

# IRISH LIBRARY NEWS

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## NATIONAL ARCHIVES RELEASES 'COUNTIES IN TIME' CD-ROM

A CD-ROM, entitled *Counties in Time; Documents and Commentaries from the National Archives of Ireland*, and containing images of selected documents from the sixteenth century to the mid-twentieth century, representing all 32 counties, was released by the National Archives on Wednesday, December 3rd 2003. As well as illustrated histories of each county, 'Counties in Time' gives an overview of the range and wealth of the documentation available for use not only by history lecturers, university students and lawyers, but also by local historians, genealogists and school students researching local or family history, by journalists researching newspaper articles or television or radio documentaries, and by novelists writing historical fiction. The documents contained in *Counties in Time* include proclamations enforcing the Penal Laws, eye-witness accounts of the 1798 Rebellion and the Great Famine, Fenian photographs from 1866-1867 of those suspected of conspiracy, records of the First Dáil, an 18th century Kilkenny hatter's measurement book, a 19th century Co Clare draper's order book, as well as maps, architectural drawings, letters, court records, property valuations etc.

*Counties in Time* is of particular relevance to teachers and second-level history students dealing with the revised Leaving Certificate history curriculum to be introduced in September 2004, in which a new emphasis is placed on using primary source material for research and discussion. This comes at a time when numbers studying history for the Leaving Certificate are falling.

'The National Archives is pleased to be able to make a sample of the important records in its custody available to a wider public', commented the Director of the National Archives, Dr. David Craig. 'It is hoped that this new window on the National Archives will lead to a renewed interest in local history, and encourage further usage of the National Archives for research purposes. Our records can convey the experiences of ordinary people in a very immediate and powerful way'.

Eneclann, the historical research company ([www.eneclann.ie](http://www.eneclann.ie)), carried out content selection and provision for *Counties in Time*, and Lendac ([www.lendac.ie](http://www.lendac.ie)) made the CD-Rom.

A complimentary copy of *Counties in Time* will be available to every secondary school in the country, and can be purchased from <http://www.eneclann.ie/publications-8.asp> for €25.

## people

**Helen Kilcline**, Roscommon County Librarian from 1973 to 2002, was the recipient of a series of presentations at a recently held retirement function in her honour. The ceremony was attended by past and present members and staff of Roscommon County Council, colleagues from the County and City Librarians' Section of the LAL, members of the Roscommon Association in Dublin, local historical societies, and a wide circle of friends. Tributes were paid to Helen's stewardship of the library service in Roscommon during her 29 years service.

**Richie Farrell** has been appointed Roscommon County Librarian. A native of Roscommon, Richie previously held the post of Projects Librarian with Fingal County Council.

## LIBRARY ACCESS

**South Dublin County Libraries** launched their new Optical Scanning Facilities for the blind and the partially sighted at the County Library, Tallaght on 12th November 2003, as well as new assistive software for people with learning difficulties.

South Dublin County's Social Inclusion Awareness Week was launched simultaneously by the South Dublin County Social Inclusion Network. The joint launch was attended by the Mayor, Cllr. Maire Ardagh; County Librarian, Teresa Walsh and South-Western Area Health-board Social Inclusion Manager, Páraic Rehill.

Kurzweil 1000, Kurzweil 3000 and Zoomtext Magnification software was supplied by Jackson Technology Ltd. at Ballyroan Library, Lucan Library and the County Library, Tallaght. Each branch has been equipped with a dedicated PC and a flatbed scanner. The software and scanners have been provided through funding granted by the Department of the Environment. South Dublin Libraries have, in addition, provided Jaws V.5 Internet access software for the totally blind, at the County Library, also supplied by Jackson Technology Ltd.

Kurzweil 1000 text to speech software and Zoomtext Magnification software provide greatly enhanced access to standard PC packages such as Microsoft Office, as well as to scanned books and other printed materials.

Kurzweil 3000 offers very effective support to PC users with learning difficulties such as ADD and dyslexia.

Jaws V.5 (available only at the County Library) allows totally blind library users to access standard PC software and the Internet.

The Mayor and the other guests were very impressed by the features of this technology, as demonstrated at the launch by library staff. They were delighted to see how more South Dublin citizens can benefit from access to the Information Society through their local library.

## University College Dublin

### Degree of Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS)

### Higher Diploma in Library and Information Studies (HDipLIS)

Applications are invited from graduates in any academic discipline (including science, engineering, commerce, law, social science and arts) for places on these postgraduate programmes.

The MLIS and HDipLIS programmes prepare students for careers in librarianship and information work and are recognised professional qualifications.

Further details and application forms are available from the Secretary, Department of Library and Information Studies, Faculty of Human Sciences, NUI University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4. Telephone: (353) 01-716-7055; (353) 01-716-7080; Fax: (353) 1-716-1161;

e-mail: [noreen.hayes@ucd.ie](mailto:noreen.hayes@ucd.ie); web-site: <http://www.ucd.ie/~lis>

The final date for receipt of application forms is **1st February 2004**. Entry to the programmes is competitive and the number of places is limited.

**Dublin City Council Public Libraries** announced the winner of the City heat of the Children's Book Festival Bookmark Competition. Over 2,700 entries were received by Dublin City Council Public libraries for the National Children's Festival Bookmark Competition. Pembroke library was delighted to have three award winners. Seven year old Anna O'Duffy was the overall winner, her nine year old sister Ellen was one of the runners-up. Orla Mair, who at 18 months old was the youngest entrant, also won a prize for her contribution.



▲ Left to right: Gerry O'Duffy; Ellen O'Duffy, 9 years; Orla Mair, 18 months; Tracy Mair; Anna O'Duffy, overall winner, 7 years; Stephen Mair.

Well known children's author and illustrator, Lucinda Jacobs, presented the prizes in the library and expressed her pleasure at being associated with such a vibrant library service. The prizes included book tokens, presented by the Youth Library Group; tickets to the Jacqueline Wilson play *Double Act* in the Helix Theatre and a selection of books. The prizes were presented to the children in the book bags provided by An Chomhairle Leabharlanna. Anna's design represented Dublin City in the national competition.

As part of the *Dublin City Heritage Plan 2002-2006*, Dublin City Council in association with the Heritage Council, commissioned an exhibition, *Dublin Through the Ages: Dublin's Architectural Heritage*, raising awareness of architectural heritage and highlighting building conservation issues and concerns.

The exhibition attempts to capture the development of both building styles and materials, while also highlighting significant features like windows and doors, bricks and shopfronts. It will help to raise awareness of the place buildings have in the broader development of your area and the city as a whole.

The exhibition is on display concurrently in Cabra Library, Rathmines Library, and the Dublin City Library & Archive, Pearse Street, until mid-February 2004. Each exhibition features a profile of the environs of the particular display location. The plan is to cover a further eight locations throughout the city during 2004.

*Finscéal: 2nd Annual Writers Day* was held in Ardgillan Castle on Saturday 8th November, and proved to be another resounding success in a year long programme of writers' events. Jointly organised by **Fingal County Libraries** and the Arts Office of Fingal County Council, the day was officially launched by Sean Dolphin, Cathaoirleach of Fingal County Council.

Suzanne Higgins, originally from RTE Radio's 2FM *Great Giveaway* and author of *The Power of a Woman*, was the first author to speak. Suzanne spoke animatedly about her path to writing from broadcasting. The audience, which consisted of writers groups and individuals from around Fingal, took the opportunity to ask plenty of questions and got lots of helpful tips from Suzanne.

Joseph O'Connor, playwright, novelist and screen-writer, read to the spellbound audience from his current novel *Star of the Sea*.

Joe who captivated the audience also gave plenty of tips about research and writing.

After lunch Rose Doyle outlined her method of writing, drawing on her vast experiences as a journalist, novelist, and writer of TV documentaries, short film scripts and short stories. The audience was greatly encouraged by her advice on the practical business of writing, getting started, and keeping at it!

Finally newcomer Nicola Lyndsay, poet, novelist and actress, read excerpts from her work, enthralling and entertaining the audience with her talented use of different accents and the comedy of her pieces. Her latest novel is called *Diving Through Clouds*.

However it wasn't all one-sided, as the writers groups' themselves had the opportunity to entertain everyone present with samples of their own writing – some of which left the ancient roof of Ardgillan Castle shaking!!!!

A Pre-Christmas Writers and Readers Evening, in the company of Hugo Hamilton, takes place in Blanchardstown Library on December 11th at 7.00pm. All are welcome.

The **Ninth Hugh M. Fitzpatrick Lecture in Legal Bibliography** was held at Marsh's Library, Dublin on 19th November 2003.

Following a welcome speech by Dr. Muriel McCarthy, (Keeper, Marsh's Library), Dr. Michael Clark, (Wellcome Library for the History and Understanding of Medicine, London), delivered the ninth Hugh M. Fitzpatrick Lecture in Legal Bibliography. The lecture was chaired by Justice Mella Carroll, (Judge of the High Court) to a capacity audience of fifty people. Dr. Clark's paper was entitled *Distinctiveness and divergence: legal bibliography and Anglo-Irish medico-legal relations in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries*.



*Pictured at the ninth Hugh M. Fitzpatrick Lecture in Legal Bibliography held at Marsh's Library on 19th November 2003 were (left to right): Hugh M. Fitzpatrick, (series founder and organiser); Dr. Muriel McCarthy, (Keeper, Marsh's Library); Dr. Michael J. Clark, (Wellcome Library for the History and Understanding of Medicine); Justice Mella Carroll, (Judge of the High Court); and James Hamilton, (Director of Public Prosecutions).*

Those in attendance included The Hon. Mr. Justice Paul Carney, (Judge of the High Court); Mr. James Hamilton, (Director of Public Prosecutions); one of the country's renowned medical historians, Dr. John Fleetwood; Dr. Sheila Willis, (President, Medico-Legal Society of Ireland); Pauline Doyle, (Director of Nursing from St. Vincent's University Hospital); Breda Hayes, (Director of Nursing from St. Mary's Hospital); Dr. Therese Meehan of the School of Nursing and Midwifery at University College Dublin; members of the legal and medical professions; and representatives from the library and information sector.

**Inmagic Users Group:** With a view to setting up an IN-MAGIC user group in Ireland, could interested parties send an email to the following address: [mairead.byrne@bordbia.ie](mailto:mairead.byrne@bordbia.ie), expressing their current interest so that I can gauge the level of feasibility.

**Meath County Library** served up a variety of treats for the Children's Book Festival. Authors, musicians, dancers, storytellers, artists and special guests celebrated with over 1000 readers of all ages across the county during the festival. This year the Meath festival kicked off in Trim Library with a talk on all aspects of dance from *Ballet Ireland*. While as one of their events, Duleek and Slane libraries played host to musical storytelling. Toby Kinsella, a multi instrumentalist, delighted children with stories embellished with music and song from all over the world. Storytelling continued to captivate and colour imaginations throughout the festival. Author/storyteller Liam Farrell visited Athboy, Kells and Trim libraries with the 'Big Bad Wolf Show', interacting with the boys and girls from the local national schools he magically retold the wolf's side of the story. Teller of tales, Michael Moyland, brought history alive in Dunshaughlin and Trim libraries, holding his listeners spellbound with tales of adventures through the mists of time. Young football fans were delighted by special guest Gary Tallon when he came to Nobber Library, arrayed with trophies, photographs and framed jerseys and shared his memories about his life in England and Scotland as a Premier League football player. Gary inspired his young audience, telling them how daunting but great it was to play in front of huge crowds of over 45,000 supporters and described getting to play with his idol Kevin Moran as a definite career highlight. As part of the festival, Navan Library held a Dyslexia information evening with guest speakers from The Dyslexia@Bay Association. A variety of workshops laced the festival; Navan, Slane and Nobber libraries held workshops with Julie Wilson and local artist Helen Anne Tully. Children were treated to face painting, balloon making, and made all manner of crafty things. A drama workshop with the Noggin Theatre Company entertained children in Trim Library. Meanwhile a demonstration on traditional Italian cooking with local chef and restaurant proprietor, Tony Palleschi, proved to be a recipe for success in Duleek library. Children from the local National School got the opportunity to open their cookery books and learn 'hands on' the secrets of making the perfect pizza and delicious pasta! ▼



Readers of all ages were excited to meet some of their favourite authors during the festival. Award winning author/illustrator Mary Arrigan came to Navan and Duleek libraries and spoke to children from the local national schools, the author explained to the children, using her own series of designs, how books are illustrated and read extracts from her own titles. Authors Martina Murphy and Trevor Colgan author of *The Stretford Enders* series visited Dunshaughlin and Kells branches, read from their work and gave advice on how to become a writer to students from the local secondary schools. Ann Carroll, author of the popular *Rosie* series, visited Navan Library and met with children from the nearby primary schools and Lá Gaeilge was celebrated in Athboy and Nobber libraries. The children from local Gaeltacht schools welcomed local author Liam Mac Coil. Liam engaged the children with a talk on the renowned Nobber harpist Turlough O'Carolan.

**Trim Library** now offers extended opening hours to the public from Tuesday, November 4th, increasing opening hours from 25 hours a week to 38 hours a week. The library will now open 5 days per week. This is part of a comprehensive overhaul of Meath County Library opening hours. Automation of Trim library in May this year coincided with the addition of thousands of new books for adults and children.

Recent events in Trim library included *Science is Magic* – a hands-on show where children got to experiment with heat, light, sound, magnetism etc. Maedhbh Rogan is the newly appointed librarian to Trim Library. Maedhbh previously worked in South Dublin County Library Service. Maedhbh is planning to meet all the primary schools in the area and ensure that every schoolchild has a library card.

An enjoyable evening was had by all on the recent visit of Margaret Dolan to Dunshaughlin Library on 20th November. Margaret has twice won the *Francis MacManus Short Story Award*. As well as reading from some of her short stories, including *Wire Me to the Moon*, Margaret regaled those present with her humorous and touching stories. She also gave an insight into the inspiration for her writing and advised budding writers about the world of publishing.

**Trinity College Library:** Staff and pupils of St. Mark's Community School, Tallaght marked the tenth anniversary of the school's involvement in the Trinity Access Programme at an event in the Long Room, Trinity College Library. The TAP programme, run by Trinity's Centre for Educational Access and Community Development, aims to increase the participation rate for those who have not previously managed to avail of third level education.

To mark the occasion 3rd and 4th year students decided to design and construct a set of ten hand-made books. These record those who have taken part in the programme, the impact of university on them, and the pupils hopes for the future.

The Library plays a role as part of the TAP project in preparing potential students for the transition to third level education by providing a series of interactive sessions on information handling and library study skills.

The exhibition of the books in the Long Room of the Old Library building was opened by the Librarian, Robin Adams, and the significance of the TAP programme was highlighted by Kathleen O' Toole, the TAP programme co-ordinator, and Irene Kernan, Principal of St. Mark's School.



▲ Pupils and staff of St. Marks School making an exhibition of themselves in the Long Room, Trinity College.

Frank McCourt, author of *Angela's Ashes*, and his brothers Malachy and Michael, unveiled the Fr. John Leonard Collection at the **University of Limerick Library** on Wednesday, 22 October. Frank McCourt recently gave the University of Limerick Foundation €150,000 for the purchase of the collection, in memory of his mother.



Containing over 4,000 items, the collection is the work of Father John Leonard who spent 33 years gathering books, periodicals, paintings, prints and engravings on Limerick city and county. The collection is considered to be exceptional in its quality and variety, University President Dr Roger Downer said: "Seldom, if ever, has a community had its authors and its history collected together so comprehensively, and the historical and literary importance of the collection will add greatly to the University's library."

McCourt said he "heard that Father John Leonard wanted to dispose of his enormous collection of materials on, by, about Limerick and I wanted to fly over, pack the lot in boxes and take the lot home with me."

He said he was delighted to hear the University would house the collection if someone would put up "a few dollars".

He said: "I saved my pennies and, in my mother's name, hoped to donate Father Leonard's magnificent collection to the University".

On Thursday 27th November 2003 the **University of Limerick** Special Collections Department hosted a talk by Professor Robert S Matteson (Emeritus Professor of English, St Lawrence University, New York) on the theme of *A Large Private Park: The Collection of Archbishop William King* (1650 – 1729). The talk was followed by the Irish launch of Professor Matteson's recently published book of the same title.

In the preface of the book, King has been described as "...a man of appetite. While victim to the excesses of food and drink as a young cleric, his taste for recognition and political power ran unchecked throughout his life, and book buying defeated his willpower entirely. According to one source 'a purpled brute' of a fellow, King was confrontational, and occasionally exhibited an arrogant certitude infuriating to both friend and foe alike. The man who recognized the university as 'the heart and centre of Irish intellectual life' was described variously as learned and ungovernable, hospitable to a fault and, to a ridiculous extent, nationalistic. Like Swift, combative to the end, you can understand his sympathies most of the time, regret his shortfalls in human understanding, and admire intensely his alignment with life's underdogs. Compassionate men, both. While Swift gave us an oeuvre of enduring value and a memorable epitaph, King left behind one of the finest private libraries in the history of Ireland and an unmarked grave."

Some time during the 1730s a significant part of King's library was purchased by Theophilus Bolton, Archbishop of Cashel, and is now the core of the remarkable Bolton Library in Cashel, Co. Tipperary. The Bolton Library is a place of pilgrimage for scholars internationally and is one of Ireland's greatest bibliographical treasure houses.

**Wicklow County Council Library Service** held a host of activities during the Children's Book Festival 2003. Author visits with Arthur Flynn were popular in Wicklow, Arklow and Ballywaltrim libraries, and the National Museum showcased their collection with a lively, hands-on session in Greystones. Tricks and treats were the order of the day in Baltinglass, Blessington, and Dunlavin, as the Tricky Tricksters Magic Show amazed their audiences. Rathdrum Library was a hive of activity with a mask-making session with Bernie Manton from the Chester Beatty Library, and kids in Enniskerry Library were enthralled with the African stories of Lugard Ogwokhaemhe.

On 20th November 2003 Wicklow County Council Library Service hosted a live performance in Dunlavin Library of Redrue Theatre Company's site-specific play, *You and whose army?*, which was written and devised by two local Wicklow writers Margaret Coen and Judy Russell. The play is a full-length drama set in a notional derelict Georgian house in the Glen of Imaal and confronts contemporary political dilemmas and uncertainties. The performance forms part of a county-wide tour of this play by the award-winning writers and talented players. The group played to a full house and much appreciation by an audience of mixed ages.

*The Big, Good Wolf, in the shape of author Liam Farrell, explained the case from the wolf's point of view to much hilarity in Carnew, Tinahely and Aughrim libraries.* ▼



▲ *Musician and storyteller, Toby Kinsella, took children in Bray, Ballwaltrim, Greystones, Wicklow and Arklow libraries on a musical world tour with enthusiastic participation and fun.*

## wanted

Wanted "Devcon" or other old shelving units 200-250 shelf feet (in 4-5 shelf units) steel shelving with backs for books. Shelves 75 inches approx height & shelving units 36-48 inches wide; shelves 15 inches wide at maximum width. Offers to Stewart Holohan at 01- 6600847.

A second hand returns box, interested parties should contact Mairead on 01-614 2259.

## seminars

The LIBER Architecture Group is holding a 3 day seminar of interest to those involved in the planning of new libraries or renovation of existing buildings. *The Renaissance of the Library: Adaptable Library Buildings* will take place in Bozen/Belzano, South Tyrol, from Wednesday March 17th to Friday March 19th 2004. Full details are on the seminar website at:

[www.zhbluzern.ch/LIBER-LAG/lagensb.htm](http://www.zhbluzern.ch/LIBER-LAG/lagensb.htm).

In conjunction with the seminar, LIBER will be publishing information on new library buildings in Europe. If you would like to make your new or restored library building known to the European academic and research library community, please complete the questionnaire at: <http://www.zhbluzern.ch/LIBER-LAG/lagepub.htm> and return it by December 31st.

A pre-seminar tour of libraries in Venice has been organised by Ca' Foscari University Library, Venice, for 15-16th March. Details of the tour programme are available at: <http://www.biblio.unive.it/sba/novita/040317lagVE.asp>

## HISTORY AND HERITAGE AT SOUTH DUBLIN LIBRARIES

Each year during September and early October, South Dublin Libraries celebrates the history and heritage of the county by organising a variety of events which support this heritage and promote the local studies work of the library service.

At the County Library in Tallaght it was decided to relate activities to the Cultural Heritage Project on The Big House. An exhibition entitled *Historic Houses of South Dublin County* was prepared by Colette Allen, Michelle Cotter, Síle Coleman and Jenny Wann under the guidance of Kieran Swords, Local Studies Librarian. The exhibition sought to detail the history of all houses listed in *Lewis' Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* (1837) and *Thom's Directories* up to 1850. Research for the exhibition was carried out at the Local Studies Collection in Tallaght and at the Valuation Office. The exhibition was very well received and resulted in some photographs of demolished houses being donated to the Local Studies Collection.

The launch of the exhibition on Wednesday 10th September by Mayor Máire Ardagh was followed with a topical talk by Dr. Terence Dooley of N.U.I. Maynooth on *The Historic House in Ireland, Past Present and Future*. Dr. Dooley is the author of the recent study *A Future for Irish Historic Houses* which was making headlines at the time.

A very interesting illustrated lecture *If Those Trees Could talk – The Story of Lord Massy of Killakee* was given by Frank Tracy on Wednesday 17th September. On the following Sunday, Mr. Tracy brought a group on a walking tour of Lord Massy's Woods.

Ballyroan Library organised and hosted the *4th Annual Oidhreacht Our Heritage* competition and exhibition. This exhibition was launched by Mayor Máire Ardagh on 8th September. On Wednesday 10th September, Dr. Christopher Moriarty gave an illustrated talk *Exploring our Hills and Valleys – Dublin 14 and 16*. On Friday 12th September Claire Brophy gave an illustrated talk on *The Hermitage Estate* to schoolchildren. The Hermitage Estate is now known as the Pearse Museum and St. Enda's Park.

During the month of September Castletymon Library hosted *The Obelisks of Greater Dublin Exhibition* curated by Jim Cooke - which was on loan from Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Libraries. An interactive workshop for children *The Ancient World – The Awesome Egyptians* was held on 23rd September.

Lucan Library concentrated on the history of the Lucan area for its History and Heritage activities. During the month of September an exhibition of scenes of Lucan painted by local artists was on display in the library. On Tuesday 9th September local historian, Patricia Donohoe gave a talk entitled *The Church of Ireland Parish, Lucan in the Nineteenth Century* followed by Suzanne Pegley who gave a talk on *Industrial Influences in Lucan*. On Wednesday 10th September, Professor Val Rice gave a talk on *The Heritage of the Liffey Valley*.

On 11th September Whitechurch Library launched the Whitechurch Local History Project *The People of Ballyboden*. This exhibition ran for the month of September at the library.

### *South Dublin Libraries and Local Studies Publications*

South Dublin Libraries was involved in three recent publications. Following on the theme of the 'Big House', the Local Studies section of South Dublin Libraries published *The House of Corkagh* by Joe Devine in September. Matching financial assistance was received from South Dublin Parks Department. Corkagh Demesne is now the centre of South Dublin County's Corkagh Regional Park. Funding was also received from the Bank of Ireland.

Joe, a retired teacher, has spent twenty years researching Corkagh and the book grew from his teacher's need to pass on what he had learned. The book contains many photographs which would not have been available to people had the book not been published. *The House of Corkagh* was launched by Councillor Deirdre Doherty-Ryan, Chair of the Lucan Clondalkin Area Committee of South Dublin County Council at a function in Clondalkin Library on Monday 8th September. The capacity audience included many descendants of the Finlay and Colley families who once owned

Corkagh Estate. Many who had worked on the estate and their descendants also attended. In his speech, the author paid tribute to Kieran Swords, Local Studies Librarian, and noted that without his work and effort the book would not have seen the light of day. He also paid tribute to Síle Coleman of the County Library in Tallaght for her unfailing assistance.

During the month of September, Clondalkin Library held an exhibition: *The Story of Corkagh House and Demesne* which was prepared by Vincent Allen of Clondalkin Library. On Monday 15th September, Joe Devine, author of *The House of Corkagh* gave an illustrated lecture on the topic of the book.

The Local Studies section published a postcard based on the 1870 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of Tallaght Village as a pilot project. It is hoped to publish similar postcards of each of the South Dublin County village centres in the future.

On 24th September, Councillor Deirdre Doherty-Ryan launched a history of Palmerstown, *Palmerstown – An Ancient Place* by Nessa O'Connor at a well-attended event in Lucan Library. The book was published posthumously with financial assistance from South Dublin Libraries. In the foreword to the book Mayor Máire Ardagh noted that South Dublin County Council had an ongoing commitment to support projects of an historical and educational nature.

### *Local Studies outreach to Tallaght and Saggart*

The local studies section of South Dublin Libraries undertook a new venture this year by organising events for Heritage Week in association with Rev. William Devereil of St. Maelruain's Church of Ireland in Tallaght. St Maelruain's is steeped in heritage: attached to St. Maelruain's Church is the medieval tower of an earlier church, its graveyard includes the remains of the early Christian monastery of St Maelruain while Evie Hone, stained glass artist, Elizabeth Rivers, book illustrator, and Oisín Kelly, sculptor are among those buried there.

The Local Studies Collection's exhibition: *Tallaght and South Dublin in Maps* was mounted in the mediaeval church tower and was open for viewing after Sunday Service during the month of September. This gave people an opportunity to view both the exhibition and the mediaeval tower at the same time and to learn of some of the resources available in the Local Studies Collection at the County Library in Tallaght.

Towards the end of Sunday Service on 7th September, Tomás Maher gave a slide show on historic Tallaght to the congregation. This was followed by a walking tour of St. Maelruain's Church, graveyard and historic Tallaght. In spite of heavy rain a large number undertook the walk.

The Local Studies Collection's exhibition entitled *Brittas, Saggart, Newcastle and Rathcoole: a photographic record* was on display in the Heritage Centre in Saggart for Heritage Week.

Next year it is hoped to build on the success of these ventures.

### *3rd annual Leo Swan Memorial Lecture*

Leo Swan, who died in March 2001, was a noted Irish archaeologist. He had a long association with the Tallaght area as a teacher, school principal and archaeologist. As an archaeologist he pioneered the use of aerial photography in Irish archaeology and was responsible for uncovering a major hoard of Irish glassware while carrying out excavations at Templeogue House. He was also a founder member of Tallaght Historical Society. When Leo died it was decided to commemorate his contribution to South Dublin County, to Tallaght, and to Irish archaeology by holding an annual lecture on an archaeological subject in his honour.

On Tuesday 14th October Geraldine Stout author of *The Bend of the Boyne* in *Atlas of the Irish Rural Landscape* (Cork University Press, 1997), *The Bend of the Boyne* (Country House, 1997) and *Newgrange and the Bend of the Boyne* (Cork University Press, 2003) gave the 3rd Annual Leo Swan Memorial Lecture entitled *The Bend of the Boyne*. The comprehensive illustrated lecture and the depth of the lecturer's knowledge of her topic delighted the audience which included Mrs. Verity Swan, widow of Leo Swan. Geraldine's most recent book is dedicated to Leo Swan.



## LIBRARY SERVICE

Play a leading role in shaping the future of the library service in **Northern Ireland!** Come and live in beautiful County Antrim, where housing is excellent and affordable, education is high quality and opportunities are expanding.

### **DIRECTOR, NI-LIBRARIES.NET**

**(incorporating the role of Principal Assistant Chief Librarian, NEELB) Library Headquarters, Demesne Ave., Ballymena, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland.**

Salary Scale:- £47,004 - £49,287 per annum

Based within the North-Eastern Education and Library Board at Ballymena, County Antrim, this new post will drive the continuing development of Northern Ireland-wide electronic library services under the ni-libraries.net programme, making sure that they meet the needs of the five Education and Library board library services, as articulated by the Association of Chief Librarians (NI). Working closely with the Service and Contract Manager for the ni-libraries.net services, the Director will be responsible for ensuring that the five library services are able to exploit the new electronic environment, meet new business needs and deliver new levels of performance, benefits, service delivery and value.

As Principal Assistant Chief Librarian for the North-Eastern Board, the postholder will deputise for the Chief Librarian, assisting with strategic planning in the library service, policy development, co-ordination and management of library services and with the implementation of the library service capital programme. The post holder will be expected to play a dynamic and innovative role in developing the potential of libraries to raise the achievement and improve the quality of life of the people who live, work and study in the Board's area and will play a key role in multi-authority working across all five library services to benefit the whole population of Northern Ireland.

The person we are looking for will be a strategic thinker with wide-ranging experience of library services and their

current environment. S/he will understand the potential of the electronic services being delivered by the "People's network" and will be able to convince others of their value. Applicants must be Members (MCLIP) or Fellow (FCLIP) of the Chartered Institute of Library & Information professionals and must have a recognised management qualification at Certificate or Diploma level or above, together with at least 5 years experience as a senior manager in a public library service. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate at interview a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the business processes and culture of the library environment and awareness of current developments in public library services UK-wide.

**Please note Interviews will be held on FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY, 2004**

The successful applicant must have access to a car or other suitable form of transport as and when necessary to facilitate the requirements of the post in a reasonable and effective manner.

### **Think you measure up?**

**Send for an application form and further information , enclosing a stamped addressed envelope (minimum size 15"x 10" 1st Class post £1.25 2nd Class £1.00), to the Human Resources Officer and return your completed application form to the Equal Opportunities Officer, North-Eastern Education and Library Board, County Hall, 182 Galgorm Road, Ballymena, Co. Antrim BT42 1HN NOT LATER THAN 4.00 PM ON FRIDAY 9 JANUARY, 2004.**

**We regret that we cannot accept telephone requests. This vacancy is posted on the Board's website [www.neelb.org.uk](http://www.neelb.org.uk). and the ni-libraries.net website [www.ni-libraries.net](http://www.ni-libraries.net), where information and an application form may be downloaded.**

**It is the responsibility of all applicants to ensure that all information is included on the application form. Canvassing in any form will disqualify.**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

**The Board is an Equal Opportunities Employer and welcomes applications for all posts at all locations regardless of gender, community background, political affiliation race or disability.**

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