

# IRISH | LIBRARY | NEWS

DECEMBER 2009 · #297 | JUST THE JOB 2 | TALKING BOOKS 3 | G.A.A. 125 EXHIBITION AT TRALEE LIBRARY 3

## Irish integration award for Clare County Library

Clare County Library was recently presented with the 2009 *Gradam Gaeilge An Chláir* award for its innovation in the integration of the Irish language in its services.

At an awards ceremony in the De Valera library, Ennis on November 9th, Seán Ó Ceallaigh, Cathaoirleach of An Clár as Gaeilge Teo, the language promotion group who organise the award scheme, presented County Librarian Helen Walsh with a specially commissioned plaque. The scheme, now in its fifth year, is specifically directed at companies and organisations in the commercial and public sector that promote the use of Irish both internally and externally.

Speaking at the awards ceremony, Seán Ó Ceallaigh said that he was delighted to present the award to Clare Library Services in recognition of the innovative way the service had approached the integration of Irish in its operation. He made specific reference to the wide range of Irish language books that were easily available in every branch library and the highly acclaimed website which is fully bilingual and offers comprehensive information on all aspects of the service, including the extraordinary archive section and the developments in staff training to provide a service in Irish in every branch library. Accepting the award on behalf of Clare Library Services, Helen Walsh said that she was honoured that the service had been selected for the award. She said that the work that is already in place would be built on to



At the award ceremony from left to right: Brendan MacFhionnghaile, An Clár as Gaeilge; Helen Walsh, County Librarian, Clare County Council; Seán Ó Ceallaigh, An Clár as Gaeilge; and Noel Crowley.

improve the level of service in Irish to the public. She paid tribute to the library staff throughout the county for their commitment to the process and said that the important place of Irish in the service would be developed further.

A special award was made to Noel Crowley, recently retired County Librarian, in recognition of the work he did in instigating many of the initiatives that had led to the winning of this award. He was presented with a bronze statue of Mochúa – Keeper of the Scrolls, the ancient Irish scribe and archivist who was in charge of transcribing old manuscripts.

# Just the job – Cork City Libraries respond to the recession

Over recent years libraries all over Ireland have been playing an increasing role in lifelong learning and in personal development. Libraries hold very valuable resources to help people develop their careers, to prepare for job interviews, and to help them start their own business. In Cork city the libraries have been one of the main partners in the very successful *Lifelong Learning Festival* held each spring throughout the city. This Festival shows what can be done when the various agencies combine to do something worthwhile, and the fantastic response from the public shows just how relevant and how needed this Festival is.

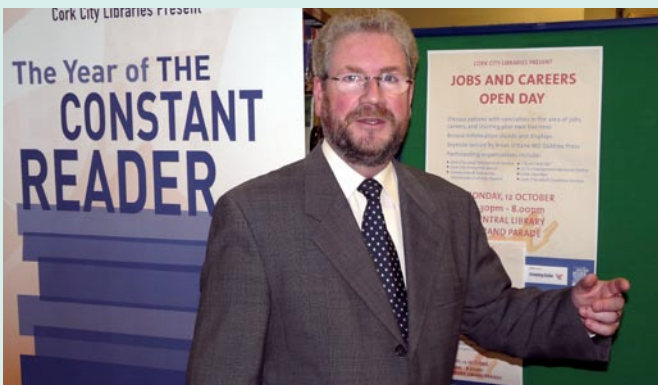
In response to the current economic and social challenges facing society, Cork City Libraries organized ‘Get That Job! Create That Job!’ an Open Day on Jobs & Careers on October 12th 2009. This event provided an opportunity for agencies involved in careers, job creation and related initiatives to engage with the public in the welcoming and trusted environment of a public library. There were information stands, displays, as well as presentations through the afternoon and evening. These presentations enabled people to discuss options with specialists in the area of jobs, careers, and starting your own business, and were facilitated by:

- Cork City Local Employment Service
- Cork City Enterprise Board
- City of Cork VEC
- CCTU Employment Resource Centre
- Cork Chamber
- Cork City Adult Guidance Service
- Community & Enterprise, Cork City Council

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↑ ↓ JUST THE JOB ~ CORK CITY LIBRARIES RESPOND TO THE RECESSION

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Brian O'Kane

One of the highlights was a talk by Cork-based start-up expert, writer and publisher, Brian O'Kane. There was a large and very appreciative attendance to hear how he moved from an accounting career into publishing, how he became an entrepreneur and set up his own business, the opportunities and pitfalls he encountered along the way and how he came to be an advisor to other would-be entrepreneurs across Ireland.

Earlier in the day the Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Dara Murphy, officially launched a new brochure on library services and resources specifically focused on jobs, careers, and business, called ‘Just the Job’. This sets out the vast range of information resources which can be accessed through the library, including:

- Help in finding a job, preparing your CV, getting an interview
- Information on companies, Irish and international
- Information on careers and courses, using the various routes back into education to improve your chances of interesting and better paid jobs
- Information on employment abroad – not encouraging people to leave, but in recognition of the fact that a spell abroad can improve your skills and chances of employment, a few years down the road.



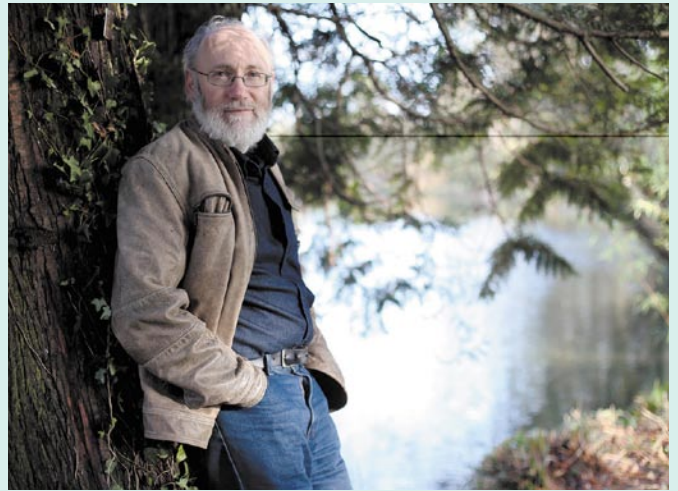
Lord Mayor, Cllr. Dara Murphy, visits the Adult Guidance stand

# Talking Books – a series of conversations with novelist Dermot Bolger

Talking Books, a series of intimate public conversations by novelist, playwright and poet Dermot Bolger has been taking place in Deansgrange Library since spring 2009.

The first series was a huge success and included some fascinating conversations about the art of writing and the everyday practices, routines and difficulties involved with creating a sustained piece of literature, with such well-established writers as Gerard Donovan, Brian Keenan, John Boyne, Claire Kilroy and Deirdre Purcell. Broadening out to include questions and comments from the audience, these evenings have been enjoyed by emerging writers as well as those interested in contemporary Irish writing. The second series is underway and includes a line-up with writers such as Carlo Gebler and Paul Durcan.

Talking Books is being conducted by Dermot Bolger as part of his residency with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown's Arts Office under its Place and Identity Programme of Per Cent for Art and is presented in association with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Libraries. The series exemplifies collaborative initiatives between library services and arts organisations and illustrates how successful and rewarding such collaborations can be.



Dermot Bolger

All of these conversations have been recorded and podcast and are available to listen to and download on the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Library website at: <http://www.dlrcoco.ie/library/librarypodcasts.htm>

↑ TALKING BOOKS

↓ G.A.A. 125 EXHIBITION AT TRALEE LIBRARY

## G.A.A. 125 Exhibition at Tralee Library



View of a section of the Exhibition 'Kerry G.A.A. through its literature' held at Tralee Library during November



At the opening of the Kerry G.A.A. Exhibition were Kerry G.A.A. official Joe Wallace with the Sam Maguire Cup together with Kerry County Librarian, Tommy O'Connor

Kerry Library hosted a major exhibition during November to mark the 125th anniversary of the Gaelic Athletic Association. 'Kerry G.A.A. through its literature – A G.A.A. 125 Exhibition' consisted of quite a range of material from the holdings of Kerry Library relating to G.A.A. actively within the county, supplemented with some external material such as the medal collection of former Kerry player, Maurice Fitzgerald.

The display included published histories of clubs, many out of print, biographies of well renowned Kerry men such as Austin Stack, Seán Kelly, Mick O'Dwyer and Páidí Ó Sé and books on the story of Kerry football, including the very rare *Kerry Football Story* by Patrick Foley published in 1945.

Kerry Library has over the years collected many G.A.A. items and displayed match programmes, calendars, posters and photographs with a section devoted to the story of the organisation recounted in poetry and song. A background DVD with 125 photographs from the library collection formed a centrepiece.

The exhibition was officially launched on Tuesday, 3rd November by Jerome Conway, Chairman of Kerry County Board, G.A.A. while former Kerry All-Ireland winning captain [1970] Donie O'Sullivan was guest speaker on the night.

The Sam Maguire Cup was also on display. One of the main aims of the exhibition was to encourage further research on the G.A.A. and also to encourage the ongoing donation of related material to the holdings of Kerry Library.



## KILMALLOCK AREA OFFICE & REGIONAL LIBRARY OPENS

Limerick County Council opened its new €6 million Area Office and Regional Library in Kilmallock on Monday 23 November.

Áras Mainchin Seoighe, which is one of the largest ever-civic building projects to be undertaken in the County, features 1,000 sq.m of Area Office accommodation and a full-time library. The development is complemented by 540sq.m of Court facilities for the Court Services of Ireland.

The library features an impressive range of bookstock with over 20,000 new titles and a comprehensive audio-visual collection, which includes books on CD and MP3 formats, the first music lending collection in County Limerick, and a DVD film collection. The Library also provides an extensive language learning collection covering all the major language groups, while a suite of Internet PCs and a WIFI network facilitates information provision and research. A specially designed activity room has a seating capacity for 50 people and can be used as training, meeting or a lecture/exhibition space.

An extensive range of formal study and IT spaces are provided, including a special area for teenagers and easy area spaces for informal learning and recreation.



Kilmallock Area Office & Regional Library, Limerick County Council



Davieanna, Mikey, Georgia and Michaela Donegan reading books at the new Limerick County Council Regional Library in Kilmallock. Picture by Dave Gaynor

## ↑ KILMALLOCK AREA OFFICE & REGIONAL LIBRARY OPENS

## ↓ MAYO COUNTY LIBRARY



## MAYO COUNTY LIBRARY



Austin Vaughan, County Librarian, Mayo County Council and Dr. T.K. Whitaker

### Language & Literacy – Reading Development Partnership

Mayo County Library has launched an innovative *Reading Development Partnership* with the H.S.E West, Speech & Language Therapy Service. This is a collaborative project aimed at children with reading difficulties and is based on the link between language and literacy. The Speech and Language service identified a gap in parent's knowledge and ability to access appropriate resources. Following discussions with Mayo County Library, it was decided that the Special Educational Needs resources being provided by the Mayo Schools Library Service would be appropriate in solving this resource gap. It was further considered that the knowledge and

expertise of the School Librarian on literacy support issues and resources would greatly facilitate in educating and assisting these parents with the information and knowledge required to confidently support their child's reading progress.

In practice children are referred by the Speech & Language Therapist to the school library service where the librarian engages in one-to-one meetings with the child and parent. Following this interview the librarian selects appropriate books for the child that are suitable to their age, reading level and interests. A follow-up interview is organized a month later when the librarian discusses the books with the child and parent and ensures that the initial book selection was correct. What is most significant about this approach is that book selection is precisely tailored to the pupils needs. The project highlights how the amalgamation of two skill-sets creates a new service which can tackle problems in a wholly new way.

This reading project was the subject of a qualitative research project under the auspices of the Speech & Language Therapy Department, National University of Ireland, Galway in 2009. The NUIG project investigated parental attitudes and perceptions of both the Library and the Speech & Language Service and any perceived changes in their child's confidence, self-esteem and attitude to reading, books and libraries resulting from their involvement in

the partnership reading programme. Research results show positive outcomes for the pupils who took part. A particularly notable finding of the study was how little work has been done in this area which makes the work of this project all the more significant and important. Its conclusions & recommendations, outlined in the final report, (May, 2009) are now being used to inform and develop this unique partnership service into the future. A copy of the study is available from Mayo School's Librarian Eleanor O Toole at [eotoole@mayococo.ie](mailto:eotoole@mayococo.ie)

Speakers range from Dr T.K. Whitaker, the architect of the modern Irish economy to Jack O Connor the Kerry football manager. Others are expert in a particular area such as Helen Dillon on gardening or John Lonergan, Governor of Mountjoy Prison. Sylvia Meehan spoke of her career as a campaigner for the rights of women and the elderly while Patricia Redlich, therapist and journalist will speak on "Setting High standards". A number of other speakers have been lined up for next spring due to the popularity of the series.

### Straight talking

Mayo County Library has launched Straight Talking, a series of talks by well known Irish people who have been successful in their fields.



Eleanor O Toole and Austin Vaughan, Mayo County Library staff with HSE staff, one of the parents and Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council, John Cribbin at the launch of the Reading Development Partnership.

## SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY LIBRARIES

South Dublin County Libraries and Arts held their 8th annual Readers Day on Saturday 14th November in the Maldron Hotel Tallaght. The concept of Readers Day arose from the growing popularity of Reading Groups and Book Clubs. In Ireland, South Dublin County Libraries have set up reading groups throughout the branch libraries, all of which are now well-established. Readers Day is seen as an opportunity for these diverse groups to get together and interact with each other and with the writers and poets they so admire. Joining a reading group offers the opportunity to read diverse material and to share a common love of reading and literature. It is a social gathering which happily contradicts any fears about society's decline in reading – as demonstrated when Mayor Mick Duff opened the day with an enthusiastic welcome to the 350-strong audience.

Poet and author Dermot Bolger once again presided over the event, and the line-up provided a diverse and interesting mix, including: new Dublin voices Kevin Power and Chris Binchy; John Curran, author of the recently published *Agatha Christie's Secret Notebooks*; Dutch poet and soprano Judith Mok; Paula Meehan, one of Ireland's most acclaimed living poets; the hilarious Paul Howard, an award winning journalist and creator of the cult character Ross O'Carroll-Kelly; Diarmaid Ferriter, Professor of Modern History UCD and author of *Occasions of Sin: Sex and Society in Modern Ireland*; and last but not least, a delightful and engaging reading by one of Ireland's major poets, Paul Durcan, who marks four decades of reading poetry in his collection *Life is a Dream*.

Everyone enjoyed the day, with authors and poets happily mingling with members of the audience, signing books and answering questions.

If you are interested in listening to any of the authors/poets at Readers Day 2009, podcasts of each will be available from [www.southdublinlibraries.ie](http://www.southdublinlibraries.ie) very soon.



Paul Howard signs a copy of his book for a member of the audience



Patricia Fitzgerald, Paul Durcan and Caroline Higgins

## ↑ SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY LIBRARIES

### CONNECTING TO THE PAST: MAPPING SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY IN TIME

This is an exciting new web service from South Dublin Libraries and South Dublin County Council's Digital Spatial Team whereby historical maps of the South Dublin County area can be accessed online for the first time. Anyone living in South Dublin County can now go to the Libraries' website to check out the location of their house or school on a series of maps from 1760 up to the current Ordnance Survey mapping and aerial photography.

The historical maps series featured include Duncan, Taylor, Rocque and 1st, 3rd and 4th edition Ordnance Survey.

The website was a vision of the local studies section of South Dublin's County Library. The useful map collection which the library had compiled was under-utilised as it was difficult for people, especially for school pupils and students, to access the collection. The library, along with the Spatial Data Team and IT Services in South Dublin County Council worked together to produce the website which is a great resource for anyone interested in the history and heritage of South Dublin County.

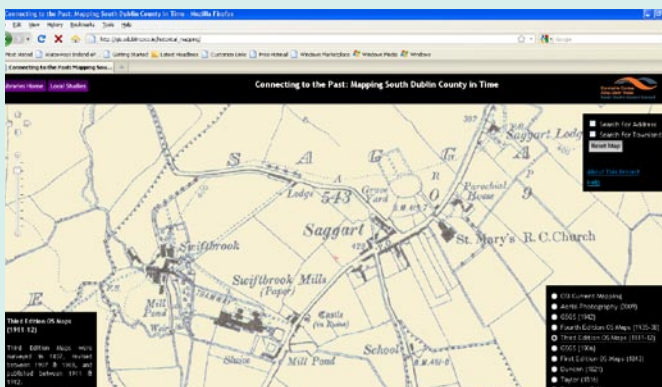
## ↓ CONNECTING TO THE PAST

The project was informed by our customers and includes elements which they felt were important: an address search where customers could locate an address over time; a townland search where local historians could trace the development of a townland over time, and information on each of the map series used.

The initial collection of maps was provided by Andrew Bonar Law with the assistance of Lesley Brown of Brown Projects. When the library service was looking at making the maps available on the internet, Andrew willingly gave permission for the maps to be used for the project at no cost. Obviously we owe him a great deal. A missing series of maps was kindly supplied by Niall Hayden of South Dublin's Roads Department. Larry McEvoy, Head of the Spatial Data Team was an obvious ally for the library service when thoughts turned to making the maps more accessible. He had always been very helpful to the libraries in matters relating to maps and was very knowledgeable of GIS matters. Larry and his team, in particular, Sarah McEwan used the material supplied by the library service to create a most effective and useful website.

At all times Tommy Kavanagh of IT Services supported the project as did Georgina Byrne, County Librarian.

The website was launched during Innovation Dublin week and is available now through [www.southdublinlibraries.ie](http://www.southdublinlibraries.ie). Anyone who loves maps will love it his virtual time machine.



## December 2009

1-3

### Supporting Teenagers through Public Libraries

1st December Tallaght Library, 2nd December Cabra Library, 3rd December Blanchardstown Library. Information from Marie Flynn: contact [mflynn@librarycouncil.ie](mailto:mflynn@librarycouncil.ie)

1-3

### Online information 2009

Grand Hall, Olympia, London. Details: [www.online-information.co.uk](http://www.online-information.co.uk)

8

### Management Issues in Public Libraries 2009: a reflection and looking ahead.

Follow-up course for Senior Executive Librarians and Divisional Librarians (This course is for all public library staff on a Grade 7 position who have completed the Management Issues in Public Libraries two day training course run by the IPA). IPA Dublin. All Management Issues courses are booked directly with IPA: contact Jane Greer: [jgreer@ipa.ie](mailto:jgreer@ipa.ie)

8

**Yeats, music and the psaltery** the fourth of the 'Object of the Month' lecture series, Professor Harry White MRIA, UCD. Object of the month: The Psaltery. Admission is free and no booking is required. NLI, Kildare Street, Dublin 2 at 7.00pm

14

### Mickey Harte

will be interviewed by veteran GAA broadcaster, Michéal O Muircheartaigh in the National Library of Ireland at 8.00pm. Booking for this event will open on Wednesday 24 November. Call (01) 603 0277 to reserve up to two places.

### 2010 has been designated the European Year of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion.

For more information please visit: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=637>

## February 2010

9

### Electronic Resources Management: how to provide an excellent service in difficult times:

annual seminar of the Academic & Special Libraries Section of the Library Association of Ireland. Venue: Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Golden Lane, Dublin 8. Cost: €100 A&SL members; €120 other LAI members; €150 non-members. Enquiries and expressions of interest in attending should be sent to Eva Hornung: [hornunge@tcd.ie](mailto:hornunge@tcd.ie).

11-26

### Adult Learners' Festival 2010

will highlight the role of adult learning in combating poverty and social exclusion. The festival will tie in with the 2010 European Year of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. To keep up to date with festival news, visit [www.adultlearnersfestival.com](http://www.adultlearnersfestival.com)

17

### The poem on the mountain

the sixth of the 'Object of the Month' lecture series, Professor Jerusha McCormack (Visiting Professor, Beijing Foreign Studies University). Object of the month: Lapis Lazuli carving and poem. Admission is free and no booking is required. NLI, Kildare Street, Dublin 2 at 7.00pm

18

**Management issues in public libraries** a two-day induction training for newly appointed Senior Executive Librarians and Divisional Librarians, covering library and related management issues. IPA Dublin. All Management Issues courses are booked directly with IPA: contact Jane Greer: [jgreer@ipa.ie](mailto:jgreer@ipa.ie)

## March 2010

4

### 'World' Book Day (UK & Ireland)

<http://www.worldbookday.com/>

## April 2010

23

### World Book and Copyright Day

[http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=5125&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=5125&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

27

### Portraying George Yeats

the medium and the message, the eighth of the 'Object of the Month' lecture series, Professor Ann Saddlemeyer, Visiting Professor, University of Victoria. Object of the month: Portrait of George Yeats by Edmund Dulac. Admission is free and no booking is required. NLI, Kildare Street, Dublin 2 at 7.00pm

↑ CALENDAR

↓ WESTMEATH

↓ WORLD BOOK DAY

↓ CONTACT

## Westmeath's pilot project to provide a library service to the housebound

This project was co-ordinated by Mae McLynn, Executive Librarian, Athlone who is also a Leader with Tubberclair Foróige. It was run by the Tubberclair Foróige Group as their Citizenship Project.

They volunteered to provide a library service to the housebound in the Glasson / Tubberclair area of Athlone. The term housebound was loosely interpreted to include anyone who would not normally have access to the Library Service. In reality most of those availing of the service were Senior Citizens.

All twenty five members of Tubberclair Foróige Group were actively involved in providing a service to over thirty housebound people. Books were brought to them on a fortnightly basis. This pilot project proved popular with both the providers and the recipients of the service and was lauded as a very worthwhile intergenerational project.

In the course of the first season (November-April) over 400 books were borrowed through this scheme by people who would otherwise have no access to the library.



The efforts of Tubberclair Foróige were recognised by both Westmeath County Council, who gave them a special Cathaoirleach Award, and by the Permanent TSB Foróige Youth Citizenship Programme which honoured them at a special ceremony in The Helix in Dublin.

The project featured heavily in national radio and television advertisements highlighting the value of the Youth Citizenship Project scheme, the project itself appealed to the national adjudicators because it was CONSIDERED that the simplicity of the scheme meant that it could be used as a model for other similar projects and also because the scheme fostered community support for the marginalised.

The project has been extended and is now going into its second year.

## World Book Day – UK & Ireland, 2010

World Book Day is the biggest annual celebration of books and reading in the UK and Ireland.

Pre-schools and Secondary Schools in the UK need to register to receive support material including the World Book Day £1.00/€1.00 Book Tokens. UK Primary Schools and all Irish Schools on the DES database will automatically receive material.

For further details, see: <http://www.worldbookday.com/>

## 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 January 20th 2010

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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