

IRISH | LIBRARY | NEWS

#305 September 2010

Tracing Roots at Clare County Library

A very popular Genealogy Day was held at the DeValera Library in Ennis on 24th August in conjunction with National Heritage Week. A packed and enthusiastic audience picked up tips, hints and ideas on the detective work necessary to track down that elusive ancestor.



Antoinette O'Brien presents her talk on the Clare Heritage Centre.



Clare Curtin from New York discusses her family tree research.

Throughout the day, four introductory talks were delivered for those interested in tracing their family tree in Clare, using locally available resources. Topics covered included Getting Started, School Registers, Civil Records, and Assisted Passage.

The day also saw the launch of Clare County Library's 'Tracing Your Family Tree' brochure, which is now available at all branch libraries in the county.

Fingal Library's News.

Fingal Studies

The Mayor of Fingal, Councillor Ken Farrell, launched *Fingal Studies*, the new local history journal of Fingal County Libraries on Tuesday 27th July.



Local historian and author Mr. Joe Byrne, (editor of the journal), Jacinta Judge (Local History Librarian) the Mayor of Fingal, Councillor Ken Farrell and former County Librarian Mr. Paul Harris.

The launch took place in Fingal Local Studies and Archives, Fingal County Libraries new reference and research facility which is situated on the second floor of Clonmel House, on Forster Way in Swords. The idea of a Fingal Local History Journal originated from a partnership arrangement between former County Librarian Mr. Paul Harris and NUI Maynooth's local history certificate course delivered by Local Historian and Author Mr. Joe Byrne at Pobalscoil Íosa in Malahide.

The course was subvented by Fingal County Libraries and the student's produced theses and essays relating to Fingal, which are now available for consultation in Clonmel House. This very successful initiative culminated in the decision that Fingal County Libraries would publish a local history journal and Joe Byrne would edit it. The prevailing interest in the history of Fingal was very evident in the large crowd that attended the launch.

As Councillor Ken Farrell very rightly pointed out on the night ***"Fingal is a county of rich historical heritage and it is very appropriate that Fingal County Council should be the first authority in Ireland to undertake such an initiative"***.

He further added that ***"the importance of the preservation and promotion of local history within Fingal is clearly illustrated by the great voluntary work being undertaken by the many historical societies and dedicated individuals within the county"***.

Producing a journal twice yearly will ensure the widest possible access to students, historians and indeed anyone who is interested in the history of the county.

The new journal will provide the perfect medium to promote and celebrate the rich and varied heritage of our beautiful county. It will also provide a forum for the vast knowledge and ability of all the local history enthusiasts who will contribute to the journal over the coming years. It will be readily available as a reference resource in all branch libraries and also for sale at the very reasonable price of €5.00.

Anyone interested in contributing articles relating to any aspect of Fingal to the new journal should contact Jacinta Judge, Local Studies Librarian local.studies@fingalcoco.ie Telephone: 01 8704495 or Joseph Byrne, Editor, Fingalstudies@gmail.com.

Derek Landy visits Rush Library

The world renowned author of Skulduggery Pleasant will be visiting the award winning Rush Library on Thursday 30th September. He will be speaking to local pupils.

This is a great setting in which to celebrate books. Implicitly highlighting the potential to which libraries users can achieve. The visit has been organised in conjunction with Poetry Ireland.



DJing at Fingal Libraries

Blanchardstown, Balbriggan and Rush Library are hosting DJ classes, offering young people in the area a chance to get to grips with real DJ equipment and talk to people who have made music a successful career. These classes last for about an hour and a half and have been going well over the summer. While the world of DJing can seem far away from Real Music or learning it is a complicated business requiring musical and technical knowledge. Any experimentation and study of music can open up a whole new world of opportunity and learning to a young person and Fingal Library's hope that by providing that initial opportunity library users will be encouraged to learn new skills.



Beauty and the Bees

Malahide Library has a BEE-autiful new Garden. The new "Beauty and the Bees" garden right in front of Malahide Library highlights the vital role the urban gardener can play in the survival of the honeybee whose numbers declined by 25% in Ireland last year. By creating a planting scheme that attract bees visitors can instantly see which plants can help to save the bee population.



Hippocrates Revived: An Exhibition of Early Medical Books in Marsh's Library

Opened by the Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport, Ms Mary Hanafin T.D., on 21st June 2010, the exhibition is entitled *Hippocrates Revived*.

It contains early books on medicine from the collections in Marsh's, richly illustrated with woodcuts and engravings.

The exhibition starts with the ancient Greek medical writers Hippocrates and Galen. The majority of the books deal with the famous doctors and medical problems of the 16th and 17th centuries. These include William Harvey's discovery on the circulation of the blood, Robert Boyle's *Memoirs for the natural history of humane blood*, and Richard Lower's exciting innovations and experiments in cardiology. There is an account by Jean Baptiste Denis, physician to Louis XIV, who performed the first recorded transfusion of blood into a human being on 15th June 1667.



The Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr John Neill, Dr. Muriel McCarthy, Keeper, Marsh's Library and the Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport, Ms Mary Hanafin T.D.

The case entitled 'The Black Bile' contains a book by Johannes Wier, *De praestigiis daemonum*, which caused a storm of criticism in 1563 as he suggested witches' confessions were delusions. Also here is Robert Burton's *Anatomy of Melancholy*, with its engraved title page.

Under the section entitled 'The Subtle Knife' we have Wilhelm Fabricius (Hildanus), called the father of German surgery, who was the first to use magnets to extract iron slivers from the eye and the first to operate successfully for gallstones. Also here is Francois Tolet, master surgeon from Paris, who wrote a treatise in 1686 on lithotomy or the extraction of the stone from the bladder. The illustrations show in startling detail the operating methods.

The case on Irish doctors or those operating in Ireland includes works by 17th century physicians Edmund O'Meara and Bernard Connor. In the 18th century the philosopher George Berkeley wrote about tar water as a cure and John Rutty wrote about the qualities of Irish mineral waters. A book by Charles Allen deals with the anatomy of the teeth, and the replacement of missing teeth with transplants or substitutes. Printed in the 1680s, it is the earliest known book in English devoted exclusively to the treatment of the teeth.

The section on maternity contains a book by the French midwife Louyse Bourgeois, who wrote the first book on obstetrics by a midwife, and a work by François Mauriceau, one of the leading obstetricians in France. Mauriceau introduced the practice of delivering his patients in bed instead of in the obstetrical chair and was the first to describe tubal pregnancy. The illustrations show difficult birth presentations.

One outstanding book in the Anatomy section is Bidloo's *Anatomia humani corporis*, printed in 1685, which contains magnificent fine copperplate engravings. There are sections on chemistry and on

diseases of the eye and ear. The case entitled 'Frauds and Freaks' contains books on monsters and quacks, and includes a pamphlet printed anonymously in Dublin in 1725 suggesting the punishment of castration for quack doctors and apothecaries.

The Exhibition is open to the public during the Library's normal working hours:

Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri.: 9.30–1.00
and 2.00–5.00;
Sat: 10.00–1.00.
Tues. & Sun: Closed

Meath Libraries to launch historical record of local working lives

Meath County Library Service has launched the county's first Oral History collection.

The 50 hours of recordings in the collection focus on the working lives of people from the four corners of the county in a variety of local businesses and enterprises, including Navan Carpets, Clayton's Mills, Tara Mines, and smaller enterprises such as a lampshade factory in Kells, a linotype printing works in Kilmainhamwood, a forge at The Bolies, Duleek, and an auctioneering firm in Oldcastle.

Teachers, farmers, undertakers, weavers, postmistresses, veterinary surgeons, furniture craftsmen, midwives, footballers, shopkeepers and postal officials are included in the collection which will prove to be an invaluable resource to historians and researchers with an interest in all aspects of working life in the county over the past century. The recording phase of the project was carried out in association with Maurice O'Keeffe of Irish Life and Lore.



Clockwise above: Meath County Manager, Tom Dowling presenting Cllr. William Carey, Cathaoirleach Meath County Council with his CD. Cllr Carey's contribution recalls a lifetime of community, farming, business and political activity in the county. Mrs Margaret Markey and her son Stephen who both participated in the project.

The second phase of the project is currently in its early stages and will involve local history groups acquiring the technical expertise and interview skills to go out and undertake the recording themselves of the invaluable stores of experience of the people of the county.

Anyone with an interest in oral history is welcome to contact Tom French in Meath County Library Service on (046) 902 1134 or email tfrench@meathcoco.ie

Summer Readers in Monaghan return from Space

The Summer Reading Challenge has proven to be a huge success once again in the libraries in County Monaghan. This programme, this year entitled *Space Hop* is run in conjunction with the Reading Agency in the UK and is in its twelfth year. Children were encouraged to boldly go to new worlds to discover the joy of reading. Each child taking part undertook to read six or more books of their choice over the summer holidays and won plenty of rewards for their achievements. We had treasure hunts around the library, Space Rockets landing and plenty of activities for the children to enjoy. Libraries were invaded by aliens as the participants were encouraged to Design an Alien.

Children were also able to log on to the interactive *Space Hop* website, where they were able to link in with top authors and illustrators and chat about their favourite books and share reading ideas. Staff from Armagh Planetarium joined library staff for the presentation of certificates and medals to those participating. Following on the theme of the Challenge, the Planetarium staff tested the participants on their knowledge of space and helped the children to experience 'Life on Space'.



Photo shows some of those who participated in the Challenge, Anna May Mc Carron, Barry Coyle and Laura Carey (Library Staff) and Tracey Mc Connell, Armagh Planetarium.

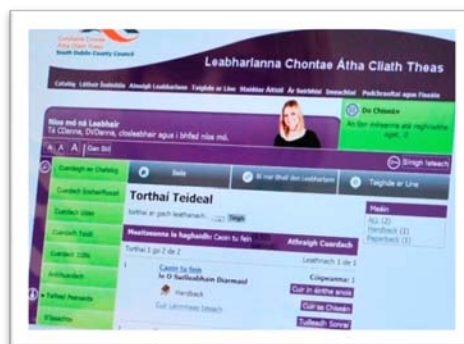
Congratulations to all the children and families who took part in this year's Reading Challenge.

Catalóg ar líne Leabharlanna Átha Cliath Theas ar fáil anois as Gaeilge

Tá catalóg ar líne **Leabharlanna Átha Cliath Theas** ar fáil anois as Gaeilge ó láithreán Gréasáin na leabharlanna ag <http://galibrary.sdublincoco.ie>.

Seo an céad cur i bhfeidhm leagan Gaeilge de chatalóg ar líne Viewpoint ó Axiell.

South Dublin Libraries online catalogue is now available in Irish from the libraries' website at <http://galibrary.sdublincoco.ie>.



This is the first implementation of an Irish version of the Viewpoint OPAC and was achieved through close co-operation between Axiell implementations staff and South Dublin Libraries ICT staff. Word count for translation into Irish was in excess of 10,000 words. Not all text and terminology could be translated as the catalogue uses terms drawn from the Galaxy library management system provided by Axiell which is in English. We trust that customers will understand these limitations. Tá súil againn go dtuigfidh ár gcustaiméirí an cás.

Multicultural Workshops for Children in Tipperary

Tipperary Libraries hosted a series of multicultural workshops in Cashel, Clonmel and Thurles libraries during the summer.

Thirty children aged between 7 and 12 attended the workshops in Cashel Library where the focus was on Mexico, Poland, Egypt, South Africa and Romania. Everyone enjoyed learning about the different countries, sampling some traditional food and taking part in some native crafts and games. The Source Library, Thurles ran a French Language Camp for Kids. A native French speaker gave one hour workshops every morning for one week. The feedback was very positive and everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves.

Story teller Eddie Lenihan visited on 21st June for both a school and adult (from the Senior Traveller training centre) session. Eddie told tales from Traveller culture. Over 60 people attended and once again the response was fantastic.

Multicultural Week ran in Clonmel Library from 26-30th July, from 10.30am to 1pm each morning. Five countries and cultures were covered: Spain, Latvia, Turkey, India and Irish Travellers.

Each day during the workshops, the children were given a brief illustrated talk about the history, geography, daily life, facts of interest etc., then they learned a few basic words in the relevant language. Each day included a craft and an activity - we made fezzes, Christmas cards, fans, paper flowers and rangolis, incense holders etc. Activities included whirling dervish dancing, flamenco, cricket (a possible first in a library!), Latvian children's games etc. To calm things down, we had a story from each country, and ended each session with food and drink from the country (paella, samosas, kvass, turkish cheese breads etc.). We also had a group of Spanish students visiting and a Traveller came in to talk about Traveller traditions, and to show the children how to make paper flowers.

The week finished with the kids putting on a Talent Show (songs, poems, music, dancing) in the style of the countries they had done. Feedback was very positive from both the children and their parents.

The workshop were funded by EU DIRECT



Clockwise from top right: Eddie Lenihan with Group of Children from local Traveller Community in The Source, Library Thurles; French Camp, The Source Library, Thurles; Multicultural Workshop in Cashel Library.

... and just in case you missed it,

www.library.ie has had a makeover.... [take a look](#), *turn up the volume and let us know what you think of it!*



and....

A new [Gallery](#) of award winning libraries has been added to www.librarybuildings.ie containing details of a host of awards to 33 public libraries. The awards range from those recognising achievements in architectural design, accessibility, conservation and landscaping. Does your library have any awards you think should be included? Send details to abevan@librarycouncil.ie.

A screenshot of the 'Public Libraries Database' website. The page has a blue header with the title 'Public Libraries Database' and navigation links for 'Home', 'About Us', 'Search', 'Latest News', 'Refurbished libraries', 'Gallery', and 'Resources'. Below the header is a search bar with a dropdown for 'Library Name' and a 'Search' button. To the right of the search bar is a 'Subscribe to our RSS Feed' button. The main content area is titled 'Award winning libraries' and features a grid of 10 library award entries. Each entry includes a small image of the library building, the name of the library and the award, and the date of the award. The entries are: 1. OPUS Architecture & Const... (17/08/2010), Ardkeen: Winner Public Library Buildings... (17/08/2010), Athlone: 1. Chicago Athenaeum Internati... (17/08/2010), Baldoyle: 1. AAI award, 2003; 2. Archite... (17/08/2010), Ballina: In 2007 Ballina library won an ... (17/08/2010), Baltinglass: 1. Opus Building of the Yea... (17/08/2010), Blanchardstown Library was highly commen... (17/08/2010), Boyle: RIAI Awards 1995: Western Regiona... (17/08/2010), Buncrana: Winner of the Public Library B... (17/08/2010), and Cabra Library was awarded a National Dis... (17/08/2010).

Publications

An Tánaiste and Minister for Education and Skills, Mary Coughlan T.D launched ***The public library and the school: policies and prospects for library services to primary schools in Ireland*** at Bundoran Community Library on 25th August 2010. The report is the result of an extensive research project carried out with the help of city and county librarians, school principals and teachers in Dublin, Kerry, Wexford and Wicklow.



Back row (L-R): Miriam Tiernan, Annette Kelly, Deirdre Ellis-King, Cllr. Philip Mc Glynn, Leas Cathaoirleach, Eileen Burgess, Mary Carlton-Reynolds. Front row: Tánaiste and Minister for Education and Skills, Mary Coughlan, T.D.

The Schools Library service has been in place since 1971 with the purpose of giving children in primary schools easy access to books and reading. The public library service has worked with teachers, to identify and deliver the books and other materials best suited to the curriculum requirements and students' needs.

Up until 2008, the library service to primary schools was part-funded by the Department of Education. Due to the economic downturn, the Department of Education and Skills was regrettably unable to continue funding the service. The report takes this new economic reality into account and looks at better ways of delivering services. It also identifies new ways of delivering services electronically and the need for library and education bodies to work more closely together to ensure that public libraries are supporting the school curriculum in the most effective way possible.

An Tánaiste commented that,

'Given the longevity of the scheme, it was timely, however, that this research project was initiated to examine the service and consider ways of doing it better... It emphasises the need for library and education bodies to work more closely together in the future to ensure that public libraries are supporting the school curriculum in the most effective ways possible... I will ask my Department to carefully examine this report, in conjunction with Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and consider what needs to be done to address the issues raised so that the valuable work of the School Library Service can be carried forward in an efficient and cost effective way.'

The Public Library Research Committee is managed by An Chomhairle Leabharlanna and funded by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Local Authorities. For further information contact Annette Kelly, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, 01 676 1167 or akelly@librarycouncil.ie

The public library and the school: policies and Prospects for Library Services to Primary Schools in Ireland. Dublin: An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, 2010 – (Public Library Research Programme report; 4). ISBN: 978-1-873512-38-8.

The report can be downloaded [here](#).

Wanted



Second-hand library shelving required.

Double-sided stand alone, or stacks of 4. 3-4 sets required.

Please contact: Ritamary Bolton. 01 6351182.

Offered



Copies of [The New Yorker](#) from March 1996 to date available free of charge, must be collected. If interested, please contact abevan@librarycouncil.ie.

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>

COPY DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: SEPTEMBER 20 2010

Contributions to *Irish Library News* and / or www.library.ie should be sent to Alun Bevan, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, 53-54 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2. abevan@librarycouncil.ie; +353 (0)1-678 4905; +353 (0)1-676 6721

Please note that *Irish Library News* is only available as a download.

If you would like to have an e-alert emailed to you or your workplace whenever a new issue is available, please send your name and email address to the Editor – and please, do not forget to notify subsequent changes to your email address.