also represented by the gifted "Ná Bac", who played a set of their own traditional music from around the world and who later joined John and Ronán on stage for the finale. Earlier in the evening guests were entertained by young dancers from local Irish Dancing Schools and musicians from local gael scoileanna.

The packed programme of events for Seachtain na Gaeilge 2009 had something to attract all ages with all levels of fluency in Irish. Events for children included a bi-lingual comedy circus skills performance by the fabulous Fanzini Brothers; a bi-lingual drama workshop with Breda Konstantin; author visit from renowned Irish authors Áine ní Ghlinn, Orla Melling and Peadar O'Guilin; storytelling by Niall de Búrca, Jack Lynch, Nuala Hayes and Maeve Ingoldsby. Events for adults included great traditional music sessions with Mairead O'Donnell on fiddle and Danny Moran on guitar; Grainne Ryan, harpist; and a fantastic Céili Evening at Ballyroan Library with fear an tí Kevin Warren of the Bastable Warren School of Irish Dancing. Clondalkin Library hosted a fun event for adults who revisited songs they'd learnt at school, while there was also a Tin Whistle Workshop for adults interested in learning (or re-learning) how to play the tin whistle.

With over 100 events taking place across South Dublin County during Seachtain na Gaeilge 2009, hundreds of children and adults were given the opportunity to come along to their local library and try out the cúpla focal! ILN



## April 2009

13–15

Legal deposit of newspapers for libraries: challenges of the digital environment

IFLA International Newspaper Conference, Moscow.

Contact: [Ed King](#), Secretary, IFLA Newspaper Section, The British Library, Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5HE. T: +44 (0)207 412 7362;

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Treasures of the Royal Irish Academy Library  
a lunchtime lecture series: *The Cathach of Colm Cille – Ireland's oldest book?* by [Dáibhí Ó Cróinín](#), MRIA. 1-2 pm, Meeting Room, Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2. Admission free.

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World Book and Copyright Day

29–1

Managing Change in the Information Age  
Joint Conference of the LAI and CILIP Ireland, Hilton Hotel, Belfast. Conference secretary, [Elga Logue](#)

## May 2009

6

Treasures of the Royal Irish Academy Library – a lunchtime lecture series:  
*The Book of O'Lees* by [Aoibheann Nic Dhonnchadha](#), DIAS, School of Celtic Studies. 1-2 pm, Meeting Room, Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2. Admission free.

7–9

EBLIDA Annual Council Meeting and International Conference  
*A Library Policy for Europe*, Vienna, 7–9 May 2009.

## June 2009

10

Treasures of the Royal Irish Academy Library – a lunchtime lecture series  
*The first President of the RIA: Lord Charlemont and his manuscripts* by [James Kelly](#), MRIA. 1-2 pm, Meeting Room, Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2. Admission free.

## July 2009

5–10

International Association of Music Libraries Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML) annual conference, Amsterdam. Details: <http://www.iaml.info/en/activities/conferences>

5–10

Making connections: the power of people, partnerships and services. Umbrella 2009 at the University of Hatfield. Details: [Umbrella 2009](#) or [umbrella@cilip.org.uk](mailto:umbrella@cilip.org.uk)

## August 2009

23–27

[Libraries create futures: building on cultural heritage](#)  
IFLA World Library and Information Congress: 75th IFLA General Conference and Council, Milan.

## November 2009

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Newsplan: A Digital Universe for Newspapers  
5th National NEWSPLAN Conference, The British Library Conference Centre Euston Road, London NW1

↓ TIPPERARY

↑ CALENDAR

↓ CONTACT DETAILS

## Tipperary Libraries



Borrower and staff member at Thurles Library

Tipperary Libraries was the first library authority in Ireland using the Horizon Library Management System to introduce notices by SMS text to customers to let them know that book requests are ready for collection. This facility is currently being rolled out to all notice types and is being piloted for event notifications such as bookclub meetings and author visits. SMS Texting has made the request process quicker and more customer friendly as well as being more cost effective.

Two high profile authors are to visit Tipperary Libraries in 2009: Man Booker Prize Winner John Banville is confirmed for 'Tipperary Reads Festival 2009'. Two of author's books will be promoted from the end of July when John is coming to Tipperary Libraries to launch the festival. He will return in the autumn to meet with readers to discuss his books. Keep and eye on [www.tipperarylibraries.ie](http://www.tipperarylibraries.ie) during the coming months summer for more details.



John Banville

Alan Durant is confirmed for Children's Book Festival 2009: Alan's work was featured in the BBC series *English Express*, which won a Children's Bafta Award. He also appeared in two programmes in the award-winning *Let's Write a Story* series. He is a National Reading Campaign Reading



Alan Durant

Champion in the UK and a frequent visitor to schools, libraries and festivals around the UK and abroad where he gives talks and readings and runs writing workshops. In 2007 Alan won the Portsmouth Children's Picture Book Award for *Burger Boy* and the Stockport Children's Book Award (Key Stage 1) for *Football Fever*. His books have also been shortlisted for the Red House Children's Book Award (*Dear Tooth Fairy*), the Kate Greenaway Medal (*Always and Forever*), and the Nottingham Children's Book Award (*Gameboy*) and he has twice won the Kingston Borough/Waterstone's Poetry Prize.

Alan will be touring Tipperary Libraries branches during his week long stay in October. As a writer often associated with helping promote reading among young boys, Tipperary Libraries is delighted to welcome Alan.

## Next Issue

Please note that Irish Library News is only available as a download. If you would like to have a copy emailed to you or your workplace, please send your name and email address to the Editor – and please, do not forget to notify any subsequent changes to your email address.

## Copy date for next issue is April 20th 2009

Contributions to Irish Library News and / or [www.library.ie](http://www.library.ie) should be sent to Alun Bevan, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, 53-54 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2.

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