

# IRISH LIBRARY news

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## LIBRARY IRELAND WEEK

Libraries from Cork to Donegal, Dublin to Galway, and as far afield as the Irish Cultural Centre in Paris hosted a series of lively events and activities to celebrate *Library Ireland Week* from the 6th to the 11th March 2006. The events included exhibitions, lectures, recitals, buy-a-book-day, quizzes, storytelling and readings and they were held in many types of libraries including public, academic, special and corporate. Organised by the Library Association of Ireland (LAI), this was the second year of Library Ireland Week and the chosen theme was the role of the librarian. The Week was officially launched by journalist and broadcaster Fintan O'Toole at the National Library of Ireland. Over 50 members of the Library Association of Ireland and other invited guests braved a freezing night, to hear an inspirational Fintan O'Toole extol the role of libraries and librarians in the warmth of the National Library!



▲ Pictured at the launch of Library Ireland Week at the National Library of Ireland were: Left to Right, Ruth Flanagan, President of the LAI; Fintan O'Toole, Journalist and Broadcaster and Betty Boardman, Development Manager, LAI.

Ruth Flanagan, President of the LAI, commenting on *Library Ireland Week* said: "We're delighted to celebrate the role of the librarian in Irish society. People today live in a world awash with information. The librarian today connects people with the information they require. This week, libraries will host hundreds of activities and events celebrating the librarian's positive contribution to the lives of people throughout Ireland."

Posters and postcards promoting *Library Ireland Week* were distributed to libraries all around the country. Events and activities taking place in libraries were posted on the LAI website. The events generated much media interest both locally and nationally. The LAI would like to thank all library staff who contributed to the success of Library Ireland Week by organising events.

## LAUNCH OF ORDNANCE SURVEY IRELAND HISTORIC MAP VIEWER SERVICE IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Mr. Dick Roche launched the Ordnance Survey Ireland Historic Map Viewer Service in Public Libraries at the Custom House on the 21st of March.

The Historic Map Viewer is a collaboration between Ordnance Survey Ireland, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the public library service. Through it, Ordnance Survey Ireland will enable online access to a wonderful collection of historic maps for the public at their local library. The collection consists initially of the 6" mapping – the first large scale mapping of an entire country in the world when it was completed in 1842. Acclaimed for their accuracy, these maps are regarded by cartographers as amongst the finest ever produced and include every road, track and even hedge across the country.

During 2006, Ordnance Survey Ireland will be adding additional historic maps for viewing online in the library, particularly the important 25" series indexed by parish which was completed in 1913.

Access to the Historic Map Viewer Service is provided in local library branches on the public access pcs. For further information on the service, 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

## LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

The Officers & Executive Board for 2006/2007 are, as follows:

*President:*

Ruth Flanagan, Cork County Library & Arts Service  
E-mail: president@libraryassociation.ie

*Vice-President:*

Siobhán Fitzpatrick,  
Royal Irish Academy  
E-mail: sfitzpatrick@ria.ie

*Vice-President:*

Teresa Walsh,  
South Dublin Libraries  
E-mail: twalsh@sdblincoco.ie

*Hon. Secretary:*

Michael Plaipe, Cork County Library & Arts Service  
E-mail: michael.plaipe@corkcoco.ie

*Hon. Treasurer:*

Hazel Percival, Wexford Public Library Services  
E-mail: hazel.percival@wexfordcoco.ie

*Development Manager:*

Betty Boardman, Library Association of Ireland, 53 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2.  
Tel: 087-7768054. E-mail: bboardman@libraryassociation.ie

*Executive Board:*

Mary Burke, SILS, University College Dublin; Carmel Daly, Clare County Library; Joe Donnelly, The Judges Library; Beatrice Doran, Mercer Library, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland; Deirdre Ellis-King, Dublin City Public Libraries and Archive; Gabrielle Flynn, Leitrim County Library; Pat Lonergan, Kildare Library & Arts Service; Denis Murphy, Cork County Library & Arts Service; Mary Murphy, Meath County Libraries; Áine O'Connor, Arup Consulting Engineers; Willie O'Dowd, Longford County Library, Arts, Archives & Heritage Services; Mícheál Ó hAodha, Glucksmann Library, University of Limerick; Gobnait O'Riordan, Glucksmann Library, University of Limerick; Maedhbh Rogan, Meath County Libraries; Liam Ronayne, Cork City Library; Marjory Sliney, Fingal County Libraries and Brendan Teeling, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna.

## news & events

**Books Ireland** magazine has completed its third decade, having started publication with the March 1976 issue. Jeremy Addis supplied this condensed account of the growth of the magazine for *Irish Library News*: 'I published ten issues a year as a spare-time activity until 1987. At that point Kilkenny Design Workshops (where I was publications manager) closed down, making me redundant, but the coming of desk-top publishing meant I could take on the typesetting and layout, and that enabled me to make it my full-time job. I reduced frequency to nine a year. Only one issue has appeared late, due to a post strike -- otherwise we have always appeared punctually.

There is still only one full-time staffer, and he celebrates his 75th birthday this spring. He calculates that he will be 99 when No. 500 appears, and expects that by then someone will have discovered a cure for old age'.

A training conference for **Europe Direct** managers was held in Brussels from the 15th – 17th March. The conference covered a broad scope of topics ranging from policy matters, EU funding, to the enlargement of the Union. Practical topics such as marketing and promoting the Europe Direct Centres were also covered. The vision for the relays for the coming year is one of direct communication with European citizens with ease of access to information.

There were three Managers from the Irish centres at the training; Mary Dillon (Europe Direct, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway), Maureen Kerr (Europe Direct, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal) and Lorraine Lynch (Europe Direct, Macroom, Co Cork).

The conference gave managers the opportunity to meet others from the European relays, some of whom are working in public libraries like their Irish counterparts. It was interesting to compare experiences and learn more about our European neighbours.

For more information on Europe Direct, see [www.europedirect.ie](http://www.europedirect.ie)

As part of READISCOVER week, **Galway County Library** launched a library weblog: <http://galwaylibrary.blogspot.com/> This is a weblog of library news, book information, events, websites etc. We are hoping that staff and public will log on and stay up to date on what's happening at Galway Public Libraries.

Recent events in the Dundalk branch of **Louth County Library** for Seachtaine na Gaeilge included bilingual storytelling sessions with actor and storyteller, Nuala Hayes. Several classes from local primary schools were invited to the sessions. Other activities organised to promote the Irish language were arts and crafts, word mazes, crosswords and colouring competitions.



▲ *Nuala Hayes in Dundalk Library*

**Monaghan County Libraries** and Monaghan County Museum have joined forces to present a project entitled *Monaghan a Border County 40 Years Growing 1965-2005*. This groundbreaking initiative has been funded by the European Union under the Programme for Peace and Reconciliation 2000-2004 (Peace II), and part financed by the Irish Government under the National Development plan 2000-2006.

One of the aims of the project is to increase the numbers of people using the services of the library and the museum, particularly groups and individuals who traditionally don't use these services on an ongoing basis.

Some of the core roles of this exciting initiative are to promote social inclusion and cultural awareness throughout the county as well as disseminating historical facts about Monaghan.

As Monaghan continues to expand both structurally and culturally it is important to continue to find common ground where all members of the community can meet. This project offers that facility to visitors to the museum and libraries.

The project is examining the experiences of life in County Monaghan between the years 1965-2005 on a variety of topics, such as family life, sport, Christmas, the changing environment and experiences of peace and conflict. Groups from all over Monaghan's cultural and socially diverse community have been invited to take part in storytelling workshops, where their stories were recorded. These stories will be used to make up an audio-visual exhibition in the museum, which will open to the public in June 2006.

A smaller exhibition based on a photographic diary of a day in the lives of the projects' participants called *Monaghan Exposed, a fly on the wall exhibition* was launched on Thursday, March 2nd at 7:30pm in Monaghan County Museum. This exhibition will then tour the county.

Some of the groups that have participated in the project to date include lone parents, ex-prisoners, young people, people with disabilities and older people. These participants have enjoyed the chance to access services such as personal development workshops, colour me beautiful, photography, creative writing, and information technology training.

*Monaghan, a Border County 40 Years Growing 1965 -2005* has brought together different communities by incorporating cultural evenings, which have further promoted the ethos of the project creating mutual understanding and cultural awareness. This truly is a pioneering attempt by Monaghan County Council though the museum and libraries to celebrate the cultural diversity and historical richness of this unique county.

Monaghan County Libraries dedicated outreach budget has allowed a wide range of activities throughout the county aimed at entertaining existing users and attracting new ones. Activities for 2005 included events planned around Seachtain na Gaeilge, Easter Arts & Crafts, National Childminding Week, Hot Stone Massage Nights, Beauty & Makeup Nights, Art Classes, Gardening & Environmental Awareness, Bealtaine, Summer Arts & Crafts, Local History evenings, Science Week, Heritage Week and Children's Book Festival. The highlight of 2005 was the Harry Potter Midnight Party, where youngsters started to queue at our Monaghan branch from 4pm that day –7 hours before the library opened. A total of 3,260 people participated in events during 2005.

**South Dublin County Libraries** are now offering Wi Fi in all branches. A marketing campaign based on the concept of 'Enjoy the freedom of Wi Fi' will begin in April 2006. Initial reports indicate high levels of usage across all branches.

*For the Love of Books* was the theme of Rediscover week in South Dublin County Libraries from 2nd to 9th of March. Many events and promotions focusing on 'the book' were presented including *Begin with books*, *Books; a Love Affair* and *Speaking of Reading*.

*Begin With Books* – a kit of five picture books for parents of children aged from birth to three years. This kit, which is borrowed for three months at a time, is designed to encourage parents of babies and young children to read to them and to help establish a lifelong love of books. Parents are also encouraged to register their young children, as many people tend to feel that only school going children can hold a library card. This promotion will be advertised using An Post's Direct Mail Service, during the month of April and the promotion will run throughout 2006.

*Books; a Love Affair* featured Paul Durcan and David Norris reading and in conversation with Dermot Bolger about the books which they love best. Over 100 people filled the County Library in Tallaght and listened enthralled to an odyssey about books and the role of books in any true society.



▲ *Paul Durcan, Dermot Bolger and David Norris*

*Speaking of Reading* is not so much a series of four talks as a conversation on the world of books presented by author Katy Hayes. Readers today have difficulty keeping track of the world of books with a new book being published every 30 seconds. Katy discussed elements of fiction including recent North American fiction, great but overlooked Irish women authors as well as the delights of her own 'recently digested' bookshelf. *Speaking of Reading* took place in Ballyroan Library on the 13th, 20th, 27th March and 3rd April.

*Speaking of Reading* also presented collections to readers selected from the all time favourite books of the staff across South Dublin County Libraries. Eclectic, thought provoking, contemporary and traditional at the same time, the collections were borrowed in bag fulls!

To celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge 2006, well-known Seanchai Eddie Lenihan visited **Waterford City Council Ardkeen Library** (Leabharlann Áird Chaoín) on Thursday, 9th March. Eddie shared some of the stories he has been collecting from the elders of Southern Ireland for the past 27 years. His dramatic rendition of these tales delighted the audience of over 80 adults and children.

**Wicklow County Library:** the community of Baltinglass recently welcomed the relaunch of their refurbished Library and Heritage Centre. Wicklow County Council Manager, Eddie Sheehy and Council Chairman Andrew Doyle addressed the audience at the launch of this innovation by Wicklow County Council Library Service. Visitors at the launch were impressed at how well the two facilities blend together, the historic old building with its fascinating exhibition and the new modern facilities.

Originally operating as two separate centres in one building, the Courthouse, the two have now amalgamated, the adult library moving downstairs into the Heritage Centre which has been furnished with cosy seating areas so the public can browse the local newspapers and glossy magazines on offer. New shelving holds a wide variety of books and other materials and a listening post is provided to browse the music CDs. A new lending option is a selection of DVDs to appeal to all ages. A vast selection of books and other materials for children is available in the colourful children's section.

Upstairs there are now four internet PCs with free access for all and special study spaces for students of all ages. Access is now also available free for members to subscription online databases, such as *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and *Press Display*, a database of 225 newspapers from 55 countries in 33 languages. All members are given a PIN number to use this service and may also access their own account online to update their books, request others or search the catalogue.



## people

EBLIDA, the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations, is pleased to announce the appointment of its new Director. **Andrew Cranfield** will take up his post from 1st of May 2006 and will continue the EBLIDA lobby for the library and archive community in Europe.

Andrew Cranfield holds a BA in Library & Information Science and a MA in Cultural Studies. He has previously worked in a variety of library and business environments, and was deputy and later director of the public library in Slagelse and deputy in Hørsholm Public Library in Denmark.

With Danish and English as native languages, Andrew feels at home in the international scene. He took the co-initiative for Convening, IFLA's New Professionals Discussion Group and he is Chair of IFLA's Section for Library Buildings and Equipment. Members of EBLIDA will have the opportunity to meet Andrew at the EBLIDA Council Meeting in Budapest, Hungary, 5-6 May 2006.

## publications

**Cork City Libraries** published three books during 2005:

- Principles of Freedom – Terence McSwiney.
- The Bones of Us (€9.99) – a joint Cork City Libraries and Write Together project, and
- A Grand Parade (€10.00) – an historical memoir of 150 years of the library service.

All three titles are available from Cork City Library, Grand Parade, Cork.

The Irish Manuscript Commission recently published Bríd McGrath's **Minute Book of the Corporation of Clonmel, 1608-1649**. The book details urban communities and municipal administration in early modern Ireland and is available from the Irish Manuscripts Commission, 45 Merrion Square, Dublin 2. t: 01-676 1610; e: support@irishmanuscripts.ie or online from [www.irishmanuscripts.ie](http://www.irishmanuscripts.ie) at a cost of €45.00.

## calendar of events

### april 2006

26-27th Library + Information Show, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. [www.lishow.co.uk](http://www.lishow.co.uk)

27th *Promoting professional practices: continuing skills development for information professionals* – a seminar organised by the Academic and Special Libraries Section of the Library Association of Ireland, RDS, Dublin 4. €100 A&SL members; €120 other LAI members; €150 non-members. Details: [eva.hornung@cdu.cdvec.ie](mailto:eva.hornung@cdu.cdvec.ie)

### 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](mailto: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: Bríd McGrath, McGrath Barrett & Associates, 2 Richmond Hill, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Phone/fax: 01-4977043; mobile: 087-2476424; email: [mcgrathbarrett@eircom.net](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:mcgrathbarrett@eircom.net)

19-21st

Children's Books Ireland Summer School, Belvedere College, 6 Great Denmark Street, Dublin 1. Details: Children's Books Ireland, 17 North Great George's Street, Dublin 1; t: 01-8727475; e: [info@childrensbooksireland.com](mailto:info@childrensbooksireland.com); w: [www.childrensbooksireland.com](http://www.childrensbooksireland.com).

### june 2006

9-11th *Quickstep or Salsa? New partners and new steps for public libraries*. CILIP's Public Libraries Group conference, Wyboston Lakes, Bedfordshire. Details: [www.cilip.org/plg2006](http://www.cilip.org/plg2006)

### july 2006

3-7th *The multiple faces of literacy: reading, knowing, doing* – International Association of School Librarianship conference, Lisbon. Details: [www.iasl-slo.org/](http://www.iasl-slo.org/)

4-7th

*Turning the library inside out* – LIBER 35th annual general conference, Uppsala, Sweden. Further details: [www.conference.slu.se/LIBER/index.htm](http://www.conference.slu.se/LIBER/index.htm) or [www.kb.dk/liber/](http://www.kb.dk/liber/)

### august 2006

3rd 20-24th 72nd IFLA General Conference and Council: *Libraries: dynamic engines for the knowledge and information society*. Venue: Seoul, Korea. Details: [www.ifla2006seoul.org](http://www.ifla2006seoul.org)

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