

# IRISH | LIBRARY | NEWS

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## New Comhairle appointed

The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Mr. John Gormley, T.D. has announced the appointment of the new board members of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna. The members will serve until 2012.

The new chairman of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna is Cllr. Mark Dearey. The board members and nominating bodies are as follows:

- **Councillor Pat McMahon and Councillor Cora Long**  
*Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government*
- **Councillor Des Hurley**  
*Association of County and City Councils*
- **Councillor Jim Darcy**  
*Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland*
- **Councillor Michael Abbey**  
*Local Authority Members Association*
- **Mr Jim Foran, Mr Paul Sheehan, and Ms Gerardine Moloney**  
*Higher Education Authority*



Cllr. Mark Dearey new chairman of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna

- **Ms Deirdre Ellis-King and Ms Ruth Flanagan**  
*Library Association of Ireland*
- **Ms. Colette O'Flaherty**  
*Council of Trustees of the National Library of Ireland*
- **Mr Robin Adams**  
*Board of Trinity College, Dublin*

# Library buildings set new standards of service



Limerick County Library's new headquarters

**Limerick County Library's** new headquarters were opened on March 28 by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Mr. John Gormley, T.D. The state-of-the-art building, which is 45,000 sq ft, also accommodates five other local authority services including: the Mid-West National Road Design Office, Motor Taxation Office, Regional Waste Management Office and an Environment Laboratory.

The building was designed by local architects Healy & Partners, and employs a number of energy-efficient design solutions – solar panels that provide 70% of the buildings hot water, high levels of fabric insulation and natural ventilation to all offices.

The library headquarters also features a comprehensive Limerick Studies department. Speaking at the opening ceremony, County Librarian Damien Brady said that “the facility brings together the written local history and archival records of County Limerick, as well as being home to the Limerick Family Ancestry Service.”

The building has already gained national recognition, having received an award from Gypsum Industries for the innovative use of plaster-board in ceiling design. (Source: *Limerick Leader*, April 16 2008). | →

↓ TAOBH TÍRE PROJECT

↑ LIBRARY BUILDINGS SET NEW STANDARDS

## Taobh Tíre Project wins An Taoiseach's Public Service Excellence Award 2008



Taoiseach's Public Service Excellence Awards, 2008 with Norma McDermott, Frances Crampsie, Donna Quinn, Eileen Burgess, Geoffrey Browne, Mayor John Boyle and Marietta Herry with An Taoiseach.

The Taobh Tíre project has been awarded one of this year's **An Taoiseach's Public Service Excellence Awards, 2008**. Taobh Tíre is run by Donegal County Council in association with An Chomhairle Leabharlanna under the Public Library Research Programme. The Award was presented by the An Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern, T.D. in a ceremony in Dublin Castle on April 18. Speaking at the award ceremony An Taoiseach said that ‘It was very encouraging to see how the principles of excellent service are being implemented across so many diverse state organisations. Innovative as these projects are, they are also in keeping with the values that we regard as being the best traditions of the public service. They also reflect the complexity of the Public Service and the range and ability of our best Public Servants.’

Taobh Tíre was selected for the award because:

- It is an innovative project that greatly improves the quality of services delivered to the public in rural and isolated communities.
- The potential for replication in isolated communities across the country is enormous. | →

→ **South Dublin County's** new Library in Tallaght opened on the April 23 2008. One of the largest public libraries in the country, the County Library will, along with the County Arts Centre and the Civic Theatre, create a vibrant cultural quarter in the Town Centre of Tallaght.

The new, customer-orientated, library is a bright double-height building which will act as a public living room for the community – with spaces to sit, read, reflect and interact. A parent lounge beside the children's library allows parents to relax and read in close proximity to their children who can play, use computers or enjoy thousands of the best books available for young readers. A teen zone, a local studies zone and a large library for adults make up the range of facilities to aid access to leisure, information and educational possibilities for customers.

RFID technology facilitates express lending and returning kiosks on each level of the new building – using the latest technologies to allow customers a streamlined experience. The RFID technology will also allow a new level of stock control and auditing across all areas of the over 85,000 items currently available for lending and reference.

Library customers can avail of a large IT suite, with over 100 PCs for use, free of charge, and a range of computer applications and information sources. WiFi, with a facility to print from laptops, is also available and the large Digital Training Suite provides a range of training courses for all ages on a variety of IT skills, including the Adobe Creative suite. Customers of the library can now add



The new South Dublin Library in Tallaght

credit to their library membership cards in order to make payment for printing and photocopying more convenient. A conference suite on the lower ground floor has video conferencing facilities and will offer an extensive range of cultural and educational events for local people.

To celebrate the opening of the County Library, a selection of five small pocket books were distributed to commuters on the LUAS stops in Tallaght, together with a flyer promoting the newly renovated library. [ILN](#)

#### ↓ TAOBH TÍRE PROJECT (CONTD)

- | — Although library services are a core activity of local authorities, Taobh Tíre increases the effectiveness and efficiency of the service by engaging communities in the development of their own library service.
- The provision of such services as Taobh Tíre helps underpin the sustainability of marginal communities and makes a real difference now and into the future.

The Selection Committee assessed the 183 projects put forward for inclusion. An initial shortlist of 44 projects was made, from which 20 winners were selected.

The awards are organised as part of the Public Service's Quality Customer Service Initiative, the aim of which is to provide a consistently high level of service to customers of the Public Service.

Taobh Tíre continues to develop, and in November the service was launched in the Forge Family Resource Centre, Pettigo on November 23 2007. This is a unique partnership for Taobh Tíre as The Forge is the first cross border resource centre in Ireland.

For more information, contact Donna Quinn, the Taobh Tíre coordinator, on 074 9168743 or at [dquinn@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:dquinn@donegalcoco.ie) [ILN](#)

#### ↑ LIBRARY BUILDINGS SET NEW STANDARDS (CONTD)



Frances Crampsie and Donna Quinn



## COLICO LECTURE 2008



At the lecture was Mr. Andy Pollak

The COLICO lecture for 2008 was given by Andy Pollak, Director of the Centre for Cross Border Studies. The Centre for Cross Border Studies, founded in September 1999 and based in Armagh and Dublin, researches and develops co-operation across the Irish border in education, health, business, public administration, communications, agriculture, the environment and a range of other practical areas.

Mr. Pollak's presentation focussed on Key Factors Making for Good North/South Co-operation Practice in Ireland. Mr. Pollak spoke about the reasons for the success of the Centre, enumerating the achievements of the Centre: "Since our foundation in 1999, we have carried

out research projects in areas ranging from health services to sustainable development, from adult education to local government, from animal disease to telecom technologies, from ICT to services to migrant workers. We have managed cross border 'action research' and exchange projects at all levels of education, from pre-school to third level. We have organised over 50 cross-border conferences and seminars for a wide range of interest groups. We have provided the secretariats for three new all-island networks bringing together university presidents, colleges of education and spatial planners. We have put on the first ever training programmes in North-South co-operation for civil and public servants. And we have created the first comprehensive, publicly accessible databases of cross-border information and information for cross-border workers on the island of Ireland."

Mr. Pollak also discussed the factors that are "important for the successful sustainability of North-South cooperation, including effective staff and personal networks and "need for institution-alisation." The event took place at

the LAI/CILIP conference on April 16 in the Radisson SAS Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath. The lecture formed part of the programme of a joint conference between library staff and elected members of library authorities based on the island of Ireland, on April 15-17 2008. [ILN](#)

## LIBRARY IRELAND WEEK

The week started early in **Kilkenny** with a promotional stand in MacDonagh Junction Shopping Centre on Saturday March 1. Library staff were on hand to spread the word about reading and the library service. Over 700 people

approached the stand to hear about the extensive range of services available at their local libraries. Free library bags and information were distributed to the public and over 200 people entered a free draw. The prize – a basket of literary goodies – was won by a regular reader and her family from Graiguenamanagh library.

Thursday March 6 2008 was World Book Day (U.K. and Ireland) and, to mark the occasion, author, journalist, broadcaster and commentator Nell McCafferty was in Loughboy library, talking about life at 64.

Nell related the positive and negative aspects of being a senior citizen, wryly describing her life



Alongside Nell McCafferty are Kilkenny County Library Staff - Brenda Ward, Mary Morrissey, Mary Flannery & Nuala Brennan.

## ↑ COLICO LECTURE

## ↓ IAML

## ↑ LIBRARY IRELAND WEEK

## ↓ MEATH

IAML (UK & IRELAND)  
ANNUAL STUDY WEEKEND

At its Annual Study Weekend at Canterbury in April 2008, the UK & Ireland branch of the International Association of Music Libraries (IAML UK & Ireland) awarded its E.T. Bryant Memorial Prize 2007 to Maria Smyth for her MLIS thesis *Music in Fingal Public Libraries: an investigation of Fingallian's needs*. Maria has recently completed her studies at the School of Information and Library Studies at UCD, and is currently working for Fingal Public Libraries in the Swords branch. The Bryant Prize is awarded annually to a student of Library and Information Science or to a librarian in their first five years in music librarianship, for a significant contribution to the literature of music librarianship.

Maria's thesis – a study of how Fingallians currently use their library music services and what would encourage them to make even better use of them – was described as "a very thorough, well researched piece of work with



Receiving the E.T. Bryant Memorial Prize 2007 from Liz Hart, President, IAML (UK & Ireland) is Maria Smyth

real relevance to the community that it deals with. It has identified an impressive number of recommendations which we hope might be taken up by the appropriate authorities, and which might be of interest and relevance to library services in other communities. This research could also serve as a model for a more widespread survey either in Ireland or the UK."

■ A summary of the thesis findings will be published in a forthcoming issue of *Brio*, the journal of IAML (UK & Irl). [ILN](#)

## MEATH LIBRARY SERVICE

Meath Library Service and The Health Service Executive have been working in partnership to create a scheme in which high quality self-help can be made more accessible to families and adults experiencing mild to moderate psychological, emotional or behavioural problems. Taking part in the scheme are local GP's and other health professionals, such as public health nurses, psychiatrists, social workers, psychologists and community mental health nurses.

Alongside traditional methods of dealing with certain problems, they will also be recommending specific books to their clients from a child and family booklist and an adult booklist.

The books are available in the 4 main libraries in Meath; Navan, Ashbourne, Trim and Dunboyne but can be requested at any of the 13 libraries. The booklist can be seen at: <http://www.meath.ie/LocalAuthorities/Libraries/Meath-HealthyReadingScheme/>

The launch of this project launches in with a reading group hosted by the library service at a day centre for adults with mental health issues in Kells, Co. Meath. The reading group has been running since September last year and meets once a month with a group of 5-7 adults who attend the day centre. The scheme received funding from the HSE to purchase series 1 & 2 of the Quick Read titles and feedback from the nurses at the centre indicate that it is a positive exercise and the clients enjoy reading the books and found it relaxing. It is hoped to set up two more reading groups of this kind in other day centres in Meath later on in the year. [ILN](#)



At the lecture are Rosarii Dunne (Assistant Librarian), Jo Corkery (Institute Librarian), Professor Roy Foster, Dr. Joseph Ryan (Registrar AIT), Fiona Morrissey (Assistant Librarian)

support system – glasses, implants and pills. The most effective antidote to the pains of ageing, however, is laughter, and Nell dispensed a liberal dose to an appreciative audience.

At the bi-monthly meeting of Graiguenamanagh Historical Society in Graiguenamanagh Library on the March 14, the Society presented an Album of Drawings & Sketches Taken from Nature by Mary Burtchaell of Brandondale – a large country house on the outskirts of the village – to the library for permanent display.

The album consists of 54 detailed pencil sketches of various local

scenes, as well as scenes of Kilkenny, Wicklow and further afield. The work was done by Mary Burtchaell during the period 1840 to 1870. The book provides a record of this thriving town at a particular period in the nineteenth century.

Joan Murphy, Secretary of the Historical Society also presented Graiguenamanagh Library with a copy of the transcriptions, by the Monks of Duiske Abbey, of the letters of Pope Saint Gregory the Great. The transcriptions are also on display in the library.

The theme of social change in Ireland was the subject of a follow on One Book, One Institute event (see ILN 280) on Thursday April 3

2008 in the library of the **Athlone Institute of Technology**.

Roy Foster, Carroll Professor of History at Oxford University, gave a lecture on the content of his book *Luck and the Irish: A Brief History of Change from 1970*. The book looks at the roots of the changes, which came with an almost completely unexpected wave of prosperity. The lecture was attended by both staff & students and proved to be a unique & stimulating occasion for all.

**Limerick's** libraries combined forces during Library Ireland Week 2008 to publicise the importance of libraries in today's information-hungry society. Minister for Defence, Mr Willie

O'Dea, T.D., launched the initiative – with the cooperation of the University of Limerick, Limerick City Library, Limerick County Library and Mary Immaculate College – which saw librarians from the Defence Forces, the Prison Service and RTÉ speak about their experiences.

Minister O'Dea spoke of the role of libraries in society saying that “the library is a physical place in an increasingly electronic world. Libraries act as facilitators to learning and librarians are experts in information management. They work in partnership with lecturers, teachers and students to advance learning and knowledge.” (Source: *Limerick Independent*, March 5 2008) **ILN**



Launching the initiative Jerald Cavanagh, Institute Librarian LIT, Minister Willie O'Dea T.D., Dr. Maria Hinfelaar, Director LIT. (Image courtesy of Keith Wiseman, Limerick Independent)

## ↓ ROSCOMMON

### ROSCOMMON CO. LIBRARY

The mobile library service hosted a number of storytelling sessions to celebrate World Book Day (U.K. and Ireland). Renowned storyteller Danielle Allison enthralled children from various pre-schools throughout the county. World Book Day also provided an occasion to celebrate the first anniversary of the re-introduction of the mobile library service in County Roscommon.

The service was launched in April 2007 and has proved to be both popular with users, and a vital

agent in promoting the role, visibility and presence of the library service throughout the county. With 35 stops, as well as increasing participation – including a tailored approach to contact, with centres, crèches, nursing homes accommodating events and activities – the mobile has enhanced the cultural and information agenda of the service and is bringing the point of contact with services, as closely as possible, to the user.

In a county like Roscommon, with a large percentage of people living in rural areas, the service has been a welcome and positive development.



Pre-school children at the mobile library service

## ↓ WEXFORD

County Librarian Mr Richie Farrell is very happy with the progress this new service has made, however, he is keen to add that this service is still a work in progress. In order for the service to remain responsive and relevant, routes, schedules and opening hours are still being reviewed and addressed. Richie Farrell goes on to state that the success of the service is a tribute to the support of management and members of Roscommon County Council and the efforts of all the library service staff involved, and the contribution they have made to its delivery. **ILN**

### WEXFORD BOOK FESTIVAL

The festival was another resounding success this year with people from all over the county travelling to literary events in libraries and bookshops. Highlights included the visit of Diarmuid Ferriter, author of *Judging Dev*, to Wexford Town Library on Friday April 11 and the lively discussion that ensued.

On Saturday, Wexford Library also hosted a pre-teen panel discussion with Eoin Colfer, Derek Landy

## ↓ M.A

and David Donoghue. The large audience was enthralled by a dramatisation from the book *Skulduggery Pleasant*. On Sunday, White's Hotel played host to the annual Literary Lunch with emerging Irish author, Julia Kelly and Man Booker winner and Wexford man, John Banville. Over fifty members of Wexford County Council Public Libraries reading circles attended the lunch. **ILN**

### M.A. IN HISTORICAL ARCHIVES

The Department of History, NUI Maynooth is now offering an MA in Historical Archives. The course is particularly geared to the 'sole operator' who is entrusted with the care of archives in voluntary societies, religious institutions, historic houses and other small-scale but important settings.

Further information is available from: Dr. Jacinta Prunty, Department of History, NUI Maynooth, County Kildare. T: 01-708 3485; E: [jacinta.prunty@nuim.ie](mailto:jacinta.prunty@nuim.ie) w: <http://history.nuim.ie> **ILN**

## May 2008

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As part of the Bealtaine 2008 celebrations, Donegal County Library and Arts Service will present The Big Book Group with renowned author Jennifer Johnston, in the Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny at 2pm. For more information: T/F: 074 91 21968. E: [library@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:library@donegalcoco.ie)

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An Chomhairle Leabharlanna presents a new course on genealogical sources designed for public library staff. The one day course will provide an innovative introduction on Irish genealogy which will include: research processes, register office records, and other relevant resources including on-line repositories and services, as well as hands-on research. It is facilitated by John Grenham of the Irish Genealogical Research Society. Places on this course are at the rate of €120 and can be booked by contacting Marie Flynn T: 01 676 1167 E: [mflynn@librarycouncil.ie](mailto:mflynn@librarycouncil.ie)

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Getting to the right answer: answering users' queries – a one-day course presented by McGrath Barrett & Associates in the I.P.A., Lansdowne Road, Dublin 4. To register, or for further details, please contact: Dr. Bríd McGrath, McGrath Barrett & Associates, 2 Richmond Hill, Rathmines, Dublin 6. T/F: 01-4977043 M: 087-2476424; E: [info@mcgrathbarrett.ie](mailto:info@mcgrathbarrett.ie) or [mcgrathbarrett@eircom.net](mailto:mcgrathbarrett@eircom.net). [www.mcgrathbarrett.ie](http://www.mcgrathbarrett.ie)

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Voices in children's books Children's Books Ireland conference, Dublin Public Libraries & Archive, 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. Attendance fees: both days – €90.00 (non-CBI members €100); one day: €45 (non-members €50). Details: Children's Books Ireland, 17 North Great Georges Street, Dublin 1. T: 01 8727475 E: [info@childrensbooksireland.ie](mailto:info@childrensbooksireland.ie) W: [www.childrensbooksireland.ie](http://www.childrensbooksireland.ie)

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Managing the Special Library or Information Unit a one-day course presented by McGrath Barrett & Associates in the Dublin Writers Museum, Parnell Square, Dublin 1. To register, or for further details, please contact: Dr. Bríd McGrath, McGrath Barrett & Associates, 2 Richmond Hill, Rathmines, Dublin 6. T/F: 01-4977043 M: 087-2476424 E: [info@mcgrathbarrett.ie](mailto:info@mcgrathbarrett.ie) or [mcgrathbarrett@eircom.net](mailto:mcgrathbarrett@eircom.net). [www.mcgrathbarrett.ie](http://www.mcgrathbarrett.ie)

## June 2008

19-21

Talent and Innovation – Reshaping for Success This year's INULs Conference will take place at Dublin City University. The theme of the conference explores the library of the 21st century as it responds to significant and rapid change. The conference will examine how libraries can foster and manage talent to enable and sustain a culture of innovation. It will also ask how effectively libraries are successfully reshaping their services, systems, structures

and roles. Details, as they become available, will be at: <http://www.library.dcu.ie/inuls2008/index.htm>

26-27

The Irish Innovative Users Group 7th Annual Conference will be held in University College Cork. The conference is organised for libraries that use the Millennium library management system from Innovative, but it is open to non-members. Topics include developments in library management systems and issues in Irish libraries. Conference Fee is €100 including Conference Dinner (non-members €110). Details will be posted on the Group's website shortly: <http://www.millennium-users.org/> or contact: [info@millennium-users.org](mailto:info@millennium-users.org)

## July 2008

1-5

Bridging the Digital Divide: Effective Library Partnerships in the Digital Age 37th LIBER Annual Conference, Istanbul, Turkey. Further information: <http://liber2008.ku.edu.tr>

↑ CALENDAR OF EVENTS

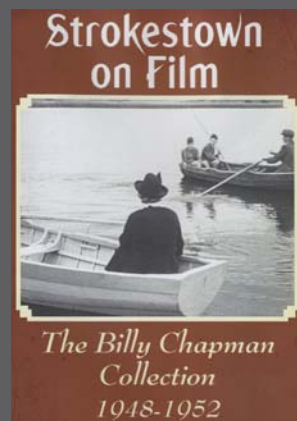
↓ PUBLICATIONS

↓ CONTACT DETAILS

## Publications

On Friday, March 14 over 250 people gathered in the Percy French Hotel for a screening, organised by Roscommon County Council Library Service, of the DVD Strokestown on Film: The Billy Chapman Collection 1948-1952. The event raised over €6,000 for the Roscommon/Mayo Hospice and is part of Roscommon Library Service's ongoing collaboration with individuals and organisation to promote a variety of community-centred activities. The DVD is a collection of 31 segments, filmed by cinema owner Billy Chapman, of people and events in the Strokestown area. The films document events – such as agricultural shows, fairs and a political rally attended by the then Taoiseach, John A. Costello – that took place in the area between 1948 and 1953. The DVD is available for a contribution of €20 to the Mayo/Roscommon Hospice Foundation.

National Disability Authority launch booklet on Promoting Safe Egress and Evacuation for People with Disabilities.



The DVD Strokestown on Film

On April 3 The National Disability Authority launched an important new publication titled Promoting Safe Egress and Evacuation for People with Disabilities. The publication is aimed at ensuring the speedy and safe evacuation of public buildings by people with a disability, particularly in the event of an emergency.

This publication will be of special interest to facilities managers, accommodation officers, health and safety personnel, access officers, disability liaison officers and human

resource professionals in the public sector. It will also be of interest to design consultants and disability organisations involved with accessibility matters as well as people with disabilities, families and carers.

This important guide will assist organisations to plan effectively for the safe evacuation of people with disabilities, both staff and customers. Readers will find information on evacuation strategies, alarm equipment, evacuation equipment, training and specific building types, including healthcare buildings, educational buildings and heritage buildings.

It also provides details of an appropriate planning process to ensure that people with disabilities can safely evacuate a building in case of emergency. There is a practical 'risk assessment checklist' to help organisations to assess their current situation.

This publication is available for free download from <http://www.nda.ie/egress> or contact [publications@nda.ie](mailto:publications@nda.ie) or T: 01-608 0400. ILN

## Next Issue

### Copy date for next issue is May 20th 2008

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