

IRISH LIBRARY news

Issued by An Chomhairle Leabharlanna (The Library Council)

No. 257 January/February 2006

ISSN 0332-0049

Contents

- Irish authors are having an IMPAC
- Better Reading Ireland conference report
- Frederick Thorpe Awards, 2006 for library services to the visually impaired – applications invited.
- Library buildings garner more awards.
- Library development plans in the pipeline.
- AIM (NI) targets new members
- Wittgenstein's in the frame for the new community library in Leenane, Co. Galway
- News & events:
Celtic conference;

Christmas in Fingal;

Spiddal – launch pad to a distant planet;

Come think the unthinkable with the Health Sciences Libraries Group;

Meath library staff take stock;

SLARI conference report.
- **People** – the LAI appoints a new development officer.
- **Publications** – Cork City Libraries celebrate 150 years of achievement with a grand parade
- **Suppliers update**
- **Calendar of events**

SIX IRISH AUTHORS NOMINATED FOR THE INTERNATIONAL IMPAC DUBLIN LITERARY AWARD, 2006

Works by six Irish authors are among the 132 eligible titles nominated for the 2006 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, announced by Lord Mayor of Dublin and Patron of the Award, Cllr Catherine Byrne on 22nd November in City Hall. They are:

- Cecilia Ahern, *PS, I Love You* (HarperCollins)
- Ronan Bennett, *Havoc in its Third Year* (Bloomsbury/Simon & Shuster)
- Frank Delaney, *Ireland* (Time Warner Books)
- Roddy Doyle, *Oh, Play That Thing* (Jonathan Cape)
- Tina Reilly, *Something Borrowed* (Time Warner Books)
- Colm Tóibín, *The Master* (Picador/Scribner)

"The thing I like best about the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award is that it includes a mix of familiar books and authors and wonderful books translated from other languages that might otherwise never come to our attention" said Lord Mayor Cllr. Catherine Byrne.



▲ The task ahead

The judges for the 2006 award are:

- Percival Everett – American novelist.
- Jane Koustas – visiting Craig Dobbin, Professor of Canadian Studies at U.C.D.
- Mary O'Donnell – Irish poet, novelist, translator and critic.
- Andrew O'Hagan – Scottish novelist.
- Paolo Ruffilli – Italian poet, editor and novelist.
- Eugene Sullivan – non-voting chair.

They now face the task of coming up with a short list which will be announced on 5th April 2006 and a winner which will be announced on 14th June 2006.

Full details of the novels nominated are available at www.impactdublinaward.ie

The third **Celtic Connections** conference will take place in Cardiff from 16-19th May, 2006. The conference programme will be based on themes of Libraries in a democratic society; Demonstrating the value of libraries; Delivering services in a competitive electronic environment; Celtic culture online; and Reading, language and literacy.

The conference banquet will be held in the National Museum of Wales on Thursday 18th May. Other associated events include a trade exhibition and a series of library and other cultural visits. Full details of the venue, programme, rates for delegates and exhibitors and a booking form can all be found on the conference website at www.celticconnections.info/blog

The Irish **Health Sciences Libraries Group, Annual Conference 2006** will take place on February 23rd - 24th at the Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny. This is the group's fourth annual conference, which this year is entitled *Thinking the Unthinkable*. The intention is to take a forward look at some of the issues and competencies that need to be fully acknowledged by all information professionals, not only those working within the health sector. The topics under discussion this year are applicable to all members of the library profession and the group would welcome attendance and input by those outside the health sector.

This year's speakers include: David Gurteen, Gurteen Knowledge UK; Shane Godbolt, National Clinical Governance Support Team, NHS, UK; Arne Jakobsson, President of the European Association for Health Information and Libraries and Tom Roper, Information Resource Development Co-ordinator, Brighton and Sussex Medical School, University of Sussex.

Sessions will focus on the theory, practice and challenges of open access for health care information and health care information professionals, knowledge management workshop and Innovation Café and the necessity of personal development planning and involvement with a professional organisation.

The draft conference programme plus a registration form can be downloaded from: www.hslg.ie/conference

The annual conference of the **School Library Association in the Republic of Ireland (SLARI)** took place at Pearse Street library on the last weekend of November. The main speaker was Anne Harding, an independent trainer from the UK.

Unfortunately, Dr Richard Murphy was not able to attend in the afternoon. Luckily, though, he is booked to present his topic, Weaving the Web, at the SLARI AGM at the Education Show on Saturday, 8th April 2006. Anne Harding very graciously stepped in and ran a very informative talk and workshop on promoting the school library. To round off the day Marie Louise Fitzpatrick introduced delegates to the wonderful world of picture books, showing images from her forthcoming title "I am I".

The JCSP project team presented delegates with a copy of their final report¹ which was launched recently on the findings and success of their work over the last few years.

1 The Junior Certificate School Programme Demonstration Library Project final report. – Dublin: JCSP Support Services, CDVEC Curriculum Development Unit, 2005. ISBN: 0-946791-27-9

Anne Frank – A History for Today – an exhibition telling the story of Anne Frank and her family, and the Holocaust was launched by Cllr. Catherine Byrne, Lord Mayor of Dublin, at **Dublin City Library & Archive** on January 19th 2006. The exhibition was designed by the curators of the Anne Frank Huis in Amsterdam.

Anne Frank's story challenges us to think of tolerance, human rights and democracy. Visitors are encouraged to think about then and now- to see parallels and differences in events. A bibliography of books for 9 + years accompanies the exhibition and all titles are in stock in Dublin City Public Libraries. The exhibition continues to 25th February at Dublin City Library and Archive, 138-144 Pearse St. and then will be on view at Ballyfermot Library from 27th February to 24th March 2006.

An evening of music, stories and fantastic food was enjoyed by all who attended **Fingal County Libraries** recent Christmas from Around the World event. Some of our new international residents from Nigeria, China, Germany and Russia shared their Christmas traditions, carols and stories and all who attended enjoyed mulled wine, mince pies and Christmas nibbles from around the world.



▲ The photograph shows Mary Lee from China who attended the Christmas from Around the World Event in Swords Library

Galway County Library: on Saturday November 5th, the award-winning author Felice Picano from Los Angeles visited the library in Spiddal as part of his first European book tour to celebrate the publication of his 21st book, *Tales: from a distant planet*.

French Connection Press, the Paris based publishing house, were responsible for bringing the writer to Ireland where he read in three venues – Dublin, Belfast and Spiddal.

Two Irish writers, Fred Johnston and Tommy Frank O'Connor, also read at the Spiddal event.



▲ Fred Johnston, Tommy Frank O'Connor, Tanio McCallum from French Connection Press, and, at the podium, Felice Picano.

44 staff from **Meath County Council Library** Service attended a staff training seminar at County Library HQ in Navan entitled "Libraries are about books or nothing at all".

The training seminar was launched by Mr. Tadhg McDonnell, Director of Service for Community and Enterprise. Mr. McDonnell welcomed the provision of the seminar as it provided quality accessible library related training at local level.

The seminar brought speakers from the world of publishing, bookselling and librarianship together in an attempt to provide an understanding of the context in which libraries and library staff operate in the wider world of books.

Seamus Cashman, founder of Wolfhound Press, took staff through the growth of Irish publishing and challenged libraries to understand the realities of the commercial publishing industry.

Kevin Lyons, Library Supply specialist with O'Mahony's

ASSOCIATION OF INFORMATION MANAGERS (NI)

Booksellers in Limerick, provided a very entertaining insight into the booksellers trade. Kevin provided an insight into the supply chain. Staff not directly involved in bookbuying found this segment particularly interesting.



AIM, formerly the Specialist Libraries and Information Services Forum, addresses the needs of the 'specialist' section within the Northern Ireland information community by providing a forum for:

- networking and sharing good practice
- learning and professional development.

The Association has organised a number of events for members, including:

- exploring partnerships in the Information Age
- records management
- developing professional growth and confidence
- how to develop your personal profile.

Membership of AIM is drawn from a wide range of public, voluntary and private organisations which employ a worker to provide specialist information services. The Association is keen to recruit new members and further information about the objectives of AIM can be obtained from the Association's Secretary, Mary Blair (Law Centre Northern Ireland): t: 028 90899369; e: mar.blair@lawcentreni.org.

BEST PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME: THE FREDERICK THORPE AWARDS

Following the success of the Awards Programme 2003-2005, the Trustees of the Ulverscroft Foundation have agreed to a request from the IFLA Libraries for the Blind Section to renew the programme in 2006. The Foundation has agreed to make 20,000 GB Pounds available in 2006. Up to 15,000 GB Pounds will be allocated for an Organisation Award and up to 5,000 GB Pounds for one or more Individual Awards.

These Awards have already provided opportunities for five individuals to visit libraries for the blind in other countries and have funded a major project in Nigeria to improve the prospects of blind people having access to more Braille books. The Foundation and IFLA LBS wish to continue the encouragement of best practice in library service delivery to visually impaired people across the world and welcome applications from all-comers.

Further details of the Awards can be found on the Ulverscroft Foundation website at www.foundation.ulverscroft.co.uk. Applications for both Awards should be submitted by 31st March 2006.

For further details please contact Joyce Sumner at j.sumner@ulverscroft.co.uk



▲ Pat McMahon, Kevin Lyons and Seamus Cashman

people

Betty Boardman has been appointed as Development Officer for the Library Association of Ireland. Previously Betty was employed as Librarian with An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, with responsibility for library cooperation and in this capacity served as Secretary to COLICO.



Betty can be contacted at: bboardman@libraryassociation.ie

PUBLIC LIBRARY PLANS

In December 2005, Monaghan County Library published and distributed an illustrated summary version of its 5-year Development Plan. The published document is drawn from the full plan, adopted by Monaghan County Council earlier in the year. The Plan was drawn up using an external consultant to facilitate and guide the process, prepare drafts and present proposals to SPCs and Council meetings as needed. Sligo County Library is currently completing its 5-year plan 2006-2010, to include an external review of existing services and provision, together with recommendations for future programming. Mayo County Library has also completed its plan and taken it through Council recently. The consultancy contracts for these plans was awarded to Aidan Walsh Consultancy, a specialist service for the cultural sector.

LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES GARNER MORE ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS

Athlone Civic Centre, Library and Central Square / Keith Williams Architects and John Sisk & Son Ltd. were among the winners at the 6th OPUS Architecture and Construction Awards, sponsored by Bank of Ireland Corporate Banking. The Irish Architectural Archive also won an award in the Heritage category.

Reading Better Ireland

The Reading Better Ireland conference took place on Wednesday 16th November at the Ballymascanlon Hotel in Dundalk. The theme of the conference was 'Reading and people with sight loss'. Speakers from across Ireland and the UK talked about the many issues related to accessing print for people with sight problems. The keynote address was given by Helen Brazier, chief executive of the National Library for the Blind in the UK. Helen gave a very informative and interesting account of how library and reading services had developed in the past and how services are likely to develop in the future with the progress of new technologies and on-line services.

Professor Jonathan Jackson, chief optometrist at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast, talked about low vision in children and what could be done to make tasks easier. Writer and journalist Joe Bollard gave a fascinating and funny insight into what life is like as a Braille reader. David Mann, campaigns officer at the Royal National Institute for the Blind, spoke about the Right to Read campaign which lobbies for equality of access to printed materials for blind and visually impaired people. People with central vision loss were able to hear about the eccentric reading project called "New View" currently underway at Visibility in Glasgow. New View's co-ordinator, David Logan, gave an account of the project and the techniques involved in teaching people to use their vision for successful reading.

The afternoon session was devoted to technology. Speakers from the National Council for the Blind, Lena Kouzi and Stuart Lawler, described some of the access technologies currently available for people with sight loss and Paul Lynch from Queen's University in Belfast demonstrated the DAISY system of digital talking books. To conclude the conference, David Owen from Share the Vision, a partnership of the main voluntary organisations producing and lending alternate format materials and the main bodies for publicly funded libraries in the UK, gave a summary of the day's proceedings and attempted, very bravely, to answer the question – "Are we reading better?"

The conference was very well attended by groups and individuals from all sectors involved in the provision of information and the equality of service provision. It was organised by the Seeing Better Ireland initiative – a cross-border partnership between St Joseph's School for the Visually Impaired and The Blind Centre for Northern Ireland. Seeing Better Ireland aims to host information events relevant to blind and visually impaired people living on either side of the border. For more information contact Siobhán Bermingham, St Joseph's School for the Visually Impaired, Grace Park Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9. Tel: 01-8373635. Fax: 01-8375315. Email: library.stjosephs@indigo.ie.

See also: Seeing Better Ireland website – www.seeingbetterireland.org.



Gleanings

Although known locally for some time as The Frank O'Connor Library, Cork City's Mayfield Branch is about to be officially confirmed as such with the erection of signs by Cork City Council to promote the library's new name.

Source: Irish Evening Echo 16th January, 2006.

Clare County Council's arts office, supported by the Arts Council of Ireland, is running a fifteen month-long project which sees the writers of Aosdána visit libraries and other venues in the county.

Source: The Clare Champion, 23rd December 2005

Building dust, evidence of the building boom, is causing concern to Trinity College Library. The dust, which seeps in through windows and is carried by visitors, is damaging the books stock in the Long Room.

Source: Irish Independent, 14th January, 2006.

Dublin City Council has granted permission for a life-size bronze replica of Rory Gallagher's Stratocaster to be erected on a wall in the part of Temple Bar which has been officially renamed Rory Gallagher Corner. The wall, which is owned by the OPW, forms part of the National Library of Ireland's Photographic Archive.

publications

A Grand Parade: Memories of Cork City Libraries: 1855-2005 by Liam Ronayne, Cork City Librarian, and Dr John Mullins, Executive Librarian, was launched in Cork City Libraries on 12th December. Providing an outline history of Cork City Libraries since their foundation in 1892, the book includes a selection of interesting memoirs from the last ninety years from staff and members of the public. This was the final contribution of Cork City Libraries to Cork2005 European Capital of Culture. Dates in the subtitle refer to the 150 years since the passing of the first Public Libraries (Ireland) Act. Cork city was the first Irish city to adopt this act. The book was launched on the 85th anniversary of the burning of Cork city, when the city's Carnegie Library was also destroyed by arson at the hands of British Crown forces. The book contains many photographs, showing the development of services across the decades, as well as a selection of activities, people, and buildings.



▲ Co-authors Liam Ronayne, Cork City Librarian, and colleague Dr John Mullins, Executive Librarian, at official launch of *A Grand Parade: Memories of Cork City Libraries*, with Cork's Lord Mayor, Cllr Deirdre Clune, and Ruth Flanagan, President of the Library Association of Ireland.

Guidelines for Primary School Class Visits. (Dublin City Council Public Libraries

ISBN 0-946-841-845 _5.00 (pbk) November 2005)

A useful guide for library staff conducting tours of the library to primary school children. Included are sections on websites, catalogue searches, helpful hints and activity sheets. Available from Development Section, Dublin City Council Public Libraries. Tel. 01-6744843

Antoinette Quinn is writing a biography of **Lennox Robinson** and would appreciate any assistance from librarians and archivists in the way of documentation relating to him, and more specifically to his role as Organising Librarian for Ireland on behalf of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust from 1915 to 1924. She can be contacted at: 3 Leinster Square, Rathmines, Dublin 6, t: 01-497 0956; e: lennrob@hotmail.com

suppliers update

The Book Nest is a new library supply business based in Sligo offering a complete book supply service, from store stock picks of current titles, to special orders serving both general and academic libraries. All books are fully serviced, jacketed, bar-coded and data supplied via Bookstream. Librarians are welcome to visit Book Nest's showroom where there is a selection of current and popular titles, especially in the children's and reluctant readers category. The Book Nest Library Supply, Unit 9, Cleveragh Business Centre, Sligo. T: (071) 9148263; f: (071) 9148262; e: orders@booknest.ie; w: www.booknest.ie

THE NEW LIBRARY IN LEENANE, CO. GALWAY: A PORTRAIT OF A LIBRARY SERVICE TO A RURAL AREA

On Friday, October 7th Éamon Ó Cuív, T.D., Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs officially opened the newly renovated Community Centre in the village. This event was the culmination of several years' hard work by local volunteers, whose commitment and determination have created a multi-purpose Community Centre equipped to service the needs of different sectors of the community.



▲ Éamon Ó Cuív, T.D., Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs officially opening the community centre and library in Leenane.



▲ I-r: the Mayor of Galway, Councillor Pat Hynes, Michael O'Toole, Chairman of the Leenane Development Association, and Éamon Ó Cuív, T.D., Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, at the opening of Leenane Community Centre and Library.

Many members of the local community were aware of the need for a local library service in Leenane, and had expressed that wish from time to time. The demand for a library was taken up by the members of the Leenane Development Association. April 2001 saw the commencement of a number of meetings between the LDA and Galway County Council at which the ways and means of providing a library service to the area were discussed.

In the course of the refurbishment of the Community Centre, a space of 500 square feet was prepared for use as a library which shares the other facilities in the centre. These include use of the kitchen, canteen, toilets and a meeting room for lectures, poetry readings and children's story time.

A grant to the local community from the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs enabled the refurbishment to take place.

Just before the Minister arrived, the children from the local school could be seen walking down the hill from the centre of the village to the library. As part of the opening they performed their own dramatised version of the book entitled *The Librarian of Basra*. This is the story of a Basra librarian's struggle to save her public library's collection of books when the city was hit with a firestorm of bombs and gunfire during the current conflict in Iraq. As part of the presentation, the following lines from Alia Baker, who is the librarian of Basra, were quoted:

"I spent all my life taking care of books... as if they were my children. I treasure every name, every word of them. I gave books my whole attention, my whole respect. I always encourage others to borrow books, stories, novels, because I know deeply inside what a great change the reader will have in mind, in conduct and in dealing with life. All those who destroyed and ruined my library are not of our good people. Basra is well-known of its goodness, kindness, and its great understanding of what books mean to humanity."

All of these lines apply to every library and they were highlighted during the children's presentation in Leenane Library.

The philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein lived in Leenane for a six month period during 1948. While there he finished writing his *Philosophical Investigations*. An image of him hangs in Leenane library. Wittgenstein said that "the limits of my language mean the limits of my world." The limit of everyman's language means the limit of his or her world. The library, through its collection of words and writings from everywhere, provides the opportunities for expanding all our worlds.



The philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein lived in Leenane for a six month period during 1948. While there he finished writing his *Philosophical Investigations*. An image of him hangs in Leenane library. Wittgenstein said that "the limits of my language mean the limits of my world." The limit of everyman's language means the limit of his or her world. The library, through its collection of words and writings from everywhere, provides the opportunities for expanding all our worlds.

▲ Ludwig Wittgenstein

Mr. John Morgan, Deputy County Manager, pointed out that Galway County Council already cooperates very successfully with a number of local development groups around the county in providing a local library service. There are already examples in Glenamaddy, Killimor, and Ballygar and on each of the islands. Mr Morgan also drew attention to the fact that the IT department of Galway County Council had provided broadband Internet Access in the library via satellite. Leenane is the first library in Galway to have such communications.

The library is open for a number of hours each day from Tuesday through to Saturday, including a late opening on Wednesday evening until 8.00pm.

The library provides:

- photocopying facilities
- free Internet access
- exhibition space
- a Summer Reading Club
- a Children's Book Festival.

The new Leenane Library like many local libraries is a visible community space for educational and cultural activities and, as such, is a good example of how Galway County Council co-operates in innovative ways with local development and community groups in delivering a successful library service.



february 2006

23rd-24th *Thinking the unthinkable* - Irish Health Sciences Libraries Group annual conference, Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny. The fee for the whole two days is €295 - this includes the conference dinner and accommodation in the hotel on the Thursday night. The web site also gives details of the charge for one day, student rate etc. w: www.hslg.ie/conference

Rathmines, Dublin 6. Phone/fax: 01-4977043; mobile: 087-2476424; email: mcgrathbarrett@eircom.net

26-27th Library + Information Show, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. www.lishow.co.uk

may 2006

3rd *Advanced internet searching for information workers* - a one-day course presented by McGrath Barrett & Associates in the Urban Institute, U.C.D.. To register, or for further details, please contact: Bríd McGrath, McGrath Barrett & Associates, 2 Richmond Hill, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Phone/fax: 01-4977043; mobile: 087-2476424; email: mcgrathbarrett@eircom.net

16-19th *3rd Celtic Connections Conference*, Thistle Hotel, Cardiff. Programme and booking form available on the Library Association of Ireland's website: www.libraryassociation.ie

18th *Customer care for libraries* - a one-day course presented by McGrath Barrett & Associates. To register, or for further details, please contact: Dr. Bríd McGrath, McGrath Barrett & Associates, 2 Richmond Hill, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Phone/fax: 01-4977043; mobile: 087-2476424; email: mcgrathbarrett@eircom.net

march 2006

9th Annual General Meeting of the Library Association of Ireland, 10.30am, Dublin City Library & Archive, Pearse Street, Dublin 2. Details: honsec@libraryassociation.ie

13th *Children, poetry and the politics of the new Ireland*. A lecture by Dr. Mary Shine Thompson, Department of English, St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra. Venue: Dublin City Library & Archive, 138 - 144 Pearse St, Dublin 2. Time: 7.00 p.m. Booking is essential. For further information contact Children's & School's Section, Dublin City Public Libraries Tel: 6744840 email: childrens.library@dublincity.ie

22nd *Getting to the right answer: answering users' queries* - a one-day course presented by McGrath Barrett & Associates in the Urban Institute, U.C.D. To register, or for further details, please contact: Dr. Bríd McGrath, McGrath Barrett & Associates, 2 Richmond Hill, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Phone/fax: 01-4977043; mobile: 087-2476424; email: mcgrathbarrett@eircom.net

25th *Customer care for libraries* - a one-day course presented by McGrath Barrett & Associates. To register, or for further details, please contact: Dr. Bríd McGrath, McGrath Barrett & Associates, 2 Richmond Hill, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Phone/fax: 01-4977043; mobile: 087-2476424; email: mcgrathbarrett@eircom.net

28th *Hugh M. Fitzpatrick Lectures in Legal Bibliography*: Dr. Stephen Cretney, Emeritus Fellow, All Souls College, Oxford, will give the fourteenth lecture in this series entitled *Creating a discipline: the literature of family law*. The venue is The Economic and Social Research Institute, Burlington Road, Dublin 4. For further information contact: Hugh M. Fitzpatrick, Library and Information Consultant, 9 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2. t: 01-2692202; f: 01-661 9239.

july 2006

The multiple faces of literacy: reading, knowing, doing - International Association of School Librarianship conference, Lisbon. Details: www.iasl-slo.org/

august 2006

20-24th 72nd IFLA General Conference and Council: Libraries: dynamic engines for the knowledge and information society. Venue: Seoul, Korea. Details: www.ifla2006seoul.org

april 2006

5th *Getting to the right answer: answering users' queries* - a one-day course presented by McGrath Barrett & Associates in the Urban Institute, U.C.D. To register, or for further details, please contact: Dr. Bríd McGrath, McGrath Barrett & Associates, 2 Richmond Hill,

october 2006

20-24th 11-13th Public Library Authorities conference, De Vere Grand Harbour Hotel, Southampton [further details to follow].

COPY DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 20th February 2006.

Contributions should be sent to Alun Bevan, Editor - ILN, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, 53-54 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2. e: abevan@librarycouncil.ie t: +353 (0)1-678 4905; f: +353 (0)1-676 6721
If you would like Irish Library News emailed to you or your workplace, please contact the editor