

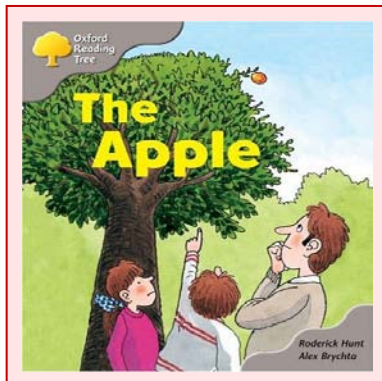
## Children's books top library loans' charts

Irish children are the champion borrowers from public libraries, with eight children's authors making it into the top ten 'most-borrowed-from-the-library' list for 2010.



Luach Saothair ó Iasachtaí leis an bPobal  
Public Lending Remuneration

Roderick Hunt, author of over 300 titles in the *Oxford Reading Tree* series, is Irish children's top choice for the second successive year with over 115,000 library loans.



Daisy Meadows, creator of the *Rainbow Magic* series, was the second most-borrowed author, coming in just ahead of Francesca Simon of *Horrid Henry* fame. Reacting to the popularity of Daisy Meadows, Megan Larkin, publisher of the series, said:

'We are delighted to hear that Rainbow Magic is so popular in Irish public libraries. The popularity of libraries among school-age readers shows their vital importance to society.'

Classic stories continue to delight today's children with authors such as Enid Blyton, Roger Hargreaves and Roald Dahl making it into the top ten, alongside the ever popular Julia Donaldson and Jacqueline Wilson.

Prolific US author James Patterson is the most popular adult fiction author with almost 65,000 library loans. Hailed by the *New York Times Magazine* as having 'transformed book publishing', his books have sold an estimated 220 million copies worldwide.

Darren Shan is the most popular Irish author for the second year running, at number fifteen, while eighteen Irish authors feature in the top 100.

The *Official Driver Theory Test* continues to be the nation's most borrowed book, clinching top spot for the second year.

In second position is Colm Tóibín's novel *Brooklyn*, which claimed the 2009 Costa Novel Award. The judges described *Brooklyn* as 'Poised, quiet and incrementally shattering – we all loved this book and can't praise it highly enough.'

Reacting to his popularity in Irish libraries, Mr Tóibín remarked:

'I think the public libraries in Ireland are a great national resource; the people who work in them are dedicated and provide a wonderful service.'

Fiction continues to dominate the title list and books by Irish authors are very popular. Six of the ten most popular adult fiction books are by Irish authors: *Brooklyn*, by Colm Tóibín; *The boy in the striped pyjamas*, by John Boyne; *Once in a lifetime* by Cathy Kelly; *The return journey*, by Maeve Binchy; *The secret scripture*, by Sebastian Barry, and *Let the great world spin*, by Colum McCann.

The 'most-borrowed-from-the-library' lists are compiled by the Library Council from information supplied to the Public Lending Remuneration (PLR) Scheme by public libraries.

The figures are released following the second Bord Gáis Energy READISCOVER Your Local Library campaign, during which hundreds of events took place in public libraries throughout Ireland.

10,011 authors resident in thirty-two countries were registered for Irish PLR in 2010. €319,558.75 was paid out to 4,639 authors in respect of their total library loans. Four authors received the maximum payment of €3,000, and the rate-per-loan was 8.88 cent.

Commenting on the second year of PLR, Senator Mark Dearey, Chairman of The Library Council, stated that the Council was delighted to manage the PLR scheme and thanked the country's public library services for their co-operation in providing the loans data.

PLR is funded by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

View the [PLR Top 100 Authors 2010](#) and the [PLR Top 100 Titles 2010](#)

Information about PLR is available at [www.plr.ie](http://www.plr.ie).

For further information please contact:

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## FÁS eLearning at the Library Programme

The FÁS eLearning at the Library Programme is a joint programme between FÁS, public library authorities and An Chomhairle Leabharlanna. The programme has been running in libraries around the country since 2008 (in 106 libraries so far) and over 4,000 learners have benefitted from it. The aim is to offer the programme in at least 120 libraries this year. In order to consolidate the programme and to improve the service offered to learners, a number of changes are being made.

### Know IT

From June 2011 FÁS's *Know IT* courseware will form the basis of the basic IT modules. A facilitator will be allocated to each participating library to deliver training in the library setting to



participants. Each library based participant will receive approximately 30 hours training and support. Each participant will also be provided with a Workbook and CD-ROM to support them through the Programme. This Programme will offer FETAC certification to library participants for the first time.



*FÁS eLearning certificates presentation which took place in Castlepollard Library on Friday March 4, 2011 with Fine Gael T.D. Damien English and Councillor Frank McDermott in attendance.*

In addition to *Know IT*, participants can access courseware from NALA including the Write on 4 Work Course which offers further FETAC certification across 10 individual modules including Computer Literacy, Digital Media, Communications, Personal Effectiveness, Career Preparation amongst others ([www.writeon.ie](http://www.writeon.ie)).

## Progression

Progression to other training/ learning options will form an important part of this service to help participants who may want to advance their options. Options will include online training through the FÁS eCollege, giving access to over 40 online courses including ECDL, MOS, and Microsoft ([www.ecollege.ie](http://www.ecollege.ie)), other FÁS options and other training options available locally.

## Contracts

Due to FÁS revising its contracts generally, the programme has temporarily ceased in some libraries. However, each training centre is issuing a tender for facilitators under FÁS's tendering process, and it is expected that all training centres will be offering the programme again from June.

## Next Steps

While the Programme is still open to everyone, it is hoped to target people who are unemployed. Recruitment for the programme will take place in conjunction with FÁS, participating libraries, and the contracted facilitator and the appointed trainer.

Do get in touch if you need more information. FAS contacts are Adele Barrett 071 91 59509 ([adele.barrett@fas.ie](mailto:adele.barrett@fas.ie)) or Dave Miller 01 6070500 ([dave.miller@fas.ie](mailto:dave.miller@fas.ie)). An Chomhairle contact is Brendan Teeling 016761167 [bteeling@librarycouncil.ie](mailto:bteeling@librarycouncil.ie).



FÁS elearning certificates presentation which took place in Mullingar Library on Monday April 4, 2011.

## Bealtaine Festival 2011



The *Bealtaine Festival* is a programme run throughout May each year in association with Age and Opportunity. This national arts event, celebrating creativity in older age, is now in its sixteenth year. The *Bealtaine festival* provides an opportunity to communicate traditions between the generations, to try something new, to share your talents or to come back to something you haven't done for years.

Libraries all over the country will hold events throughout the month of May to coincide with *Bealtaine Festival 2011*. Read about the events taking place in Dublin, Clare, Cork and Tipperary...

### Four Fiction Fridays: Dublin Revealed

As part of Bealtaine 2011, Dublin City's Central Library in association with Ireland Literature Exchange will host an author visit every Friday throughout the month of May.

Authors will read and speak about Dublin as revealed in their writings.

### Jennifer Johnston – May 6 @ 1pm

Jennifer Johnston (1930) was born in Dublin. She is a novelist and a dramatist, her most recent novel being *Truth or Fiction*, published in 2009 by Headline Review. *Foolish Mortals* (2007) was voted Irish Book of the Decade in 2010. She has received many awards: the 1979 Whitbread Award for *The Old Jest*; the Giles Cooper Award for Best Radio play (1989) and *Shadows on our Skin* (1977) was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. She was short-listed for the *Daily*

*Express* Best Book of the Year 1992 for *The Invisible Worm*. *The Irish Independent* has called her 'one of Ireland's finest writers'. With support from ILE, her work has been translated into French, Slovene, Croatian, Czech, Romanian and Bulgarian. Jennifer Johnston lives in Derry and is a member of Aosdána.

#### **Carlo Gébler – May 13 @ 1pm**

Born in Dublin in 1954, Carlo Gébler was brought up in London and studied at the University of York and the National Film and Television School, Beaconsfield. His novels include *The Eleventh Summer* (1985), *Work & Play* (1987), *Malachy and his Family* (1990), *Life of a Drum* (1991), *The Cure* (1994), *How to Murder a Man* (1998) and *A Good Day for a Dog* (2008). He collaborated with Patrick Maguire to write the 2008 memoir, *My Father's Watch: The Story of a Child Prisoner in 70s Britain*, imbuing it with a 'quiet emotionalism' (*The Guardian*). His books for children are well-known: *Caught on a Train* (2001) was short-listed for a Bisto prize. In addition, he has written articles and short stories for many national publications and a libretto for opera. He is a film-maker, producer and director of television documentaries. Carlo's work has been supported by ILE in Italian and Hebrew. Carlo Gébler is a member of Aosdána and lives in Enniskillen, where he currently is writer-in-residence in HMP Maghaberry.

#### **Kevin Barry – May 20 @ 1pm**

Kevin Barry was born in Limerick in 1969 and now lives in Sligo. His first collection of short stories, *There Are Little Kingdoms*, won the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature in 2007. Fellow Irish short story writer Philip Ó Ceallaigh praised them as 'vibrant, original, and intelligent short stories that deserve to be read and reread and to outlast the strange years that made them'. He has written about travel and literature for *The Guardian*, *The Irish Times*, *The Sydney Morning Herald* and many other publications. His debut novel *City of Bohane* (published last month) is set in 2054 in the fictional city of Bohane in the West of Ireland, which is on its knees, infested by vice and split along tribal lines. Irvine Welsh has described Barry as 'the most arresting and original writer to emerge from these islands in years'.

#### **Paul Murray – May 27 @ 1pm**

Born in Dublin in 1975, Paul Murray studied English Literature in Trinity College. He later completed a postgraduate degree in Creative Writing at East Anglia University. His riotously funny debut novel, *An Evening of Long Goodbyes* (2003), was shortlisted for the Whitbread Award and for the Kerry Irish Fiction Award. *Skippy Dies* (2010) was long-listed for the 2010 Man Booker Prize for Fiction. Neil Jordan is set to direct the film adaptation. *Skippy Dies* has been supported by ILE in Italian, German and Norwegian. 'Skippy Dies is so appealing and surprising that the pages pass with ease,' *The Guardian*.

#### **Admission free. Booking essential.**

For booking contact Central Library, ILAC Centre, Henry Street, Dublin 1

Tel: 018734333 or Email: [openlearning@dublincity.ie](mailto:openlearning@dublincity.ie)

#### **Clare County Library set to celebrate creativity in older age**

Clare County Library is again delighted to be part of the annual *Bealtaine Festival*. Events will be held by Clare County Library to mark the festival throughout the month of May.

If you have an interest in Ceili music an event not to be missed takes place on Tuesday May 3 at 12pm in the DeValera Public Library, Ennis. Brian Lawler will give a talk entitled *The Golden Era of Ceili Music and Dance from 1955-1970*. During the period 1999 to 2004, Brian recorded interviews with 70 people associated with the period,



Jennifer Johnston © Hachette Ireland



Carlo Gébler © David Barker



Kevin Barry © Martina Kenji



Paul Murray © Cormac Scully

including Ceili band founders and members, promoters, dancers, and radio personnel. He obtained a total of 42 hours of recorded material.

He has put together a talk on the project which consists of a review of the work and includes short extracts from some of the field interviews and also some samples of the music of the period. There will be time for questions and answers at the end of the talk. He gave the first review of the project in Boston College Library, USA in September 2005 and since then has given many more reviews in libraries, colleges, and art centres throughout Ireland. This event will also take place in Kilfinaghty Public Library, Sixmilebridge on Wednesday May 4 at 11am and in Sean Lemass Public Library, Shannon on the same day at 3pm.

Contact any of these libraries for more information: De Valera Library: 065-6846353; Kilfinaghty Library: 061-369678; Sean Lemass Library: 061-364266.

Also in May, Clare County Library will be celebrating creativity in older age when volunteers from local senior citizen groups will visit some of our library branches to share their skills in needlework such as knitting, crochet and sewing, with students from local primary schools during Senior and Junior Citizens Sit & Knit Together sessions. These sessions will take place in the De Valera Public Library, Ennis, Sean Lemass Public Library, Shannon, Kilrush Public Library and Hillery Public Library, Miltown Malbay. On Tuesday, May 10 at 11am Killaloe Public Library will also celebrate Bealtaine by hosting a free coffee morning. Entertainment will be provided by children from Killaloe Boys National School. All are welcome. Meanwhile Scariff Public Library will hold an intergenerational exhibition by students of Tuamgraney National School from May 3-21.

Clare County Library will take a small section of the Local Studies Library on tour during the month of May when library staff will visit nursing homes in Kirush and Ennis. A selection of Clare Champion newspapers from times past will be transported, along with photographs and books, so that extracts can be read and discussed, evoking memories of times past. The newspapers are part of a complete set of Clare Champions dating back to 1903 which are housed at the Local Studies Centre on Harmony Row, Ennis. They are available to the public for reference use.

Senior Citizens can avail of free library membership in all of Clare County Library's branches. So, during the Bealtaine Festival, discover a whole world of books, CDs, DVDs and more. You may even join one of their many clubs including book clubs, scrabble clubs and a poetry group. A whole new experience awaits the lucky users!

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### West Cork Bealtaine Art Trail 2011

The *West Cork Bealtaine Art Trail*, now in its third year, aspires to encourage the creation of new visual artwork by older people in West Cork. Age & Opportunity, the national coordinators for Bealtaine have used *Push the boat out, whatever the sea* taken from the poem *At Eighty* by the Scottish poet Edwin Morgan as their theme for 2011. *At Eighty* honours the poet's own life, and is an invitation to embark on a creative challenge.

The project runs over three months and began this year with a reading of *At Eighty* in Skibbereen Library by Eleanor O'Driscoll. Eleanor's reading of the poem was to give it life and encouraged participants attending the event to discuss and explore different ways the emotive words could be translated into visual imagery. Participants come from active retirement groups, local arts groups and also from the Arts for Health programme.



Brigid O'Connell



Breda Cunningham



Mary O'Shea



Tom Smyth

This project is open to all older people and the artwork developed as part of the project is exhibited in libraries and other venues across West Cork. The Art Trail is a joint initiative of Cork County Libraries and Arts Service, West Cork Older People's Network and West Cork Arts Centre. Below are some samples of works created for the project courtesy of West Cork Arts Centre, Arts for Active Mind group working with artist Paul Cialis.

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## Bealtaine events at Tipperary Libraries

North Tipperary County Council, South Tipperary County Council and Tipperary Libraries have co-ordinated a countywide festival since 2008. Most events are free and open to the public.

Here is a glimpse at some of the exciting events happening across the county, for more details go to [www.tipperaryllibraries.ie](http://www.tipperaryllibraries.ie) or contact Emer O'Brien ( 0504 21555), Melanie Scott ( 067 44860) or Sally O'Leary ( 052 6134565)



### Highly Strung

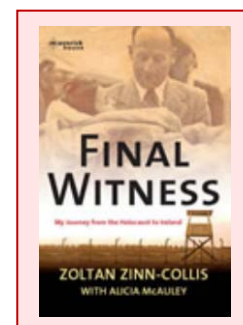
Bringing classical music where no woman has gone before, Liz Ryan (Mezzo Soprano/Comedienne) and her alter egos (Schilacci, Anke, Doris, Boy and more), go straight to the hearts and laps of the audience, with thought provoking questions such as 'Are you married?', 'Do you have wife'?...'Vould you like another vun?'. Istvan Barnacz restores balance with thrilling virtuoso violin showpieces (Monti-Czardas, Carmen Fantasy, Piazzolla Libertango). With recitations (Do You Think Bruce Springsteen Will Fancy Me.. ), songs and arias (Voi Che Sapete, Joyce The Librarian, The Laughing Song, Nessun Dorma..), and famous violin melodies, *Highly Strung* guarantee a funny, entertaining and unique approach to classical favorites and the occasional offer of matrimony.



Book your place to see *Highly Strung* in Cashel Library, Thurles Library or Clonmel Museum.

### Zoltan Zinn Collis

In Partnership with EU DIRECT, Tipperary Libraries are delighted to bring a very special guest and an extraordinary story to you. The concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen is the scene of one of the world's largest mass murders. It was here that Zoltan Zinn Collis was incarcerated as a five year old boy along with his family. This story is one of deepest pain and greatest joy, told with tremendous honesty and surprising sparks of humour. It is a story of how a young boy lost one family and found another; of how, escaping from the ruins of a broken Europe, he was able to rebuild a new life.



Zoltan will visit Nenagh Library, Roscrea Library and Thurles Library.

### Get Creative - Arts and Crafts Workshops

Celebrate your creativity with Tipperary Libraries by joining in one of our many arts and crafts workshops. Workshops are available in several disciplines including glass painting, claymaking, collage and paperwork. There is something for everyone. These workshops are informal introductory sessions, nothing too serious but enjoyment is guaranteed. Tipperary Libraries' branches across the County of Tipperary have been running these kinds of events for many years with great success. The attraction for many people is that these workshops are free and informal.

### Introduction to Memoir Writing with Sheila Quealey and John MacKenna.

What is memoir? Memoir is a creative, non-fiction medium for any individual who wishes to tell a story from their life. Is there a story from your life that you have always wanted to write about but you didn't know where to begin, how to begin? This session will examine the subject of memoir writing and how to begin writing your own story.

Sessions are available in Templemore Library, Clonmel Library, Tipperary Town Library and Killenaule Library.



Also see the [brochure](#) for details of language classes, internet and e-mail classes, film, art, music, dance and much more...

## Teen Week 2011 at deValera Library, Ennis.

DeValera Library, Ennis opened its doors to second level students in the town during the last week in March, hosting a programme of arts, education and literary events specifically planned for teenagers. *Teen Week* has now become an annual event in the library's calendar and is supported by teachers and pupils from schools in the town who are glad to take time out from a busy curriculum and to relax after pre-leaving and junior certificate exams.

Focusing on the need to extend services and to continuously engage with its teenage readership, Clare County Library staff sees the week as an ideal opportunity to showcase what its branches have to offer and hope it will serve to welcome young people to become regular library visitors and patrons.



Music Workshop

The 2011 programme of events was launched with a music workshop facilitated by John Lillis who was ably assisted by Sam Lavery and Vido Sampaolo. John has extensive experience in studio and music project management and has very successfully delivered music workshops both nationally and internationally to several youth groups.

The workshop more than met its aims to educate, entertain and inspire young people in a musical environment. Focusing on hiphop and DJ culture, the class was introduced to current music technology and alternative ways of artistic expression. They received basic introductions to the techniques involved in dj-ing, scratching, production, sampling, rapping and beatboxing.

Having confidence and respect for others were some of the underlying principles of the workshop and were seen to be subtly observed with each group successfully performing their own musical creations in front of their classmates at the end of the session.

Shane Casey, bio diversity officer with Clare County Council presented an entertaining and informative talk to Transition Year Students from Ennis Community College on March 29.

Shane's presentation covered an introduction to biodiversity, the kind of biodiversity we have in Ennis and Clare, and how it links to our built and cultural heritage. The session featured interactive demonstrations of biodiversity in the county, and its importance throughout history.

On day three, transition year students from Colaiste Muire, Ennis were treated to a hands-on workshop presented by Thomas Baker, Director of Your Man's Puppets theatre company based in Galway. A puppet theatre director, builder and performer, Thomas also works as a freelance educator in puppetry skills.

Sharing his expertise with an enraptured audience of 25 teenagers, the *Hands that Tell Tales* workshop took place on March 30. During the workshop the group received an introductory course in puppetry and explored puppet making and manipulation. The students were introduced to a large variety of puppets and learnt how they're used to express action and emotions and to deliver dialogue through theatre games and storytelling.



Ré Ó Laighléis and students

On Thursday March 31 Dubliner and Ballyvaughan-based author Ré Ó Laighléis delivered a lively and interactive reading for fifty students from Ennis Community College, Gaelcholáiste an Chláir and Colaiste Muire in Ennis at which he spoke about his life as a writer, focusing particularly on writing for an older teenage readership.

He gave an insight into the writing of some of his novels, particularly *Hooked*, his acclaimed and multi-translated contemporary treatment of teenage heroin addiction, and he regaled his audience of teachers and students with stories of how his newly published title for older children, *Osama, Obama, Ó, a Mhama!* was born.

Ré's session was evidence of putting into practice what all librarians aspire to, that is, to bring libraries to life for young people. The level of interest shown, the questions and the fun and laughter coming from what is usually a quiet library reading space in the library in Ennis on a Thursday morning was testament to this author's ability to engage one hundred per cent with his audience.

Teen Week events are organized by the staff of Clare County Library with a view to opening doors to possible alternative careers for senior cycle students. Judging by the audience's appreciation of recent events staff are confident that a spark of interest in the more creative professions has certainly been ignited. Teachers were enthusiastic about continuing the collaboration of schools and libraries commenting that with current budgetary constraints, events such as those organized by the local library will be most welcome and well supported.

Plans are already under way to extend this celebration of library services for young people to Scariff Library in 2012.

### **Cork city libraries celebrates Teen Day 2011**

Cork city libraries' Teen Day 2011 saw the launch of a third graphic novel *INTERSTICE* which was the result of a series of writing and graphic art workshops which were held in the library throughout the year. Other teen events included *My Cork: Teenage Impressions of Cork City Photography* competition, Cork City Libraries' 4th annual Teen Short Story Competition, *Love* an exhibition of art work by the Ballinlough Youth Group, Fabric Rose display celebrating the feast of Sant Jordi and the Unfinished Book of Poetry 2011 again written by teens. Over 100 teens attended the event which took place during school holidays on April 21.



*Some of the teens who created the graphic novel pictured with Patricia Looney and Breda Hassett, Executive librarians, Children's and young People's Services.*

### **Commemorating Irish Culture and History in New Brunswick**

Cork County Library and Arts Service are delighted to be working with the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick in hosting a major international exhibition commemorating Irish History and heritage. The exhibition will take place from May 12 to June 3, 2011 at their newly opened exhibition space in Library Headquarters, Carrigrohane Road, Cork.

The exhibition entitled *Commemorating Irish Culture and History in New Brunswick* will deal with the impact of the Great Irish Famine of 1847 which led 30,000 immigrants to come to New Brunswick and examine the nature of shipping in the 19th century and the rights and treatment of passengers aboard emigrant vessels. It will also illustrate the migration and settlement patterns of Irish immigrants in the province and their experiences and contributions to Canadian society. The New Brunswick Archives, and the treasures found there, will make a unique contribution to this celebration of Irish and Irish Canadian heritage. Historical photographs, documents, maps and census data, all drawn from the archives, will be used for this exhibition.

Speaking about the exhibition Bruce Driscoll of the Irish Canadian Cultural association explained "Irish history and heritage has always been a theme of wide interest in our province where over 38 per cent of our population is of Irish descent."



The entire New Brunswick exhibit will be on display at the Cork County Library Headquarters in Cork from May 12 - June 3 from Monday to Friday from 9am – 5pm. Loyola Hearn, the Canadian ambassador to the Republic of Ireland, will participate in the official launch on May 12 at County Library Headquarters.



Speaking on behalf of the Management Team at Cork County Library, Senior Executive Librarian Mary McPhillips said, “We are delighted to be able to host this exhibition in our New Library Headquarters. This is one of our first major projects and we are very pleased that the space can accommodate the material so well. We are also particularly delighted to be able to host this show as the material directly relates to a very important part of Irish and Canadian history. It is also important for us to be able to show this work in Cork as so much of the emigrant traffic centred on the ports of Cork and Cobh.”

Cork County Library and Arts Service will also be hosting guided tours of the exhibition for schools in Cork County for the duration.

For further information please contact County Library Headquarters Tel: 021 4546499 or email [maria.obrien@corkcoco.ie](mailto:maria.obrien@corkcoco.ie)

### **Ireland’s Opera Theatre Company comes to Fingal Libraries.**

Fingal Libraries recently held two *Introduction to Opera* presentations in conjunction with the Opera Theatre Company, Ireland in Blanchardstown and Malahide Libraries.

David Vivian Russell, a renowned Australian counter-tenor and composer, brought the delighted audience in Blanchardstown through a short history of the world of opera, using recorded music and arias to illustrate his presentation. His witty and informative commentary led his audience through a whirlwind tour of the highlights of mainly European Opera, from Mozart to Verdi and Wagner in an informal and relaxed atmosphere.



*Singer, Ben Russell and accompanist, David Bremner in Malahide Library*

In Malahide, using a different format, Sorcha Carroll, Marketing Manager at Opera Theatre Company guided the audience through her presentation with the assistance of a professional singer and accompanied by a pianist. Ben Russell, baritone, a fourth year student at the Royal Irish Academy of Music and a finalist in last year's Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition performed several beautiful arias. Ben was accompanied on piano by David Bremner, a pianist, organist and composer who has played with many of Ireland's leading ensembles including the National Symphony Orchestra and the Crash Ensemble.

On both occasions the audience were charmed by the presentations and thrilled by the beauty and passion of the music and arias. This was the first time that Opera Theatre Company had used local branch libraries as a venue for their work but if the reception they received from their audiences is an indication, it won't be their last. Due to the wonderful feedback from these two events, Fingal Libraries and Fingal Arts Office are exploring a possible future collaboration between Fingal and the Opera Theatre Company.

### **Library Success Stories in Challenging Times**

The Youth Library Group & Northern Ireland Public Libraries are hosting *Library Success Stories in Challenging Times* on Thursday May 12, in Blanchardstown Library, Dublin.

The aim of the day is to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and good practice. It is intended for frontline and support staff involved in developing or delivering projects, programmes and activities in local libraries.

The object of the exercise is for staff to get a chance to talk to each other and get some positive reinforcement that there are a lot of worthwhile things going on in our libraries.

All booking forms must be returned by Friday 6th May to guarantee a place. Please see the [LAI site](#) for further details.

### **New library card designed by Kilkenny pupil**

As part of the Kilkenny Carnegie Library 100 celebrations last November, a *Design a Library Card* Competition took place for Primary Schools around the County.

The winning entry now features on the new library cards of Kilkenny Library Service.

The winner was: Jo-Anna Galavan, 5th Class, The Rower National School, The Rower, County Kilkenny.



### **Benji Bennett in Kilkenny during READiscover month.**



*Pupils from Wandesford National School enjoying the visit.*

Irish children's author Benji Bennett met classes from Castlecomer Boys National School and children from Wandesford National School. His visit was sponsored by Bord Gais Energy, main sponsors of the READiscover campaign.

Kilkenny local radio, KCLR, broadcast for 2 hours from the library and presenter Sue Nunn interviewed library staff including acting County Librarian, Josephine Coyne, Assistant Librarian, Brenda Ward and Library Manager in Castlecomer, Mary Morrissey. She spoke to the author himself about how he became a writer through sad family circumstances of losing his 4 year old son.

Benji had been interviewed on TV3 on the previous day about his picture books and their appeal to children. Sue also got reaction from some of the children who enjoyed the morning and were not shy about talking to her.

## International Women's Day celebrations at Kilkenny City Library.

Local Historian and film scriptwriter Gabriel Murray gave an illustrated talk on Lady Desart at the City Library, John's Quay as on 9th March 2011. This event was part of a wider programme of celebrations for International Women's day in Kilkenny and also part of the Readiscover your Library programme. Over 40 people attended the fascinating lecture.

In 1881, Ellen Odette, eldest daughter of Henry Bishoffsheim, a London banker, married William Cuffe, the fourth Earl of Desart with a seat in Kilkenny. On the death of her father in 1908 she inherited over £15 million sterling. A noted local philanthropist she established local woodworking and woollen industries in Kilkenny City. She funded a number of other local projects including the Kilkenny Theatre, The Tobacco Growers Association, Desart Hall, Talbot's Inch and the Suspension bridge.

She purchased the site for the Kilkenny Carnegie Library for €600 and also paid for the furniture. She officially opened the Carnegie Library on the 3rd November 1910 and later that day was conferred with the freedom of the City. She was also nominated to the Irish Free State Senate in recognition of her great works.

To mark International Women's Day there was also a "Focus on Women" at the City Library for the week. There was a display of books by women authors and about women's issues. In addition, the Irish Life and Lore: Kilkenny Collection, Second Series of oral history recordings, was available for listening to in the library or to borrow. This collection includes the stories of Kilkenny women from different walks of life.



## Spring Events in Louth County Libraries

It has been a busy few months in Louth Libraries celebrating Seachtain Na Gaeilge, Library Ireland Week and Bord Gáis Energy Readiscover Month.

Events kicked off in Dundalk & Drogheda Libraries with a bilingual workshop for children by ImaginationGYM. The workshops were themed around the first audio program in the series titled *An Choill Draíochta* (The Enchanted Forest). The audio program encouraged the children to create their own stories by bringing them on a journey into an imaginative world of folklore, nature, animals, music, dreams and wishes. Children learned how to stretch their imagination muscles and had great fun taking positive action on creativity with art activity sheets.



Senior Library Assistant Rosemarie Lynch aka Snow White entertaining children at the fairytale storytime during Library Ireland Week in Dundalk Library.

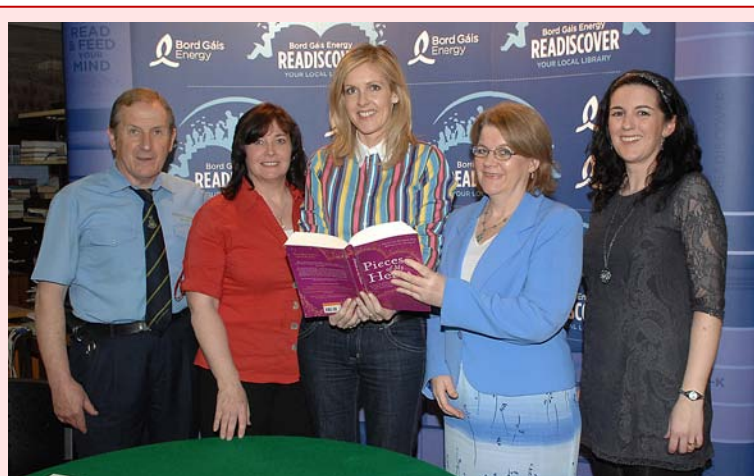
Renowned illustrator Andrew Whitson held an illustration workshop for Transition Year art students in Dundalk as part of Library Ireland Week events. Andrew has been shortlisted for the 2011 Bisto Awards for his illustration work on *Mac Rí Éireann*. His workshop was very valuable for the students, many of whom hope to pursue a future in art and illustration.

Dundalk library was transformed into a fairytale kingdom on Saturday, March 12 when Snow White (Senior Library Assistant Rosemarie Lynch) enthralled younger borrowers with fairytales and arts & crafts. All the children dressed as their favourite fairytale character and left the library adorned in their newly made crowns!

Dundalk Library was one of the lucky libraries around the country to host a reading event sponsored by Bord Gáis Energy in conjunction with their Readiscover Campaign. Bestselling Irish author Sinead Moriarty inspired budding authors by detailing her background in writing and the inspiration behind her novels. There was a lively Q&A session following her talk where Sinead answered many questions on writing as a career and tips on getting published.

Drogheda Library welcomed another bestselling author, Deirdre Purcell on March 26. Deirdre entertained the audience with excerpts from her books and discussed her life in writing.

Drogheda Library also hosted an art exhibition by the local Educate Together primary school highlighting *International Day & EU Week Against Racism*.



Author Sinead Moriarty in Dundalk Library for the Readiscover event with library staff (from left to right) Joe Bradley, Mary Morgan, author Sinead Moriarty, County Librarian Bernadette Fennell and Amanda Branigan.

Easter was celebrated in all of the Louth branch libraries with colouring competitions, quizzes, word searches, Easter egg hunts, face-painting and balloon modelling.

## NUI Maynooth Library's recent acquisitions

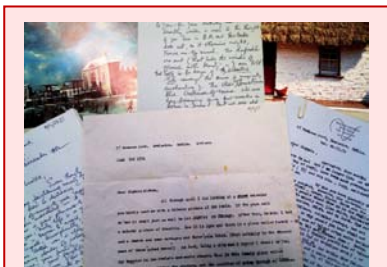
### WEDDING BELLS AT CASTLETOWN HOUSE: THE BYNG-CONOLLY MARRIAGE SETTLEMENT

The Library at NUI Maynooth recently acquired a document of local, national and international interest. The Byng-Conolly Marriage Settlement was obtained in 2010, and relates to the marriage of George Byng, MP (1735-1789), of Wrotham Park in Barnet, County Middlesex, and Anne Conolly, second daughter of the Right Hon. William Conolly and Lady Anne Wentworth, of Castletown in Celbridge, County Kildare. The settlement dates to 4 March 1761, and outlines in great detail the terms and conditions relating to the couple's union. This fascinating document has been fully processed and is now available for researchers to consult.



Detail of Byng Conolly marriage settlement

### FROM IRELAND TO BRAZIL: THE SEAN O'FAOLAIN LETTERS



Selection of documents from the Sean O'Faolain Archive

An important collection of letters from Irish writer Sean O'Faolain to Brazilian academic Munira Hamud Mutran is now available for research in the Library at NUI Maynooth. Written over a fourteen-year period, the earliest letter dates from 1973 when O'Faolain was aged seventy-three and Mutran was a young doctoral student at the University of São Paulo in Brazil. The letters address a range of different subjects, including art, the writing process, aging, and the work of other writers such as Joyce and Yeats.

For further details please contact: Róisín Berry [roisin.berry@nuim.ie](mailto:roisin.berry@nuim.ie)

## Whitechurch Library celebrates its centenary

On Thursday March 31, the official celebration of the centenary of Whitechurch library, Ballyboden took place.

Deputy Mayor of South Dublin, Paddy Cosgrave, led the celebrations along with local councillor John Lahart, County Manager Joe Horan, Director of Services Teresa Walsh and County Librarian Georgina Byrne. The audience included former Taoiseach Mr. Liam Cosgrave, now almost 90 years of age, who had used the library since his childhood, learning woodwork there as a boy. Also attending was John Byrne, grandson of T.J. Byrne, the library architect and Brendan Grimes, author of *Irish Carnegie Libraries*. Members of the community who have always supported Whitechurch library also turned out in force.

An exhibition on the life and works of the architect of Whitechurch library, Mr. T.J. Byrne was commissioned as part of the celebrations and is on show until April 30. T.J. Byrne lived for some time immediately adjacent to the library in Kingston Lodge. The exhibition was put together by local resident, architect and writer Michael Fewer, who gave a talk on T.J. Byrne the following week on April 7. Michael willingly undertook working on the exhibition out of a sense of community pride and responsibility. Michael also attended the official celebrations.



Breda Bollard, Branch Librarian Whitechurch Library, with her son Sean.

Breda Bollard, branch librarian, has planned a series of talks on famous Irish people who are associated with Whitechurch Library. Topics include Annie M.P. Smithson, author and district nurse who held vaccination clinics there; Bulmer Hobson and Hannah Sheehy Skeffington, members of the library committee.

Congratulations to Breda Bollard, Branch Librarian and to the Whitechurch community for all their work and we wish Breda well as she steers Whitechurch Library into its second Century.



County Librarian Georgina Byrne in conversation with John Byrne and former Taoiseach Liam Cosgrave.

## Miriam meets... Roddy Doyle and his parents at the County Library Tallaght

On Thursday March 24, County Library Tallaght were delighted to welcome radio and TV presenter Miriam O'Callaghan as part of Readiscover 2011.

For the first time, Miriam's RTE Radio 1 programme *Miriam meets...* was recorded live in front of an audience. Miriam was in conversation with Rory and Ita Doyle and their son Roddy, who had previously written a memoir about his parents' lives called *Rory and Ita*.

Miriam, with her natural charm and empathy, put everyone at their ease and the interview proved to be compelling listening. Rory and Ita, both in their 80s, spoke honestly and openly about their lives – Rory's childhood in Tallaght, meeting Ita at a tennis club dance in Templeogue and their wedding 60 years ago this September. Roddy told Miriam about the particular challenges of middle age, explored in his new collection of short stories called *Bull Fighting*, while Miriam also discussed the family inspiration behind Roddy's A



Left to Right: County Librarian - Georgina Byrne, Miriam O'Callaghan, Roddy Doyle, Ita Doyle and Rory Doyle.

*Star Called Henry*. A true professional, Miriam effortlessly created an intimate, interesting and moving dialogue, and though the room was full with almost 90 people you could hear a pin drop.

Pupils from the secondary schools participating in the *Tallaght Reads Roddy* project came along to the interview and had a great opportunity to ask Roddy and his parents questions. Indeed, Miriam came back to those questions during her interview, and at all times praised and encouraged the teenagers.

Roddy's mother Ita explained to Miriam how she came to write her poems and stole the show with a poem she had written many years ago exploring her sense of grief on the death of her mother when she was three years old. It was an incredibly moving finish to an interview which was a delight to all involved.

You can listen to a podcast of the show via our website [www.southdublinlibraries.ie](http://www.southdublinlibraries.ie).

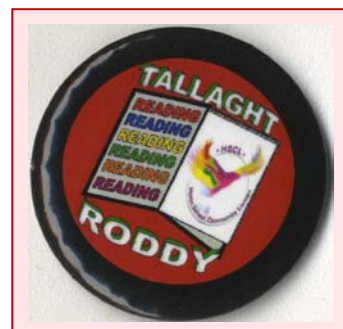
County Library Tallaght are now preparing to welcome **Lyric FM** on Thursday May 12 when presenter Liz Nolan will broadcast her *Lunchtime Classics* show live from the library, 12noon – 2pm.

## Tallaght Reading Roddy

The Grand Finale of *Tallaght Reading Roddy* took place in Tallaght Stadium on Tuesday April 12 - and what an event it turned out to be with over 500 children and parents attending!

*Tallaght Reading Roddy*, a Family Literacy Programme, was a joint venture between HSCL teachers & South Dublin Libraries. Over a 6 week period 12 schools from the Tallaght area (including 2 Secondary schools) along with many of their parents read from a selection of Roddy Doyle Books provided for them by County Library Tallaght. The library also ran events during the 6 weeks including Art workshops and Drama workshops inspired by the Roddy Doyle books.

There was a great atmosphere at the finale of *Tallaght Reading Roddy* as children and parents waited to welcome the special guest of honour, Roddy Doyle himself. The students had arranged for badges to be made at the start of the project, and they all proudly wore them on the day (pictured). The event was launched by Deputy Mayor Cllr Cathal King while children's librarian at the County Library, Marie O' Connor, acted as MC on the day, doing a brilliant job keeping the many children entertained and engaged.



Roddy did a reading from his latest novel (as yet unpublished) and also took time out for Questions and Answers with many of the children present. The event was a great follow-up for students who had the opportunity to attend Roddy's interview with Miriam O'Callaghan at the County Library the previous month.

Musical entertainment on the day was provided by the excellent student intercultural group *Le Chéile*. The Parents Commitments Group also sang some songs from the movie *The Commitments*, appropriately attired in their Little Black Dresses!

This was a fantastic event-and a huge celebration of Reading!

## Dads n Lads day at Cashel Library

As librarians we are all well aware of the difficulties of getting boys to read and enjoy reading. This is backed up with reports from the department of education and skills, our schools and teachers.

The library staff in Cashel decided to give the boys and dads of Cashel a dedicated day for themselves. They wanted to encourage dads to come to the library with their sons. "Mammies bring the kids to storytime and library in the vast majority of cases. We want to encourage Dads to bring their kids to the library and storytime" says Suzanne a staff member at Cashel Library.



Upstairs, the sounds of drills and hammers filled the library on Saturday, March 19 as *Dads n Lads* built bird and bat houses! They got to take home their end products and a bat house was also kindly donated to Paul Monks from Cashel Tidy Towns Committee. This event was sponsored by South Tipperary County Council Heritage Office and the Heritage Council.



Tipperary hurler, Brendan Cummins

Meanwhile, downstairs, the younger kids enjoyed storytime with *Dad*, Cian O'Carroll and *Grandad*, Paul Monks! Tipperary hurler Brendan Cummins also came along with his little *lad* Paul! Thanks to Brendan for doing the draw for spot prizes.

"We think it is important that boys know that reading and books are important to their dads and other male role models in their lives. The *Dads n Lads* day was a great day and the atmosphere was fantastic. It was great to see the Grandads and Dads get involved. The boys loved

it" commented Martin Maher, County Librarian, Tipperary Libraries.

### Tipperary Libraries receive donation

Tipperary Libraries Schools Library Department was delighted to receive a donation of €2,500 from county Tipperary Education Support Centre recently in recognition of the services provided to primary schools throughout the county. In existence since the 1980s, County Tipperary Education Support Centre is a part-time information and advice centre whose aim is to listen to and respond to the needs of teachers and the wider schools community, while supporting the personal and professional development of educators.

The Schools Library Service, which is based in the County Library Headquarters at Castle Avenue in Thurles, provides a comprehensive countywide mobile library service to all rural primary schools. The service also provides 'block loans' for teachers and schools running reading programmes such as shared reading, paired reading and reading recovery. Class Novels are available for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> class and loans to resource and special needs teachers are also available from a fantastic range of stock which includes publications from Wolf Hill, Barrington Stoke, Wellington Square, Fuzz Buzz, Sports Zone and much more. More details about class novels and resource material are available on our website: [www.tipperarylibraries.ie/schools](http://www.tipperarylibraries.ie/schools)



Left to right: Martin Maher (County Librarian – Tipperary Libraries), Michelle Percy (County Tipperary Education Support Centre), Emer O'Brien (Senior Executive Librarian – Tipperary Libraries)

Parents can also borrow the special needs material and this is encouraged especially during the summer months when children can temporarily lose the reading habit. Ideally, parents should encourage children to use their local library on a regular basis where they will have access to a very wide range of books and other resources. Do also check out the many on-line resources available on our website to all library members. In the event that you cannot find suitable reading material in your local library, or if you need additional advice, parents and teachers are advised to contact the Schools Library Service at 0504 21555 for assistance.

Tipperary Libraries recently launched their ReadABLE Technologies. 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. [www.tipperarylibraries.ie/aboutus/readable](http://www.tipperarylibraries.ie/aboutus/readable)

Since funding to Library Authorities for Schools Library Services was withdrawn by the Department of Education and Skills in 2008 it has become more and more difficult to sustain library services to schools and it is for that reason that donations of this kind are so very important and are so very much appreciated.

## New Alumni Association for UCD SILS

In collaboration with alumni, the UCD School of Information and Library Studies is establishing a UCD SILS Alumni Association. Details regarding the Association, including benefits of membership and how to join online, can be found at <http://www.ucd.ie/sils/alumniandfriends/>.



The first SILS Alumni Association event is a gala reception on May 25 2011 at 6:00pm at the National Library Ireland, Kildare St, Dublin 2. There will be a raffle at the event to raise funds to support the SILS Alumni Association. Raffle prizes include a laptop valued at €500.

Details about the event can be found at: <http://www.ucd.ie/sils/alumniandfriends/events/>. All alumni are invited to the gala reception.

To help the organisers plan for the event, please RSVP to [sils.alumni@ucd.ie](mailto:sils.alumni@ucd.ie).

## Europeana hackathons to stimulate creative reuse of European cultural heritage

Europeana is a multi-lingual online collection of millions of digitized items from European museums, libraries, archives and multi-media collections. Europeana holds metadata on over 16 million cultural heritage objects. Europeana and partner institutions are organising simultaneous hackathons in 4 European countries in the week 6 – 10 June 2011, aiming to stimulate the use of its cultural heritage metadata. The four sessions are to take place in:

- London, UK hosted by [Collections Trust](#)
- Stockholm, Sweden hosted by [Swedish National Heritage Board](#)
- Poznan, Poland hosted by [Poznan Supercomputing and Networking Center](#)
- Barcelona, Spain host to be decided.



Each hackathon will last one or two days and will bring together up to 30 developers from the partner country and the surrounding area. Hackers will be encouraged to try out their ideas for creative reuse of the Europeana content based on the [Europeana API](#) and Linked Open Data and build applications supporting innovation, economic growth and social inclusion in Europe. Best prototypes will be awarded prizes by Europeana during the hackathon days and presented by the EU Commissioner Neelie Kroes at the [Digital Agenda Assembly](#) on 16 -17 June in Brussels. For any questions, please contact [Gudrun Stock](#).



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Contributions to *Irish Library News* and / or [www.library.ie](http://www.library.ie) should be sent to the editor,

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**2011 has been designated European Year of Volunteering.**