

Seachtain na Gaeilge at Cork City Library

Seachtain na Gaeilge got off to a wonderful start on March 2 at Cork City Library with the launch of a bilingual picture book published by Móinín. Over 70 boys from Scoil Cholmcille CBS, Blarney Street in the city centre, celebrated this second collaboration of Ré Ó Laighléis and Ann Marie McCarthy. *Fungie & Mara*, follows the adventures of Fungie the Dingle dolphin and his new friend the mermaid Mara. The boys were already familiar with the first book *Fungie* as they had received the book as part of *Cork City Libraries Start Reading* initiative in September which was aimed at junior infant classes. Ré read from the book and introduced many new Irish words to the enthusiastic audience while AnnMarie showed how the book came together from the illustrator's perspective. The boys left with gift bags provided by Móinín and in great anticipation of further adventures from *Fungie*!



AnnMarie, Ré and pupils from Scoil Cholmcille CBS

Rediscovering Cork County Libraries

Cork County Library is always looking for new ways to tell people about our services, to encourage them to use their library to the maximum and most of all to read and to enjoy reading.

The *Bord Gáis Rediscover Your Library Month* was chosen as a perfect opportunity to do this. The Library were delighted that Bord Gáis agreed to sponsor two library visits by Donal Óg Cusack, Cork's hurling Goalkeeper and author of *Come What May*.



John Mullins & Donal óg Cusack

Donal Óg was chosen as the ideal person to launch *Rediscover Your Library*. He is not only a skilled and inspired hurler but has demonstrated in his biography that his writing is skilled and inspired also. Donal Óg launched the *Bord Gáis Rediscover Month* in Ballincollig Library on March 1 and entertained crowds of adults and children in the G.A.A. heartland, at Charleville library on March 22.

A variety of other events, aimed at encouraging people of all ages and diverse tastes were also held in Cork County Libraries in March. These included music sessions, children's quiz, poetry reading, Internet coaching, storytimes, craft demonstrations, art exhibitions and of course adult, children, and teen bookclubs.

Cobh Library hosts photographic exhibition

Cobh Library was the venue for the recent launch of an important photographic archive of civic, religious cultural and commercial activity in Cobh. All the material was either collected or photographed by the late Luke Cassidy, a resident of the town who pursued a keen interest in the history and heritage of the Great Island during a career which spanned over 60 years. The exhibition is housed in the recently vacated Courtroom which forms part of the library complex in the historic Arch Building adjacent to the Lusitania Monument in the town centre.

The exhibition consists of almost six hundred photographs of Cobh people and places throughout the years, ranging from 1860 until the present day and encompassing events as diverse as the building of St. Colman's Cathedral and the celebrations during *Italia '90* in the town.

The exhibition, which was mounted by Tim McSweeney, Anne McSweeney and Jack Gilmartin in association with the staff of Cobh Library, was officially opened by Luke's brother Jerry Cassidy and will run until the April 2. It is hoped to host further events in this accommodation which is a very welcome addition to the library facilities in Cobh.



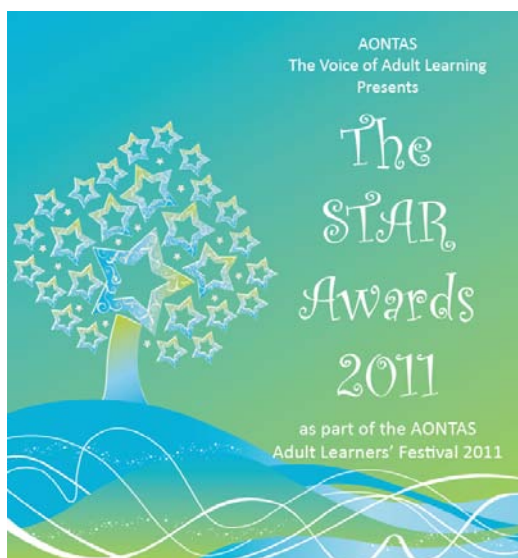
L-R: Carmel Donnachie (Librarian), Micheal O'Flaherty (Librarian), Anne McSweeney (Organiser), Jerry Cassidy, Tim McSweeney (Organiser), Anne Cassidy.

Dublin City's Central Library receives a Star Award

The Open Learning Centre at Dublin City's Central library was a winner at *The Star Awards 2011* in the category "Learning for Work".

Established in 1986 as part of the Central Library, The Open Learning Centre is a unique learning facility offering access to all regardless, of age, social status or ethnicity. It constitutes a unique, safe, organic learning environment, where people from 124 countries come to learn together. Courses are self learning, so students can learn at their own pace.

84 nominations for the awards came from adult learning organisations, community and voluntary groups, the business sector, government agencies, statutory bodies and NGOs. Nine awards were made in total – to projects working within Ulster, Munster, Leinster, Dublin, Connaught and throughout Ireland. *The Star Awards 2011* were also awarded in the Learning for work, Projects in Progress and once off initiatives categories following their successful introduction for *The Star Awards 2009*.

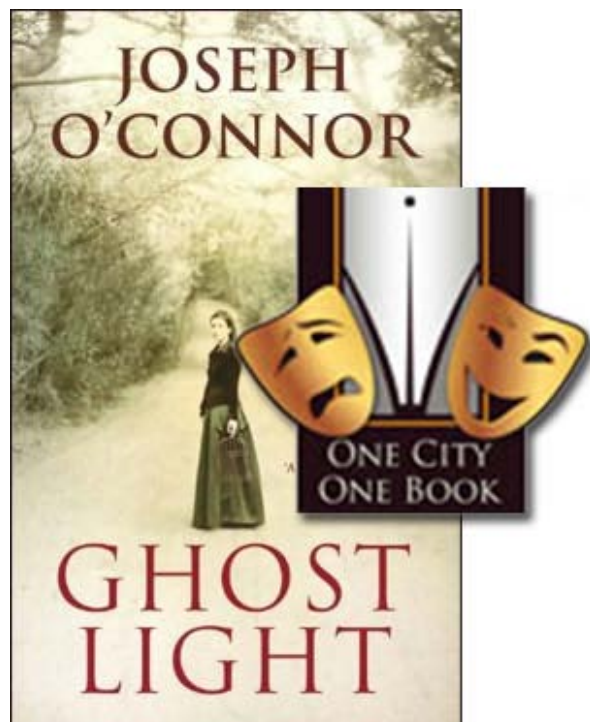


Dublin: One City, One Book 2011

The *Dublin: One City, One Book* choice for April 2011 is *Ghost Light* by Joseph O'Connor.

The chosen title will be supported by a wide range of public events and celebrations next April. Previous *One City, One Book* novels have been Flann O'Brien's *At Swim Two Birds*, Sebastian Barry's *A Long, Long Way*, Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*, Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, and Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

O'Connor's novel, which was published by Harvill Secker in June 2010, is loosely based on the love affair between the great Irish playwright John Millington Synge and the Abbey Theatre actress Molly Allgood. The novel received rave reviews at home and internationally, and was a no.1 bestseller in Ireland for nine weeks. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Michael Cunningham called it "A rare and wonderful book". It has been sold for translation in 16 languages. A special paperback edition has been published under the Vintage imprint for *Dublin: One City One Book*.



For *Ghost Light*, the celebrations in April 2011 will include:

- A month of public events, readings and music, at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin.
- Performances and readings of plays by John Synge and his circle.
- Exhibitions, extravaganzas, happenings, walks, talks, train rides, art shows, films etc.
- Short story competition
- A series of unique events titled *SYNGE FOR YOUR SUPPER*, in which any Dublin resident can invite Joseph O'Connor to come and give a reading in her/his home, workplace, back yard, school, college - any venue imaginable. Eight lucky readers will be selected by lot. Whether reading to two people in a bedsit or to 100 people on the morning bus-ride, this is an exciting new way for people to take ownership of *Dublin: One City One Book*.
- Drama workshops

Visit Dublin: [One City One Book](http://www.dublinonecityonebook.ie) for details of all events.

Dublin: One City, One Book is a Dublin City Council initiative led by Dublin City Libraries and kindly supported by Dublin Tourism, Dublin City Business Improvement District, The Irish Times and Penguin Books.

Why not talk about Ghost Light at www.dublinonecityonebook.ie!

Libraries without walls

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (DLR) Library users have welcomed the addition of a brand-new online language learning system, called *Byki* (Before You Know It!), to the Libraries' already extensive online offerings. Byki offers users the chance to learn over 80 languages, including English for speakers of other languages and Irish. DLR Libraries is the first library authority in the country to offer this service as part of their expanding online collection.



Users can select their own level and pace of learning, choosing from basic phrases for their next holiday to in-depth grammar instruction. You can test your pronunciation, link to blogs related to your language, or simply learn the "word of the day".

Mairead Owens, County Librarian, explained that this is just one of a number of online services the library has introduced – "*DLR Libraries is working hard to bring library users a wide range of services both in our eight branches and online. In addition to Byki, some of the most popular new digital initiatives include LibraryPress Display, which provides online access to over 700 newspapers for free and Overdrive & Clipper DL, where library members can download e-books and audiobooks to their computer or MP3 player free of charge*".

For more information on all these resources, log on to the Libraries' webpage at www.dlrcoco.ie/library.

Two Books One Ballyfermot

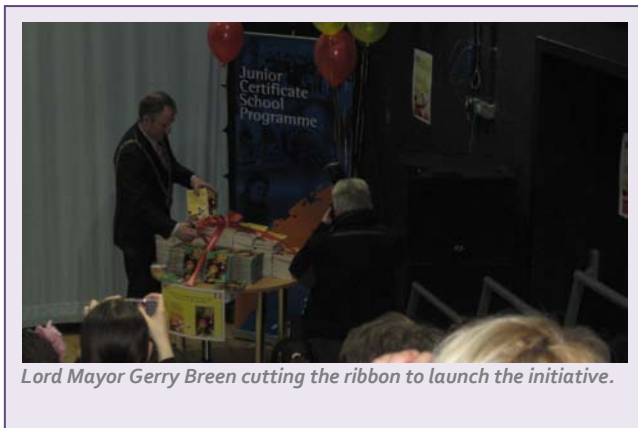
Given the success of the *One Book One City* initiative run by the Dublin City Public Libraries, a similar initiative has been launched in Ballyfermot to get the community reading. As part of his school library's Outreach Programme, Joseph Peelo, JCSP Librarian in Kylemore College last year co-ordinated a reading promotion initiative across all the post-primary schools in the Ballyfermot area. This year, the initiative is being expanded to include the involvement of the local cluster of Home School



Community Liaison Officers (primary and post-primary), the School Completion Officers, Ballyfermot Public library and the Ballyfermot Partnership.

Two Books One Ballyfermot was born out of meetings between these groups. In order to cater for the reading interests and abilities of both Primary and Post-Primary students (and indeed parents), two books have been chosen. The co-ordinating group thought it very important to include a local author and luckily Joe O'Brien's *Alfie Green and the Chocolate Cosmos* was a near perfect choice for the younger readers. For the older students (and parents) Michael Morpurgo's *The Butterfly Lion* has been chosen.

With funding support from the JCSP Library in Kylemore College each school has acquired at least one class set of the book they chose to read. Internal HSCL and SCP funding has also been used to buy the



extra copies needed to facilitate the involvement of more classes and parents. With a lot of dedicated work by all involved the launch was held on February 17th in The Base in Ballyfermot. It was attended by author Joe O'Brien, who spoke about the importance of the imagination in a healthy life and how reading feeds the imagination. The initiative was launched by the special guest on the day, Lord Mayor of Dublin, Gerry Breen, who lit a candle to signify the hope that reading can lead to positive impact in people's lives.

Kerry students predict what's new in the EU in 2050?

The EU will have a new president called Camelia Nica from Romania and will be part of a new world union. We will be driving Audi R8's and stylish motor bikes. A new environmentally friendly 'air-train' with leisure facilities, restaurants and accommodation will criss-cross Europe stopping in all member states. On the sports front there will be an Olympic stadium in Barcelona with seating for 3 million people, snowboarding will be the latest Olympic sport while an Irish tennis player will be the new face of Lacoste. Robots will be commonplace in all homes, and in the year 2050, the CRZ-3 the most revolutionary robot ever will be launched!



This will all happen in the year 2050 so predicted the Transition Year students of Gaelcholáiste Chiarraí, Tralee in their first prize winning entry in the Europe Direct competition "What's new in the EU in 2050?" organised by the Europe Direct Information Centre based in Killarney Library. This competition involved students working in teams of 3 and producing a newsletter or a DVD where they create the news headlines for a day in the year 2050. The winning team from the Gaelcholáiste Chiarraí were Norma Ní Arrachtáin, Laura Ní Orgáin and Tadgh Ó Floinn. The school received a €1,000 cheque and each of the winning team will receive an iPod Touch.

The second prize winners were from the Sacred Heart Secondary School, Clonakilty, Co. Cork and third prize winners were from St. Joseph's Secondary School, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick. Transition Year students in Cork, Kerry and Limerick participated in the competition.

The prizes were presented by Seán Kelly, M.E.P. at Tralee Library and he also gave a talk to the pupils on 'the role of an elected member of the European Parliament.'

Laois County Libraries launch Bibliotherapy

Laois County Libraries have launched it's Bibliotherapy scheme entitled *Mind and Body Book Therapy*.

This is an initiative between the HSE, The Irish College of General Practitioners and Local Authority Library Services introducing the mind and body book therapy scheme to support people with emotional and psychological difficulties to gain insight into and treat the problems that are upsetting or disturbing them. These highly recommended books cover a range of everyday issues experienced by people, e.g. stress, depression, bereavement, self-esteem, addictions, suicide, eating disorders etc. The project has



over 60 core titles covering all these areas including books for children and teenagers and they are now available in selected libraries in Co. Laois.

The booklist has been distributed to GP Surgeries, Family Support Centres, Schools, Hospitals, Medical Centres and others wishing to avail of the resources.

This scheme is a proactive approach to the value of reading and the library services efforts to promote the mental health and wellbeing of individuals and families.

Library Ireland Week at Mountmellick Library

Mountmellick library hosted a fantastic array of events to celebrate *Library Ireland Week* including a music & movies quiz for teenagers, crafts for kids and storytelling for toddlers. Teenagers revelled in showing off their knowledge of song lyrics and the small children were thrilled to have Snow White read to them.



However the highlight of the week was the *Creative Cupcake Session* which introduced children to the art of making and decorating their own buns. The session was geared at children between the ages 7-10 and all materials were supplied including plenty of unadorned buns in a variety of flavours. 10 children attended the session and were initially taught the basics of butter icing: how to make it, how to colour it, how to use icing tips and most importantly how to create imaginative cupcakes.

Designs included the cookie monster, ladybirds & ice-cream cones and as they were really easy to make, each child felt a sense of achievement on completing this enjoyable task.

Baking is such a fun activity for kids encouraging them to try new things and be imaginative, as well as improving their maths, science and reading skills without them even realising it. They all left the library that evening with recipe handouts, books on baking and most importantly, buns to eat!



Portlaoise Library celebrates *Seachtain na Gaeilge*

Portlaoise Library held a number of events for an Irish themed night to celebrate *Seachtain na Gaeilge* on March 9 2011 with a large crowd in attendance. *Seachtain na Gaeilge* also coincided with Library Ireland Week, March 7-13.

Performing on the evening were dancers from the Gabriel and Carmel Lynam School of Dancing Portlaoise, musicians from Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Éireann Portlaoise and pupils from the Gaelscoil Phortlaoise singing as Gaeilge. The evening was capped off by 19 time all Ireland



Performers at the Irish themed night in Portlaoise Library

champion set dancers Paddy and Helen Cahill and Brendan and Eileen Reilly from Ballyroan. They performed their very own Ballyroan half set.

The library was decked out from top to bottom with *Seachtain na Gaeilge* posters, shamrocks and balloons and many Irish books of all standards and subject were on display which added to the festival feel of the evening. St. Francis School, Portlaoise and the ICA also had beautiful exhibitions with a spring theme on display.

Leitrim County Library's *Winter Lecture Programme*

The *Winter Lecture Programme* held by Leitrim County Library aims to provide a series of lectures to adults over the winter months.



Eamonn Daly and Noel Mc Partland, who gave a talk on Drumshanbo and the Local Area During the Emergency. Eamonn and Noel are writing a book on this topic.



Dr Jennifer Kelly, NUI, Maynooth who gave a lecture on The Ribbon Society in Leitrim

The current programme was made up of ten lectures between September 2010 and March 2011. It consisted of the following talks, *Suicide Awareness, Drumshanbo and local Area During the Emergency, Manorhamilton in Story and Verse, Landscape Photography for All, Lecture and DVD Presentation on the 50th Shannon Boat Rally, The Ribbon Society in Leitrim* and the *Surrounding Countryside 1836 - 1846*.

A new programme will be planned for 2011 to 2012.

Louth County Library receives donation of Dundalk IT's Theatre Archive

Louth County Library and Archive Service is delighted to announce the donation of an important collection of archives relating to local theatre in Dundalk. The collection has been donated by the Library in Dundalk Institute of Technology (DkIT). Evidence gathered in the collection indicates that amateur productions were an important social and cultural activity in the town for most of the 20th century.

The DkIT Theatre collection was originally conceived as a body of work to support students doing research as part of the Humanities/Cultural Studies academic programme offered by the Institute. The collection consists of tickets, posters, photographs, advertisements, press cuttings, and correspondence which were gathered together by DkIT Library. To build the collection DkIT contacted known theatre activists to seek contributions. Many responded with programmes, photographs, tickets, posters and flyers. Videotaped interviews with people involved in local theatre also form part of the collection.

The collection has now been deposited in Louth County Archives Service where it will be sorted and catalogued by archive staff later this year. Once catalogued the list of items in the DkIT Theatre Collection will be available on the archives' online catalogue on www.louthcoco.ie



Landmark Nature Project at Ardee Branch Library

Louth County Libraries, Ardee Branch Library and Create Louth (Louth County Arts Office) are working together on a project called *Landmarks: Nature, Art, Schools*, which links art, nature and learning.

A nature based art studio has been developed within the Malone Room of the Ardee Branch Library, showcasing books sculpted from natural ingredients along with three-dimensional arrangements of natural materials made by local school children.



The project is aimed at developing displays of nature for children aged 4-12 years old. The idea of a three dimensional nature table gives children the opportunity to enrich their learning within the imaginative inspiration that nature offers. The benefits of creating an indoor natural environment have been documented in educational research. Nature stimulates ideas, language, experimental reasoning, and mathematical perceptions regarding the re-shaping of

the classroom space. Nature can also foster children's identity through the creation of symbolic artworks, which engage their senses, thoughts, curiosity and relationships in the world at large.

As well as workshops in the library involving local schools, several public workshops have also been held over the last few months with more planned for the April – June period. The workshops have involved parents and children alike.

Pre-school and primary school children have been using materials such as branches, leaves, sheep's wool, mud, charcoal, bog and wildflower seed heads to produce artworks inspired by the methods of artists who work within the natural environment. These small accordion and sculptural books are "pages" of art paper using natural ingredients which combine the children's observations of nature, their words, drawings, mud paintings and collages. *"The children had a great use of natural materials. They became*



Ardee Branch Library is transformed by Landmark Nature Project.

familiar with how flexible willow branches are and every child used a willow branch to create a 'crown' for their heads. The sheep's wool was a great material for the girls to work with!" Scoil Mhuire na Trocaire, Teacher (4/5th Class).

The Environment Section of Louth Local Authorities has also collaborated with the *Landmarks* project through an event for National Tree Week called *Tree Tribes*. Bernadette Fennell, Louth County Librarian, hosted a morning of costume preparation in Ardee Library, which transformed children, teachers, parents, library staff, Active Retirement and Tidy Town members into "tree people". They became a tribe of crusaders shouting "*Trees Rule/Crainn Abu*" throughout the streets of Ardee. Mary Keenan, Executive Director of the Tree Council of Ireland declared the event to be a national example of the UN Year of the Forest 2011 theme *Celebrating Forests for People*.

More information can be found on the project by ringing Ardee Library at 041-6856080.

News from the library at NUI Maynooth

The Library at the National University of Ireland Maynooth exhibited seminal works of renowned Irish lexicographer and historian Patrick Dinneen (Pádraig Ó Duinnín) during Seachtain na Gaeilge which took place from March 5 - 17 this year. The exhibition, entitled Pádraig Ó Duinnín (1860-1934) Scoláire agus Foclóirí, was on display in the library foyer and received much interest from staff and students alike. The Library chose to exhibit the works of Dinneen as this material has been instrumental in the development and education of the Irish language throughout the last century. The key works in this exhibition included the 1904 and 1927 editions of Dinneen's Irish – English Dictionary in addition to a concise version for the use of schools which was published in 1922. Dinneen's novel 'Cormac Ua Conaill' (1905) was also on display, as was his 1929 title 'Four notable Kerry poets'.



Library Ireland Week, March 7 - 13, was marked by the promotion of various creative projects in the Library via our website at <http://library.nuim.ie/about-us/creative-projects-library>.

The 100th anniversary of International Women's Day, on March 8, was celebrated with a Flickr exhibition promoting the works of a number of African women writers and some Irish writers. African writers in the exhibition included Leila Aboulela (Sudan), Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (Nigeria), Ama Ata Aidoo (Ghana), Neshani Andreas (Namibia), Doreen Baingana (Uganda), Tsitsi Dangarembga (Zimbabwe), Amma Darko (Ghana), Buchi Emecheta (Nigeria), Aminatta Forna (Sierra Leone), Bessie Head (Botswana), Sindiwe Magona (South Africa) and Jaliana Makuchi (Cameroon).

Stewart's Hospital Library welcomes The National Gallery of Ireland

A wonderful series of talks by The National Gallery of Ireland took place over the past few weeks at Stewart's Hospital Library. Stewart's Hospital Library is situated in the grounds of Stewart's Hospital Palmerston, and is a private/public partnership between South Dublin Libraries and Stewart's Hospital Services Ltd. It serves both as a specialised collection of books and journals on learning and intellectual



difficulties and as a part-time public library. Stewart's Hospital Library is used by members of the public, staff of the hospital and people with intellectual and physical disabilities and their carers.

The National Gallery series of talks was well attended by members of the public who were keen to learn more about the Gallery's collection. The series started on February 23rd with a look at *Highlights of the*

Gallery collection. The next talk concentrated on *Irish Painters in The National Gallery*, followed by Harry Clarke and works on paper. The series concludes on Wednesday March 23 with *The Golden Age of Dutch Art*.

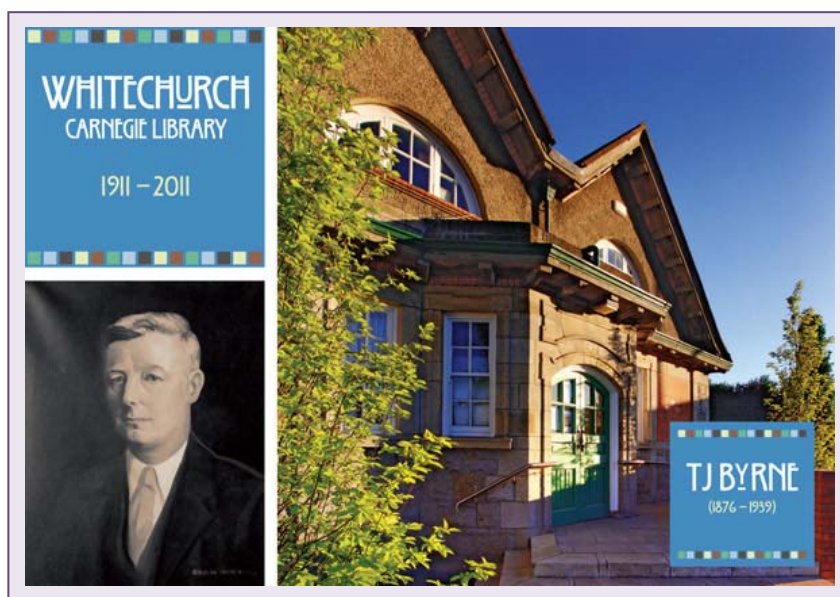
Feedback from participants was very enthusiastic. The content of the lectures was interesting and accessible, and the tutor was friendly, engaging and happy to answer the many questions posed.

Whitechurch Library celebrates its' centenary

Sets of best china appeared from houses all over the Whitechurch area of South Dublin for the *Quilting Bee* community event to celebrate 100 years of Whitechurch Carnegie library. The *Quilting Bee* event took place on March 16 2011, 100 years to the day after the library first opened. Library users were invited to come and put a stitch in the centenary quilt and enjoy a cup of tea and a chat.

The quilt reflects the Arts and Craft style of the Whitechurch

library building. At the centre of the quilt is a vintage piece of embroidery produced by local woman, Annie Caffrey. It is likely that Annie learned her embroidery skills in the library as teaching such vocational skills was a vital role of the new library in the local community.



The quilt was the brainchild of the Women's Arts and Crafts group which meet in the library and the piece of embroidery was donated to the project by Marie Hopkins, a member of the Social History Association which also meets in the library.

Over 250 people attended the event including local County Councillors and recently elected TDs. Breda Bollard, Branch Librarian found it difficult to clear the building at closing time as people lingered to chat and fondly remember different eras in the 100 years of service by their community library.

The library was designed in the Arts and Crafts style by T. J. Byrne, a noted architect of the time. On March 31, Mayor Marie Corr will launch an exhibition to celebrate the life and work of T. J. Byrne, and later in the year Dr. Eimear O'Connor of TCD will deliver a lecture on the Arts and Crafts movement.

Whitechurch Library looks forward to another century as a vital element of the locality, continuing to engage with and serve its local community.

Tipperary Libraries launch *ReadABLE*

Tipperary Libraries have launched new assistive reading technologies which are now available free of charge in libraries around the County. *ReadABLE* was officially launched in Thurles, Nenagh and Clonmel libraries by Cllr Marie Murphy, Chairperson of county Tipperary Joint Libraries Committee and Cllr John McGrath, Vice-Chairperson at the beginning of March.

This software will make reading more accessible for everyone. The software is designed to help people with reading, learning or sight difficulties to enjoy books and reading and it will also make access to the Internet and the PC much easier. The same resources can also be used to help with foreign language learning, personal study and research.

The range of software available includes: JAWS screen reader, MAGIC screen magnifier, Kurzweill 1000 and Kurzweil 3000, which is particularly helpful for people with dyslexia. We are proud to introduce a new package to this list – *Read & Write Gold*. This is a literacy support tool designed to aid users of all ages who require extra assistance when reading or composing text. Online tutorials are available at your library.

A range of assistive reading software has been installed in Borriskane, Cahir, Clonmel, Cashel, Templemore, Nenagh, Roscrea, Tipperary Town, Thurles and Carrick on Suir libraries, to help members with reading, learning and sight difficulties to enjoy books, text and the PC/internet. The same resources can also be used to help with foreign language learning, study and research and struggling readers.



Group of schools students at *ReadABLE* Launch in Thurles library, on 9th March 2011, with (l-r): Ann Marie Brophy (Executive Librarian), Martin Maher (County Librarian), Lorraine Treacy (Senior Library Assistant, Thurles), Cllr. Marie Murphy (Chairperson of County Tipperary Joint Libraries Committee).

Wexford's Oral History Programme

Wexford *Life-Stories* went live on the World Wide Web on March 7 2011 when over 130 podcasts were made available. Material can be sourced at:

<http://www.wexford.ie/wex/Departments/Library/OralHistoryPodcasts/>

This is phase two of the service's oral history programme which was initiated in autumn 2008 and holds recordings of 250 contributors. A weekly programme on local radio has been broadcast since 2009.

Life-stories are organised by contributor name and geographic location. More sophisticated retrieval will be necessary as the collection grows. Currently the podcasts are for listening only. Capacity to download material forms part of phase three.



Please note, an IE7 or higher and Windows media player are required to access the recordings. For further information please contact Fionnuala.hanrahan@wexfordcoco.ie

Publications

Waterford Scientists – Preliminary Studies' by Donald Brady.

The book, by Donald Brady, historian and formerly Waterford County Librarian, gives detailed biographies of eleven people associated with County Waterford who distinguished themselves in the fields of science, technology and education. They are: Thomas Harriot (1560-1621), Robert Boyle (1627-1691), Henry Eeles (1702-1781), Thomas Grubb (1800-1878), Margaret Aylward (1810-1889), John Horn (1814-1895), Robert Manning (1816-1897), John Palliser (1817-1887), Richard Ussher (1841-1913), Mary Strangman (1872-1943) and Ernest Walton (1903-1995).

The book is the result of many years' diligent study by the author and his colleagues in Waterford County Library. It is much more than a useful contribution to local studies and should serve as a template for similar publications in other counties.

Waterford, through its Institute of Technology, the CALMAST science initiative, and local authorities, has done much to raise the science and technology profile of the South-East region in recent years. Mr Brady's book, in describing Waterford's past achievements in these areas, should act as an inspiration for future scientific endeavours in the region.

Websites: www.waterfordcountylibrary.ie/en/localstudies/waterfordscientists/
www.irishscientists.ie

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2011 has been designated European Year of Volunteering.