

IRISH LIBRARY news

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SURVEY DETAILS IMPROVED ACCESS TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES

An Chomhairle Leabharlanna is pleased to present the findings of the 2004 survey on the opening hours of the public library service. This is the third such survey carried out by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, the previous two being in 1998 and 2001.

The 2004 results have provided information which illustrates the considerable progress which library authorities have made since 1998. This was the year when Minister Dempsey launched the Branching Out report and its programme for an inclusive library service embracing the information society. As the title of the report implies and as formulated in the recommendations, the public would, following the implementation of this agenda, expect to receive expanded services in a greater number of locations at times that were sufficient, suitable and sustainable.

The improvements since 1998 highlighted in the report include the following:

- o There are now 351 branch libraries provided by the 32 library authorities in Ireland, representing an increase of 25 libraries surveyed;
- o These 351 branch libraries are open for a weekly total of 9,344 hours, representing a 20% increase since 1998;
- o The number of libraries open during lunch time has increased from 100, or 31% of the total, to 162 or 46%;
- o 262, or 75%, of the branches are open at weekends, representing an increase of 54 branches in the 6 year period;

- o 295 or 84% of the libraries are open at least one night per week. This represents an increase of 34 libraries since 1998.

This pattern of continued improvements in the availability of services since 1998 is to be commended. This is particularly noteworthy when the national total hours are calculated. The weekend opening hours have increased by 26%, the lunchtime opening hours by 28%, and the evening opening hours by 125%. Improvements in opening hours are crucial to the development of the public library service. Research¹ has shown that 30% of library users are unhappy with current opening hours, while the enhancement of opening hours is one of the main changes non-users said would encourage them to use libraries.

In recognising the achievements of library authorities in recent years, this report includes a recommendation that local authorities continue to review their schedule of library opening hours and provide appropriate staff levels in order to increase the hours of opening at times suitable to the public. An Chomhairle Leabharlanna has recommended that the Department carries out the next survey in 2007.

¹ A public space for all: use and non-use of public libraries.
(An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, 2004)
www.librarycouncil.ie/publications

ABOUT LARKIN

A gift of 500 new books has been presented to Larkin Community College on Cathal Brugha St., Dublin by well known Dublin businessman and author Bill Cullen. Mr. Cullen announced at the presentation that "this is just the beginning, there will be 500 books every year for the next three years". Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin T.D., was present to meet the staff and pupils at the College when Bill Cullen made the official presentation.



▲ Minister Hanafin and Bill Cullen

The Library at Larkin College is part of a Department of Education and Science's initiative aimed at boosting literacy in disadvantaged areas. The library hosts shared reading, paired reading, story telling, read-a-long books and tapes, games,

quizzes, research, treasure hunts, book reviewing and quiet reading classes for students.

Welcoming the donation of books, College Librarian Eileen Holian said "Renault Ireland Chairman Bill Cullen's donation will add considerably to the library's resources. But more importantly it's a real boost for the students and the staff and demonstrates that others in our community believe in the work that we are doing here in Larkin College. His practical and generous gesture of support to the students in our school will have a lasting impact on this school community. Since September 2003 in Larkin Community College our junior cycle students, a population of on average 240 students, have read or borrowed over 3,000 books. This space has quickly become the heart of the school where children choose to come in their free time. It is a dynamic space in an equally dynamic school."

Mr. Cullen said "there is no achievement without opportunity and I hope in some small way that these books will open the minds for the local children in the inner Dublin area."

Minister for Education and Science Mary Hanafin said "While recent OECD results for 15 year olds showed Ireland ranked amongst the top for reading, we must concentrate resources to enhance the skills of those most in need of support and to ensure that they do not get left behind in reading skills. Well stocked libraries such as this one at Larkin College foster a positive reading culture for pupils and enhance the skills and abilities of our young people. It is an excellent link for the student to the world outside school, an environment where students can develop at their own pace and expand their own interests."

Clare County Library recently celebrated the 21st anniversary of the completion of Clare County Council's first Library Development Programme.

Mr. Dick Roche, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, joined with the Clare Public Library Service in celebrating the anniversary. While in the de Valera Library in Ennis, the Minister spoke of the five purpose-built libraries developed under that programme - Ennistymon, Kilrush, Newmarket-on-Fergus, Shannon and the de Valera library itself where the event took place. He referred in particular to the de Valera library which he said was "considered a landmark in branch library development and had a major influence on library development in Ireland".

"It is quite appropriate that today's event should take place in Ennis", the Minister continued, "as Ennis was of course the first town to adopt the Public Library (Ireland) Act, 1855, the 150th anniversary of which we celebrate this year." To mark this occasion the Minister said that a programme of events to further promote the role of the modern public library service as a key cultural function of local authorities was being organised with funding from his Department.

The Minister said that the development of information communications technology had opened a myriad of opportunities for the further development of the public library service. "We cannot discuss delivery of service today without reference to information technology and the relatively new role of the library in facilitating access to the Internet. The Government has given a high priority to ensuring that access to the Information Society develops in a socially inclusive way and in particular to mitigating the effects of the digital divide." The Minister launched *Foto: Clare Images on Line* a series of almost 3,000 photographs depicting many aspects of life in the County from the early 20th century to the present. He also launched another ICT project being managed by Clare County Library - The Clare Tithe Applotment Books Transcription Project which aims to make the information contained in the Tithe Applotment Books available on-line. This is a novel project in that volunteers from Canada, the U.S.A., Australia, New Zealand and a growing number of other countries transcribe the data, forward it to the library where it is checked and posted on the library website.

Dublin City Library and Archive: The annual lecture to celebrate the life and work of Sir John T. Gilbert and his contribution to the history and culture of Dublin has now become a highlight of the January calendar. This year the 8th annual Sir John T. Gilbert Lecture was held in Dublin City Library and Archive, Pearse Street, on Thursday 20 January 2005, at 8.00pm. It was given by Dr Raymond Gillespie, Department of Modern History, National University of Ireland, Maynooth, and entitled *Seventeenth-century Dubliners and their books*.



▲ Deirdre Ellis-King, Dr. Raymond Gillespie and Deputy Lord Mayor, Cllr. Andrew Montague

The conference room was filled to capacity with an audience of just over 100 people. The event began with a welcome by Ms Deirdre Ellis-King, Dublin City Librarian, who introduced the

chairman for the evening, Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Andrew Montague. Ms Ellis-King recalled the first Gilbert lecture in 1998, given by Douglas Bennett in the Mansion House, and her hope at the time that the lecture series would continue. Councillor Montague stressed the importance of history and drew attention to the hidden areas of history that often went unnoticed and uncelebrated.

Dr Gillespie gave a lively and erudite lecture, ranging widely over the areas of making books, publishing, bookselling, owning and using books. He examined the way in which the book trade worked at the period, and how books arrived in the Dublin shops, imported from London through Chester and Bristol, with a small number printed in Dublin. He focused on the readers and users of books from the late 16th to the late 17th centuries, drawing on lists of books owned by individuals, booksellers lists, and accounts by readers of their own reading. He looked at the type of subjects which appealed to early modern readers: religious and devotional works, history, philosophy, and books of entertainment. Feedback from the audience was very positive, and they are looking forward to seeing the lecture in print.

The lecture was accompanied by a display of books and manuscripts from the collections of Dublin City Archives and Dublin City Public Libraries.

The published text of the 2004 lecture was launched, Dr Ruth McManus's 'Such happy harmony': early twentieth-century housing co-operation to solve Dublin's housing problems, and copies were presented to Ruth and to Councillor Montague by the City Librarian. The evening ended with a wine reception.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Library: Deansgrange Library was packed to capacity for the Readers' Day entitled *A Book Affair to Remember* held on 12th February. Organised by Sarah Webb and the Irish Girls in association with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Libraries, it featured over 20 of Ireland's favourite authors including Marian Keyes, Claudia Carroll, Anita Notaro, Catherine Dunne, Anne Marie Forrest, Sinéad Moriarty and Monica McInerney.

A series of talks entitled *The Write Stuff* runs weekly in Deansgrange Library until 23rd March covering topics such as writing romantic comedy, crime fiction, historical fiction, writing for children, for the media, and finally, a session on agents and publishers – what to do with your script when you have it completed! For further details check the website www.dlrccoco.ie/library email deansgrange@dlrcoco.ie or phone 01-285 0860. Speakers include Tina Reilly, Julie Parsons, Paul Carson, Rose Doyle, Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick, Don Conroy, Martina Devlin, Marita Conlon-McKenna, Alison Walsh and Sarah Webb.

The **International Board on Books for Young People's** launched its' new look magazine, *Bookbird* in Dublin City Library & Archive, Pearse Street, on 10th February. *Bookbird* is an international journal of children's literature which is now being edited and designed in Ireland. Librarian Valerie Coghlan and author Siobhan Parkinson are the new editors.

Speakers at the launch included, Peter Schneck, President of IBBY International, Dr. Joan Glazer, President of *Bookbird* Inc. as well as Valerie and Siobhan.

IBBY is an organization with branches in countries all over the world, which sprang out of the ruins of Europe after World War II. Founded by Jella Lepman, a Jewish German-American refugee, who was posted back to Germany to help the children of a physically and spiritually devastated Germany immediately after the end of the war, IBBY's fundamental principle is the hopeful ideal that bringing books to children, especially children living in the shadow of war and destruction will open their minds and their imaginations, heal their wounded souls and help them to grow up as citizens of the world with a profound respect for other human beings, other countries, other cultures and other ways of life.

The **Irish Architectural Archive** has relocated to 45 Merrion Square, Dublin 2 where John O'Donoghue, T.D., Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism officiated at the official opening on 26th January.

The Archive was forced to move because of its growing collection which now has over 200,000 architectural drawings, some 400,000 photographs, a reference library with over 15,000 items of printed matter and a large assemblage of architectural models. The facilities available at no. 45 consist of a large reading room, lecture, meetings and seminar rooms and a large exhibition space. A programme of exhibitions has been developed through to 2006, including a unique series of late nineteenth-century views of Cork to coincide with Cork being European Capital of Culture.

Kerry County Library has launched a collection of dual language books to help integrate non-national children in the county. Assistant Librarian, Seamus Dowling said: "The aim of the collection is to help children of these growing sectors integrate and establish themselves in Irish society, as well as to maintain contact with one's own culture. It also aims to educate Irish children and young people about the cultural traditions and backgrounds of Ireland's new multi-cultural society".

The library service surveyed children to establish which nationalities used the library and what kind of books they wanted. Languages include Albanian, Czech, French, German, Italian, Nigerian, Pakistani, Polish, Russian, Serbo-Croatian and Spanish.

Retired Archbishop, Cardinal Cathal Daly donated his entire set of writings to the political collection of the **Linen Hall Library**. The donation is bound in volumes and includes 500 sermons, essays, addresses and public statements from throughout his career. Cardinal Daly was ordained in 1941 and consecrated as a bishop in 1967. He was Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland from 1990 to 1996.

Speaking at the launch, Cardinal Daly said he was happy to be involved with the library.

"From the beginning of the Troubles in Northern Ireland I believed that the recording and analysis of the ongoing conflict and the preservation of all documents relating to it, would be of great historical importance. "I admired the initiative of the Linen Hall Library in setting up its political collection."

Cardinal Daly also explained that he had given his life's work to the library so that the public could judge what he had done, and see the "unadulterated text".

Meath County Libraries' new Ashbourne branch has registered 5,000 borrowers in its first 8 months of opening. Mary Oakes from Pinewood Court Ashbourne was the 5,000th borrower registered, when she came to the library with her husband Ciaran and her 3 children Ava, Emma and Matthew.



▲ **Mary Murphy, Ashbourne Library with Mary Oakes and family**

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. Since opening, the library now hosts a wide range of community groups such as the Beavers, Cubs and Ladybird groups, the Citizens Information Centre and the Ratoath Arts Group.

The library runs a wide range of events each month including a weekly musical appreciation club and a very popular parent and toddler group. A children's book club is planned to start at the end of February.

Mary Murphy, the Executive Librarian for Ashbourne said "We are delighted with the interest in the library since we opened in May last year. We can hardly believe we have registered over 50% of the Ashbourne population in such a short space of time."

Royal Irish Academy: Nobel laureate Seamus Heaney recently supported a fundraising project at the Academy library. The library commissioned the noted calligrapher and authority on early manuscripts, Tim O'Neill, to write out on vellum 150 copies of Heaney's poem *Columcille the Scribe*. Each copy was signed by both poet and artist and accompanied by an explanatory text, hand printed at the Trinity Closet Press, the manuscript was placed in a portfolio bound in linen cloth.



▲ **Siobhan Fitzpatrick, RIA Librarian, Seamus Heaney and Tim O'Neill**

One hundred and twenty-five copies were put on sale to kick-start a special acquisitions fund for the library. Retailing at €650 each, to date almost two-thirds of this limited edition item have been sold. The Academy is extremely grateful to Seamus Heaney for his generous participation in this venture. Contact: Hugh Shiels on 676 2570 or h.shiels@ria.ie

The library recently loaned the 1924 Senate Casket, commissioned by Mrs Alice Stopford Green for the first senate of the Irish Free State, to an exhibition on the Arts and Crafts Movement currently running at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The casket is modelled on early Irish book shrines and is in the shape of Gallarus Oratory. It is displayed alongside major European and American artworks from the 1880s to 1930.

On 14th February, Dr Loretta Brennan Glucksman and Dr Bill Harris, Director General of Science Foundation Ireland, signed the Academy's membership roll. The library displayed a selection of treasures for the occasion. The library is currently showing an exhibition on the Irish manuscript tradition - An teanga Ghaeilge i lámhscríbhinn -, a complementary exhibition to the one showing in TCD Long Room, An teanga Ghaeilge i gcló. Contacts: Siobhán Fitzpatrick (s.fitzpatrick@ria.ie) or Petra Schnabel (p.schnabel@ria.ie), or phone 676 2570/676 4222.

The School Library Association in the Republic of Ireland will host its AGM and conference in King's Hospital School in Palmerstown in Dublin on Saturday the 12th of March. Nomination forms will be sent out in the post to members. If you are interested in coming on to the SLARI committee or know someone who you believe could make a valuable contribution then please put your pen to paper and get nominating. SLARI welcomes anyone working in the area of libraries or education to get involved. Ellen Breen, Sub-Librarian, Head of Information & Public Services Library, Dublin

City University will make a presentation on the development of information literacy skills at both primary and secondary level with particular emphasis on internet use, how best to evaluate websites, how to efficiently relate content to project work, the ethical use of information; and the problems facing first year university students when they start using a third level library. Rosena Hand, Senior Librarian at Ballyroan Library will talk about the public library as a resource for schools and school libraries and Laura Joyce, Schools Librarian, will talk about the service provided by the Schools Library Service. There will be an opportunity to meet with teachers and librarians from across Ireland. For more details please contact Eileen Holian at larkinlibrary@eircom.net or on 00355 1 8747701



The **Sixth International Edible Book Festival** takes place on 1st April, between 2 and 4 p.m.

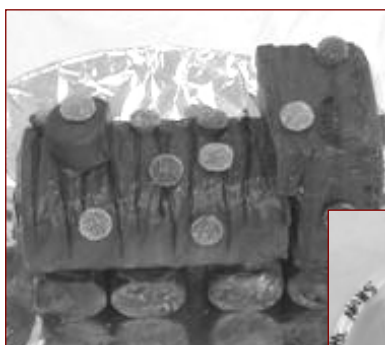
This event unites bibliophiles, book artists and food lovers to 'celebrate the ingestion of culture and its fulfilling nourishment'. Participants create edible books that are exhibited, documented and then consumed.

From 2 - 4 p.m. participants take high/low tea while viewing the edible exhibit. At 4 p.m., after they have photographed the works, they are eaten! All venues are requested to take photographs or record in video their event and displayed books. Participants are requested to send two copies of menus and copies of photographs to Umbrella, P.O. Box 3640, Santa Monica, CA 90408. The documentation will be used for a potential (non-edible) book by Umbrella Editions. A description and links of all participants around the world is available at <http://books2eat.com>

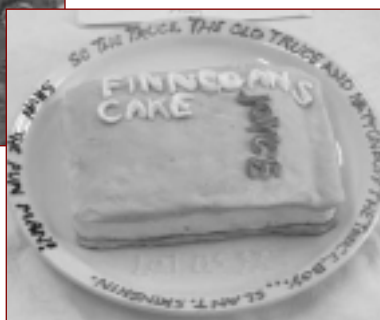
For documentation and images of the previous five International Edible Book Festivals, please visit the website. For information, edification and moral support, contact Books2Eat or umbrella@books2eat.com

Irish Library News would also like to receive details and/or photographs for inclusion in the May issue.

An Chomhairle's edible bookfest for 2004 attracted seven entries, including:



◀ *Trainspotting and Finnegan's Cake (on a jus of quotations)*



It was recently announced that the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism is providing a grant of €500,000 to **University College Cork** towards the acquisition of the Seán Ó Riada archive. There had been some concern that the collection could end up on the other side of the Atlantic, as institutions in the US had expressed interest in it.

As well as the €500,000 being provided towards the purchase of the archive, the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism has also allocated an additional €100,000 to the Cork University towards

the security, conservation and public exhibition of the collection. UCC has also contributed towards its purchase.

Parts of the archive will be exhibited in the Boole Library at UCC, when a new extension to that library will be completed in 12 to 18 months time. UCC librarian John Fitzgerald says the first task will be to list and preserve the 4,000 items involved.

The extension to the Boole Library will include 'Seomra Uí Riada', a new reading room in which it is intended to exhibit the great composer's archive.

Film material and books in various languages belonging to Seán Ó Riada are part of the archive, as well as his writings, which include plays, and two priceless harps from the 16th and 18th century are also in the collection.

The **University of Limerick** Library was a recent beneficiary of a very valuable collection of books, prints, videos and other materials relating to Irish historical, linguistic and ecclesiastical culture. This collection is the private collection of Dr. Máirtín Ó Droma, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering at the University of Limerick. In addition to valuable first-editions of Irish language material the collection also includes important monographs relating to Irish folklore, Anglo-Irish literature, translations from the Irish and Irish and European Church history. One of the latter donations which Dr. O'Droma presented to the library is a copy of the Book of Ballymote, one of the few copies of this book in circulation in Ireland.

people

Mr Aongus Ó h Aonghusa has been appointed Director of the National Library of Ireland. Welcoming Mr. Ó h Aonghusa's appointment, the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, John O'Donoghue T.D., said "I wish Mr. Ó h Aonghusa, who has been Acting Director of the National Library since September 2003, every success in his new appointment. I am confident that Mr. Ó h Aonghusa's appointment will ensure the efficient and effective transition of the National Library to autonomous status under the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997 and that, under his stewardship, the Library will continue to grow in international stature."



Terry Cunningham (right), chairman of the Fethard Historical Society, presenting the 2004 Tipperarian 'Book of the Year' award to **Patrick Bracken** for his publication, *Foreign and Fantastic Field Sports: Cricket in County Tipperary*, on Saturday 29th January 2004. Pat, was presented with a framed print of a Fethard cricket team c.1900 taken from the Kenrick Collection of Glass Plates, which is also featured on the cover of his book.

Pat is a Senior Library Assistant with Tipperary Libraries, and he works in their Templemore Branch Library. His book was launched in Templemore library on 3rd December 2004, by Mr Brendan Cummins, Tipperary senior hurling goalkeeper.

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of our colleagues **Gerardette Roche** of Wexford County Library and **Pat Egan**, formerly of the Cork City Library Service.

AIDAN HEAVEY PUBLIC LIBRARY, ATHLONE CIVIC CENTRE

Westmeath County Council's new flagship library, the Aidan Heavey Library opened its doors to the public on the 20th September 2004. The library is at the new Civic Centre located in the heart of the town and replaces the old library in Fr. Mathew Hall where it had been since 1949.

The new Civic Centre, which is a striking landmark building of 4,200 sq. metres, houses the offices of Athlone Town Council, Westmeath County Council, the council chamber, meeting rooms, crèche, a one stop shop facility for various government services and the new public library.

The building was designed by London based firm Keith Williams Architects who have designed a number of major cultural venues including the Centro Culturale in Turin, the Copenhagen Philharmonic in Denmark and the Birmingham Repertory Theatre. The engineering firm involved in the project was ARUP Consultant Engineers while the main contractor was John Sisk and Sons.



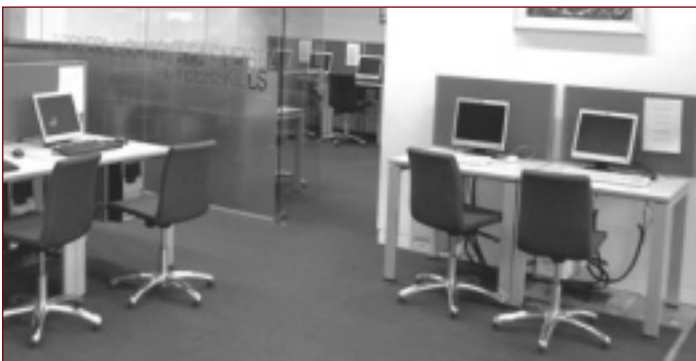
▲ *Athlone Civic Centre*

The library occupies a prominent location in the centre looking directly onto the new civic square thereby conveying an expression of openness and invitation to library users and visitors. In line with the requirements and functions of a modern library service' the Aidan Heavey Library aims to reflect and meet the cultural, educational, recreational, informational and community needs of all its users. The new library is set to play a prominent social role in the local community and given its location in a larger civic building, it will also play a vital role as a local authority interface.

The library, at 1,040 sq. metres, is located on two levels with a projected stock figure of 45,000 items in both traditional print and multi-media formats.

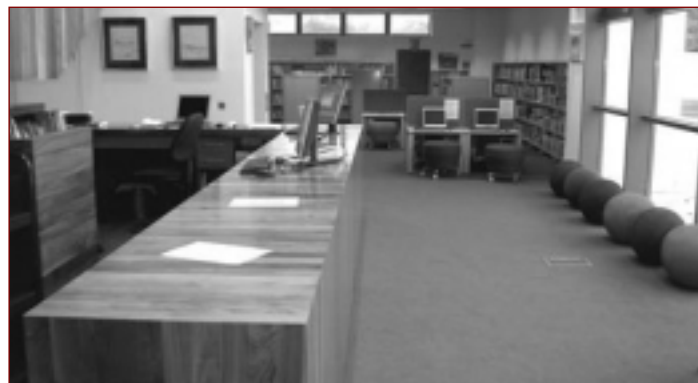
Located at ground floor level are:-

- the main adult lending and reference area;
- a rest and recreational area with easy seating, newspapers, magazines, information leaflets; there are also generous study facilities available;
- an exhibition / lecture room with seating accommodation for circa 50 persons;
- the Cyberskills room with its dedicated internet/multi-media facility for training and self-learning. Additional public access computers and audio visual facilities are sited throughout the adult and children's lending areas offering access to the Internet, cd-rom, Microsoft office suite and language learning resources.



▲ *Cyberskills room*

- early illustrated tours of Ireland;
- an important collection of Cuala, Dún Emer and Dolmen Press material;
- a unique collection of Jack B Yeats material including signed and inscribed copies, original play scripts and sketch books;
- an important collection of 17th and 18th century Irish printings;
- full runs of many important Irish historical and archaeological journals;
- important collection of Irish literature including many signed and limited editions by Séamus Heaney, Samuel Beckett, W. B. Yeats, Oliver St. John Gogarty and others;
- specific subject collections on Irish political history, Irish genealogy and family history, Irish art, architecture and bibliography.



▲ *Children's library*

Located on the lower ground floor level are:-

- the children's library;
- the local studies department;
- administrative offices and;
- The Aidan Heavey Collection which is housed under special climate control conditions.

IT provision includes 20 dedicated public access computers which are managed by a PC reservations system, the Horizon Library Management System, a self check issue system is also available offering quick delivery of lending services and online access to the library catalogue and e-government services is available via the library's ipac machines.

Aidan Heavey Collection

Athlone native Aidan Heavey, a retired businessman and noted book collector, donated his extensive private library of circa 18,000 volumes to Athlone library as a result of which the members of Westmeath County Council named the new library in his honour. The collection representing the fruits of over 40 years of collecting is regarded as one of the finest private libraries in the country. The acquisition of such a prestigious collection greatly enhances the collections of Westmeath County Library Service and serves to focus serious academic interest in Athlone. When the collection is catalogued the catalogue will be made available to academic and public libraries in Ireland. Access will be restricted to academic scholars and bona-fide researchers working on bibliographies or other studies of Irish material as it is a non-lending collection. The collection includes extensive coverage of Irish history, topography and literature with many rare and unique items. The collection displays strengths in several specific subject areas:-

- an unrivalled collection of the works of Oliver Goldsmith, including first editions;
- a superb collection of rare and beautiful bindings;
- early maps and atlases of Irish interest;
- a collection of Douglas Hyde material, including manuscript material, memorabilia, original photographs and an important portrait of Hyde by the noted Irish artist Leo Whelan;
- Irish language material including rare prayer books, bibles etc;



march 2005

- 5-17th *Seachtain na Gaeilge*
- 10-11th *The Word Endures*: a seminar and exhibition on how libraries foster cultural expression and freedom of expression; how libraries have suffered in conflicts. Details from Cork City Library Cork City Library, 57-61 Grand Parade, Cork. t: 021 4924900; f: 021 4275684; e: citylibrary@corkcity.ie
- 7-12th *Ireland Library Week*: Details www.libraryassociation.ie
- 10th Annual General Meeting of the *Library Association of Ireland*, 10.30 a.m. in the Clarion Hotel, Lapps Quay, Cork. Details www.libraryassociation.ie
- 12th *The School Library Association* in the Republic of Ireland will host its AGM and conference in King's Hospital School in Palmerstown in Dublin. For more details please contact Eileen Holian at larkinlibrary@eircom.net or on 00 353 1 8747701

april 2005

- 7th *Hugh M. Fitzpatrick Lectures in Legal Bibliography*. Sir John Baker, Downing Professor of the Laws of England, University of Cambridge, will give the twelfth lecture in the series entitled *Books of entries and precedents of pleading: 1400 – 1800*. The venue is High Court No. 1, off the round hall, The Four Courts, Dublin 7. 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
- 19-21st Joint Annual Conference of the *Library Association of Ireland & CILIP-Ireland*, City Hotel, Derry City.
- 23rd *World Book and Copyright Day*

august 2005

- 11-12th *The physical library and beyond: library as place and the library in cyberspace* – IFLA 2005 satellite meeting organised by the Library Building and Equipment Section in co-operation with the Reference Work Section. Venue: Järvenpää, Finland. Conference language is English. For information and registration see: www.fl.fi/PHYSICALvsVIRTUAL05/
- 14-18th *Libraries: a voyage of discovery* – 71st IFLA General Conference and Council, Oslo. Details: e: ifla2005@norskbiotekforening.no w: www.ifla2005oslo.no

october 2005

- 11-12th *Library Ireland 2005* - library, education and cultural resources exhibition will take place at the RDS, Dublin. Organisations interested in exhibiting should contact Key Events Ltd, 24 Terenure Road East, Rathgar, Dublin 6. t: 01-4901790; f: 4901792; e: info@keyevents.ie; w: www.keyevents.ie

LOCAL STUDIES TRAINING COURSES

An Chomhairle Leabharlanna has announced details of a new three-part course for public library staff, exploring in detail local studies sources and looking at how they can be used. The course has three themes: 'people', 'places', and 'putting people and places together'. Each one-day programme will be presented by a leading academic in the local studies field, under the general guidance of Dr. Raymond Gillespie, NUI, Maynooth. The dates, venues and themes may be viewed at: <http://www.librarycouncil.ie/training/People%20in%20local%20history.shtml>.

This course is aimed at local studies librarians and other staff who have a familiarity with local studies sources. (Please note that participants will be expected to have at least a basic knowledge of the sources held by his or her library.) Places on this course are strictly limited. Each session will be run in both Dublin and Galway and we are now taking bookings for the first session. The fee is €120 (includes lunch and tea/coffee). Bookings can be made using our online booking facility or by faxing the booking form, downloadable from: <http://www.librarycouncil.ie/training/People%20in%20local%20history.shtml>

publications

The Crisis Pregnancy Agency has developed a DVD to assist parents in communication with their children on matters relating to sexual health and relationships. The resource is for parents, step-parents, foster parents, guardians or carers of children aged primarily between 11-15.

The Agency is making the DVD and accompanying booklet available free of charge to libraries. If you would like to obtain a copy/copies please contact: Sioban O'Brien Green, Health Promotion and Education Officer, Crisis Pregnancy Agency, 89-94 Capel Street, Dublin 1. t: 01-814 6292; e: info@crisispregnancy.ie.

The Library and Information Services Council (Northern Ireland) has published a leaflet with the message "You don't have to stop reading because your sight is getting worse". *Carry on reading* is a guide to sourcing the different ways of reading:

- o large and giant print
- o the spoken word
- o by touch (Braille or Moon)
- o assistive technology

The guide has been produced as a co-operative venture by LISC(NI) with Calibre Cassette Library, National Library for the Blind and the Royal National Institute of the Blind.

Copies of the leaflet, which is also published in audio and Braille, are available from LISC(NI) t: 028 9070 5441 or e: Mairead@liscni.co.uk

wanted

The East Wall North Port Development Group is setting up a library but it will come as no surprise that they are really strapped for cash. The project is looking for shelves. If you can help, please contact them at:

The East Wall North Port Development Group, St Mary's Youth Club, Strangford Rd. East, Dublin 3 t: 01 8860074 e: eastwallyouth@eircom.net

COPY DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 20th April 2005.

Contributions should be sent to Alun Bevan, Editor - ILN, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, 53-54 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2. e: abevan@librarycouncil.ie

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If you would like Irish Library News emailed to you or your workplace, please contact the editor