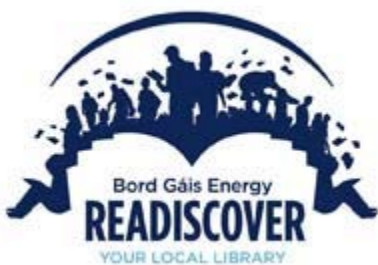


## Bord Gáis Energy READISCOVER Your Local Library



An Chomhairle is delighted to announce that it is teaming up with library authorities and Bord Gáis Energy in the Bord Gáis Energy READISCOVER Your Local Library Week.

Running in Irish public libraries from 19th – 25th of April, the Bord Gáis Energy READISCOVER Your Local Library campaign will celebrate public libraries, encouraging people to visit their local library and discover the wonderful service that's right on their doorsteps.

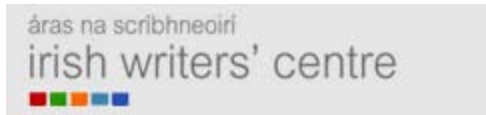
Since its first year in 2006, READISCOVER has been a great way to promote and celebrate public libraries, and An Chomhairle is delighted that the programme will run again in 2010, with sponsorship from Bord Gáis Energy.

All thirty-two library authorities have signed up to take part in what promises to be an exciting event. Participating libraries will receive high quality Bord Gáis Energy READISCOVER Your Local Library promotional goodies, as in previous years.

Bord Gáis Energy has over 1 million customers between its gas and electricity services and as part of the sponsorship they will include information on the initiative in their customer newsletter, *At Home*, delivered directly to the home of every customer as well as including a READISCOVER book mark with each bill in the coming weeks.

For more information on the Bord Gáis Energy READISCOVER Your Local Library campaign please contact Brendan Teeling in An Chomhairle Leabharlanna.

## The Irish Writers' Centre: the rightful place of Irish literature



Writing is considered by many to be the national art form of Ireland, a cultural powerhouse drawing people from across the world experience the historical and contemporary traditions of Irish literature. Within

Ireland itself, literature has had the power to drive change and to set the tone of the nation. The richness of this influence on Irish society stands Dublin in good stead to receive a UNESCO denomination as a City of Culture, which will only strengthen the draw of Ireland and its capital to the rest of the world.

Set right at the heart of this dramatic literary landscape is the Irish Writers' Centre. Perched atop Parnell Square overlooking the Memorial Park, the city and the mountains beyond, the Centre has provided a nucleus for Irish writers and writing, and for international writers visiting Ireland, for the last twenty years. While tourists can visit the James Joyce Centre, exhibitions on Yeats at the National Library and the homes of Oscar Wilde around the city, when people wish to connect with and experience the works of Ireland's great contemporary writers, they come to the Irish Writers' Centre. After all, there is very much more to the Irish literary canon than the nine faces on the tourist postcards and tea-towels that many people take home with them from Ireland.

Since its inception in 1991, the Irish Writers' Centre has welcomed many award winning writers through its doors, including Nobel, Costa, Man Booker, IMPAC, and Pulitzer Prize winners. Whether giving readings to the public, or lending their expertise to up-and-coming writers through seminars and workshops, great names such as Seamus Heaney, John Banville and Sebastian Barry have all been part of the Centre's history.

It has also served as an important platform for breakthrough talent, with many young writers giving their first public readings in the elegant Reading Room, which once served the Jameson family as part of their home. Many of these writers have been nurtured through the Centre's Creative Writing courses, or through one of the many writing groups which use the Centre to meet regularly and work on their poetry or prose.

The Writers' Centre is an integral part of the capital's literary infrastructure and continues to exist despite the fact that it has not received funding from the Arts Council since 2008. The sheer will of support from writers, readers and the general public alike keeps the Centre open and motivates its voluntary team of staff and board to strive harder to meet the needs of the literary community in the face of funding adversity. The Centre's Membership programme has been developed to open the Centre's doors to a wider audience and the public are welcome to visit the Centre to discover all it has to offer, from its library to its extensive art collection. The Centre belongs to its members, who use the Centre daily to read, write and relax from the bustle of Dublin outside.

To all those who wish literature to be accorded the esteem it has earned and to fight to keep the Irish Writers' Centre as a central part of Dublin's literary landscape, find out more about what you can do by visiting the Irish Writers' Centre website:.

The Irish writers Centre is at 19 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. Tel: +353 1 8721302; e-mail: [info@writerscentre.ie](mailto:info@writerscentre.ie); <http://www.writerscentre.ie>

**Donna Sorensen**

## **Cork County Librarian retires after 32 years of service.**



Ruth Flanagan, County Librarian retired after 32 years of service in Cork County Library. She came to Cork from Carlow County Library in 1979 having worked there as Assistant Librarian.

As County Librarian Ruth was passionately committed to the traditional role of the library in promoting literacy and cultural enrichment and also to bringing the library to every corner of the county and to every aspect of people's lives.

She went to great lengths to reach everybody in every community, thereby leaving behind her legacy of 28 branch libraries, including two island libraries and 6 Mobile Libraries serving all parts of the County.

Her aspiration to see a permanent Cork County Library Headquarters came to fruition with the opening of the new state of the art Library Headquarters on Carrigrohane Road in October 2009.

Ruth's devotion to her role as Cork County Librarian was complemented by a profound interest in national library issues and she is a long standing member of the Library Association of Ireland, serving as president from 2005 – 2007 and a member of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna since 1998. She was a passionate advocate for the profession of Librarianship and the further professional development of her staff.

In recognition of her service to Cork County Library, a presentation was made to Ruth on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February in the new County Library HQ which was attended by many of her colleagues current and past, members of the wider library community and Cork County Council.

## **Book Club of the Year Award**

The Ennis Book Club Festival, in association with Clare County Library, is delighted to announce that the 2010 'Book Club of the Year' award goes to the National Council for the Blind of Ireland Audio Book Club from Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Congratulations to the Club and to Carmel Kelly at Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown library service who works with them. The book club will be guests at the festival from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> March in Ennis. The winning entry can be seen at [www.ennisbookclubfestival.com](http://www.ennisbookclubfestival.com) A huge thank you to all who entered the competition.



## Community Literacy Initiative at South Dublin Libraries

A Community Literacy Project between the County Library Tallaght and Killinarden HSCL Family Cluster Group was launched at the County Library Tallaght on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March by Mayor Cllr Mick Duff.

**“One Book – One Killinarden”** was devised when Home School Liaison officers in the five schools in Killinarden, Tallaght got together to work on a project which would improve literacy in a fun way in their schools. This Community Literacy Initiative involved 300 children from 5 schools (primary and secondary) in the Killinarden area: Scoil Caitlin Maude; Knockmore JNS; Knockmore SNS; Sacred Heart JNS; Killinarden Community School. Parents were encouraged to become involved, and to use the same books to improve their literacy skills.

Rosena Hand at the County Library Tallaght became involved, and South Dublin County Libraries agreed to provide the books to the schools. Each child received a book to keep. The theme for the books chosen was Tom Crean’s explorations, whose mystery appeals to all ages. “Ice Trap: Shackleton’s Incredible Expedition” and “Tom Crean’s Rabbit”, a true story from Scott’s last voyage, were read and enjoyed by over 300 children.

Art and Drama Workshops for children and their families from the schools will take place at the County Library Tallaght over the coming weeks. The workshops are inspired by the chosen books. They provide further opportunity for the children and their parents and siblings to improve literacy in a fun way. The participating schools will also be visited by South Dublin County Libraries’ Children’s Services Librarians in the coming weeks, with a view to encouraging all children to join the library.

Over 60 children from the participating schools, together with their teachers, parents and siblings, attended the launch and were entertained by the lively Captain Ho Ho, a pirate clown who performed a fun magic show with lots of audience participation!

## Dundalk Library Wins Disney’s A Christmas Carol Competition

6<sup>th</sup> Class pupil Evan Quigley from Scoil Phádraig Naofa, Kilcurry, Dundalk, was the lucky winner of the nationwide competition run by Disney Pictures in conjunction with the Library Council.

Disney ran a promotion in selected libraries throughout the country before Christmas promoting their new film *A Christmas Carol*.

To coincide with the release of the film, Dundalk Library hosted readings and workshops from the acclaimed book by local actors to invited classes.



*Evan and his class along with the Headmaster, Mr Short, trying out the 3D glasses before the film.*

Disney provided posters from the film and work sheets for the children, along with spot prizes. All of the attendees were entered into a nationwide competition for a private screening of the film for their class.

Evan was the lucky winner and he, along with the entire school, were invited to the IMC Cinema, Dundalk, on January 25<sup>th</sup> for a private screening of “*Toy Story 2*” in 3D. 181 pupils along with 15 teachers attended the film and thoroughly enjoyed their trip out!

## **Free tuition at Fingal County Libraries**

Fingal County Libraries are responding to the needs of local students in a practical and innovative way during the current recession. The library service has extended traditional library supports aimed at leaving certificate students by offering FREE grinds in Oral French to students in preparation for the Oral language exam due to start in early April. The classes started on the week of 22<sup>nd</sup> February and ran for six weeks.

Baldoyle, Balbriggan and Malahide libraries took part in this pilot project which will be extended to other libraries in subsequent years.

It is hoped this project will fill the gap left by dwindling incomes and the requirement for higher entry points to third level courses in the current climate.

## New Library for Stradbally

Laois County Council has recently signed the contract for the refurbishment and extension of Stradbally Courthouse to incorporate a library, five artist studios and exhibition area. Two of the artist studios will have residential accommodation and one of the studios will be fitted out as a recording studio.

The project, to be known as Stradbally Arthouse and Library, will invite local, national and international artists to work in their studios for periods of up to twelve months and to exhibit and promote the arts at county level.

The library will also function as a meeting area for artists and the local community to interact and for community meetings in general.

The design team is led by Milligan Reside Larkin, Architects, Newry and the contractor is L & M Keating, County Clare who commenced work on the site on January 18 2010

The total area will be 560 m<sup>2</sup> and will cost €1.5m of which €440,000 is being grant aided under the Access II scheme, administered by The Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism, and the balance is being funded by Laois County Council.

## Roscommon Healthy Reading Scheme

The Roscommon Healthy Reading Scheme was launched on January 27, 2010. This Scheme entitled *Books Can Help* is a joint initiative between the Health Service Executive Roscommon Psychology Department and Roscommon County Council Library Services.



*Dr. Michael Byrne (Principal Psychology Manager HSE), Richie Farrell (County Librarian, Roscommon Library), Mayor Tony Ward, Cllr Paddy Kilduff, Cllr Mary Clifford, Patricia Power, Maria Burke, Martina Hughes and Janice Rushe (all from The Health Board's Psychology department (Abbey Street) Roscommon Town) pictured at the Launch of The Roscommon Healthy Reading Scheme at Roscommon Library on Wednesday. Pic: [www.hursonphotography.com](http://www.hursonphotography.com)*

Its aim is to make high quality self-help books more accessible to families and adults experiencing mild to moderate mental health difficulties. The scheme will make available over 50 recommended quality self help titles covering a range of health issues through the library services in an effort to promote the mental health and well being of individuals and families.

The scheme involves GP's and other health professionals recommending specific books to their clients from a list of recommended books available through any of the Roscommon Libraries service network.

The booklists will be distributed through Libraries GP Surgeries, Family Support Centres, Schools, Hospitals, Medical Centres and others wishing to avail of the resources.

This initiative has come out of previous research carried out by the Health Service Executive Roscommon Psychology Department which found that 1 in 3 patients presenting to General Practice were presenting with psychological difficulties.

The scheme is a positive and proactive approach to the value of reading and the benefits that can be transmitted from such an exercise. It is seen as an adjunct to and not a replacement for other services. This is another step in Roscommon County Council's overall strategy of reinforcing social inclusion measures and Public Libraries are a vital element in the effective delivery of such services.

## **Survey highlights Learning Outcomes from public library use**

- Bunclody library readers get what they need from their book selections.
- Readers said that they benefited very significantly in areas of entertainment, learning new facts, challenging attitudes and motivational support. Not surprisingly learning new facts was more significant for non-fiction books as was the challenge to their established attitudes, but the entertainment factor was high for both categories of reading.
- Every fourth non-fiction reader said their reading helped them develop new skills and every fourth reader also said their reading helped them plan for the future.

These are some of the findings from a survey of adult readers where the contributors assessed their own general learning outcomes from use of the collections in Bunclody library. The survey provided important qualitative comment to complement the number-counting traditionally used to measure library performance. The survey was adapted from a project developed in Devon, UK, in 2005. It will be extended now to investigate the impact of non-fiction reading across all the public libraries in County Wexford. The full report is available on the Wexford Public Libraries website at [www.wexford.ie/wex/Departments/Library/LibraryReports/](http://www.wexford.ie/wex/Departments/Library/LibraryReports/) and you can talk with Bunclody library staff, Trish Keenan and Aoife o'Rourke at tel: 053 93 75466.



## Publications

### Fingal through Old Picture Postcards

*Fingal through Old Picture Postcards* was launched in Fingal Local Studies Department's new premises in Clonmel House, Swords by Councillor David O'Connor on Tuesday 16th February. The book was researched, compiled and written by Jacinta Judge, the senior librarian in charge of Fingal Local Studies. The book is a representative sample of a large postcard collection of the Fingal area dating from the early twentieth century. Councillor David O'Connor officiated at the launch and praised the commitment and dedication of both the local studies senior librarian and the local population's interest in maintaining the heritage of the county. Also present was former County Librarian Paul Harris, who spoke of the recent move to the new premises in Clonmel House, as 'necessary to make this vast and important collection more accessible to the people of Fingal who have worked so hard to ensure the local heritage is documented'.



*Cllr David O'Connor and Snr Librarian Jacinta Judge*

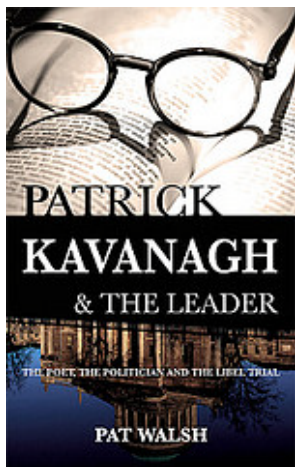
Fingal has always had a strong and ever-growing interest in local history. Over the years, this interest has been nurtured, developed and preserved by the efforts of local historians, folklorists and historical societies. Fingal County Libraries also plays its part in preserving the history and heritage of the County through its Local Studies and Archives Service. Since 1994, the Fingal Local Studies Department has acquired and built up a vast collection of materials pertaining to the history and heritage of the County. These materials include books, directories, maps, estate papers, newspapers, photographs, online resources, census and church records and also a large collection of old picture postcards.

*Fingal through Old Picture Postcards* is a showcase of this unique photographic record of the Fingal area. Each view is accompanied by a short historical note. From the Baldoyle Races to the military manoeuvres in Rush, the fishermen of Howth to Swords Castle, it depicts the rich diversity and picturesque views of the County.

*Fingal through Old Picture Postcards* is available from Fingal Local Studies and Archives in Swords priced €10. (Tel: 01-8704495 /8704486). It will also be available in all Fingal local branch libraries.



## Patrick Kavanagh & The Leader



One of the most traumatic episodes in the poet Patrick Kavanagh's life was played out in public over two weeks in February 1954. By suing *The Leader* magazine for defamation, Kavanagh initiated a sensational courtroom showdown with John A. Costello, noted barrister and twice Taoiseach of Ireland.

The country was electrified as Costello's masterful, relentless cross-examination dissected Kavanagh's public and private life, and revealed the tensions within Dublin's literary circle in the 1950s. When Kavanagh took the case against *The Leader* he could not have anticipated either the furore it would cause, or that the strain of the trial would shatter his considerable confidence and damage his health.

### About the author:

Pat Walsh is a Librarian with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Library Service. Originally from Mayo, he now lives and works in Dún Laoghaire. He is the author of *The Curious Case of The Mayo Librarian*, published in 2009, which received widespread radio and print coverage, as well as being the basis for an RTÉ documentary in the Scannal series.

**Patrick Kavanagh & The Leader is published by Mercier Press at €12.99**

## People

### National Library of Ireland



The Chairman and Board of the **National Library of Ireland** have announced the appointment of **Fiona Ross** as Director of the National Library of Ireland. Ms. Ross will take up the post on March 8, 2010 on the basis of a three year contract. An expert in the field of leadership and governance, Ms Ross has lectured in University College Dublin and at the Irish Management Institute.

Commenting on her appointment, Ms Ross said: 'I am very honoured to have been selected to serve as the Director of the National Library of Ireland. This is a unique opportunity to apply my experience to help address the challenges the Library faces and to reinforce its core mission and commitment to the Irish people'.

**John Killen** has been appointed Chief Librarian of the **Linen Hall Library**. Previously John held the post of Deputy Librarian. Monica McErlane has been appointed Deputy Librarian.

**Mr. Mark Dearey**, Chairman of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna has been appointed to Seanad Éireann. Mr. Dearey was nominated by Taoiseach Brian Cowen T.D., on the recommendation of Green Party leader, John Gormley T.D. A member of the Green Party, he has been a member of Louth County Council since June 2009 and Dundalk Town Council since 2004.

## Offers

Approx 1400 CD/DVD Jewel cases available as donation to library. In excellent condition. Could be used for new collection etc. Please contact [evin.ocionnaith@iadt](mailto:evin.ocionnaith@iadt) for details.

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### **COPY DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: March 20 2010**

Contributions to *Irish Library News* and / or <http://www.library.ie/> should be sent to

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