

IRISH | LIBRARY | NEWS

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Branching Out – Future Directions

On Monday June 23, Mr. John Gormley T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Mr. Michael Kitt T.D., Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, launched *Branching Out – Future Directions*, the new policy document which will drive the development of the public library service in Ireland over the next five years.

Minister Gormley explained that this policy document builds on the original report *Branching Out*, which was published in November 1998. It looks at progress made to date and identifies the challenges facing the public library service over the next five years and through a series of priorities and recommendations sets out the directions for future action.

Branching Out – Future Directions contains a number of recommendations to build on the development of the public library service, including:

- focussing on the development of library infrastructure including new buildings, refurbishment works and protection of architecturally important library buildings,
- improvement of the range and quality of stock,



- development of the role of the public library service in lifelong learning and
- recognition of libraries as centres of culture.

Referring to the future actions necessary, Minister of State Kitt assured library authorities of the Department's continued support in further improving the quality and level of service within the public library service. The report is available on the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government's website: www.environ.ie/en/Publications/LocalGovernment/PublicLibraries ILN

Librarybuildings.ie

Cllr. Mark Dearey, Chairman of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, officially launched Librarybuildings.ie, a new website showcasing the development of public library buildings over the years, on June 5 in Dundalk library.

Librarybuildings.ie aims to provide comprehensive and readily accessible information about local authority public library buildings in Ireland. The project is concentrating on two facets of public library design – libraries recently opened and libraries in heritage buildings. Public libraries in heritage buildings and buildings of architectural merit which have received grant-aid have also been included.

In 1998, the Minister for the Environment and Local Government, Mr. Noel Dempsey T.D. launched *Branching Out: A New Public Library Service*. This database gives details of all 51 libraries co-funded by local authorities and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government under the Branching Out programme to date. Senior public library and local authority staff endorsed a recommendation for a database that would provide comprehensive information about public library buildings in Ireland, at the *Branching Out* review in 2003, and again at the library buildings ‘Open, Flexible, and Innovative: the 21st Century Library’ conference in Cork in October 2005.

The project, which was funded by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, was managed by An Chomhairle Leabharlanna with the assistance of a small advisory committee comprised of Laurence Kelly, representing the Department of the Environment,



At the launch L-R: Cllr. Jim D'Arcy, Chairman, Dundalk Town Council, Mr. Conn Murray, Louth County Manager, Cllr. Mark Dearey, Chairman, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, Mrs. Norma McDermott, Director, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna and Ms. Ann Ward, Louth County Librarian.

Heritage and Local Government, Martin Maher representing the library authorities and representatives of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna.

The website provides online access to information about public library buildings in Ireland. As a result, the database is a resource for library and local authorities, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, for design teams developing new and converting library buildings, and, indeed, all who are involved in the functionality of library services.

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↑ LIBRARY BUILDINGS

↓ NEW LIBRARIES

New Libraries for Abbeyleix, Durrow, Dunmore and Garristown

The Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, John Gormley, T.D., officially opened **Laois County Council's** Abbeyleix Library on Wednesday June 11 2008.

The library is situated in the renovated Market House which was built in 1836 by Viscount John de Vesci. The three stories are serviced by the eye-catching spiral staircase, as well as a lift. The refurbished library, designed by de Blacam and Meagher Architects, boasts 13 new computers as well as a newly expanded book stock. At the opening, County Manager Peter Carey described the three-story building as a “work of art” while Minister Gormley expressed his confidence in the library continuing to play a role at the centre of community life. (Sources: *Laois Voice*, June 10 2008, *Laois Nationalist*, June 20 2008).

A new library was also officially opened in Durrow, on June 10 2008, in a renovated Courthouse. The building will also act as a community meeting place when the library is closed.

A new public library in Dunmore, the result of an investment of over €400,000 by **Galway County Council**, was officially opened by Councillor Sean Canney, Mayor of the County of Galway on May 19.

The building designed by architect Declan Molloy and constructed by Thomas McHugh Construction, is situated on High Street, Dunmore. Stating that a modern, inviting library is one of the most important resources a community can have, the Mayor praised the design of the building for the feeling of openness and welcome which it creates.

A large number of people attended the opening reception and they enjoyed discovering the many interesting features of the library, including a secluded courtyard and an interesting reading area.

Speaking at the opening, the County Manager, Martina Moloney, said that the library would be a place for all – a space for quiet reading and reflection and also a social space where people meet.

Garristown Library was opened by the Mayor of **Fingal**, Councillor Alan Farrell, on Wednesday June 11. The existing Carnegie Library Building was designed by the architect Anthony Scott and was opened in 1912. The library has been renovated and extended whilst retaining the original roof, panelling and windows.

The restoration and extension of Garristown Library was designed by Fingal County Council Architects Department and was nominated for the “Public Choice Award” for the RIAI Irish Architecture Awards 2008. The library, which was a part time branch opening three hours a week, will now open twenty nine hours a week. Facilities in the new library include an adult, children's and reference area. 8,500 items are available for library users to borrow including books, CDs, DVDs, talking books, language courses, periodicals, newspapers and local history material. Free Internet access will be available on 2 public access PCs and a photocopying facility is also available. [ILN](#)

The Irish Tourist Association Topographical and General Survey for County Mayo

The Irish Tourist Association (ITA) Topographical and General Survey was compiled in the early 1940s on a parish basis within each county, in an apparent effort to gather information to promote Irish tourism following World War II. Surveyors were appointed and information was gathered by visits to the parish and the filling in of forms. Five different forms were issued to the surveyors relating to natural features, antiquities, historic associations, sports and games, holiday amenities at seaside resorts, amenities and general information for towns and villages, accommodation and catering. Not all the forms were relevant to each parish. For some parishes drawings were made of antiquities and photographs taken of scenic views, places of interest and archaeological sites.

The files of the survey remained in the possession of the Irish Tourist Association/ Bord Fáilte until 1983. The annual report of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna for that year states: "During the year An Chomhairle took over from Bord Fáilte the data relating to the Irish Tourist Association Topographical and General Survey, which had been carried out in the 1940's. The data collected on a county basis, was distributed to seventeen county libraries and many of these reported that the files were a valuable addition to their local studies collections". A number of county libraries, such as those of Clare, Limerick and Tipperary, are now featuring the survey on their websites as sources in their local studies and photographic collections.



Recently a descriptive list has been compiled of the County Mayo files. The files give a fascinating insight into the state of each parish during the War years or what was known as "The Emergency". They document many aspects of the cultural, economic and sporting life of the county and identify local amenities, or the lack of them. They point to the potential for the development of certain localities as tourist destinations and portray the dearth of what would now be considered basic amenities throughout the county.

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↓ NEW LIBRARIES (CONTD)

↑ IRISH TOURIST ASSOCIATION



Abbeyleix Library



Garristown library



Dunmore library



At the opening of Garristown Library Deputy County Manager Gerry Duane, Mayor Alan Farrell and County Librarian Paul Harris

CHESTER BEATTY LIBRARY AND DRAÍOCHT ARTS CENTRE

To celebrate European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008, the Chester Beatty Library and Draíocht Arts Centre, Blanchardstown, came together in a unique project involving primary school children from multi-ethnic backgrounds living in the Dublin 15 area. The goal of *Tell Your Story* is to provide positive arts experiences around storytelling in order to build language skills, confidence, arts awareness and multicultural

understanding through highlighting commonality and celebrating difference.

The project began with a field trip to the Chester Beatty Library and a tour of the library's collection. Full of inspiration, the children returned to their classrooms to start a series of over 50 workshops in storytelling, poetry and visual arts taking place over six weeks with the project's skilled artists and practitioners from both organizations.

The project ended on Saturday May 10 with a Family Day and an exhibition of some of the children's



Tell Your Story Project

handmade work, including clay face masks, treasure chests and hand-stained and decorated journey scrolls.

The project was recorded on DVD and each child will receive a copy of the finished film to add to their treasure chest. **ILN**

WEXFORD PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Fifteen students celebrated their exam results at Newbay House, Wexford on Friday May 30 when they were awarded their certificates in the Library Research Skills course. Unique to Wexford this is the third year of the course. It is taught by the public library staff and it has been developed as a Leaving Certificate level subject, FETAC Level 5. County Wexford VEC serves as the exam centre. Wexford Public Libraries plans to run the course into the future – it will be available in Enniscorthy in the autumn for adults and for students at a local secondary school. See <http://www.wexford.ie/wex/Departments/Library/LibraryResearchSkills/>

More information from Yvonne.smyth@wexfordcoco.ie or T: 053 9176565. **ILN**

GALWAY CITY LIBRARY

On Wednesday April 9 2008 Galway City Library presented a Jim Morrison night entitled: *Jim Morrison: Authors that Influenced, Books that Inspired*. Jim Morrison was lead singer and songwriter for the Doors, one of the most successful acts in rock and roll music history.

Largely self-taught, Morrison read poetry and philosophy copiously, particularly the works of Friedrich Nietzsche and William Blake. A selection of books and works by various authors known to have been very influential in Jim Morrison's life were on display.

Gerry Hanberry, poet and musician, sang and interpreted a number of Jim Morrison songs, while the writer Mike McCormack, discussed the literary influences on Morrison's work.

A large audience in the 18 to 25 age group attended. Late last year a reading with live music entitled *The Books which Dylan Read* also attracted

↓ MEATH

MEATH LIBRARIES

Traveller Focus Week was celebrated in Navan, Co. Meath from June 9-14. This event was a celebration of the culture and history of Travellers in County Meath and was organised by NTW (Navan Travellers Workshop). Events and activities for the week included storytelling, a practicing tin smith and a play based on Traveller culture. **Meath Libraries** played a role in the activities of the week by launching a recently published booklet entitled 'Cant is Cool'. Cant, a language unique to Travellers, was used

more frequently in the past but is practiced little today. The publication arose from a summer class for Traveller children where they were re acquainted with the language. The booklet consists of pictures of objects and people and works much like a dual language book or dictionary giving both the English word and the Cant word alongside the image.

The booklet was officially launched by RTÉ presenter Bláithnaid Ní Chofaigh on Wednesday June 11 in Navan Library. Two local schools were invited down and were delighted to receive a personal copy of the booklet and many were



At Traveller Focus Week from l-r Bláithnaid Ní Chofaigh, Ellen McDonagh (producer of the booklet), Sinead Burke (Information Officer, NTW), Eve Morrisson (Executive Librarian, Navan Library) and Michael McDonagh (Director of NTW).

↓ HERITAGE WEEK

excited to have access to a new language. Copies of the booklet are available from the NTW. **ILN**

HERITAGE WEEK

Heritage Week at Clare County Library: *The Care and Conservation of Books* – a talk by Rene Franklin, Clare County Archivist, will take place at the DeValera Public Library, Harmony Row, Ennis on Tuesday August 26 at 8.00 p.m. Entry is free and all are welcome.

This event marks Heritage Week which runs from August 24-31. Heritage Week is part of European Heritage Days, a joint initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Union. In Ireland Heritage Week is coordinated by the Heritage Council with support from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Its aim is to create awareness of our built, natural and cultural heritage thereby encouraging its conservation and preservation.

For further information contact DeValera Public Library at 065 6846353 or emailbox@clarelibrary.ie **ILN**

↓ SOUTH DUBLIN

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

As part of South Dublin County Council's commitment to a Lifecycle approach to literacy as outlined in Towards 2016, the County Library Tallaght and St. Aidan's Senior National School came together for the *Telling Tales* initiative.

Storyteller Niall de Burca was approached and asked to explore various aspects of the art of storytelling with a 5th class group in the school. Over a 5 month span Niall visited the class once a week covering all aspects of the storytelling process from listening to, ultimately, narrating their own stories, poems and rhymes. This eventually culminated in the production of the CD – *Telling Tales out of school*. The CD and resource pack was launched in County Library Tallaght on Tuesday June 17 by Deputy Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr. Marie Corr.

This resource pack offers guidelines for anyone interested in using stories with children in a creative

a large attendance. This event looked at Bob Dylan's favourite books and their possible influence on his lyrics and music.

The next event in this series will look at the books which influenced Keith Richards. **ILN**



CORK COUNTY LIBRARIES

A unique piece of art was launched in Skibbereen library on June 5. The textile piece was commissioned by Cork County Library and Arts Service and created by local artist Helena O'Driscoll with the help of children from Skibbereen Gaelscoil.

The launch was conducted by Councillor Maura Cal McCarthy, deputising for the County Mayor, Councillor Tom Sheahan, and by County Librarian, Ruth Flanagan, and attended by local councillors, as well as the children who took part in the project, their teachers, and some parents.

The project, part of Helena's art course in Scoil Stiofáin Naofa in Cork city, was to create a piece of art as a commission for a client. The library service in conjunction with the County Arts Officer Ian McDonagh agreed to commission a piece. Helena conducted a workshop in Skibbereen library with the junior and senior infants from Skibbereen Gaelscoil, where she read the story of the Children of Lir to them and they drew images based on the story.

She then took the images and created a textile book, which contains elements of those images, recreated in stitch. The textile book is very tactile, and is intended as a hands-on piece of art for the children's library. It contains a number of pieces which children can interact with, and is housed, when not in use, on a swan-shaped pedestal. **ILN**



At the launch



The commissioned textile piece

↑ GALWAY

↓ WICKLOW

↓ PUBLIC LIBRARY RESEARCH

way to promote literacy. It is an aid to demonstrate practical ways to integrate storytelling into children's language development and literacy development.

However the organisers feel that the pack can be used in a wider setting such as summer camps with children or teenagers, or working with older people to get them to recount their life stories.

For more information contact Rosena, rhanda@dublincoco.ie or Margaret, mbentley@dublincoco.ie **ILN**



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL LIBRARY SERVICE

Wicklow played its part in Bealtaine 2008, the festival celebrating creativity in older age. Established in 1996, Bealtaine is the world's first countrywide celebration of renewal, creativity and growth involving all art forms.

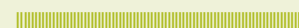
The festival promotes greater participation in the arts by older people and Wicklow County Council Library Service made a special effort this year, running events in libraries, hospitals and day-care centres.

Baltinglass Hospital Courtyard and Daycare Centre was the setting for a particularly innovative project – a complete revamping of the garden area, restoring the beds, window boxes and hanging baskets to their former glory. Local horticulturalist, Renee Wall, facilitated the workshops which ran weekly through May and involved over thirty residents, some revelling in putting to good use lifelong gardening skills and others picking up a trowel for the first time.

A celebration of the new gardens, and the great accomplishment of the participants, was held on Thursday June 5 with a party in the gardens. Assistant Director of the Hospital, Carol Gannon, thanked Wicklow County Council Library Service for providing funding for such a worthwhile project for the clients to get involved in while leaving a legacy which gives pleasure to both clients and visitors alike.

Other events which took place as part of Bealtaine 2008 included jewellery-making in Wicklow and Arklow libraries, storytelling and reminiscence by renowned

storyteller Pat Speight in Rathdrum Hospital and Carnew Community Care Centres, lectures and slideshows from the National Gallery in Bray and Blessington libraries. Budding writers were able to try their hand with author Grace Wynne-Jones in Greystones library in a series of interactive workshops. **ILN**



PUBLIC LIBRARIES SUPPORTING THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Schools library services support children's learning at the primary level through resources which develop children's reading interests, assist with homework research, and extend the choice of teaching aids. These library services are delivered and funded by public library authorities, assisted, in part, by a grant from the Department of Education and Science. Preliminary research, however, indicates significant variation in the range, local emphasis and extent of services provided.

Dublin City Public Libraries announced the commencement of a research project, which aims to establish effective approaches to delivering the service at a national level. It will also examine how public libraries can further support children's engagement with the curriculum relating to local area resources.

Funded through the Public Library Research Programme, this project is managed by Dublin City Public Libraries on the advice of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna. County Librarians from Kerry, Longford, Wexford and Wicklow are providing a perspective on existing local services and future needs. The project operates from May 2008 until June 2009.

Further details are available from: Deirdre Ellis-King, Dublin City Librarian or Bernadette Cogan, Divisional Librarian, Dublin City Library and Archive, 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. T: 01-6744800; F: 01 6744880; E dublin-citypubliclibraries@dublincity.ie **ILN**

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>

August 2008

10–14

**Libraries without borders:
navigating towards global
understanding** World Library &
Information Congress: 74th IFLA
General Conference and Council,
Québec. Details: [www.ifla.org/IV/
ifla74/index.htm](http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/index.htm)

October 2008

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International School Library Day
www.iasl-online.org/advocacy/

Library Buildings.ie contd | →

To this end, the database contains information on aspects of the library building – from details of the locality the building is situated in, to listings of the buildings' features and facilities, as well as photographs of the buildings.

Selections of these photographs are available in the Gallery section, where images from galleries including Work in Progress, Converted Market houses, Carnegie Libraries and Branching Out Libraries are also displayed. Where available, there are movies of the library and, in two instances so far, a 360 degree virtual tour. A tie-in with the Google Map's API allows the user to pinpoint the location of featured library buildings.

The website was launched in Dundalk library to mark the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Dundalk public library, the first public library to open in Ireland. While launching the database

the chairman thanked the local authorities and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for their support of the project, and noted that: "Irish public libraries are now a significant aspect of our built heritage, as can be seen by viewing the photographs, movies and virtual tours, of the many innovative and, indeed, award-winning buildings on the database." ILN

Irish Tourist Association contd | →

They show how outside influences, such as World War II, had an effect on small rural communities. Other subjects, for example the prevalence of birds like the partridge and grouse over much of County Mayo and the demise of landlordism, are touched on. It is hoped that the highlighting of the information contained in the ITA survey will lead to a growing awareness of the potential of the survey as a source for local studies.

BRIGID CLESHAM (ARCHIVIST)

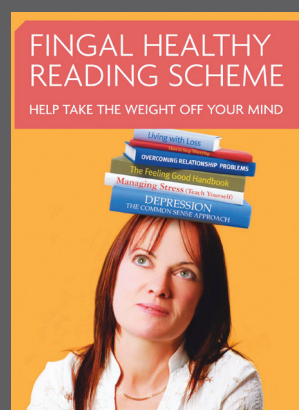
↑ CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GAL/GATES FOUNDATION

↑ CONTINUED ARTICLES

↓ CONTACT DETAILS

Fingal County Libraries



Fingal County Libraries in association with the Daughters of Charity and the HSE launched the 'Fingal Healthy Reading Scheme' in Balbriggan Library last month. The scheme was officially launched by John Sharry, respected author of many parenting books.

The aim of the scheme is to promote the mental health and well being of individuals and families by recommending and making available quality self-help books to enable people to help themselves.

The books on the scheme were selected from recommendations yielded by Irish and international surveys with doctors, psychologists and therapists. Two booklists have been compiled, one for adults and one for families, and they deal with a range of issues such as depression, self esteem, anorexia, parent separation, bereavement and child development.

"Bibliotherapy" is the term used for delivering psychological therapy through books. The effectiveness of bibliotherapy has been well established in many clinical trials. Recommended books can produce results comparable to those of drug therapy or psychotherapy and bibliotherapy has been recommended by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) in the U.K.

The booklists will be distributed through libraries, GP surgeries, Family Support Centres, hospitals, schools and medical centres throughout Fingal. More details can be found at www.fingalcoco.ie/library/fingalhealthyreading ILN

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is inviting applications from libraries and organisations with a mandate to provide public access to information to apply for the Access to Learning Award (ATLA) 2009.

The award recognizes excellence and innovation in public libraries and similar institutions in providing access to information through the use of computers and the Internet, at no cost to the user. The recipient will receive a prize of \$1 US million.

The 2009 brochures, application form and further information are available from: www.gatesfoundation.org/GlobalDevelopment/GlobalLibraries/AccessLearningAward/

The closing date for the 2008 award is October 31 2008. ILN

Next Issue

Copy date for next issue is July 20th 2008

Contributions should be sent to:
Alun Bevan, Editor – ILN
An Chomhairle Leabharlanna,
53-54 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2.
abevan@librarycouncil.ie
T +353 (0)1-678 4905
F +353 (0)1-676 6721

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