

# IRISH | LIBRARY | NEWS

JULY 2009 · #292 | CHILDREN'S BOOKS IRELAND AWARD 2 | CORK PLACENAMES SURVEY 3

## Minister John Gormley launches 2nd phase of Europe Direct Centres in Dundalk Library

An Chomhairle Leabharlanna (The Library Council) have been awarded a new four year contract to operate eight EU Direct centres in seven library authorities across Ireland, including a dedicated Irish language centre in Carraroe, Co. Galway.

Mr. John Gormley T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government launched this new phase in Dundalk Library on June 19, accompanied by Mr. Martin Territt, Director of the EU Commission Representation in Ireland, Councillor Martin Bellew, Chairman of Dundalk Town Council and Ms. Bernadette Fennell, Louth County Librarian.

The Minister said, "It is a great compliment to An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, and indeed the public library service in general", that this contract had been awarded.

The eight centres provide information on EU policy by supplying publications, replying to general EU-related queries, providing internet access to EU websites and providing speakers on EU issues.

In his speech, Minister Gormley said, "This appointment [of Dundalk Library] acknowledges the public library as an integral part of every Irish community. Library personnel have established



At the launch are Councillor Mark Dearey, Vice Chairman of Dundalk Town Council and Chairman of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, Bernadette Fennell, County Librarian, Louth County Council, Mr. John Gormley T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Councillor Martin Bellew, Chairman of Dundalk Town Council at the launch of the Europe Direct Centre, Dundalk Library.

links and networks within the community due to their ongoing role as information providers and are ideally placed to assist the EU engagement with citizens at local level."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 | →

## Minister John Gormley launches 2nd phase of Europe Direct Centres in Dundalk Library (CONT'D)

→ | FROM COVER

With over 14 million visits last year, Irish libraries are attracting visitors in ever increasing numbers, not just to borrow books, but to avail of the range of services on offer.

Mr. Martin Territt welcomed the new Centre by saying, “I am very happy to be here with Minister Gormley. Centres like this are here to provide information to anybody with an interest in Europe and build a bridge between the citizen and the institutions. Over time it is hoped that the Europe Direct Centre will become a cultural hub for all things European in the North East.”

Ms Bernadette Fennell, County Librarian said in her opening statement, “As County Librarian for Louth County Libraries I am delighted that Dundalk Library was chosen as one of the eight Europe Direct Centres based in public libraries. The centre will provide information on the European Union and will carry a stock of free publications from EU institutions. The Centre will also provide computers for searching websites containing EU information and staff will help members of the public to find answers to their queries.

Dundalk is celebrating a hundred and fifty years of a library presence in the town and the addition of the Europe Direct Centre will provide a forum for discussion, debate and feedback to the European Commission, MEPs and local politicians through the library service”.

Also in attendance at the ceremony were Ms Nessa Childers MEP, Councillor Mark Dearey, Vice Chairman of Dundalk Town Council and Chairman of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, along with other distinguished guests.

For further information on Europe Direct Centres go to: <http://www.europedirect.ie/> **ILN**

↑ EUROPE DIRECT LAUNCH

↓ CHILDREN’S BOOKS IRELAND AWARD

## Rosemary Hetherington is presented with the Children’s Books Ireland Award, 2009

On May 19th 2009, Children’s Books Ireland presented its annual award to Rosemary Hetherington of Dublin City Libraries. The CBI Award recognizes outstanding contributions to the world of children’s books and is presented as part of CBI’s Annual Conference. Each year, CBI members make nominations for the award, and the final decision is made by the board of CBI. Previous recipients of the award have included Robert Dunbar, Clodagh Corcoran, Valerie Coghlan, Liz Morris, Pat Donlon, Rena Dardis, Carolyn Swift and Tony Hickey.

Rosemary’s contributions of the past 20 years, including her extensive knowledge of children’s books and her enthusiasm for sharing that knowledge with children, teachers, parents and colleagues, was largely the reason for her nomination to this award.

She is the librarian in the School and Children’s Section of the Dublin City Libraries and has also worked closely with CBI as chair to the CBI BISTO Book Award, president of CBI and a frequent reviewer for INIS, CBI’s quarterly magazine of record for Children’s Literature in Ireland.

Jane O’Hanlon presented Rosemary with her award of a special commemorative plate and original PJ Lynch illustration from A Christmas Carol. Jane acknowledged that “the agreement and ease with which this decision was made this year is in itself a testament to the calibre of the individual involved.



Rosemary Hetherington winner of the Children’s Books Ireland annual award

Through her work in The Children’s and Schools Section of Dublin City Libraries [Rosemary] has become – and is – an acknowledged ‘expert’ in the area of children’s books. Within the libraries, in classrooms and alongside parents and teachers, she has worked tirelessly to promote children’s books over the years – and continues to do so. It is precisely this kind of dedication ... to ensure that as many children as possible encounter and come into contact with books that this award seeks to recognise.” **ILN**

# Logainmneacha Chorcaí / Cork Placenames Survey donated to Cork County Libraries

On Wednesday 10th June, 2009 in the presence of the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese *Logainmneacha Chorcaí* / the Cork Placenames Survey was handed over to the Cork County Library and Arts Service. This unique collection is a first for any public library service.

*Logainmneacha Chorcaí* consists of 115 volumes with 250,000 entries from 23 baronies and is the first mapped survey of placenames for any county in Ireland. It all started on a holiday that Dr. Lankford, a Cork City born secondary teacher took on Cape Clear in 1976. Casual queries that he made about local place names aroused such a strong and enthusiastic response that he carried on and expanded the process leading to the inauguration of The Place Names Survey at Dyke Parade, Cork. It became a whole time activity for him following his retirement from teaching a few years ago with assistance from UCC graduates, 200 in all over that time. That survey began in 1996.

*Logainmneacha Chorcaí* / Cork Place Names Survey, a voluntary organisation, undertook over a ten year period a townland by townland Place Name Survey throughout Co. Cork. Names given to all kinds of natural and manmade features in the rural and urban landscape of the county were collected from both oral and documented sources.



At Cork County Library Dr. Éamon Lankford, *Logainmneacha Chorcaí* hands over 2 volumes of the Cork Placenames Survey to County Librarian, Ruth Flanagan in the presence of President Mary McAleese and Dr. Martin McAleese.

The location of most of the names was recorded on maps for the first time. Each name in the compilation is provided with its oral or documented source, the name and address of the supplier and collector of each name from an oral source accompanied by the date of collection and other relevant information.

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## ↑ ↓ CORK PLACENAMES SURVEY

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A full bibliography is provided for all documented sources used. The Place Name group organised surveys with the assistance of Primary and Post Primary schools, Community Associations, Historical societies and many volunteer fieldworkers. Public meetings in relation to Barony & Parish Surveys were arranged as were lectures relating to various aspects of Place Name heritage and the survey methodology.

National and local media; press radio and TV supported the local Place Name initiative in its effort to create Ireland's first county Place Name Survey in its bid to record local local Place Name heritage and community identity. Participating groups and individuals were issued with Place Name Survey townland maps on which one placed a number indicating the location of each name and the name and number given to it were noted on the survey form attached to each map.

The Place Names Survey also included the extraction of references to Cork Place Names from historical sources e.g. Down Survey, Book of Survey & Distribution, Fiaints, Ordnance Survey data and manuscripts of the Dept. of Irish Folklore U.C.D. As part of this process *Logainmneacha Chorcaí* undertook the transcription of the Ordnance Survey Name Book for County Cork and its presentation in a separate set of volumes while also merging the Cork Name Book compilation of names into that of the Place Names Survey work.

At the handover ceremony strong appreciation was shown to both Dr. Lankford and his team. Describing Dr. Lankford as “a visionary” President McAleese praised him for his dedication to the formidable survey over the years. Dr. Lankford spoke in similar vein about the participating graduates and asked that the imagination of the long gone creators of those placenames be acknowledged. The survey has turned up some colourful popular names such as “Fat Arse Bridge” Skibbereen and “The Snotty Bridge” at Kinsale Roundabout.

This survey will be an invaluable resource for researchers in the new County Library headquarters which will open shortly. While numbers studying placenames per se are relatively low it is a subject that is intricately linked with family history. Apart from the sizeable number of toponymically derived surnames, the coverage in the survey of the territories that the great families of Ireland conquered, occasionally gave their names to, lost and sometimes regained, before eventually settling and becoming predominant in particular areas should be intriguing to roots seekers.

Ruth Flanagan, County Librarian, welcomed the donation of this very unique and valuable resource to the reference collections of Cork County Library and Arts Service. [ILN](#)



## FROM DALKEY TO DUNDRUM



Paul Perry

Paul Perry is the Writer in Residence with Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Library Service. He is the author of two critically acclaimed collections of poetry, *The Drowning of the Saint* and *The Orchid Keeper* (Dedalus Press, 2006). A former winner of Hennessy New Irish Writer of the Year Award, his third collection, *The Last Falcon and Small Ordinance* is forthcoming in 2010. Here he reflects on his role as Writer in Residence:

In the last eight months, my role as DLR Library Services' Writer in Residence has brought me from Dundrum to Deansgrange and out to Dalkey. The writers I've met along the way are a fascinating group of creative thinkers, talkers and writers. My brief: I'm here to help anyone in the DLR Library Services' community with their creative writing.

The focal point of my residency so far has been an open-workshop which meets in Deansgrange library. Each week, I post a series of exercises for poets and fiction writers on a blog, [www.theorchidkeeper.blogspot.com](http://www.theorchidkeeper.blogspot.com). Then we email each other with the work we have written. This gives us a chance to reflect on the poems and stories before we meet to discuss them.

By the way, the blog is not just for the workshop participants who meet in person at the library. We have virtual members of the group who follow the writing exercises I post and who submit their work to me for comments. I also meet people on a one-to-one basis, if they'd like to discuss their work in more detail. In the following months, I'll be making

it out to the other writers groups in the area and all going to plan starting some new ones too.

What I respect about the DLR Library Service's initiative is that by employing me as a Writer in Residence, their first, they are not only adding a service to their growing array of services, including podcasts, readings, book clubs, theatre groups, and festivals, but they are also allowing me to develop as a writer. In other words, they have given me the space and time to write. This may seem obvious. But too many residencies around the country are looking for creative writing facilitators, not Writers in Residence, or worse a writer who'll act as jack-of-all-arts-trades. From opening exhibitions to commenting on local theatre, their creative time and energy is often sapped by duties which have nothing to do with fostering a love of literature or nurturing emerging literary talent or developing their own craft. One writer I talked to recently told me she was asked to judge an Easter egg painting competition as part of her duties as a Writer in Residence.

That's not to say I'm not energised by discovering new ways of engaging with the libraries' varied communities. In fact, it seems to me, especially in these times of recession, that libraries are fulfilling an ever expansive role of cultural centre. They are no longer merely hubs of information, but centres of creativity and I'm happy to be part of it.

For more information on Paul Perry's DLR Library Services Writer in Residence activities please see the following blogs: <http://www.theorchidkeeper.blogspot.com/> and <http://www.deansgrange.blogspot.com/>

## ↑ FROM DALKEY TO DUNDRUM

## ↓ KERRY

### MONASTEREVIN COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Monasterevin Community Library is a new 2,000 sq foot, fully automated facility which was funded by Kildare County Council at a total cost of €330,000. This project is recognised as a universally accessible action, with dedicated spaces for children, teens and adults encompassing listening stations, learning zones and a sizeable exhibition space. Kildare County Council's aim to produce a library venue that emphasised physical, social and cultural access for all has been realised.

The library service in Monasterevin has been extended to 20 hours per week, to ensure best provision for all users.

Approximately €45,000 has been invested in stock, including CDs, DVDs, Console Games and preloaded MP3 players for all ages. Wide selections of graphic novels, fiction, non-fiction and curriculum support materials have been selected for our teenage patrons.

A full suite of IT facilities has been installed in the new library. Four public access computers with accessible software and hardware such as touch screen monitors, as well as self-booking software have been installed for the benefit of the whole community.

Also presented on the day was, *Changing Faces* an exhibition of portraits, by Moore Abbey Photography Group.

In late 2008, Kildare County Council Arts Service invited Moore Abbey Photography Group to submit a proposal for the inaugural exhibition of the new Monasterevin Library. To develop this body of work the group photographed members of the Monasterevin community. Their skill and flair in capturing and interpreting the unique character of each of their subjects is evident in the *Changing Faces* exhibition, which represents the work of 10 photographers.

The Arts Service is delighted to support and fund an exhibition to showcase and celebrate this work.



The library was officially opened by Sean Power, T.D. on May 11 2009



Teenzone

## ABBEEFEST

A hive of activity surrounded Abbeyleix Library on Friday 12th of June as the final preparations got underway for the inaugural Abbeyfest festival. Abbeyfest was an opportunity for local artists to showcase their work in the community whilst at the same time raising money for “Development Perspectives” - a charity working with the people of Tanzania. The festival was the brainchild of Ross McDonald, Pat Kennedy and Brendan Phelan of the Crewger organisation, which was involved in filming the entire festival.

Abbeyleix Library played a pivotal role in the festival; providing organisers with an assembly point from which to co-ordinate festivities whilst also providing artists with a venue from which to showcase their work. A variety of events were held in the library such as storytelling sessions, puppetry shows, face painting, creative dance shows and a weapons show courtesy of Michael Moylan from Irish History Live.

Throughout the festival a vibrant selection of artwork from the local artistic community was on display in the library. Contributors included local artists, sculptures, students from the FEC Arts & Crafts College and local school children.

In excess of 1,000 visitors passed through the doors of Abbeyleix Library during a hugely successful Abbeyfest for what was a spectacular display of talent in a vivacious festival that involved the entire community.

Abbeyfest also coincided with the first birthday of the library, which opened its doors on the 11th of June 2008. During its first year the library has catered for over 40,000 visitors. Its success is also reflected in its membership figures – in excess of 1,700 members in a town with a population figure of 1,500. The Abbeyfest festival was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the library’s achievements in its first year. More details of the Abbeyfest festival are available at [www.abbeyfest.com](http://www.abbeyfest.com)



Abbeyleix Library

Abbeyleix Library has been awarded the Irish Architectural Award for the best conservation / restoration project for 2009.

The judges felt that this scheme met all the main challenges encountered in the repair and reuse of historic buildings, which are – sensitive conservation, restrained and judicious restoration, and innovative and effective intervention.

The Awards were presented by John Gormley T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government at a function in Farmleigh House on June 22nd.

## ↑ ABBEEFEST

## ↓ DUNDALK LIBRARY LIVE!

### DUNDALK LIBRARY LIVE!

Dundalk Library became a broadcasting hub when Dundalk FM 100 broadcaster, Harry Lee, presented his morning show for two hours from the library on Tuesday June 16th (Bloomsday).

A varied group of local speakers and entertainers were invited to take part throughout the morning. County Librarian, Bernadette Fennell, outlined the services of the library and joint initiatives that Louth County Libraries are involved in with Age Action Ireland and Fás eCollege to provide ICT training and mobile phone training for

customers. Also discussed was the new Europe Direct Information Centre, based in Dundalk Library, which is one of eight centres in libraries throughout the country.

A number of long-time borrowers discussed what the library means to them and reminisced about Dundalk over the years. Local musicians, Mark Corcoran, Jimmy Johnston and a choir from St. Oliver Plunkett’s N.S. Blackrock, along with their teacher Ms. Jane Stanley, entertained listeners with a selection of live tunes.

Junior and Leaving Certificate students discussed the importance of the local library in their lives, and how the service helped them through their studies. Staff members from the Louth Mobile Library service spoke of its role in the community and the camaraderie that exists between staff and borrowers visiting rural and urban parts of the county. Patricia Hanlon pointed out how young children think that her and Philip McAuley are married to each other and live on the mobile van!

Members of the library’s bookclubs spoke about the diverse range of titles they have covered since it was first set up and the support they have received from the library service.

Local poet and entertainer, Sandy Sneddon enthralled listeners with a selection of his clever, humorous poems. Children from Rampark N.S and St. Oliver Plunkett’s N.S. were delighted with the event.

The morning was a huge success and enjoyed by borrowers, both young and old, radio listeners and staff.



Dundalk Library

## July 2009

5-10

International Association of Music Libraries Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML) annual conference, Amsterdam. Details: <http://www.iaml.info/en/activities/conferences>

5-11

West Cork Literary Festival  
Details: [www.westcorkliteraryfestival.ie](http://www.westcorkliteraryfestival.ie).

14-15

Making connections: the power of people, partnerships and services Umbrella 2009 at the University of Hatfield.

Details: <http://www.umbrellazoo.org.uk/> or [umbrella@cilip.org.uk](mailto:umbrella@cilip.org.uk)

## August 2009

5-10

Libraries create futures: building on cultural heritage  
IFLA World Library and Information Congress: 75th IFLA General Conference and Council, Milan.  
Details: <http://www.ifla.org/annual-conference/ifla75/>

## September 2009

25

Culture Night  
see <http://www.culturenight.ie/detail.asp?ID=192>

## October 2009

1

All Ireland Poetry Day

7-9

Impact, Inclusion, Information: the value of libraries in their communities  
Public Library Authorities Conference, Bristol.  
Details: <http://www.cilip.org.uk/groups/plg/plazoo9/>

## November 2009

5

Print and legitimization in 1916: the activities of Joseph Mary Plunkett by Professor W.J. McCormack, Keeper, Edward Worth Library: the 21st Hugh M. Fitzpatrick Lecture in Legal Bibliography to be held in the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Dublin. Further details are available from Hugh M. Fitzpatrick, 9 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2.  
T: 01-269 2202; F: 061 9239;  
E: [hmfzpa@tcd.ie](mailto:hmfzpa@tcd.ie)

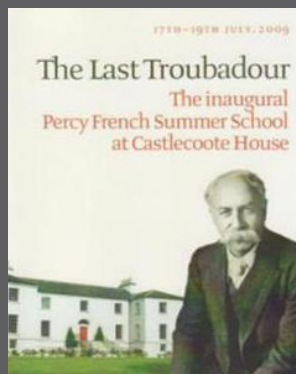
↓ PERCY FRENCH

↑ CALENDAR

↓ WANTED/PUBLICATIONS

↓ CONTACT

## Percy French Summer School



To launch, support and celebrate the inaugural Percy French Summer School at Castlecoote house on July 15-21st, Roscommon County Council Library Services will be hosting two events at the County Library, Abbey Street, Roscommon. The Library is also marking the occasion with a two-week-long exhibition, "French Miscellany". This collaboration between the Library and the new school is intended to become an exciting annual event.

This is an important collaboration for the Library Services as it reflects a strategy of partnering with a

variety of groups, organisations, agencies and centres for the development and promotion of a variety of cultural activities.

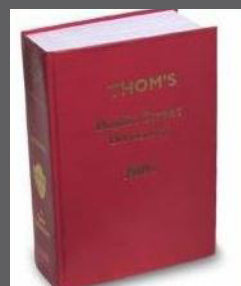
This Inaugural Percy French Summer School, with its high profile artistic line up of participants is a significant step in the continuing effort to have Percy French's recognition raised. The event will highlight his contribution to music, art, literature and the world of entertainment and will also enhance local efforts to ensure that he is honoured and appreciated within the county of his birth and play a part in furthering collaborations and exchanges both nationally and internationally.

The efforts of Roscommon County Council, Castlecoote House, County Roscommon Percy French Society and enthusiasts abroad have been instrumental in bringing this inaugural school, with its varied and interesting programme to fruition.

The event also provides an opportunity for visitors and participants in the school to avail of other amenities and attractions within the county.

Details and a full programme of events will be found at [www.percyfrenchsummerschool.com](http://www.percyfrenchsummerschool.com).

## Wanted



Any editions of the Thom's Dublin Street Directory from 1960s or 1970s.

If you can help, please contact  
Thelma Pope, Librarian, Railway Procurement Agency, Parkgate Business Centre, Parkgate Street, Dublin 8. e: [thelma.pope@rpa.ie](mailto:thelma.pope@rpa.ie)

## Publications

Fionnuala Hanrahan, *The Primary Schools Library Service in County Wexford: Status Report, January 2009 & Service Review 2004 - 2008*.

Wexford County Council, 2009.  
ISBN: 978-0-9560574-2-6.

The report is available from the library services' website at [www.wexford.ie/library](http://www.wexford.ie/library)

## Next Issue

Please note that Irish Library News is only available as a download. If you would like to have a copy emailed to you or your workplace, please send your name and email address to the Editor - and please, do not forget to notify any subsequent changes to your email address.

## Copy date for next issue is July 20th 2009

Contributions to Irish Library News and / or [www.library.ie](http://www.library.ie) should be sent to Alun Bevan, An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, 53-54 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2.

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