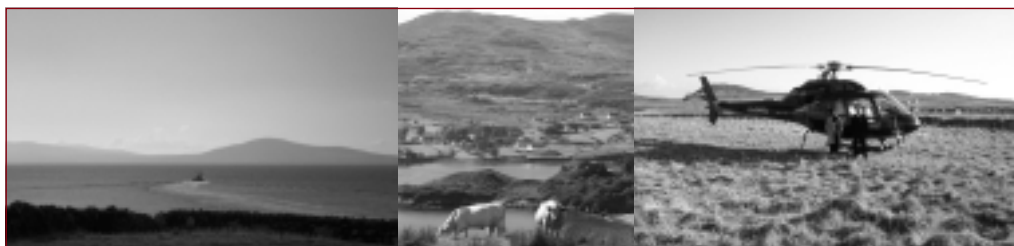


IRISH LIBRARY news

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TAOBH TÍRE ON THE ISLANDS

The Arranmore Island launch of Taobh Tíre took place on 14th July. An Internet access PC has been set up in the Enterprise Centre for use by islanders accessing the WebOPAC. Speeches were given by Cllr. Terence Slowey, outgoing Chairman of the Glenties Electoral Area, Cllr. David Alcorn, Cllr. Ian McGarvey and Seamus Bonner, Secretary of Arranmore Development & Employment Co-Op. Kathleen Brady read two of her own poems, *Arranmore* and *The wake on Gola Island*. Virginia McLoone Area Manager of Corporate Services was MC. Cllr. Slowey stressed the importance of new partnerships formed by Taobh Tíre. He said integration was vital and that the project will be a success 'only with the co-operation and support of many agencies and community groups, as well as the public'. He thanked all funders, in particular An Chomhairle Leabharlanna 'for the confidence shown in our ability to run a project of national importance'. From his own experience, Cllr. Alcorn said he knew only too well how much work goes into setting up a project like Taobh Tíre. He thanked everyone concerned, funders, volunteers and staff, and said he would do all he could to ensure the project was a success. Cllr. McGarvey said that although he was new to the Council, he could see this worthwhile project should be promoted throughout the county, not just in the target areas. Seamus Bonner said that having brought broadband to the island, a project like Taobh Tíre could be set up quickly and easily. Although the project is in its early stages, many islanders have already availed of the request/delivery service. In closing, Virginia McLoone said she hoped that funding could be sourced to extend the project until at least June 2005.

Following the speeches local people joined the library via a telephone link to the Genesis system. A recording of local folklore told by Hugh Campbell was set up. A tour of the island was provided by the Síob. Food was provided by the Ferryboat Restaurant, local company Magoo TV videoed the proceedings and Radio na Gaeltachta recorded several interviews.

The weather was perfect and the library staff are looking forward to more staff bonding at the launch on Tory Island which is 12 miles offshore – see banner photos, *above right*: Eileen Burgess, Taobh Tíre project co-ordinator, scouts out suitable locations on Tory.

Taobh Tíre: a better library service for rural areas, is a pilot project under the Public Library Research Scheme which is financed by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and supported by An Chomhairle Leabharlanna.



▲ Library staff arriving on Arranmore.



▲ L-r: speakers Kathleen Brady, poet,; Seamus Bonner, Secretary, Arranmore Development & Employment Co-Op; Cllr. David Alcorn; Virginia McLoone, (MC) Area Manager Corporate Services for the Glenties and Milford Electoral Areas; Cllr. Terence Slowey.



▲ L-r: Cllr. Terence Slowey; Eileen Burgess, Donegal County Library; Annette Kelly, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna.



▲ L-r: Eva Browne, Kathleen Gallagher, Ashling Nibbs, Lorraine Burke - Eva, Ashling and Lorraine are library staff registering new members by phone link to the library management system.

The **BRITISH COUNCIL**, the United Kingdom's international cultural organisation, will be holding an international conference on European Information Society issues in Bucharest / Romania on 14 and 15 October 2004. This event is the fourth in the series of conferences themed *Towards an Information Society for All* (TISA).

The special focus of TISA4 will be "Better lives, better communities". It will mainly be looking at sustainable and replicable community projects that helped to improve the citizens' quality of life by using information and communication tools. Previous events have been held in Paris, Bologna and Berlin. Information on this series as well as registration can be found at <http://www.britishcouncil.ro/tisa> or <http://www.britishcouncil.ro/tisa>

MEATH COUNTY LIBRARY: The new Ashbourne Library has registered 2,500 borrowers in its fourth week of opening. Sarah Buggie of Batchelors Walk, Ashbourne was the 2,500th borrower registered, since the Library officially opened on May 17th 2004.

The Library, which is the largest in County Meath, offers a wide range of services including free Internet access, a Playstation 2 area and a musical keyboard available to book via the service desk.



▲ L-r: Jean Stafford, Library Assistant, Mary Murphy, Executive Librarian, Sarah Buggie, our 2,500th Borrower, Garrett Kelly, Library Assistant, Teresa Carley, Senior Library Assistant, Deirdre Morgan, Library Assistant.

Mary Murphy, the Executive Librarian for Ashbourne said "The response from the public has been amazing, especially the children, who are all delighted with this new community space. We can hardly believe we have registered over 20% of the Ashbourne population in such a short space of time".

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY LIBRARY: In June 2004, the County Library in Tallaght became the first public library in the country to offer wire free Internet access (WiFi). This new facility, which is free of charge, is a welcome addition to the library's existing ICT and Internet services. The library is equipped with a WiFi access point, or hotspot, which will allow users with WiFi-enabled laptops and PDAs to access the Internet without the need for cumbersome cables. It conforms to the current 802.11g WiFi standard and provides data transmission rates up to 54mbps. The system is easy to use, as the laptop's software will automatically detect the WiFi connection.

The needs of users with laptops which are not WiFi-enabled have not been overlooked. The County Library has two wireless 11g USB Adapters which are available for use in the library. Installation software and instructions are provided with each adapter, so that all laptop users can enjoy the benefits and convenience of wireless Internet access. Early reports show considerable interest from library users and point to enhanced connectivity for the community of South Dublin. For further information please contact the library at (01) 462 0073.

The holidays are just a distant memory. The roads resemble more of a car park now the school run is back in fashion. And, yes it's started to rain. It must be October. Fortunately that means that the **Tullycarnet Festival** can't be far away. Book your seat now for any, or all, of the following events:

- o Tullycarnet Yarnspinnners present Deborah Dunleavy from Canada (8.15 pm 21st Oct.)
- o Launch of Festival at Tullycarnet by Mayor of Castlereagh; Music by harpist Claire Shane performing Journey into Exile (8.15 pm 26th Oct.)
- o Tullycarnet Rocks with singer/songwriters Sarah Kenny and Janice McCorran and supporting bands. (2.00-4.00 pm 30th Oct.)
- o Jazz Migration with the Ritz Jazz Quartet (8.15 4th Nov.)

For all events contact: t: 028 9048 5079; f: 028 9056 5072; e: tullycarnetlibrary@ni-libraries.net or visit the exhibitions:

- o *Transportation*: oils by Avram Dumitrescu
- o *Travelling in the past lane*: a photographic collection from Ulster Folk and Transport Museum.

CASTLEPOLLARD CIVIC OFFICES AND LIBRARY OPENED

Westmeath County Council's ongoing commitment to the decentralisation of service provision was enhanced with the official opening of its new civic offices and library at Castlepollard by the Minister for Education and Science, Mr. Noel Dempsey T.D., on the 4th June 2004. The new offices and library will act as a one-stop shop for all local authority services in the north Westmeath area. Designed by the National Building Agency it cost just over €1.5m.



The library which is 175m² has a total stock compliment of 11,500 items and is fully computerised using the Horizon Library Management System. The library offers lending and reference services in both traditional print media and multi-media formats such as talking books, compact disc, video and DVD. Public Internet access is provided via seven dedicated workstations with online access to the library catalogue and e-government services via the library IPAC. Study facilities and space for exhibitions and events are also provided. There is also a large public area and Council Chamber upstairs which will be available to community groups. The library is open 37 hours per week including late nights and Saturdays and has a staffing compliment of three.



UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK HONOURS LITERARY GENIUS OF CRIOSTÓIR O'FLYNN

The University of Limerick recently hosted the official launch of Criostóir O'Flynn's English-language volume *The Heart Has Its Reasons*. The occasion was a tribute to the career of Ireland's best-known bilingual writer. O'Flynn was born in the Saint Mary's Parish area of the city in 1927 where his father was in the coal trade. He originally trained as a teacher, garnering degrees from the National University of Ireland and Trinity College. He also worked in journalism, broadcasting and as a publicity executive. It was in his teens that he began writing in English, his home language. He soon became a bilingual writer however, turning to the Irish language after living for a period in the Gaeltacht area of County Kerry. He is now Ireland's best known and most prolific bilingual writer having published over fifty books in both languages, including novels, poetry, short stories and plays for stage, radio and television. He has been a full-time writer since being elected to Aosdána, the State-sponsored body of writers, artists and composers who are considered to have made a significant contribution to the arts in Ireland. He has published fourteen books of poetry and translations, and he has also written many plays for stage, radio and television. He wrote a weekly column on current affairs for eight years in the *Irish Press* and he has published a number of books of essays. His plays have been produced at the Abbey, the Gate, the Lyric and Irish-language venues including Dublin's Peacock and Damer and the Taibhdhearc theatre in Galway city. He was the first playwright to be awarded a residential bursary by the Abbey Theatre in 1973 and he won a range of awards for his television plays including two Jacobs awards and a nomination for the Prix d'Italia.

O'Flynn's most recent work, prior to *The Heart Has Its Reasons*, was his autobiographical trilogy, *There is an Isle*, *Consplawkus*, and *A Writer's Life*, which won much acclaim both in Ireland and the U.S. The first volume, *There is an Isle*, an account of his boyhood in Limerick in the 1930's and 1940's became a best-seller and was widely acclaimed in Ireland and the U.S. as a corrective to the denigratory account of the same period given by Frank McCourt in *Angela's Ashes*.

The launch began with a welcoming address from the University of Limerick's Library Director John Lancaster. This was followed by an introduction to Criostóir work in Irish and a reading from Criostóir latest collection *The Heart Has Its Reasons*. UL librarian, Gonnait O'Riordan, who is the current President of the Library Association of Ireland, officially launched Criostóir book and this was followed by the presentation to Criostóir of a compilation of essays dedicated to the history of the University of Limerick. The highlight of the evening was Criostóir engaging talk on his history as a writer and the changed nature of publishing in the modern era.



▲ L-r: Ken Bergin, Library UL; Criostóir O'Flynn; Mícheál Ó hAodha, Library UL; George Cunningham, UL Library Development Committee; Gonnait O'Riordan, President, Library Association of Ireland at the launch of *The Heart Has Its Reasons*.

University of Limerick librarian, Mícheál Ó hAodha, echoed the sentiments of many in attendance when he said, "It was wonderful to see such a hard-working and oft-neglected literary talent finally getting due recognition in his own backyard. While it has taken many decades for Criostóir to be suitably honoured in his birthplace, Limerick, and in Ireland generally, it was wonderful to see such a large crowd from Limerick attend our library to show their appreciation of his literary creativity and his oft-forgotten struggles to overcome censorship and the insecurity and financial hardships that forged his struggle as a writer, hardships that would have broken a lesser individual."

The large audience in attendance were then directed to the Special Collections area of the Library where an exhibition of Criostóir's prodigious output as a writer was displayed. The evening culminated with the presentation of Criostóir's Underwood typewriter to the library, the typewriter on which he wrote so many of his well-loved stories. The typewriter will hold pride of place in the University of Limerick Library and will serve as a fitting testament to one of Limerick city's literary giants.

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF QUALIFICATIONS

The new National Framework of Qualifications is now the single, nationally and internationally accepted entity, through which all learning achievements may be measured and related to each other in a coherent way. It defines the relationship between all education and training awards. Launched in October 2003, the Framework will begin to make real impact on learners in 2004 with the introduction of a new system of awards in higher education and training.

The need for a more flexible and integrated system of qualifications arises in the main from the national objective of moving towards a 'lifelong learning society', in which learners may avail of learning opportunities at various stages throughout their lives.

The ten levels in the Framework will accommodate awards gained in schools, the workplace, the community, training centres, colleges and universities, from the most basic to the most advanced levels of learning. All learning can thus be recognised, including that achieved through experience in the workplace or other non-formal settings.

Further information on the National Framework of Qualifications can be found on the website www.nfq.ie or by contacting: The National Qualifications Authority of Ireland, Jervis House, Jervis St., Dublin 1. t: +353(0)1 8871500.



offers

- o If any library, information service or individual would be interested in journals relating to forestry etc. please contact Ann Kehoe of Coillte's Library Service. For a full list of available titles please contact Ann Kehoe on +353 1 201 1129 or at Ann.kehoe@coillte.ie. Alternatively a full list of journals available can be viewed on www.library.ie. Coillte will arrange delivery of these journals within a reasonable distance. This offer is available until Friday 10th September 2004.
- o Large number of library storage shelving available. All reasonable offers considered – 61 bays, 1m(W); 2.6m(H); 0.3m(D). Contact: Jenny 6364357 or Fiona 6364386.



august 2004

22-27th *Libraries: tools for education and development*: 70th IFLA General Conference & Council, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Further details: www.ifla.org/IV/index.htm

september 2004

2nd *Effective press releases for libraries* – a half-day course presented by McGrath Barrett & Associates in the Gilbert Library, Pearse Street, Dublin 2. To register, or for further details, please contact: Bríd McGrath, McGrath Barrett & Assocs., 2 Richmond Hill, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Phone/fax: 01-4977043; mobile: 087-2476424; e: mcgrathbarrett@eircom.net

6-8th *Variety is the spice of life*: CILIP Health Libraries Group Conference, Belfast. Details: www.cilip.org.uk/groups/hlg/

16th International literacy day

16th *Recruitment for librarians* – a half-day course presented by McGrath Barrett & Associates in the Gilbert Library, Pearse Street, Dublin 2. To register, or for further details, please contact: Bríd McGrath, McGrath Barrett & Assocs., 2 Richmond Hill, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Phone/fax: 01-4977043; mobile: 087-2476424; e: mcgrathbarrett@eircom.net

17th *Negotiation skills for librarians* – a half-day course presented by McGrath Barrett & Associates in the Gilbert Library, Pearse Street, Dublin 2. To register, or for further details, please contact: Bríd McGrath, McGrath Barrett & Assocs., 2 Richmond Hill, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Phone/fax: 01-4977043; mobile: 087-2476424; e: mcgrathbarrett@eircom.net

20-26th National Literacy Awareness Week's theme for this year is *Financial literacy*. Contact: Tommy Byrne at NALA – t: 01-809 9190; e: tbyrne@nala.ie

23rd *Effective report writing for librarians* – a half-day course presented by McGrath Barrett & Associates in the Gilbert Library, Pearse Street, Dublin 2. To register, or for further details, please contact: Bríd McGrath, McGrath Barrett & Assocs., 2 Richmond Hill, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Phone/fax: 01-4977043; mobile: 087-2476424; e: mcgrathbarrett@eircom.net

30th *Finance & budgeting for librarians* – a half-day course presented by McGrath Barrett & Associates in the Gilbert Library, Pearse Street, Dublin 2. To register, or for further details, please contact: Bríd McGrath, McGrath Barrett & Assocs., 2 Richmond Hill, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Phone/fax: 01-4977043; mobile: 087-2476424; e: mcgrathbarrett@eircom.net

october 2004

11-12th *Internet Librarian International 2004* – Millennium Gloucester Hotel, London. Details: Information Today Ltd., Woodside, Hinksey Hill, Oxford OX1 5BE, UK. t: 00 44 1865 327813; f: 00 44 1865 730232; w: www.Internet-librarian.com

12-14th *Public library impact – changed priorities... or shared priorities*. The Public Library Authorities Conference at the Marriott Hotel, Gosforth Park, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Details: www.cilip.org.uk/placonference

14th *Customer care in libraries* – a one-day course presented by McGrath Barrett & Associates in the Dublin Writers' Museum. To register, or for further details, please contact: Bríd McGrath, McGrath Barrett & Assocs., 2 Richmond Hill, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Phone/fax: 01-4977043; mobile: 087-2476424; e: mcgrathbarrett@eircom.net

25th *The proactive user: encouraging users to make the most of your resources* – a one-day course presented by McGrath Barrett & Associates in the Dublin Writers' Museum. To register, or for further details, please contact: Bríd McGrath, McGrath Barrett & Assocs., 2 Richmond Hill, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Phone/fax: 01-4977043; mobile: 087-2476424; e: mcgrathbarrett@eircom.net

november 2004

1st NALA and the County Clare Family Learning Project are organising a joint *National Conference on Family Literacy* to be held in The Glór Arts Centre, Ennis, Co. Clare. Key note speakers: Professor Lyn Tett, Head of the Department of Community Education and Lifelong Learning at the University of Edinburgh; Professor Aine Hyland, Vice President and Professor of Education, University College, Cork; Chair of the National Committee on Educational Disadvantage. Details: Tommy Byrne at NALA: t: 01-809 9190; e: tbyrne@nala.ie

11th *Enhancing Learning Skills at University* (critical thinking skills, study skills and information literacy skills). Thursday 11th of November, 2004 in the O'Reilly Hall, UCD, Belfield, Dublin 4. Further details from <http://www.ucd.ie/lisu> or email lsu@ucd.ie

23rd *Hugh M. Fitzpatrick Lectures in Legal Bibliography*. A.W. Brian Simpson, Charles F. and Edith J. Clyne, Professor of Law, The University of Michigan Law School, will give the eleventh lecture in this series entitled *Bills of human rights: the forgotten proposals of H.G. Wells and the Alexandre Marc Committee*. The venue is Dublin City Library and Archive, 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. For further information contact: Hugh M. Fitzpatrick, Library and Information Consultant, Newmount House, 22-24 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2. t: 01 269 2202, f: 01 661 0664.

august 2005

14-18th *Libraries: a voyage of discovery* – 71st IFLA General Conference and Council, Oslo. Details: e: ifla2005@norskbiotekforening.no www.ifla2005oslo.no

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