

PAL Access Cards ... opening doors to a wealth of resources!



Access to specialised libraries and archives in Ireland is now easier following the launch of Music *PAL* and Cork *PAL* schemes both announced on March 8th 2010 during *Library Ireland Week*.

In the music domain, novelist and radio broadcaster Deirdre Purcell proclaimed herself proud to launch such a unique initiative as Music *PAL*, which is the first music resource sharing scheme within the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. The initiative facilitates access free of charge to a wide range of music resources and services in libraries and archives throughout the island of Ireland. The Music *PAL* Access Card ensures that users can visit and access the resources of the participating libraries and archives.



Celebrating the launch of Music PAL from left: Senator Mark Deary, Deirdre Purcell, Robin Adams, Norma McDermott, Roy Stanley.

Music PAL represents 10 public, 9 higher education, 3 conservatoire and 5 special libraries throughout Ireland, a total of 27 institutions in all. Many hold broad music collections, while others focus on specific musical genres, such as the Irish Traditional Music Archive and the Contemporary Music Centre.

A sister scheme, Cork *PAL*, was also launched simultaneously in Cork by Minister for Education and Science, Mr Batt O’Keeffe, TD. He endorsed the resource sharing approach favoured by the Cork *PAL* libraries and archives and recommended it to other organisations. Cork *PAL*, the first Irish regional scheme involving a cluster of libraries in the Cork area, includes eight libraries, facilitating access to academic, local authority and hospital collections.



Minister Batt O'Keeffe launching Cork PAL

Music PAL and Cork PAL are initiatives of the Pathways to Learning (*PAL*) programme instigated by the Committee on Library Co-operation in Ireland (COLICO).

How *PAL* works

Library users, who would like to avail of the service, should be referred to one of the participating libraries for applying for a *PAL* access card. Posters, brochures and application forms for both Cork *PAL* and Music *PAL* access cards are available in libraries and also for download from the *PAL* web site at www.library.ie/pal where further details on the two schemes are available.

The *PAL* access cards will allow their users to visit and make use of the facilities at any of the libraries and archives that are members of the *PAL* schemes. This will include getting

advice and information on which libraries and archives in the scheme are likely to have the resources to meet their learning and information needs.

Background

The concept of the PAL schemes is the brainchild of *Inspire*, the cross-sectoral library provision programme set up in the UK, and follows the practice of LISC Inspire in Northern Ireland. COLICO explored the potential for transferring the programme into an Irish context following on from a conference held in 2006, *Pathways to learning: exploring the potential for cross-sectoral library service provision*. COLICO initiated the Pathways to Learning (PAL) programme in consultation with all sectors and in 2008 established the Pathways to Learning Implementation Team (PALIT) to support and drive development in the Cork PAL and Music PAL. The two PAL schemes completed a pilot phase in 2009.

For further information, check the PAL web site (www.library.ie/pal). Contacts: Robin Adams, PALIT Chair (radams@tcd.ie) and Domitilla Fagan, COLICO Secretary (dfagan@librarycouncil.ie).

CSI Europe Direct at Ardee Library!

Forget CSI Miami or CSI Las Vegas, it was CSI Ardee at the recent Europe Direct Centre/An Garda Síochána initiative with the local schools in Ardee Library, County Louth.

During March, the Europe Direct initiative aimed at raising awareness and provided information workshops on the Environment and Social Exclusion. This co-operative project with the local schools highlighted the issues of public awareness and social responsibility in the local community and in a broader national and European-wide context. The project covered four topics:

- CSI Europe Direct at the Library
- Road safety & responsibility of EU citizens
- Public awareness & care for the environment
- Social exclusion & cultural awareness

In the first week Sergeant Michael Kelly and Garda Aidan Hanlon of the Louth Crime Scene Unit spoke to the children about DNA, forensics, fingerprinting and the work of the crime scene investigator. Lots of gory questions were asked by the captive audience; the children (and their teachers!) had their fingerprints taken which they took home with them at the end of the session. Policing and cross-border security issues were discussed in the wider European context.



During the second week Garda Barry Lynch and Inspector Paul Kiernan arrived on the scene with their mountain bikes. They told the children about the importance of road safety for pedestrians, cyclists, car drivers and passengers. Louth/Meath radio station (LMFM) turned up for the event and spoke to the children, guest speakers and library staff about the Europe Direct initiative and about road safety responsibility of EU citizens. Students were transported back to the days of ration books, bare feet walking to school and homework by candlelight for the third session of the project.

Michael Searson and Betty Crosbie spoke to the children about their life and experiences growing up in Ardee and about the cultural changes that have taken place. Michael spoke about his younger days in the Belgian Congo as a member of the Irish Army and of the many interesting people he encountered during his time there.

Sergeant Catherine Kealy and Garda Paddy O'Rourke then spoke to the children about social exclusion; the importance of respecting all members of the community regardless of age or nationality. She talked about the importance of obeying rules in society, why they exist and the benefits that they have for us all.

Did you know that ladybirds can be cannibalistic? Or that bats are not blind? Well-known TV and radio personality Eanna Ni Lamnha kept everyone enthralled with her entertaining and interesting talk about wildlife and the environment for the final installment in the project. Garda Patricia Flynn and Garda David O'Sullivan also spoke about the dangers of littering for our wildlife and about how it can spoil our beautiful countryside. They also spoke to the children about EU directives on environmental issues.



A competition in conjunction with Europe Direct is currently being run. The theme is based on the programme of talks and the essay is entitled "My Place in Europe". During March all participants will get together in Ardee library for a prize giving ceremony and a presentation of certificates for all the school children who took part. The project succeeded in raising awareness and giving information on the Environment and Social Exclusion and highlighting the Europe Direct Centre based in Dundalk Library.

Further details of Europe Direct can be obtained at <http://www.europedirect.ie/>

Civic Trust Award for Abbeyleix Library



Abbeyleix public library is one of five Irish architectural projects to have won an award in the UK based 2010 Civic Trust Awards scheme.

The library has already picked up awards for best conservation project in the Irish Architectural Awards for 2009 and in the Heritage Category of the 2009 OPUS Architecture & Construction Awards.

Abbeyleix library at night, Courtesy of the Heritage Council

The Civic Trust Awards scheme was established in 1959 to recognise the very best in architecture, design, planning, landscape and public art. Awards are given to projects of the highest quality design, but only if they are judged to have made a positive cultural, social or economic contribution to the local community.

Cork City Libraries' An Leabharlann Bheo DVD Launched



Irish language poet Louis de Paor launched **Cork City Libraries' An Leabharlann Bheo** DVD during Seachtain na Gaeilge in the Central Library, Grand Parade. The bilingual DVD follows the adventures of the children's library mascot RED, as he introduces the library to young children in association with Foras na Gaeilge and the transition year students of Coláiste Daibhéid, South Terrace, Cork City.

Thosnaigh leabharlannaí Breda Hassett agus Patricia Looney an tionscnamh agus 'siad scoláirí Coláiste Daibhéid a thug saol don tionscnamh. Bhí na puipéid beoite, giodamach agus le cabhair ó Jane Lee chuir na daltaí guth leis na puipéad agus iad ag obair i leabharlann. An táirge, DVD dátheangach a thaispeánn leabharlann Cathair Chorcaí i slí nua, simplí agus taitheamhach do leanáí óga.

Buíochas mór le Foras na Gaeilge a thug deóntas a chabhraigh go mór leis an tionscnamh.

Ennis Book Club Festival 2010

The Ennis Book Club Festival committee, in association with Clare County Library, would like to say a huge thank you to all who supported and/or attended the recent Festival. Despite these recessionary times, numbers were up on previous years and feedback from both festival goers and authors has been very positive. This year's festival featured authors such as Lionel Shriver, Joseph O'Connor, Claire Keegan, Claire Kilroy, Tim Pat Coogan, Diarmaid Ferriter, Paul Durcan, Thomas Lynch, Paul Howard and many more. Several events were packed to capacity and the support and involvement of library staff nationwide is greatly appreciated. Updates are available on the festival website at www.ennisbookclubfestival.com



Joseph O'Connor and Lionel Shriver at the opening night of the 2010 Ennis Book Club Festival.

Healing reading for bereaved people

The Irish Hospice Foundation's Thérèse Brady library launched a bereavement bibliotherapy resource booklet on March 9th during Library Ireland Week.

The Thérèse Brady library is central to the Irish Hospice Foundation's bereavement function housing a collection of almost 3,500 items on death and dying, palliative and hospice care and specialising in material on bereavement. The Library caters for students on the Irish Hospice Foundation's education programmes and more widely for members of the research and professional community. A public loan service (including postal loans) has also operated since 2005 as an outreach to bereaved people.



The bibliotherapy resource booklet is a compilation of suggested titles and online resources informed by the fifteen bereavement information leaflets produced by the Irish Hospice Foundation, some in conjunction with Health Service Executive. The leaflets, each concerning a specific type of bereavement address the level one information needs of bereaved people as outlined by the UK National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) three tiered structure of bereavement support.

An estimated 30,000 people die in Ireland each year with on average ten people affected by each death. Though most people manage their grief with help from family and friends, information about the grieving process has been found to be useful in the early stages of bereavement. With an increase in bibliotherapy schemes like the Library Council's Power of words, awareness of the therapeutic benefits of reading is increasing. Selected titles were those indicated as beneficial by bereaved people and a particular emphasis was placed on the inclusion of Irish titles. The library aims to update the booklet annually informed by feedback from bereavement groups and borrowers. Copies of the booklet have been distributed to health and public libraries and bereavement groups nationwide with the aim of providing an indicative selection of titles on bereavement. The booklet can also be downloaded from the Irish Hospice Foundation website.

For further information please contact Information and Library manager Laura Rooney Ferris on 01 6793188 or email: laura.rooneyferris@hospice-foundation.ie.

Human Books prove to be Bestsellers at South Dublin County Libraries

The Human Library, which took place in Ballyroan Library during Library Ireland Week on Tuesday 9th March, had many "readers" coming along to borrow a stereotype or prejudice. The aim of the Human Library is the promotion of understanding and tolerance through dialogue, and this was certainly reflected in the buzz of conversation around the room that evening.

"Books" available for borrowing included a Gay Man, Priest (pictured above), Elderly Person, Traveller, Muslim, Asylum Seeker, School Phobic, Lesbian, and lots more. The Traveller proved the most popular book however all were kept busy as Readers moved around the room. Feedback from the Readers was very positive, saying that they enjoyed the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about others



whom they may never normally meet. All of the Books found the experience rewarding and are enthusiastic about participating in future Human Libraries.

The Human Library originated in Denmark when the then 19-year old Ronni Abergel and some friends founded a group called Stop the Violence after a friend of theirs was brutally stabbed. This evolved into the Human Library and the event in Ballyroan Library was the second of its kind in Ireland. The first Irish Human Library took place in the County Library Tallaght in October 2009 as part of Innovation Dublin.

Kerry Library supports Dyslexia and Dyspraxia

Kerry Library in association with the North Kerry Dyslexia and Dyspraxia Parent Support Group has recently put in place a range of support services for children with both conditions at its Listowel and Tralee Branches.

These libraries now hold additional resources including informational and support books on Dyslexia and Dyspraxia for parents, children's reading support material including recommended titles and specialised software for use on the library PC's.

Initial contacts were made with the Parent Support group early in 2009 following which they gave a presentation to Kerry library supervisors at a staff training session.

During 2009 Kerry Library fostered some additional linkages with groups in the health support sector, including Deaf Hear Ireland, Arthritis Ireland and the Irish Epilepsy Association. This initiative followed an initial grant from An Chomhairle Leabharlanna towards the provision of books on bibliotherapy.

The new service was formally launched by the County Librarian, Tommy O'Connor at a function held in Listowel Library on Thursday, 4 March. A large number of parents attended, there was a puppet show for children and library staff Martina Daly, Patti Ann O'Leary and Maria Doyle were on hand to assist and introduce parents to the available sources. It is planned to roll out the service to each Branch library during 2010.



Kilkenny receives Highly Commended Award at the Aontas Star Awards Ceremony

Kilkenny County Council Library Service received a Highly Commended Award for The Six Book Challenge at the recent Aontas Star Awards Ceremony.

The STAR Awards are presented by AONTAS (the National Adult Learning Organisation) to showcase and acknowledge the work undertaken by adult learning projects throughout the country and celebrate the positive contribution that these projects make to our local communities.



Josephine Coyne, A/Co. Librarian, Orla Barry, Newstalk broadcaster, Patricia Nolan, Challenge Co-ordinator, Sean Haughey, TD, Minister for Lifelong Learning

Introduced by the library service in 2009, the Six Book Challenge is an initiative aimed at involving reluctant adult readers with their local library. Each participant aims to read 6 books over 6 months and records their progress in a reading diary. The 2009 challenge involved many local groups and agencies and certificates were presented to all participants at an event held in Loughboy Library to celebrate their achievement. The Six Book Challenge for 2010 is now underway in Kilkenny County Library Service.

Malahide Library presents gift cheque to Malahide Community School

To celebrate Library Ireland Week and as part of Malahide library's on-going cooperation with Malahide Community School, Senior Executive Librarian Yvonne Reilly presented the school with a gift cheque on Wednesday 10th March, from money collected during the last twelve months from the sale of the centenary booklet on Malahide Library. The research for and compilation of the booklet was undertaken by Transition Year students 2008/9

under the supervision of their teacher and local history enthusiast Ms. Helena Carroll. The book was published by Fingal County Council.



In attendance at the presentation were teacher and local historian Helena Carroll, librarian Susan Lovett, students Sharon Kelly-Lynch and Rachel Mackarel, Transition year coordinator Brian McManus, 4th year head David Hayes, Deputy principle Patricia McDonagh, and librarians Yvonne Reilly and Marjory Sliney.

One Book, One Clara – A community reading together

Clara Library in County Offaly was involved in a very successful community reading initiative in February and March 2010. The reading initiative called *One Book, One Clara* started off with an idea developed by the local Home School Community Liaison officer and Clara Librarian. The recently refurbished Library had just re-opened to the public so involvement in a large community project was very welcome.



Storyteller Niall de Burca at the Launch

The objective of the reading initiative was to get as many people as possible in Clara reading the same book at the same time. A local Committee was formed to progress the project and after months of intensive planning, *"Holes"* by *Louis Sachar* was selected as the book for the project and a start date of February 2nd was set.

The project was officially launched in Clara Library by the Cathaoirleach of Offaly County Council Cllr. Noel Burke. Storyteller Niall de Burca entertained over 150 people on launch day.

500 copies of the book were made available to the community with sponsorship provided by the Offaly Local Development Company. Children in 5th and 6th class in the Scoil Phrionsias Naofa and Scoil Bhríde , children in 1st, 2nd and Transition year in Ard Scoil Chiaráin Naofa and Clara Youthreach trainees all received a copy of the book. Members from groups in the Clara Family Resource centre including the Active Retirement group and the Women's group also received copies of the book.

Additional copies were made available to the public through Clara Library. Audio copies of the book were also made available with one going to a local resident, Annie Graham on her 100th birthday and another to the Visiting Teacher for Traveller Education.

The book was read by people of all ages with at least 2 families having 3 generations reading the book at the same time. In addition to reading the book, various events were held each week of the project to keep people interested and to get more people reading. Guest speakers Offaly football legend Joe Quinn and Community Garda Adrian Hanley visited the schools and Dr. Arthur Broomfield, a local VEC tutor visited the library during the first week to talk about the book. Other activities included Art, Creative Writing and Drama Workshops funded by Offaly VEC.



Mrs. Annie Graham was presented with a copy of the audio book by An Taoisach Brian Cowen, T.D. at her 100th birthday celebrations.

A weekly coffee morning was held in the Library to discuss the book and has progressed to the formation of the very first Clara Library Book Club. One of these coffee mornings was attended by Irish Open Champion golfer Shane Lowry who is from Clara and was also reading the book.

One of the big events of the project was the reopening of the Star Cinema in Clara after many decades for one night only to show the film of *"Holes"*. This event was attended by over 300 people in the community during the last week of One Book One Clara and was made possible with thanks to Clara Credit Union and Clara GAA.



Golfer Shane Lowry at a coffee morning in the library

RTE Radio One's morning Ireland programme visited Clara to record a piece about One Book One Clara which aired on 22nd February.

One Book One Clara was a community funded project and wouldn't have been possible without its community of supporters: the Offaly Local Development Company, St. Vincent de Paul Education Fund, Steri Pack, School Completion Programme Clara, Clara Family Resource Centre, Clara Credit Union, Clara GAA, Midlands 103, Offaly VEC, Offaly County Council and the Home School Community Liaison Scheme.

South Dublin County Libraries proudly launches the Irish version of its website

Tá leagan Ghaeilge dá láithreán seolta ag Leabharlanna Átha Cliath Theas. Sheol an Comhairleoir Eamonn Tuffy ó Chomhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas an láithreán ar an 11ú Márta le linn Seachtain na Gaeilge.

South Dublin Libraries launched the Irish version of its website during Seachtain na Gaeilge 2010. Cllr. Eamonn Tuffy of South Dublin County Council officiated while gaelscoileanna from the area attended the launch and were given the chance to use the website as Gaeilge. South Dublin County is an area which has, over many years, supported the Irish Language. The County has a significant number of naíonraí, and primary and secondary schools.



South Dublin County Librarian Georgina Byrne with colleagues Terry Cassidy and Marie O'Connor

South Dublin Libraries is the first library authority to make its website available in Irish. The website was built using Drupal, an Open Source content management system. Please see www.southdublinlibraries.ie and choose "Leagan Gaeilge" to view the Irish version. Other highlights of Seachtain na Gaeilge 2010 across South Dublin County Libraries included visits by the ever-popular authors *Ré Ó Laighleis*, *Peadar O'Guilin* and *O.R. Melling*, storytelling by Galway-based Scotsman *Rab Fulton*, "If Things Could Talk" an interactive workshop by the National Museum of Ireland, and an exhibition of prints from *An Leabhar Mór*, a major artwork which renews the connection between Gaelic Scotland and Ireland.

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Alun Bevan, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, 53-54 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2.
e: abevan@librarycouncil.ie; t: +353 (0)1-678 4905; f: +353 (0)1-676 6721

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