

IRISH LIBRARY news

Issued by An Chomhairle Leabharlanna (The Library Council)

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THE FRAMES MAKE TRACKS FOR THE LIBRARY



An Chomhairle is delighted to publish three new posters for the 2006 Readiscover campaign. The posters feature prominent people who are supporters of the public library service and of reading.

Featured are:

- Pat McCabe, author of such novels as *The Butcher Boy* and *Breakfast on Pluto*;
- Bláthnaid Ní Chofaigh, presenter of RTÉ television's *The Afternoon Show* and
- The Frames, one of Ireland's most popular rock bands.

Brendan Teeling, Assistant Director at An Chomhairle, said: 'The posters were designed to appeal to all age groups and library users and we hope that colleagues will give them prominence in their libraries. These are only the first three in what we hope will be a regular series: we'd be delighted to hear from colleagues who have suggestions for people who could be featured on the next posters.'

The posters have been distributed to each public library headquarters for circulation to branches. PDFs of the posters, including an Irish version of the Bláthnaid Ní Chofaigh poster, can be downloaded from www.library.ie/readiscover.



READISCOVER...

There's something for everyone at your local library
drop in or log onto www.library.ie

Cork County Library: In conjunction with Bantry's effort to become a Fairtrade town, Bantry Library recently hosted the launch of the Bantry Fairtrade Schools Poster competition. The competition was launched by food writer, John McKenna, author of the *Bridgestone Guides*.

In his address, John McKenna cited the popular example of Coldplay singer, Chris Martin, who has a tattoo emblazoned on his hand which says: "Make Trade Fair" and he also referred to what he termed the "kidult" populace who have huge purchasing power. Therefore, the idea of a Fairtrade poster competition for children will make them more aware of the whole concept, John stated. The theme for the competition is *What is Fair Trade?* and there are substantial cash prizes for the winners and runners-up in two age categories. The prizes were jointly sponsored by the Mayor, Ms. Letty Baker and Mary Hegarty, Town Councillor. The staff at Bantry Library will judge the competition and the winners will be announced at the Bantry St. Patrick's Day parade in March. Also currently running at Bantry Library is the Oxfam Fairtrade exhibition, which has been organised to coincide with the schools' competition.



▲ Food writer John McKenna, with Mayor of Bantry, Letty Baker

The **International Edible Book Festival** is with us again or at least, will be on April 1st. After three years of pioneering this important event there are some indications that other libraries will be joining in the fun this year. Why don't you organise something to promote your library, upset a few stereotypes and maybe raise some money for charity? Involve your users, members of the public, students, local bakeries, whoever. The rules (as such), along with some inspirational photographs can be seen at <http://www.books2eat.com/>

Don't forget to photograph the entries and email them to the Editor at abevan@librarycouncil.ie. So, go cook those books...

Kilkenny County Library: a review of 2005

Kilkenny is now home to many people of different nationalities and cultures, be they refugees, asylum seekers or immigrants. To support social inclusion in this area Kilkenny County Library has introduced a World Book Collection for borrowers at the City Library, including fiction in Arabic, Czech, German, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian and Spanish. Other world language resources include dictionaries and international newspapers for reference and English language courses and international magazines for lending. Each branch has access to the World Book Collection at the City Library, as well as their own selection of English language courses.

For Work/Life Balance day the library introduced a Reading Corner in the foyer in County Hall, with a taster collection of library books for young children, waiting with their parents to avail of County Council services.

The *Riveting Reads* book club for adults at Loughboy Library was launched on World Book Day, 2005.

Ceád Míle Fáilte @ your library," was the first bi-annual library display in St. Canice's Credit Union window, High St, Kilkenny from March 15th-21st. The 2nd display which was targeted at children took place just before the Children's Book Festival and highlighted the library service's selection of children's stock.

Callan Library took part in a Community Group/ Organisations display in Friary Hall in Callan, resulting in a number of new members for the branch. Library H.Q. staff had a display of library stock on Health and Fitness issues at the Health Promotion day for Council staff in County Hall.

Castlecomer, Graigueanamanagh and the City Library all produced their own colourful newsletters during the year which inform the public about library services, stock and events.

2005 marked the centenary of the publication of Canon William Carrigan's **The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory**. The County Librarian was an active member of the Committee, formed to mark this important occasion and among the activities which took place were:

- A commemorative seminar in St Kieran's College, for which the library service organised a photographic exhibition of places in County Kilkenny pertaining to Carrigan's History.
- A CD-Rom of his four volume work and index
- A commemorative garden and monument at his birthplace in Ballyfoyle.



▲ Jim Fogarty Co. Librarian receiving the first copy of "An Index to the Rev. William Carrigan's, History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory."

Left to right: Dolie Kehoe (grand-niece), Maire Downey, President K.A.S., Very Rev. Dean Norman Lynas, Most Rev. Bishop Laurence Forristal, Jim Fogarty, County Librarian, Father Tom Carrigan, Sacramento, California (grandnephew).

Photo by Tom Brett



▲ At the launch of *My Homeplace and other poems* Left to right :Walter Walsh, D.J.Carey, Joe Dunphy and Jim Fogarty, Co. Librarian.

Photo by Charlie Maher

The year culminated with a profile of Kilkenny County Librarian, Jim Fogarty appearing in the *Kilkenny GAA Yearbook 2005*.

Over a hundred people attended the national launch of Lietuva – Airija Lithuania – Ireland an exhibition of paintings by Lithuanian artist, Ema Rimeike in Oldcastle Library. The event is part of **Meath County Council's Libraries Cultural Diversity** programme.

The large Lithuanian community in Oldcastle was very well represented on the night as the breathtaking beauty of their homeland was put on display for everybody to enjoy. The artist through her skilful use of colour and light manages to convey the similarities between Irish and Lithuanian streetscapes and landscapes.



▲ From left: Vytautas and Onute Rimeika, Ciaran Mangan, artist Ema Rimeikaite and Toma Kersulis

A graduate of Art in her native Lithuania, Ema has lived and worked in Germany and Cyprus before arriving in Ireland in 2005. Although working in shipping Ema has returned to painting on a semi-professional basis upon her arrival in Ireland. She draws heavily on the beauty of her native Lithuania for inspiration and enjoys exploring the similarities of the two countries. The depiction of the 'Kurenas' – the traditional Lithuanian flat bottomed sailboat and the Irish currach is particularly interesting.

The highly regarded exhibition is set to travel nationwide increasing awareness and pride respectively in the Irish and Lithuanian communities. The exhibition opens in Clonmel in March before travelling on to Castlecomer in Co. Kilkenny.

"I believe this is a very simple and enjoyable means of increasing our awareness of Lithuania and I recommend that as many people as possible visit the exhibition which runs until February 24th" said County Librarian, Ciarán Mangan.

The **School Library Association** in the Republic of Ireland (SLARI) will host its AGM and Spring Seminar as part of this year's Education Show in the RDS, Main Hall, RDS in Dublin on Saturday April 8th. 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.

After the AGM, Dr Richard Murphy will host a seminar session called *Weaving the Web* that looks at how best to use ICT within the curriculum. He will guide you through evaluating web-sites, getting the best from search engines, and considerations in selecting subject specific sites.

You will then have plenty of time to check out all that's on offer at this year's Education Show. For more details see www.educationshowireland.com. There will be an opportunity to meet with teachers and librarians from across Ireland. Hope you can make it! We look forward to seeing you there. For more details please contact Eileen Holian at larkinlibrary@eircom.net or on 00355 1 8747701

On Tuesday 31 January **Tipperary Libraries** launched their on-line Historical Postcard Collection at Templemore Library. County Librarian, Mr. Martin Maher and the Chairman of Tipperary Joint Libraries Committee, Cllr. Martin Browne, who officially launched the collection, attended the event.



▲ Photo (L-R): Mary Guinan - Darmody (Local Studies Librarian), Martin Maher (County Librarian), Seamus King, Emer O'Brien (Assistant Librarian), Cllr. Michael Keeley, Donal O'Regan, Superintendent Jim Mulligan, John Walsh, Cllr. Jim Casey, John O'Gorman (Library Assistant), Cllr. Martin Browne, Cllr. John Kennedy (Mayor Thurles Town Council)

The collection is a compilation of approximately 300 postcards which depict the towns and attractions of the county as they appeared, in black and white and colour, up to nearly one hundred years ago.

The digitisation is part of The Cultural Heritage Project, Phase 2, an extension of a national project, begun in 2003, which involved local libraries, museums and archives in the digitisation and online publication of their local studies materials.

The images are accompanied by historical narratives which paint brief yet interesting portraits of the towns and the monuments and buildings that decorate them. The narratives have been compiled from information held in the Local Studies Department. of Tipperary Libraries, under the direction of the Local Studies Librarian, Mary Guinan Darmody.

It is hoped that the Collection will prove to be interesting and useful to a wide range and variety of viewers, including local historians, students and prospective visitors to County Tipperary. The digitisation of these postcards also means that these valuable resources are preserved forever and now open for everyone to see. Tipperary Libraries On-line Historical Postcard Collection can be accessed at www.tipperarylbraries.ie and www.askaboutireland.ie.

Friday 17th February saw many senior figures from the **University of Limerick's** Governing Authority in attendance for the official inauguration of the Traveller/Roma Resource Collection at the university's library. Speakers at the launch of this Resource Collection included David Joyce, Barrister; Mícheál Ó hAodha, Project Manager, HEA, Traveller/Roma Resource Collection; John Heneghan, Coordinator HEA Access Initiative, University of Limerick and Ruan O' Donnell, Head of Department, History Department, University of Limerick. The inauguration was accompanied by an exhibition of photos by Tipperary artist Paul Harrison whose photos have chronicled Travellers' lives for many years.

Waterford City Librarian Mary Conway recently won a substantial number of large print books for the Waterford City Council Library Service from Ulverscroft Large Print Publishers. Mary was presented with the books by Caroline Cahill, a representative of Ulverscroft at a celebratory Coffee Morning held in the Central Library on Tuesday 13th of December 2005. Mayor of Waterford, Councillor Hillary Quinlan was also present to officially launch the new listening service. The listening post will give library users the opportunity to listen to books on CD, music and language materials on the ground floor of the library. This will make accessing this service easier for any users who find it difficult to access the listening services else where in the library.

BORROWING BOOKS JUST GOT A WHOLE LOT EASIER

The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Mr. Dick Roche T.D., launched the Borrow Books online library loan service and the website www.borrowbooks.ie at the South Dublin County Library, Tallaght on Monday 20th February.



▲ Minister Roche with Cllr. Therese Ridge, Mayor of South Dublin and Teresa Walsh, County Librarian, South Dublin County Council

Speaking at the launch, the Minister said, "It gives me great personal satisfaction to launch the Borrow Books Service and the associated website. It has been the aim of my Department to enable the provision of access, through the public library service, to the very comprehensive collections which the public libraries hold and to ensure the provision of this access on a national basis. The Borrow Books Service will achieve this aim."

BorrowBooks.ie is an online library loans service which, for the first time, brings together all of the online public library catalogues in one website for the convenience of the general public. With this service, library members can now search for an item of their choice across all of the online catalogues of the public library authorities simultaneously. Once the item is located, the user can request the delivery of the item, via their local library service to their local branch. Borrow Books allows members of the public, wherever they are in Ireland, to find the material they are searching for in one place. Using Borrow Books, a user in Wexford could discover the item they are looking for in Donegal's collection and have it delivered to their local library in Wexford.

In order to place a request, it is necessary first to be a member of a public library. *BorrowBooks.ie* is an initiative of the public libraries service, supported by An Chomhairle Leabharlanna and funded by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

For further information on the Borrow Books Service and www.borrowbooks.ie, please contact Annette Kelly or Joan Ward, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, 53 & 54 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2 - telephone: 01 676 1167- fax 01 6766721 - e-mail: akelly@librarycouncil.ie or e-mail: jward@librarycouncil.ie

publications

Margaret Franklin, who works for Limerick County Library, has compiled and published a *Bibliography of Limerick City and County*. The publication lists all books and journal articles written on Limerick that are held in public and academic libraries (locally and nationally) with their location. It is arranged by subject and includes sections on Limerick industry & commerce, banking, local government publications, music, sport etc. There is also a separate section on places throughout the county.

For further details please contact Margaret Franklin at: mfranklin@limerickcoco.ie



▲ L-r: Mary Conway, Caroline Cahill, Jane Cantwell and Councillor Hilary Quinlan, Mayor of Waterford at the launch of the new Listening post in Waterford City Council Central Library. Photo Credits: John Power Photography, Waterford.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS ON CULTURAL INCLUSION

The **National Economic and Social Forum (NESF)** recently established a Project Team on Cultural Inclusion, under the Chairmanship of Professor John O'Hagan of Trinity College, Dublin. The Team will look at the question of access to cultural resources and facilities, so as to enrich and enhance the life of both individuals and communities.

The Team will consider three key topics:

- Are there barriers to participation and decision-making in this area?
- Are current policies effective in promoting access for everybody?
- If not, how can these policies be developed and made more effective?

The Project Team is interested in access to all types of cultural activity (e.g. drama and theatre, visual arts, music, opera, dance, literature, film, media-based arts, etc). However it will focus in particular on access to three types of cultural activity:

- Drama;
- Visual arts, and
- Libraries.

Submissions to the Team are invited in writing or by e-mail. More information, including a more detailed terms of reference for the Team's work, is available from the NESF Secretariat and on the NESF's website.

You may send your submissions or requests for information to:

Dr Anne-Marie McGauran
National Economic and Social Forum
16 Parnell Square
Dublin 1

Tel: (01) 814 6361
Lo-call: 1890 203 006
Fax: (01) 814 6301
Email: secretariat@nesf.ie
Web: www.nesf.ie

The closing date for receipt of completed submissions is
Tuesday 28 March 2006.

The provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 1997 will apply to submissions received.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

The local authority public library service has proved a strong supporter of the architectural heritage of many towns and villages in Ireland as recent projects in Glin, County Limerick and Kilbeggan, County Westmeath testify.

Limerick County Libraries' newest branch in Glin is also its oldest building. The new library, with a floor space of 1,110 sq. feet and bookstock of 6,270 (including talking books, AV for children and a local studies section), opened its doors to the public on Monday 12th September 2005.

The Library is open 20 hours per week, which includes lunch-time opening and two late nights. A public access internet is available and the library is fully accessible.

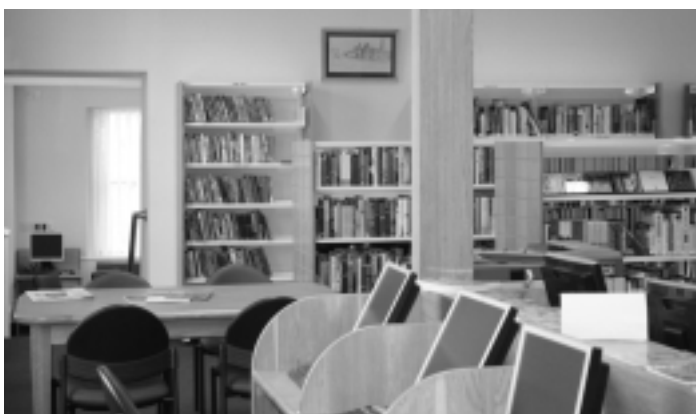
The new library is housed in the mid 1800s former Bridewell – originally built in the centre of the town as a police barracks/courthouse/gaol.

Friday 20th February saw the official opening of **Kilbeggan Civic Offices and Library** in the refurbished Courthouse.



▲ L-R : Deputy Donie Cassidy, Cllr Mark Nugent, Chairman Westmeath County Council, Cllr Tom Cowley, Chairman Kilbeggan Area Committee, Senator Mary O'Rourke and Mary Farrell County Librarian

The Courthouse was built in 1828 but had fallen into disrepair during the twentieth century. Through a Public Private Partnership development which placed emphasis on conservation and functionality, the extended facility re-opened its doors to the public in late December 2005. The new offices and library will act as a focal point and one-stop shop for all local authority services in the region.



▲ Kilbeggan Library



▲ Glin Library

Testimony to the durability of the building was evidenced in 1867, during the Fenian rising in West Limerick when several detachments of military and police were concentrated in the Bridewell - as it was considered the safest fortress in the area due to its thick walls.

The conversion of the listed, cut sandstone building for use as a library was carried out with great care as every aspect of the changeover had to respect the fabric of the building and its architectural integrity.

The finished product is a bright, light-filled building which has drawn many compliments from the local population. The Architects were Healy and Partners, Limerick and the project cost €200,000 and was financed by Limerick County Council.

The library occupies an area of 166m² at first floor level, exclusive of exhibition and meeting room facilities which are available to community groups, the arts office and the library. The library has a stock complement of 9,000 items in both traditional book and multi-media formats and is fully computerised using the Horizon Library Management System. The library offers internet access through a suite of 7 dedicated computer stations and online access to the library catalogue and e-government services via the Library IPAC. The new library facility is open 26.5 hours per week and currently has a staff complement of two.

march 2006

- 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
- 14th *In cyberspace no one can hear you scream: managing electronic resources* - 2006 LIR Annual seminar in Trinity College Dublin on 14th March. The keynote address will be given by Professor Peter Brophy, Director of the Centre for Research in Library and Information Management at Manchester Metropolitan University. The seminar is free to library staff from LIR member institutions though it is still important to register in advance. Full details at <http://lirgroup.heanet.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. Brid 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.
- 30-31st *Update, upskill, upgrade: European Information 2006* – 15th annual conference of the European Information Association. Venue: London. Details: www.eia.org.uk

april 2006

- 1st International Edible Book Festival see: <http://www.books2eat.com/>
- 4th Irish Society for Archives AGM, 7 pm, Dublin City Library and Archive, Pearse Street, Dublin 2; followed by Sources for the Buildings of Ireland by Dr. Christine Casey (History of Art Department, UCD).
- 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. Brid McGrath, McGrath Barrett & Associates, 2 Richmond Hill, 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: Brid McGrath, McGrath Barrett & Associates, 2 Richmond Hill, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Phone/fax: 01-4977043; mobile: 087-2476424; email: mcgrathbarrett@eircom.net
- 10th *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: Brid 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.celticconnections.info
- 18th *Customer care for libraries* – a one-day course presented by McGrath Barrett & Associates. To register, or for further details, please contact: Dr. Brid McGrath, McGrath Barrett & Associates, 2 Richmond Hill, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Phone/fax: 01-4977043; mobile: 087-2476424; email: mcgrathbarrett@eircom.net

july 2006 *The multiple faces of literacy: reading, knowing, doing* – International Association of School Librarianship conference, Lisbon. Details: www.iasl-slo.org/

august 2006

13th 20-24th 72nd IFLA General Conference and Council: *Libraries: dynamic engines for the knowledge and information society*. Venue: Seoul, Korea. Details: www.ifla2006seoul.org

October 2006

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

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