

IRISH | LIBRARY | NEWS

#308 December 2010

ISSN: 2009-2075

Clare winner of the 2010 Award for Excellence in Genealogy

At its 2010 AGM the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations (CIGO) announced that Clare County Library would be the recipient of its 2010 Award for Excellence in Genealogy, not only in recognition of the facilities provided in the Local Studies Centre at Ennis (which includes a magnificent collection of Clare newspapers and the recently acquired microfilmed parish registers), but particularly the online genealogy section of the Library's website. According to CIGO, the website includes



invaluable transcriptions of Tithe Applotment Books, gravestone inscriptions with photographs, school rolls, and indexes to newspaper extracts, etc. The value of these resources is further enhanced by the cross-linked townland and parish indexes and maps, which help researchers to identify Clare place names. CIGO found that the website sets an extremely high standard for data provision to which other libraries should be encouraged to aspire. In recognising Clare County Library's achievements in genealogy, CIGO also acknowledged the contribution of all those who have donated time and material to make the website the success that it so clearly is. This is the fourth year of the award. Previous winners were Dublin City Public Libraries & Archive, the National Archives of Ireland and the Irish Times.

Clare County Library's Local Studies Centre is a reference library and research centre dedicated to the collection of material on any aspect of County Clare. Located at the Manse, beside the de Valera Library in Ennis, and staffed by Peter Beirne and Brian Doyle, the Centre is open to the public free of charge. Much of the material in the Local Studies Centre has been digitised and published on the library website by the library's Information Services Department, based in Library Headquarters. Anthony Edwards is responsible for the website as a whole, while the bulk of the material on the website about County Clare is sourced, edited and prepared by Maureen Comber with the assistance of Teresa Carmody-O'Shea. This includes information on the archaeology, folklore, history, literature, people and places of Clare as well as the substantial genealogy and family history resources. Speaking in response to the award, Clare County Librarian Helen Walshe praised both the staff in the Local Studies Centre who welcome thousands of visitors to the centre each year while also responding to hundreds of email queries from all over the world, and also praised the staff of the Information Services department in Library Headquarters for creating such an obviously appreciated website and making so much information about County Clare available online to the more than 400,000 visitors to the website each year. She also thanked all those who have

transcribed and donated material for inclusion on the website, and those who have identified people and places in the online photo collection. The Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations is a lobby group for the various national and international organisations sharing an interest in Irish genealogical research which campaigns for better and greater access to source material.

See www.clarelibrary.ie

Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2010

Fingal County Council was named **County/City Council of the Year 2010** at Chambers Ireland's 7th Annual Excellence in Local Government Awards which were held in Dublin on October 28. The Awards were held in association with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Speaking at the awards, Minister, John Gormley T.D. said, 'Once again I am delighted that my Department is associated with Chambers Ireland's Excellence in Local Government Awards, which highlights best practice among local authorities, thus enabling a diffusion of excellence.'

Congratulating Fingal County Council, Ian Talbot, Chambers Ireland Chief Executive said, 'Fingal County Council was recognised for its innovative efforts to enhance both the quality of life for all of Fingal's residents while also consistently working in partnership with business as a stakeholder'.

Galway County Libraries has been honoured as the **Best Library Service** for 2010 in the Awards.

Galway County Library/Galway County Council cooperates with local development organisations in the provision of branch libraries in smaller towns and villages, and it was for this work which the library service received the award.

Galway County Council's *Public Library Provision through Public Community Partnerships project* – a community partnership model – is based on the premise that even in the smallest town the public library is central to building a sense of local community.

The Council believes that in smaller communities there are clear advantages in locating the local library within and alongside other community facilities, rather than endeavouring to provide a purpose built facility by itself. This approach can achieve optimum integration of the local library into existing community infrastructure.

Working with neighbouring organisations, a sense of local ownership is created. The outcome is that Council and the local community become partners in the library project, thus giving the service a local momentum, and ensuring that the library is responsive to local needs.



Cllr. Jimmy McLearn, Mayor of County Galway accepting the award from Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, John Gormley T.D at Chambers Ireland's 7th Annual Excellence in Local Government Awards.

Examples of this cooperation include **Leenane** where the Library Service cooperates with the Leenane Development Association in the provision of a public library service from the Leenane Community Centre.

In **Eyrecourt** in cooperation with the Eyrecourt Select Vestry (Church of Ireland) the local library service is provided from the former Church of Ireland national school building.

On **Inishbofin**, Galway County Council cooperates with the Inishbofin Development Company in providing a library service in the Inishbofin Community Centre.

The Naomh Breandán Credit Union of Loughrea operate a branch of its credit union in **Woodford**. The Credit Union staff took a decision when the new Woodford building was being put in place that they would share it with the local library service, which is a fine example of Credit Union operating principles in action.

Kildare County Council's Platform V Battle of The Bands Competition has won The Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award for **Sustaining the Arts**.

Platform V Battle of the Bands is an annual competition that gives local Kildare artists a unique opportunity to compete for a slot at OXEGEN. The competition illustrates OXEGEN's and Kildare County Council Arts Service's ongoing commitment to the development of music in County Kildare, in partnership with OXEGEN organisers MCD.

In its four-year history, Platform V has been a launch pad for some great up and coming music talent including the Meteor Award nominated Seven Days, Miracle Bell, Juliets Rescue (Box Social) and last year's winners Funzo and Awake Young Soldiers.

Founder of the project, Lucina Russell, County Arts Officer at Kildare County Council comments: 'One of the best aspects of this project is that it was developed from an idea by a local musician. Every year we are heartened with the amount of entries we get from bands and solo artists all over Kildare. The standard of the bands is also growing year on year, as new Kildare bands are listening to previous winners and knowing they have to be able to play at a certain level in order to compete. It makes them all up their game; which can only be a good thing. MCD have been instrumental in the success of the Platform V OXEGEN Battle of the Bands competition. The fact that Kildare bands get to make direct contact with MCD is also a real plus.'

An important part of the Battle of the Bands competition is providing the winning bands with three days free recording at Platform IV Recording Studio @ Leixlip Library. The studio at Leixlip is successfully accommodating recording and broadcasting as part of a wider joint arts and library programme for all age groups.

The Platform IV initiative was also nominated in the Chambers Ireland Sustaining the Arts category this year.

For further information on this and other Kildare County Council Arts Service music projects in Kildare visit www.kildare.ie/artsservice, or for other youth services in libraries in Kildare visit www.kildare.ie/library

Wainfest in Donegal 2010

This year's Wainfest, County Donegal's largest arts and books festival for children & young people, celebrated its fourteenth year. Wainfest incorporates the Children's Book Festival, a national celebration and promotion of books, which took place in libraries throughout Ireland during October. The main programme was held in libraries and Taobh Tíre Centres throughout Donegal between the 11th and the 23rd of October.

Wainfest 2010 saw the return of ever-popular storytellers: *Niall de Burca*, *Joe Brennan* and *Chris Thompson* as well as *Michael Moylan* with his educational and entertaining interactive history shows. The festival also featured visits by authors *David Donohue*, *Garrett Carr* and *Mary Arrigan*. It is a festival of fun, art and culture with a variety of events including magic, drama, creative writing and art and music workshops. The line-up of creative local talent included *Emmannuella O'Kane*, *Sharon Aiken*, *Kirstin McLaughlin*, *Billy Teare* and *Kathleen O'Sullivan*, *Martin Moloney*, *Paula McMullan* and *Denise Blake*.



Once again the library service held events in Taobh Tíre centres across the county. Taobh Tíre Centres are small library points in community spaces such as family resource centres and Community Development Projects in rural or remote areas. This means that children in these areas do not have to travel far to avail of the wide and varied range of cultural activities that we provide during Wainfest.

In total over 6000 children from North Inishowen to South Donegal visited libraries and Taobh Tíre centres during the festival. Now the preparations for Wainfest 2011 begin!

Fingal Volunteer Wins Silver Surfer Award

Fingal Libraries would like to congratulate Dick Brennan, who won the Age Action 3 Silver Surfer Award 2010 in the category of IT Volunteer of the Year. Dick was nominated by the staff of Malahide library for the Age Action award.

Since the opening of the refurbished Malahide library (Dec 2007), Dick has volunteered his time to teach IT Skills to over 200 older people. Through his knowledge, patience, and good humour, Dick has helped many people embrace technology and use it to enhance their life experience.

The feedback from anyone taking Dick's class has



been extremely positive. The surfers have developed a new found confidence in using computers and accessing the internet. As one lady commented; "The computer has made a world of difference to my life".

Older people are increasingly using the Internet and technology to stay in touch with relatives around the world. Fingal Libraries along with Age Action is committed to encouraging, promoting and engaging older people on a practical level with new technology to create a more inclusive and equal society where all older people have the skills to access the Internet.

The award ceremony was held in the Gresham Hotel Dublin on the 16th of November. Dick was presented with his prize by Minister Áine Brady T.D and Derek Davis.

Kilkenny Carnegie library centenary celebrations

Kilkenny Carnegie Library celebrated 100 years of providing community access to reading, cultural and learning resources. To mark this special birthday Kilkenny Library Service hosted a programme of special events throughout September and October which culminated in a day of celebrations on the 3rd November – the date the library was officially opened 100 year ago.

The Carnegie Library is the central library of County Kilkenny. It represents many things to many people and has served the citizens from its original function as a traditional book lending service to its modern function as a community resource and a space for all with a myriad of services available.



Outside the Carnegie Library, Josephine Coyne, A/Co. Librarian with Cllr. Catherine Connery, Cathaoirleach and Cllr Martin Brett, Mayor

This centenary provides us with an opportunity to celebrate and highlight the importance of the library as an educational, information and recreational resource for all. It also allows us to celebrate the library service and its positive contribution to the citizens of Kilkenny for the past 100 years. A booklet on the social and historical importance of the library service over the past 100 years was also published.

Over 1500 books read by children in County Kilkenny.

Kilkenny Library Service's summer reading challenge for children came to an exciting finale in the Newpark Hotel on 11th October. 250 children completed the Space Hop reading challenge during their summer holidays by reading a minimum of 6 books each. This came to a total of over 1500 books read.

The library treated the children and parents to a fun night of celebrations with entertainment provided by The Lords of Strut. Over 300 attended this popular event. The juggling, unicycling and comedy performance entertained all members of the invited families. This was followed by the

presentation of well earned certificates and reading medals to the participating children. Parents' reactions to this night of fun were very positive and they felt that the library service valued their children's reading and membership of the library.

This is the first time Kilkenny Library Service used the expertise of The Reading Agency to run the reading challenge. In previous years Kilkenny Library Service devised their own reading challenges for children every summer.

Local media commented on the impressive statistic of 1500 books read and said that "it is a welcome contradiction to the perception that the younger generations have forsaken reading in favour of easier entertainment offered by television and computer games".

Space Encounters in Kilkenny

Wednesday November 10th brought great excitement to Presentation Convent, Loughboy, Kilkenny, with the arrival of the Space Encounters Mobile Planetarium. The Planetarium measured 7 metres in diameter and 3 metres in height and was placed in the gym for the day. Ed Barnett was the show's enthusiastic facilitator. The event was part of Science Week 2010 Roadshow and was arranged for the school by Kilkenny Library Service.

Over 180 1st and 2nd year students were given the opportunity to visit the planetarium for the shows, which lasted one hour each. The presentation involved a fantastic slide show and discussion on galaxies, time travel, alien life, blackholes, asteroids and space exploration. Pauline Sparling, science teacher, said that "It was a truly magnificent show, which involved fascinating insights into astronomy and science and the latest scientific discoveries".



The mobile planetarium

Feedback from the students was positive and inspiring. Eimear Nolan, a first year student said "My favourite part was near the end. He (Ed Barnett) turned off all the lights and turned on a projector machine that projected stars all over the dome". This precise representation of the night sky had a total star count of approximately 3,000 star points.

At the end of four shows, Pauline Sparling felt that the show was so good that it could "well encourage some of the students to pursue a career or a hobby in the area of astronomy".

The mobile planetarium was offered to Kilkenny Library Service by Discover Science and Engineering at Forfás. It came in the boot of the facilitator's car (even though the school car park was cleared in expectation of a 40 foot truck! This led to much amusement in the school's staff room) and was erected very easily. The facilitator was a wonderful, enthusiastic, informed and integral part of the show and the staff and students were very pleased with the whole experience.

Flips, but no flops, at Limerick City Library

For 10 years or so, Limerick City Library has hosted an extensive program entitled the *Evening Lecture Series*. These lectures are focused on Local History, Sport, Literature, Archaeology, & the Social History of Limerick to mention but a few!

The lectures are immensely popular with over 50 regular attendees enjoying each lecture. Now, with the aid of a small Flip HD video camera, these lectures will be recorded and streamed over the Internet. This means that the lectures can be viewed at any time and by anyone with Internet access, anywhere in the world. This video resource will also act as an archive of all the wonderful lectures that will take place in Limerick City Library for future generations to enjoy and learn from. The lectures are hosted by the Vimeo website, chosen instead of YouTube because there is no time limit with Vimeo, and so the 1 hour long lectures can be viewed uninterrupted.

Mathew Potter speaking on "*A Local Monarch: Mayoral Pomp and Ceremonial in Limerick since 1197*" was the first lecture to be recorded and can be viewed at this address <http://vimeo.com/15523819>. Or alternatively, 'Like' Limerick City Libraries' Facebook page to be updated each time a new lecture is added; you can also access a tab that will display all of the Videos.

Dundalk Public Library Wins Access Award

Dundalk Library recently won an award for best practice in accessible service provision in the category of Public Building. These inaugural awards are an initiative of the Disability Thematic Group of the Louth Community and Voluntary Forum. The events celebrated Access Louth, an initiative in which members of the Disability and Older People's Forum nominated those business/premises they found most accessible in each of 17 categories.

In attendance at the awards were representatives of the Irish Wheelchair Association, Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Ireland and People With Disabilities Ireland (PWDI) and The National Council for the Blind.



Amanda Branigan, Senior Executive Librarian, Louth County Library receiving the award from Hazel McGeough, Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Ireland (Louth Branch).

The event was facilitated by the Social Inclusion Unit of Louth Local Authorities as part of [European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion](#) with funding received from the Social Inclusion Division of the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs.

Library Services – so what? Survival Skills, Sustainability and Visibility

Annual seminar of the **Academic & Special Libraries Section** of the Library Association of Ireland, Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Golden Lane, Dublin 8: Tuesday February 22 2011, 9.00 – 16.44.

Cost: A&SL Members €100; LAI Members €120; non-LAI Members €150; Unwaged €30.

Keynote speakers are [Leslie Robinson](#) and [Phil Bradley](#) plus four case studies.

Further details of the seminar are available on the Section's [website](#) and will be circulated via e-mail to members.

Enquires and expressions of interest in attending should be sent to [Eva Hornung](#): Details regarding booking will be available on the Section's website at a later date.

Hidden Heritage Project @ Monaghan County Libraries

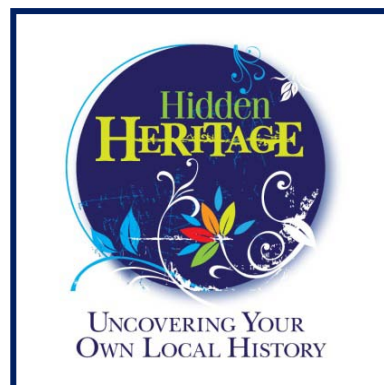
Monaghan County Libraries have been working in tandem with the Monaghan County Museum to roll out a major project over the last 14 months. The project, entitled 'Hidden Heritage of County Monaghan' has so far seen participating community groups from 4 areas throughout the county take introductory courses in genealogy, archaeology, digital photography, oral histories and creative writing. The group then use these skills to conduct research into their local areas. All work produced will be the basis for a major exhibition which will be launched in March 2011.

Participating groups have conducted hours of oral history interviews, collected hundreds of old photographs and have traced land ownership since the 1800's.

While the adults were busy researching over the summer months, staff from the library & museum services took the opportunity to run a series of summer-camps for children within the 4 areas. They undertook activities such as archery, sword fighting, book-binding, African drumming and walks around blanket bogs, ring forts, round towers and a stately home. An exhibition of their work was then launched as part of Heritage Week.

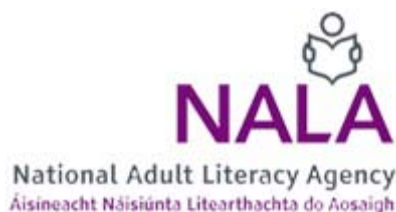
A series of author visits and storytelling has been scheduled for the rest of the year while the groups also continue to work on editing their oral history interviews and photographs. So far, the project has engaged hundreds of people from around the county and brought awareness to the services which the library and museum have to offer.

This project is part financed by the European Union's European Regional Development Fund through the Peace III Programme and funded through Monaghan Peace III Partnership.



New initiative aims to break down barriers to education

Details of a new distance education course, aimed at unemployed people with low or no qualifications was launched today by the [National Adult Literacy Agency](#) (NALA).



Through online and telephone tutor support, this innovative course brings education to the individual and allows them to gain a national qualification in the privacy of their own home. It's completely free and perfect for anyone who left school early or a long time ago and would like to get a qualification. The aim of the course is to break down barriers to education, such as time, travel and expense, so that anyone without a basic qualification can access further education.

"If you left school a long time ago or without getting good marks, talk of up-skilling and the smart economy can seem very far removed from your life. In fact, research shows that the less education you got, the less likely you are to avail of further education or training as you probably had a negative experience first time around. That's why this course is so great – we set you up with a tutor who will help you over the phone or online. They ring you so there are no hidden costs," said Inez Bailey, Director, NALA.

"Equally, there is none of the usual time or travel pressures – you can learn at your own pace at home through subjects in which you are interested. It's also confidential and when you are finished, you get a nationally recognised FETAC qualification at Level 3 which is often the minimum requirement to access other education and training courses. A further bonus is that if you are getting Jobseeker's payment for more than 3 months, you may be eligible to receive €100 euro when you finish the course," she said.

NALA's distance education programme offers accreditation in a number of subjects, including communications, maths, computers, internet, career preparation and health and safety. It is aimed at anyone who left education without a formal qualification such as Junior Cert or anyone who would like to improve their basic skills or learn new ones. Participants can take as long as they want to do the course. NALA specifically developed the course so that it recognises and builds on participants' existing knowledge and supports new learning. For example, a participant who is good at maths will receive accreditation for that subject after an initial assessment. However if they are weak at maths they will be assisted learn this subject.

"There are many barriers to people returning to learning, such as the fear of not being able to keep up with a class, falling behind or a previous bad experience of education. This course is different. There are no pressures and it's completely confidential. All you have to do is call us for free on 1800 20 20 65 or free text 'LEARN' to 50050 for more information – one of our operators will explain how the course works and all the options available to you. If you choose to do the course, we will set you up with a tutor who will get you started and help you choose your subjects and level. It's that simple!," said Denise McBride, Adult Education and Guidance Co-ordinator, NALA.

NALA is committed to widening access to adult basic education through distance learning. Building on literacy and numeracy skills can have a direct impact on a person's participation and progression throughout their life, including in education and training, career opportunities, personal finances, community and social life. For 10 years NALA has been providing opportunities through distance learning in partnership with the Department of Education. In this time NALA has assisted thousands of independent learners to improve their skills and return to learning. This programme is supported by the Department of Education and Skills through the Labour Market Activation Fund and the European Social Fund.

NLI and TCD to collaborate in unique cultural project

The Director of the National Library of Ireland, Fiona Ross, and the Provost of Trinity College Dublin, Dr John Hegarty, have announced the appointment of Dr Catherine Morris as National Library of Ireland/Trinity College Dublin [Cultural Coordinator](#).

This joint appointment is the first of its kind in Ireland. As part of Trinity's pioneering initiative in the Creative Arts, Technologies and Culture (www.tcd.ie/catc) and the National Library's Outreach and Education strategy, (<http://www.nli.ie/>) it marks a new level of partnership and structured engagement between an Irish university and a major cultural institution. Recognising the wealth of existing and potential links, expertise and collections, and their close proximity at the heart of Dublin city, the appointment signifies the commitment of both institutions to forging a dynamic new collaborative model of education, exhibition, practice and research in cultural heritage.

As the new NLI/TCD Cultural Coordinator, Dr Catherine Morris, will focus on exploring areas for long-term partnership that could bring real benefit to both institutions. This includes facilitating discussions around the already extensive collaborative-enabling infrastructures involving the National Library and the Trinity College Library, especially issues of shared cataloguing, digital content creation and delivery, shared storage and legal deposit. She will lead a pilot project which, focused on the National Library, will act as a test bed for developing the multiple ways in which Trinity can activate the cultural, educational and historic synergies that exist between it and other neighbouring cultural institutions.



Dr Morris will be part of Trinity's Cultural Research Policy Group headed by leading cultural economist TCD Professor John O'Hagan, which earlier this year published Dr Johanna Archbold's *Creativity, the City and the University* report, a case study of collaboration between Trinity and some nearby cultural institutions, including the National Library. This research group is based in the Trinity Long Room Hub, Trinity's institute for advanced research in the arts and humanities.

TEDxTallaght...

...an inspiring, thought-provoking, and entertaining evening for the first TEDx event in Tallaght.

South Dublin County Libraries were delighted to present the first TEDxTallaght event on Thursday 11th November at RUA RED County Arts Centre Tallaght, as part of the Innovation Dublin festival. The theme for the evening was The Alchemy of Ideas - how passionate people and inspired thinkers take dreams and convert them into the gold of actions and change; how new ideas meld to form new and even more innovative horizons. The speakers from diverse backgrounds told their stories with passion and enthusiasm about how they are working to make the ordinary extraordinary.



Katherine Zappone, Director of the Centre for Progressive Change, told the fascinating story of founding the now major education centre An Cosán in Tallaght. Together with her life partner Ann Louise Gilligan, this project began in their sitting room and kitchen 25 years ago.

Darragh Doyle, communications manager with Boards.ie and serial blogger, then stepped up to the mic to regale the audience with amusing advice about how NOT to use social media, how technology pervades our lives, and how to use this technology to effectively communicate with a very wide audience.

Merritt Bucholz, award winning architect and founder of the School of Architecture at University of Limerick, presented a fascinating view of the changing topography of Ireland and how urbanisation has changed our landscape.

Finally author and success coach Judymay Murphy, who had flown from Washington especially to participate in the event, concluded with a call for all of us to overcome our default failure drive and dream bigger, dream better.

To view these talks check out www.tedxallaght.com and you can follow us on Facebook at www.bit.ly/TEDxTallaght

As well the speakers presenting at the event, two talks were chosen from www.ted.com by South Dublin Libraries to be projected on the night: Seth Godin's "The Tribes We Lead" and J.J. Abrams "The Mystery Box". Again both these speakers were inspiring, funny and engaging, and added to the general feel good factor of the night.

Feedback from the audience was extremely positive, with everyone enjoying such an uplifting evening. As one attendee said as he left the venue: "I'm off now to find a tribe to lead and to start a movement"...just the fighting spirit we need these days!

South Dublin County Libraries' Annual Readers Day

South Dublin Libraries celebrated another successful Readers Day at the Maldron Hotel, Tallaght on Saturday 13th November.

This event is now a firm fixture on the calendar of readers and writers groups around South Dublin County and indeed is attracting audience members from further afield such as Mullingar, Longford...and Sweden! It was wonderful to welcome a delegation from Sweden who returned to Readers Day after attending it last year...it's great to welcome visitors to Ireland during these tough economic times!



Peter Sheridan

As always, MC Dermot Bolger drew together an eclectic mix of poets, authors and actors to provide fascinating and engaging insight into a writer's life over the course of the day. This year the line-up included former Governor of Mountjoy Prison, John Loneragan, authors Dermot Healy, Sheila O'Flanagan and June Considine, crime writer Arlene Hunt, local poet Fr Padraig Daly and the show stopping memoir writer and actor Peter Sheridan.



John Loneragan

Each of the speakers, in conversation with Dermot, had something interesting to offer and provided great diversity. However, Peter Sheridan brought the day to an unforgettable close with his one-act monologue dramatizing a period in his life following the death of his father, when he uncovered an incredible story about Peter Snr. His outstanding performance was funny, moving,

emotional and utterly compelling, and the standing ovation he received from the 350-strong audience was certainly well deserved.

Recordings of each speaker will be available from www.southdublinlibraries.ie over the coming weeks.

Literature to Life Project 2010

This year for Children's Book Festival, South Dublin Libraries held a series of 4 innovative workshops in the following libraries, Ballyroan, County Library Tallaght and Clondalkin. Entitled *Literature to Life*, the aim of the project was to introduce children at an early age to classical literature, thereby encouraging a lifelong love of reading.

The concept involved taking groups of children through a series of workshops. Firstly, by delving into the background to these books and era in which they were written and secondly, by bringing these stories to life through the medium of drama. The novels chosen for this project were:

- Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
- Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens
- The Orphans (short story) by Maria Edgeworth

The project was then developed under the following headings:

- **Research**

As the three novels were set in the Victorian Era, participants were asked to research this period.

- **Kilmainham Gaol**

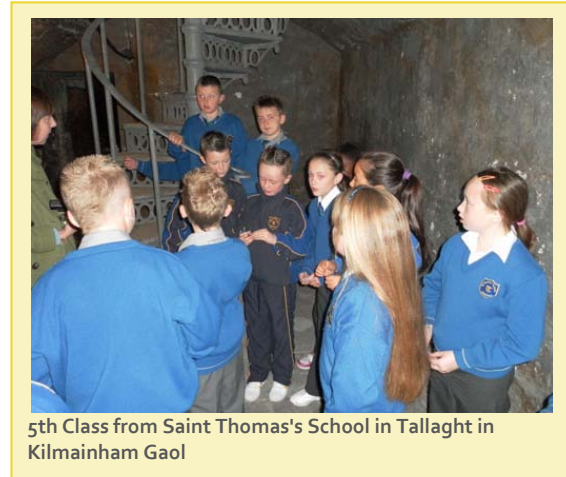
A visit to this famous landmark and its cells and dungeons gave the children a glimpse of what a Victorian workhouse or similar institution might have been like and thus helped to fire their imaginations.

- **Introduction to Novels**

The children and facilitator discussed the novels and were given a synopsis of what the stories were about. After that they created their own endings through the art of creative writing.

- **Drama Workshops**

These workshops afforded the children the opportunity to take what they had seen and heard and investigate it further through the use of drama thus bringing literature to life.



5th Class from Saint Thomas's School in Tallaght in Kilmainham Gaol

The participating schools really entered into the spirit of the project with great enthusiasm and the results were at times surprising and very gratifying. Given its success and the positive response from the participating parties it is hoped we can repeat it in the future with another selection of famous works.

A Political Directory of County Tipperary 1918-2010

The very well attended launch of William Corbett's *A Political Directory of County Tipperary 1918-2010: Parliamentary Election Results, Deputies and Senators* was held in The Source, Cathedral Street, Thurles on Saturday 13th November. Published by Tipperary Libraries as part of the *Finding Tipperary* series, the directory has been edited by Denis G. Marnane and Mary Guinan Darmody.

William (Willie) Corbett, a native of Upperchurch – Drombane and a retired primary school teacher has had a life long interest in Irish history and politics. Willie has devoted his life to researching the various election results and political figures and has an



L-R: Joe MacGrath, Co. Manager, Cllr. Marie Murphy (Chairman Tipperary Joint Libraries Committee), Martin Maher (County Librarian), Prof. Willie Nolan, Mary Guinan Darmody (Local Studies Librarian), Dr. Des Marnane, Willie Corbett (front)



L-R: Cllr. Marie Murphy, Cllr. John Kennedy (Mayor of North Tipp Co. Co), Noel Coonan TD, Willie Corbett, Most Rev Dermot Clifford, Cllr. Sean McCarthy, Michael Lowry TD, Alan Kelly MEP

encyclopaedic knowledge of each TD and Senator who represented Tipperary since the election of 1918. Many of these are but historical names to younger generations.

The directory is dedicated to two fellow Upperchurch men, two 'prominent freedom fighters', Paddy Kinane and Colonel Jerry Ryan. Detailed Tipperary results for all elections; General, Seanad, By-Elections, European, Presidential and Referenda are listed as are biographical profiles for all TDs and Senators of the county. Hardback copies sold out on launch day and paperback copies are on sale through Tipperary branch libraries and local book shops.

'DEAR DIRTY DUBLIN'

Whilst researching for the November 2010 lecture in his successful series of *Lectures in Legal Bibliography*, Dublin solicitor librarian, Hugh M. Fitzpatrick, came across a document which, he believes, contains the earliest literary citation of the phrase, 'Dear dirty Dublin'.

It's a phrase often associated with James Joyce. Indeed, it could well be the most popular pithy term in any of his works. He uses it in the set of short stories that is *Dubliners* (1914) and the presentation of Dublin in *Ulysses* (1922). In his literary experimentation, Joyce coined a myriad of new words but, while scholars acknowledge the term 'Dear dirty Dublin' is not his, no one in almost one hundred years has been able to ascribe that description to any written source with confidence...until now. Some commentators suggest this expression was part of contemporary oral culture; others mistakenly believe that the Irish novelist, Lady Morgan, was its originator. However, Mr. Fitzpatrick has recently proposed that credit for this alliterative epithet should be given to one of Ireland's most eminent lawyers in the Victorian era, James Whiteside (1804-1876), whom Joyce himself had recognised in *Ulysses* as "a master of forensic eloquence" and who had been appointed chief justice in 1866. The evidence for Fitzpatrick's claim is a manuscript letter he has found, signed on headed notepaper by Whiteside on 2nd April 1868, on a visit to London, in which he expresses interest in Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli's winding-up speech on the following day in the House of Commons debate on disestablishment of the Church of Ireland. The final comment in James Whiteside's letter was: "I return to my wife & my duties in dear dirty Dublin".



James Whiteside (1804-1876)

The recently published *Dictionary of Irish Biography* includes entries on Joyce, Lady Morgan and Whiteside. Its managing editor, James McGuire MRIA, delivered the twenty-third *Hugh M. Fitzpatrick Lecture in Legal Bibliography*, "Law as a 'field of interest' in the Dictionary of Irish Biography", on Thursday, 4th November 2010, in Dublin City Library and Archive, Pearse Street.

Irish College, Paris

Fellowship, Old Library and Historical Archives

[The Irish College, Paris](http://www.centreculturelirlandais.com), offers two Fellowship bursaries to encourage research on its Old Library and Historical Archives collections. The purpose of the Fellowships is to establish the intellectual and academic value of the holdings. More details about the collections' content and access to the online catalogues: www.centreculturelirlandais.com/presentation_eng.

The areas of research are open, depending on the candidate's interests, and could focus on a historical subject, a period of time, an author, the manuscripts or printed items, the provenance of part of the collections, the bindings...



The bursary is for €2,000 per month over a four, six or eight weeks period, between January and June 2011, for scholars with specific research interests. Accommodation at the Irish College and travel (from Ireland only) will be covered.

We are looking for an output which would add to our knowledge of the library or archives and to the information which we can put into the public domain. Priority will be given to research subjects examining a corpus of references instead of one reference in particular. The result should be a memoir of 40 to 100 pages (depending on the duration of the Fellowship), in English or in French.

2008 to 2010 Fellows pursued the following research:

- Mathew Staunton: *Visualising Irish History*: the role of visual materials in the representation of the past and of national identity (focusing on 16 illustrated histories and studies of Ireland).
- Emmanuelle Chapron: *Lire plume à la main* (study of the "marginalia" in the books of the Old Library).
- Ian Campbell: *Kingship in Ireland and France*: the Old Library of the Irish College, Paris, and Hiberno-French politics in the 17th century.
- Frédéric Manzini: *Robert Boyle chez les philosophes en France et en Europe au XVIIème siècle : diffusion et influence*.
- Cormac Begadon: *Belief and Devotion in a 19th century Irish Seminary : the evidence from the Irish College Paris Collections*.
- Justin Dolan Stover: *Student life, curriculum, and college administration: the Irish College, Paris, under le bureau gratuit, 1870-1918*.

The deadline for receipt of applications (in English or French) is 7th December 2010. Please submit a CV together with summary of the proposed research (approx. 500 words) with a bibliography of the items you plan to consult and stipulate the duration (4/6/8 weeks) and preferred dates plus any additional relevant documentation to be sent to:

Carole Jacquet, Head of Libraries and Archives

cjacquet@centreculturelirlandais.com

or

Centre Culturel Irlandais, 5 rue des Irlandais, 75005 Paris, France

Tel: 00 33 (0)1 58 52 10 33 / 83 Fax : 00 33 (0)1 58 52 10 99

www.centreculturelirlandais.com

The digitized historical archives

The course of Irish history has many twists and turns. The history of the Irish College in Paris is no exception. From 1578, Irish Catholics sought an education on the continent due to restrictions at home, a challenge which lasted almost three hundred years, during which time Irish colleges had been established in France, Spain, Spanish Flanders and Netherlands, Italy and Poland. The

collegiate community in Paris established itself as the most important of the Irish Colleges abroad not only in terms of the numbers of students it accommodated, but also in its influence in France and Ireland.

The Irish College has digitized part of its historical archives, in order to relate the history of the building and its residents. The archives include documents on parchment, registers of students, letters concerning ordinations, plans of the building, photographs, letters and many other documents. More than 23,500 images are now available for free on-line consultation. Visit: <http://archives.centreculturelirlandais.com>



Group photograph in the courtyard of the college, 1876-1877

This project was made possible thanks to the financial support of the Bibliothèque nationale de France and the Government of Ireland.

Library ITT Dublin goes Mobile!!!

[Library ITT](#) Dublin has launched its new mobile device friendly library catalogue using the Library Anywhere service from [Library Thing](#). The decision was made to subscribe to this service because there had been a 100% increase in the last year in the number of accesses of the library web site by users of mobile devices. Since being made available to our users on October 12th, there has been significant usage, with 1261 pages visited in the first month alone.

Niamh Walker-Headon, Systems Librarian at the library commented:

"We were delighted when we heard that Library Thing were developing Library Anywhere. Over the past few years we have slowly noticed an increase in the number of users accessing our website using a mobile device (a 36% increase this October on last October). While the percentage of overall use is still small this growth is enough for us to want to provide a more appropriate interface to the web-opac for mobile device users. Indeed the Library Anywhere statistics show that the usage is mainly for the library catalogue."

The new service provides both mobile web (which works on any phone with a web browser), and native apps* for iPhone, iTouch, and iPad, as well as Android and Blackberry. As well as searching the catalogue and account management features, Library ITT Dublin has built in links to mobilized versions of our databases where these are available from within the mobilized library catalogue. This is an important service improvement for our users, many of whom spend considerable time on public transport commuting to the campus on a daily basis.

The library's web site automatically detects when it is being accessed using a mobile device and offers the user the option to utilize the mobilized version. This version allows the user to:



View of a record

- Search the catalogue
- View records
- Check holdings
- Log on to library accounts
- Place holds See what you have checked out
- Renew items
- Link to mobilized versions of online databases and journals
- See fines
- Showcase branches, hours, events

Library ITT Dublin is delighted to offer this new service to our users, and we hope that it will make the use of the library's resources easier and more accessible to all.

2010 has been designated the [European Year of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion](#).

2011 has been designated [European Year of Volunteering](#).

COPY DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: January 20 2011

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.