

# IRISH LIBRARY NEWS

Issued by An Chomhairle Leabharlanna (The Library Council)

No. 256 December 2005

ISSN 0332-0049

## MINISTER ROCHE LAUNCHES IRELAND'S FIRST EUROPE DIRECT CENTRE IN BLANCHARDSTOWN LIBRARY

Anyone looking for information about the European Union can now go to a new EUROPE DIRECT centre in their own area. The initiative is aimed at keeping the general public and the business community better informed about EU policies and increasing public interest in EU affairs.

The first centre, in Blanchardstown library was launched on 24th October by Dick Roche, TD, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The other flagship libraries for the European Direct Information Service are Ballinasloe, Carraroe, Dooradoyle, Longford, Letterkenny, Macroom, and Lismore Enterprise Park. These new centres will offer a range of services including guides to EU law, programmes and policies, treaty texts, public feedback to Brussels and a freephone to the EUROPE DIRECT centre. There will also be PC access to the EU website and many will also provide a TV showing the "Europe by Satellite" news channel.

Speaking at the launch, Minister Roche said: "This initiative should help stimulate public debate about EU policies and enable the work of the European Union to become more relevant and responsive to the needs of its citizens."

## THE POLLARD COLLECTION OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS

A new exhibition of children's literature has opened in Trinity College's Long Room. 'Tales of Wonder – A Peep into the Pollard Collection' marks the bequest of about 10,000 books by the late Paul (Mary) Pollard to Trinity's Library. The exhibition was opened by children's author, Siobhán Parkinson, and will run until mid-January 2006.

Mary Pollard (1922 – 2005), known as Paul, was a leading figure in Irish bibliography, with an international reputation for her work on the eighteenth-century Dublin book trade. She worked for many years in the Early Printed Books Department of Trinity College Dublin's Library, and was its first Keeper. Paul also worked part-time in Marsh's Library in the early part of her career. This collection is one of international significance, comprising some 10,000 books spanning the period from the late 17th century to the early 20th century, with a particular focus on books for girls.

It contains literature written for children by significant Irish authors, particularly Maria Edgeworth, and many books of Irish interest. A full assessment of its strengths in particular categories has yet to be carried out, but they include moral tales and tracts, learner readers, chapbooks, nineteenth-century annuals and magazines. Many items were awarded as prizes or have inscribed presentation statements, giving valuable information on their provenance. The exhibition, prepared by Dr Lydia Ferguson of the Library's Department of Early Printed Books, illustrates the collection's range and the development of writing for children over three hundred years.



▲ Left to Right: Mr. Paul Harris - County Librarian, Fingal County Libraries Ms. Joan Maher - Fingal County Council Cathaoirleach Mr. Dick Roche - TD, Minister for Environment and Local Government Mr. Martin Territt - Director of European Commission Office in Dublin Mr. John Tierney - County Manager, Fingal County Council



The Pollard collection presents enormous opportunities for research and scholarship on a wide range of themes relating to children's literature and childhood, and associated disciplines such as education, English, history, sociology, gender studies, and popular culture. Paul Pollard's notebooks recording her acquisitions and her card index of the books, which came with the collection, will also be invaluable tools for research. The Library's immediate priority will be to catalogue the books in full so as to be able to make them available to researchers.

*The bequest also includes the establishment of Ireland's first scholarship dedicated to research in bibliography.*

*Cork Bound*, an exhibition of some of the treasures of **Cork City Libraries**, was launched on 17 November 2005 at the Central Library on the Grand Parade and runs until late December. It is the last of a series of exhibitions organised by Cork City Libraries during 2005 to mark Cork's year as the European Capital of Culture.

The exhibition concentrates on historically important or visually attractive samples of Cork-related material from the Local Studies department, highlighting some of the lesser-known resources of the library. The displayed items include manuscripts, books, maps, photographs, illustrations, journals and theatre programmes.

Among the interesting items on display are early photographs showing, e.g., the laying of the foundation stone of St Fin Barre's Cathedral in 1865, schooners delivering cargo to Ballinacurra harbour in the 1890s, a city lane around 1900, and a hand-coloured map of part of Cork city in 1845.

Writing in her arts column in the *Irish Times* on 28 November, Mary Leland described the exhibition as 'a fascinating display of publications old and new'.



▲ *Cork Butter Market from the Illustrated London News of 2 April 1859 as featured in Cork Bound*

The Regional Library at **Dr. Steevens' Hospital** is embarking on a digital media storage project. The aim of this project is to implement a customised digital media archive to facilitate electronic access to full-text health related reports, documents & information regardless of original format. The pilot phase of this project began in 2005 and involved identifying a core collection of publications and converting them using scanning equipment and OCR software to digital format. The access point for the archive is web-based. The benefits of the system include: improved access to electronic documents, preservation of older material, full-text search facility, expand awareness of material held electronically, preservation of knowledge for future generations. The pilot contains an archive of all documents in the public domain produced by the following agencies from 2000 – 2004: Eastern Regional Health Authority, East Coast Area Health Board, South West Area Health Board, Northern Area Health Board. In addition all documents produced by the former Eastern Health Board from 1979-2000 are included. A key collection of health documents from 1970 to today are included as part of a subject based browseable collection. The intention is to expand the archive to become a National repository of Irish health information.

*This is an abstract of a paper given by Aoife Lawton entitled "Creating a Digital Media Archive of Irish Health Information" at the HISI (Health Informatics Society of Ireland)s 10th Annual Conference held in Stillorgan Park Hotel.*

Applications are invited for the **Elsevier/LIRG Research Award** for 2005. The purpose of the award is to encourage research and innovation in library and information science. It is intended that particular attention will be paid to proposals intended to improve the accessibility, retrievability and usefulness of information. The maximum value of the award is £1000 (one thousand pounds). The closing date for applications is 31 January 2006.

The award may be used to defray research expenses (e.g. travel, postage costs) to fund attendance at high level meetings or to fund a study tour. A clear overall aim for the research must be stated. Visits for general professional development will not be considered.

There is no application form, and proposals may be made in any suitable form. As guidance, it is suggested that the following should be included:

- A description of the proposed research, including a title, the objective(s), the methodology, the expected timescale, and any other related work (by proposer or others)
- A financial projection, including all anticipated expenditure, which will be used as the basis on which any award is assessed. Where it is proposed to use funding from other sources to supplement the award this should be clearly stated. Proposers should note that Elsevier/LIRG award should be the principal source of funding for the research
- Curriculum vitae of proposer

Prize winners will be required to present an interim account of the research to the Annual General Meeting of the Library and Information Research Group. In addition, a final report on the research will be required in the form of a paper suitable for publication in Library and Information Research (LIR).

The closing date for applications is 31st January 2006

Applications (by 31st January 2006) and further enquiries should be sent (preferably by email) to: Dr. Angela Conyers, Library Services, 84 Aldridge Road, UCE Birmingham, Perry Barr, Birmingham B42 2SU.

The full longlist of eligible titles for the 2006 **International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award**, along with details of the members of the judging panel, was announced in Dublin on Tuesday 22nd November by Councillor Catherine Byrne, Lord Mayor of Dublin and Patron of the Award [see <http://www.impacdublinaward.ie/2006/longlist.htm>]. The shortlist will be announced on 5th April 2006 and the winner on 14th June 2006.

P.S. The longlist includes 132 novels: 31 in translation - covering 15 languages - nominated by 180 library systems from 124 cities in 43 countries. Six of the novels are by Irish authors - Cecilia Ahern, *PS, I Love You*; Ronan Bennett, *Havoc in its Third Year*; Frank Delaney, *Ireland*; Roddy Doyle, *Oh, Play That Thing*; Tina Reilly, *Something Borrowed*; Colm Tóibín, *The Master*.

**Laois County Library:** in Portlaoise library on the 17th November, Michael Moylan of Dúchas presented a series of live interactive history shows to three national schools. These schools were Portarlinton Convent N.S., St Paul's Boys School, Portlaoise and Scoil Muire Portlaoise. The history periods chosen by the schools in respective order were, "The Celts", "1798 to 1803" and "1916 Rising". Children took part in an interactive lecture with weaponry and dress of the period being tried out. The day was enjoyed by all and it is hoped to provide lectures for more schools in the near future.

Michael talked to the students about the various periods, with many interesting asides and anecdotes along the way. He held the children's attention very well and indeed any adults who were present were impressed and learnt some. He encouraged the children to examine the weaponry and wear costumes and dress. During the Celts show tunics were worn and a crushing stone was used to break wheat into flour.



▲ *Living history in Portlaoise Library*



The first major Information Technology project undertaken by **Monaghan County Library Services** was the introduction of the new Unicorn Library Management System. The project began in 2002, with 100% backing from Monaghan County Council where they dedicated a Project team to implement the system. The cataloguing process began on Tuesday 6th May 2004 in the main branch library, Monaghan town. All five branches in the county were completely automated by July 2005. Over 70,000 items have been catalogued & almost 10,000 members entered onto the new system in the two-year period!

The introduction of the Sirsi Unicorn system is a major transformation in the way Monaghan County Library Service operates i.e. a change over from a manual system to an automated one. With this new technology the library has become an even greater access point for community resources.

With the introduction of the system, the following changes have occurred - *Adults, Pensioners & 3rd Level students* can borrow up to 4 items for up to 3 weeks; *Children & 2nd level students* can borrow up to 3 items for up to 3 weeks, *Creches/Playgroups/Teachers* can borrow up to 30 items. The library catalogue is available online at [www.monaghan.ie](http://www.monaghan.ie)

The Automation project cost approximately €20,000, of which the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government funded 75%. Our next step forward is introducing the system onto our new Mobile library van, with the use of mobile phone technology & a Citrix Server solution & the cataloguing the Local History Collection.

Writing is never completed until the book is published and held in the hand of the reader. **South Dublin County Libraries** held their celebration of the reader, Readers Day, on 5th November 2005 which was attended by 260 people.

The day began with readings from five local poets, followed by in conversation pieces with Nell McCafferty, Mary Kenny, Eugene McCabe, Brian Kennedy, Anne Enright and Dardis Clarke. Writer in residence Dermot Bolger chaired the day which ended with a relaxing glass of wine which was shared with all of the authors. Nell McCafferty later wrote that it was the 'best reading day I have ever taken part in'. Staff are in recovery but already planning next years event.



▲ *Donegal's Taobh Tire project was officially launched*



▲ *The new Taobh Tire liveried delivery van in Fanalvally*



▲ *The Ryan Tubridy radio show was broadcast live from Castlebar Library*



## offer

The Food Safety Authority of Ireland library has 3 computer stands to give away. Each has space for a computer screen and keyboard on top and an enclosed space for the hard drive. Not suitable for sitting at. Beech with brown top. Dimensions: 2 x 110cm (h) and 99 cm (w) and 1 x 89 cm (h) and 99 cm (w). For photo or further details please contact Noeleen Murtagh at 01 - 8171354 or nmurtagh@fsai.ie. Must organize own delivery.



## people

**Dr John Mullins**, executive librarian at Cork City Libraries, became the first person in Ireland to receive an Emerald/EFMD Annual Outstanding Doctoral Research Award (including €1,500 prize money). Eleven of these awards were granted internationally during 2005, in various categories of management studies. John was awarded his prize in the Public Sector Management category. His thesis, *Perceptions of leadership in the public library: a transnational study*, is the most in-depth interview-based study on public library leadership conducted worldwide to date. A total of 30 public library leaders were interviewed for this study in Ireland, Britain, and the U.S.A.

## publications

The Renaissance Library Calendar 2006 features two libraries which have been honoured with UNESCO awards in 2005:

- Biblioteca Palafoxiana, (the Palafoxiana Library) in Puebla, Mexico, dating from 1646, was listed on UNESCO's "Memory of the World" International Register in July, 2005,
- also in July, the Plantin-Moretus Museum in Antwerp, Belgium, including its extensive library, dating from 1563, was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

These World famous old libraries appear in the 2006 edition of the Renaissance Library Calendar as two of the 12 most beautiful and historic libraries in the World. They were selected from nominations by library and information professionals and book lovers in more than 40 countries.

UNESCO's "Memory of the World Programme" aims to "guard against collective amnesia, calling upon the preservation of the valuable archive holdings and library collections all over the world, ensuring their wide dissemination."

For additional information on the Renaissance Library Calendar contact: Stuart Urwin, ISIM, Torsvagen 7b, 192 67 Sollentuna, Sweden. Tel. +46 8754 15 55 Fax: +46 8754 13 33 e-mail: stuart.urwin@isim.org. Copies of the calendar can be obtained at the Renaissance Library website at <http://www.renaissancelibrary.com/calendars.htm>

## wanted

- Mireia Moreno is a qualified librarian with the Autonomous University of Barcelona, specialising in law and economics. Mireia would like to work for a few months in an Irish library. For further details and curriculum vitae, please contact her at Mireia.Moreno@uab.as
- Qualified Librarian available for library/ information/research contract work – full or part-time. Contact : (087) 2260644

## suppliers update

**Interleaf Technology** has been appointed Irish agent for the Oxford University Press' Online product range.

This authoritative resource allows the library provide full, searchable, access to over 1,400 Oxford publications. To purchase a single copy of each title would cost over €90,000. An online subscription costs a fraction of this and makes these items available to every user, individually, all the time. Access can be made available to authorized users both inside the institution and remotely.

The resources include The Oxford English Dictionary, The Dictionary of National Biography, The American Dictionary of Biography, Grove Dictionary of Art, Grove Dictionary of Music, Oxford Reference (140+ titles), Oxford Scholarship (1,200 + titles). See [www.interleaf.ie/oro.htm](http://www.interleaf.ie/oro.htm) and [www.interleaf.ie/oso.htm](http://www.interleaf.ie/oso.htm) for full listings.

Attractive discounts are available for consortium purchases and multi-year subscriptions.

Contact Charles Quain (csq@interleaf.ie) for further details

The **Galleton Book Detection Agency** is a new a book-finding agency. Whatever your requirements, whether it is a rare or out of print book, a used title, a series of titles or new academic title - GBDA will seek to find and they vow never to close a case until the item has been found, evaluated and encased in a new mylar covering. In this way you will be assured of both the quality of your purchase and of getting the best option available within your budget.

The Agency utilises the services of a team of mainly university graduates of various disciplines e.g. History, Archaeology, Celtic studies, literature, philosophy etc. working together to bring customers the best possible service.

For further information, please contact Orlagh Culleton – e-mail: [info@bookdetectionagency.com](mailto:info@bookdetectionagency.com);

Or visit their web-site at: [www.bookdetectionagency.com](http://www.bookdetectionagency.com)

### 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, UCD School of Information and Library Studies, 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/sils>

The final date for receipt of application forms is **1st February 2006**. Entry to the programmes is competitive and the number of places is limited.

## PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND INNOVATION CONFERENCE

The annual conference of the section was held in Ennis, Co. Clare at the Old Ground Hotel from Wednesday, November 2nd to Friday November 4th. The conference was titled Public Libraries and Innovation and for the first time the Public Libraries' Section joined forces with the County and City Librarians' Section to host a joint seminar. The theme and location were chosen to mark the 150th anniversary of the signing of the first public libraries legislation in Ennis.

After a speech of welcome from the Mayor of Clare, Mr. Pat Keane, the conference was officially opened by Teresa Walsh, County Librarian South Dublin County and Vice-Chair of the Library Association of Ireland, deputising for Ruth Flanagan, President of the Library Association of Ireland, who sent her apologies.

This address was followed by a keynote speech from Mr. Eric Stackhouse of Pictou-Antigonish Library Service, Nova-Scotia, Canada outlining the many innovative ideas and projects which characterise their service to users throughout this vast province. Following this, Noel Crowley, Clare County Librarian, took the opportunity to demonstrate Clare County Libraries' new online mapping project.

The main presentations of the conference were scheduled for Thursday, November 3rd and began with Norma McDermott, Director of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, speaking on Innovation in public libraries: a national perspective. Des Mahon, Mayo County Manager then gave A Manager's perspective on innovation in public libraries. These two scene setting papers were followed by a series of talks detailing a variety of innovative initiatives:

- *The role of public libraries in supporting silver learners (50+ years)* by Hazel Percival, Wexford County Libraries;
- *A Mayo Moment & The Story of Mayo: the involvement of Mayo Public Library in the production of 2 exciting publications* by Austin Vaughan, Mayo County Librarian;
- *Chase the country, catch the city, collect the facts & local/local – Cast the Net: Netd@ys & E-twinning projects* by Julie Dalton and Fiona Ismail, Limerick City Library;
- *The Handbook for Ethnic Minorities: a publication in partnership with other agencies in County Wicklow* by Noelle Murray, Wicklow County Libraries;
- *Sixmilebridge Branch Library and other alternative funding models for library buildings* by Noel Crowley, Clare County Librarian,
- *Ardkeen Online: your community Website (www.ardkeen.ie)* by Cara Carmody and Sinead O'Higgins, Waterford City Library;
- *The Dan Joe Kelleher Video Archive* by Mary McPhillips, Cork County Libraries;
- *Threading Tales: an arts-based initiative to promote literacy and culture of reading* by Caroline Farrell, Kildare County Library & Lucina Russell, Kildare County Arts Office;
- *The Music Appreciation Club in Ashbourne Library* by Teresa Carley, Meath County Libraries;
- *The Westside Library: creating a sense of equity and entitlement* by Cora Gunter, Galway County Libraries;
- *Putting the reader first: developing a reader centred library service project* by Teresa Walsh, South Dublin County Librarian.

The banquet dinner saw the presentation of prizes in the first annual George Harding Parody Prize. 28 entries for this writing competition were received from all over the country and the four worthy winners were presented with their prizes by guest of honour, award-winning crime writer Ken Bruen. Ken also entertained the audience with a witty and compelling address about his love for reading and his formative experiences as a young library user in Galway City. Our competition sponsor, George Harding, has promised to support this competition again next year and we hope it will become a regular feature of conferences in the years to come. The winners were as follows:

1st Place – Sarah Fitzgerald, Limerick Co. Libraries;

2nd Place – Kate Brazil, Wicklow County Libraries;

3rd Place – Jamie O'Connell, Cork City Libraries;

Mystery Prize – Catherine Creedon, Cork City Libraries.

Also at the banquet dinner, a special presentation was made to Kathleen Browne, Kerry County Librarian, on the occasion of her retirement. Tributes were paid to Kathleen for her important contributions to both the County & City Librarians' Group and the former Assistant Librarians' Section of the LAI.



▲ Jane Cantwell, Chairperson of the County & City Librarians' Group of the LAI, Teresa Walsh, Vice-Chair of the LAI, Kathleen Browne, Kerry County Librarian, and Josephine Vahey, Chairperson of the Public Libraries' Section of the LAI.

### caught in the web

Irish History Online ([www.irishhistoryonline.ie](http://www.irishhistoryonline.ie)) is a new, fully searchable database of publications on all aspects of Irish history. Set up in 2003 thanks to a three-year project grant from the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences, the project, based in NUI Maynooth, operates in cooperation with the Royal Historical Society Bibliography for British and Irish History ([www.rhs.ac.uk/bibl](http://www.rhs.ac.uk/bibl)), of which it is now the Irish component. The two bibliographies share the same software, and are inter-searchable.

A team consisting of a bibliographic editor (Dr Anthony McCormack) and data inputter (Mary Murray) is in the process of digitising the data from the lists of 'Writings on Irish history', published annually in Irish Historical Studies (1938-78), subsequently on microfiche (1979-83), and then in pamphlet form (1984-94). They are also adding data for recent years. The printed pamphlets have been discontinued, but instead users have free access to [www.irishhistoryonline.ie](http://www.irishhistoryonline.ie). Already some 45,000 items, covering the period 1980-2001, are available for online searching, consisting of data entered by the IHO team, plus Irish-related items (covering a wider publication period) from the RHS Bibliography. By autumn 2006, it is expected that all the retrospective material contained in 'Writings on Irish history' back to 1936 will be available online, plus material for 2002.

Irish History Online provides the most comprehensive coverage to date of any bibliography of Irish history, including, notably, articles from local history journals. Users may search by the usual criteria (author and title), plus a range of additional options: by subject, person, place, and period covered. Thanks to the RHS Bibliography, some links are built in to COPAC, to the online Oxford DNB, and to EDINA's Get Copy service, which provides full text versions of some articles. Users are invited to use the 'Feedback' facility on the IHO website to notify the team of omissions/additions (bearing in mind that publications before 1980 and after 2001 are not yet online).

An application to the I.R.C.H.S.S. for a further three-year phase of funding, covering the period 2006-9, has recently been successful. During the second phase, apart from keeping the material as current as possible, the emphasis will be on strengthening coverage of material on the Irish abroad, and also on filling gaps in respect of material on Irish history published outside Ireland and Britain.

## COUNTY CLARE HISTORICAL MAP DIGITISATION PROJECT

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In July 2004 Clare County Library decided to build an Internet Geographical Information System for the users of Clare County Library's website, based on the 1842 Ordnance Survey 6-Inch maps of the county and to integrate them with other online resources available on the website.

The 1842 Ordnance Survey 6-Inch maps are a valuable tool for historical research. Clare County Library owns two complete sets of the original maps. They are visually beautiful and contain detailed information down to the level of individual houses and field boundaries, and show all important historical and topographical features. The maps are fragile and irreplaceable and cannot be copied without damaging them. As the physical maps are only available for viewing at Clare County Library's Local Studies Centre in Ennis, public access to them is limited. Clare County Library wanted to give unrestricted access to these maps through the World Wide Web.



As the online maps make use of thousands of tiled images whose file sizes are necessarily quite large, and as some windows may require four such tiles to be downloaded at any one time, the user will ideally need to have broadband access to the Internet. If the user does not have broadband access, or in any case wishes to have speedier access, a 'semi-offline pack' CD is available free of charge from the library. The user will need to be connected to the

Internet while using this autostart CD which contains all the tile images and a special file to launch the semi-offline solution. The library's online system will then detect that you are using the 'semi-offline' approach, and will load map tile images from the appropriate folder on the disk or the hard drive.

However, a Geographical Information System should not only allow a continuous, moveable and zoom-enabled display. Searchability and interactivity are also essential parts. 2,235 names and positions of townlands and towns were therefore picked up from maps and 6,398 monument characteristics gained from a Dúchas downloadable database, and as many links created to and from web pages. Additionally, a vector copy of the county outlines was produced.

In September 2005 Clare County Library placed these maps on its website, with the intention of utilizing these maps to further integrate local studies and genealogical information on the website. For example, by clicking on a townland marked on a map, all information on that townland (census records, Griffith's Valuation, photographs, trade directories etc. etc.) will eventually be presented. The maps will also provide and demonstrate new relationships between existing data on the site, and users will be able to use feature layers produced from the maps as a new search facility.

This project was managed by Clare County Library Executive Librarians Anthony Edwards and Maureen Comber. Clare County Library acknowledges the kind co-operation of the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, in allowing us to use the data, including co-ordinates and classification, relating to the monuments featured on the maps.

<http://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/coclare/maps/>

To access the online maps, an 'SVG Viewer' (plugin) for your browser must be downloaded. The Adobe SVG Viewer integrates with your Web Browser as a plug-in, allowing you to interact with SVG images.

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## WOODEN SHELVING WANTED

Is your library scheduled for renovation or replacement? If so, any quantity of wooden shelving is required to convert a convent chapel into a library. If you can assist please contact Paula Gallagher, Rossinver, Co. Leitrim or phone 086 601-6020 (or) 071 985-4965



## *Season's Greetings*



*The Chairman, Director, Members, and staff of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna  
join in extending Christmas Greetings to all our colleagues.*

*We are making a contribution to the victims of the earthquake in Pakistan this  
year as an alternative to sending Christmas cards.*

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**COPY DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 20th January 2006.**

Contributions should be sent to Alun Bevan, Editor - ILN,

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