

IRISH | LIBRARY | NEWS

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Cavan County Library pushes the envelope

Johnston Central Library will reach into homes countrywide and further afield with the issue of the new 82c stamp depicting P.J. Lynch's magnificent oil painting *A Voyage to Lilliput*.



This painting is one of a pair commissioned by Cavan County Council to mark the opening of Johnston Central Library in 2006. The other is based on *A Voyage to Brobdingnag*. P.J. Lynch is an artist and children's book illustrator and he previously illustrated four sets of Christmas stamps for An Post. His stamps have been acclaimed for 'their level of detail, mood and emotion which gives them a vivid life of their own'.

The Gulliver's Travels panels hang in the children's section of Johnston Central Library

How Clare County Library and Móinín Publishing are helping young writers of the future

For the second year in a row Clare County Library and Arts Office have come together to offer teenagers in the county a realistic opportunity to develop their writing skills under the expert guidance of author, Ré Ó Laighléis. The project was sponsored by the Ballyvaughan-based publishing house, Móinín. Clare County Library is also greatly indebted to O'Mahony's Booksellers, Limerick for their generous contribution towards this worthwhile undertaking.



Ré Ó Laighléis with some of the project's participants

Ré Ó Laighléis is the biggest selling contemporary author in the Irish language. His novel *Gafa* has recently featured on the Leaving Cert syllabus and works such as *Ecstasy & other Stories*, and *Hooked*, along with his Burren titles, are read widely at second and third levels and also by a general readership, not just in Ireland, but throughout Britain and North America.

A similar six-session course in Creative Writing began in Shannon Library in 2009 for students from St. Patrick's Comprehensive and St Caiman's Community Schools, and such was the success of the venture for all involved that it was decided to repeat it, this time for post-primary schools in West Clare. Ré Ó Laighléis was course director for both projects.

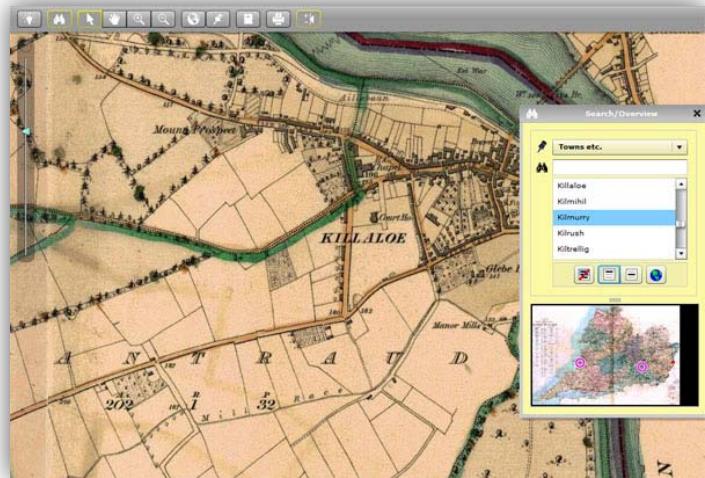
Throughout a six week period, beginning in January, the participants' work was inspired, read and evaluated with constructive suggestions for its' amendment and development by Ré on a continuous basis. On the evening of March 25th 2010, four young writers from St. Joseph's Community College Kilkee and eight from Kilrush Community College had the opportunity to read the short stories they had written for an audience comprising people from their community including their parents and teachers. Complimenting the aspiring authors, Ré Ó Laighléis said "Such a level of commitment yielded results that would merit place on any continuum of excellence. The topics addressed by the writers are entirely of their own choosing – indeed, any deliberate selection of subject matter for them would serve only to

defeat the purpose of the course. The variety of themes reflects the concerns and interests of the stories' writers. The levels of insight and maturity revealed within their writings are refreshing and, at times, astounding. Ranging from social conflict to sporting interest, from psychological thriller to sci-fi and post-apocalyptic warfare, one is forced to flirt with cliché in attesting that all of life (and other life) is truly here."

Clare County Library Service hopes to continue the project into a third year, again bringing together a group of young students interested in writing, helping them to hone their skills and gain invaluable tuition and experience in the art of short story writing.

Clare County Library introduces MapBrowser

Clare County Library is on the map thanks to the introduction of MapBrowser, a new online integrated maps system. Developed by Rainer Kosbi as an alternative to his SVG maps system, MapBrowser will run in the majority of browsers using Adobe's Flash Player on Windows and Apple Mac personal computers and can be used to easily access the majority of Clare's online maps, including the 1842 Ordnance Survey 6-Inch Maps; the Grand Jury Maps of 1787; Petty's Down Survey Maps 1658-9 & County Map 1685; the David Rumsey Maps of Clare 1736-1922 and Maps and Views of County Clare in the UK Hydrographic Office. Mapbrowser is fully integrated with the library website, linking to the more than 2,000 townland pages and 6,000 sites and monuments pages. Click on 'Maps' on the library homepage www.clarelibrary.ie...



SYZYGY

The teens from **Cork City Libraries** have produced a new teen graphic novel called *SYZYGY* which was launched as part of the teen celebrations for World Book Fest on 23 April by Catalan graphic artist Marti Saiz.

John W. Sexton, writer, and Alan Barrett, graphic artist, the team involved in last year's Red Shift, worked with the teens in a series of workshops held in the library which led to the birth of the novel.

SYZYGY is an astronomical term meaning conjunction or opposition – it can also mean a pair of connected or correlated things. The teens chose this name for the novel because the stories all represent some form of pairing, some form of opposition or some form of triumph of a lesser thing. Also because it has a shape and sound and it's just plain weird to like very much like the world depicted in the graphic novel; the world you will find inside *SYZYGY*.



Above is a picture of the teens at the launch. Also featured are Executive Librarians Patricia Looney and Breda Hassett, Graphic Artists Marti Saiz, Alé Mercaro and Alan Barrett and writer John W. Sexton.

Dublin City Public Libraries win O2 Ability Award

Dublin City Public Libraries won the O2 Ability Award in the category of Learning, Development and Progression. Libraries were also shortlisted in the category of Customer service.



Angela Cassidy, Sheila Kelly, Miriam Leonard and Acting City Librarian, Margaret Hayes, accepting the Award

The O2 Ability Awards highlight the business case for the inclusion of people with disabilities and recognise organisations and business leaders who think differently about people with disabilities.

Dublin City Public Libraries commitment to Learning, Progression and Development was evident in staff training and development, the bibliotherapy project, the provision of assistive technologies and the focus of learning at the heart of what we do.

There were 38 organisations shortlisted for this year's Awards, resulting in 9 category winners. At the Awards ceremony Danuta Grey, Chief Executive of O2 said "These are organisations that truly think and act differently, raising awareness, promoting leadership, and encouraging best practice. Caroline Casey, founder and creator of the O2 ability Awards said that recognising ability in business was more important than ever in the current economic climate.

Margaret Hayes, Dublin City Librarian (Acting) was presented with a trophy, and an Ability Company certificate in the categories of leadership, Customer Service and Learning, Development & Progression. Dublin City Public Libraries also received an O2 Ability Category winner logo for use in promotional, stationary and web content.

For more information see www.theabilityawards.com

Castlecomer - Penvenan Library Cultural Exchange May 2010.

On the weekend of April 30 - May 3, 2010, a group of 19 adults, teenagers and children from the Castlecomer area travelled to Penvenan on the Brittany coast for the 10th Anniversary of the twinning of the towns of Castlecomer and Penvenan.

The Twinning Committee members organised a series of cultural and educational experiences for the group. Four 5th year pupils attended the local Sailing School for 2 days, the children exchanged letters with the local primary school and adults visited local churches. The group was introduced to Breton traditional music and travelled to the Ile de Brehat off the coast.



Isabelle Logiou, librarian in Penvenan & Mary Morrissey, Library manager in Castlecomer at the presentation of books to Penvenan library.

Castlecomer Library organised a gift of books for Penvenan library. The collection consisted of adult fiction, some pictorial non-fiction and children's books. This gift was received by the Librarian, Isabelle Logiou, and the Mayor at a ceremony in the Library. There is a local English speaking circle in Penvenan, led by Maura Lee, a Galway native. The group expressed their delight at this collection. This collection will also be useful for visiting English speaking holiday makers to the area. It is hoped that further connections will be made between the libraries in the future.

Launch of "Leitrim During The Troubles" DVD

Leitrim County Library received funding from the PEACE 111 programme for a project to record interviews with people involved in or affected by the Troubles. Maccana Teoranta Production Company from Belturbet, Co. Cavan carried out the interviews over the course of several months. The focus was on the effects of the Troubles on cross community relationships and about incidents connected with the Troubles in Leitrim or its people in various ways. All of the interviews will become part of the Local Studies Collection at Leitrim County Library. Extracts from the interviews have been compiled on a DVD titled "Leitrim during the Troubles". The DVD was launched by Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council, Thomas Mulligan on Thursday April 29th in Kiltyclogher. Copies can be obtained, free of charge by contacting Mary Conefrey, Assistant Librarian, Leitrim County Library, Ballinamore, email: mconefrey@leitrimcoco.ie



Back row: Dane McDonald, Maccana Teoranta; Seán Ó Suilleabháin, Leitrim County Librarian; Fr Donald Hannon; Seán McLoughlin; Olive Gallagher, Kevin Taylor, Michael Colreavy (all participants of the project) and Kevin McCann, Maccana Teoranta. Front row: Mary Conefrey, Assistant Librarian, Leitrim County Library; Theresa Kelly (participant); Thomas Mulligan, Cathaoirleach, Leitrim County Council, Joe Bennett and Kathleen Richey (participants).

National Training Survey 2009

Against a backdrop of severe economic cutbacks and resource constraint, the Local Government Management Services Board (LGMSB), on behalf of the Local Authority system generally, initiated a National Training Survey in mid-2009. The National Training Survey was intended to assist the LGMSB and the National Training & Development Steering Committee in achieving a number of their strategic objectives.

The final report based on the survey returns received were categorised under a number of headings:

1. Training priorities for local authorities and their constituent business units
2. Impact of budgetary constraints on spending on training and development
3. Skills gaps identified through PDPs
4. Training interventions being employed
5. Organisational barriers to training

Sufficient responses were received to allow for information on 13 separate business units to be included in the report. One of these 13 units was the library services. A total of 13 responses were received from separate library services around the country.

At the end of the text for each of the 13 business units a paragraph has been inserted on the likely future developments for that business unit and the possible staff training and development that might accompany any efforts to address these developments.

Survey findings specific to the library service

The key business issues that were identified as priority areas for 2009, 2010 and 2011 were as follows,

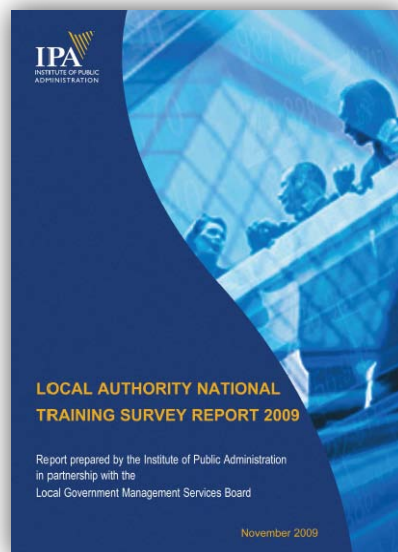
- Need to maintain and where possible increase library membership and usage,
- Maintaining current levels of book fund expenditure or coping with reduced levels of book funding.
- Providing and/or maintaining quality services with reduced services.
- Extending library services to the widest possible cross-section of local communities.

Challenges being faced by libraries and library staff around the country

Library membership and usage has continued to rise month on month in 2009 compared with figures for 2008. This means that branch libraries are now busier and in greater demand at a time when severe budgetary constraints are being implemented and staff embargoes are being implemented.

The challenge of providing a quality service with decreasing resources and maintaining the skill levels of staff will be the main staff training and development issue for the library services as it will be for most other business units within local authorities. Staff availability for training that takes place during work hours will be curtailed. This may necessitate greater emphasis for on-line training for branch library staff. However all the respondents (100%) believed that library staff will continue to require further training to cope with the uncertainties of the current economic downturn.

The specific findings contained in the report have already been distributed to An Chomhairle Leabharlanna. An Chomhairle Leabharlanna continue to be the central body through which the training



and development needs of library staff are addressed on an ongoing basis by the provision of training at free or a minimal cost to library staff in a variety of subject areas.

Recommendations contained in the report

The report contained 25 recommendations for the sector as a whole. These recommendations are not specific to any one local authority or business unit in particular. They do however give a framework that all local authority training sections could employ to maximise the effectiveness of the training and development that can provide given the tightening economic situation as well setting out an approach that the sector as a whole could follow in order to achieve greater value for money for the current spend on staff training and development.

Distribution of report and further actions arising from the report

Following its publication the National training and development steering committee has adopted a detailed action plan which sets out the actions to be taken to address the recommendation contained in the report. The action plan will inform the training and development activities of the LGMSB for the next couple of years.

The final report was published in two formats (i) an executive summary version; and (ii) the full 190 page report. Hard and soft copies of both versions of the report were distributed to each local authority Training Officer in late 2009. In order to maximise the availability of the report while at the same time reducing the number of copies being printed off the LGMSB have asked the Training Officers to make available the softcopy of the report by means of their local authority's intranet. A copy of both the full report and the executive summary will also be available for download from the documents section of the LGMSB website www.lgmsb.ie.

Launch of Meath County Council Library & Archives Facsimile Pack for Primary Schools

The Meath County Council Library & Archives Facsimile Pack for Primary Schools was launched on Thursday 13th May, 2010 by Cathaoirleach Cllr. William Carey. Nine topics are covered in the Pack including Schools, Transportation, Poor Law Unions, Health and Medicine, and Sport. Each topic has an introductory page, several facsimile copies of contemporary documents and images and an activity

sheet. A fully illustrated Timeline chart covers world, national and Meath events. The Pack is suitable for use with all age groups.



Back: Ciarán Mangan, County Librarian, Isabella McGarry, Legato Design, Tom Dowling, Meath County Manager, front: Cllr William Carey, Cathaoirleach Meath County Council, Frances Tallon, Senior Executive Librarian.

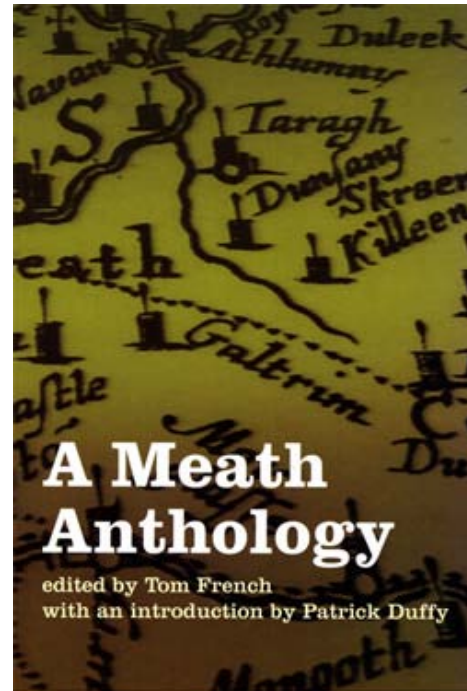
Launching the Pack, Cllr Carey said: “What makes this pack so special is that it allows our history to come alive through the original documents which are presented in each section –allowing us to share in the story of the workhouse by reading the Master’s records, to see the medical notes of the surgeon in the Infirmary in Navan over two hundred years ago, and we can even go back to school...and see what school was like for our grandparents.”

Archivist Cecile Chemin and librarian Frances Tallon were complimented on their work in compiling the Pack. The Navan Education Centre, staff in St Patrick’s National School, Slane and in St Columcille’s school, Kells were thanked for advising on the content. The Heritage Council of Ireland and the Heritage Section of Meath County Council were thanked for funding assistance. Tribute was also paid to Legato Design, Dublin for the lay-out and attractive presentation of the pack.

A Meath Anthology

A Belfast man regards the head of a saint from Oldcastle preserved in Drogheda, a Dubliner concentrates on King John's Castle, an ex-Meath All-Ireland winner considers a crop of apples, an American in Locarno reflects on the Hill of Tara, a Longwood native sings of a doss house in Longwood, a young Slane soldier in hospital in Egypt thinks of a crossroads at Skreen, a legendary broadcaster sings a litany of Ballivor nicknames, an Armagh man slips Viscount Netterville into a poem that appears to be about moles, a poet from Derry hears the 21st century passing over – Flight 104 from New York – while he stands in the astronomic cave of Newgrange

This book gathers writing – in the form of poetry – that deals with the people and landscape of Meath, starting with the 12th century *Book of Leinster*. It fills the gap that existed on the bookshelves of anybody interested in writing and Meath, and includes an introduction by Dr. Patrick Duffy of NUI Maynooth and an as-yet uncollected poem by Seamus Heaney.



A Meath Anthology, edited by Tom French with an introduction by Paddy Duffy is now available from Meath County Library.

Minister Mary Coughlan opens new School Library

St. Aidan's Community School, Tallaght was delighted to host the official launch of their JCSP school library on May 12th. The library was officially opened by the Tánaiste and Minister for Education and Skills, Mary Coughlan T.D. The Junior Certificate School Programme (JCSP) is a national programme sponsored by the Dept. of Education and Skills and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment. It is designed to help schools and teachers develop a student-centered approach to the Junior Certificate for young people who are potential early school leavers. The new school was set up and operates as part of the JCSP Demonstration Library Project. This initiative, which is part of the Department of Education and Skills DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) Action Plan has set up modern, high-quality libraries in 30 schools across the country. Each library is staffed by a full-time, professional

librarian who works as part of the school team, in developing and implementing a wide range of library-based literacy and numeracy strategies and initiatives aimed at improving literacy and numeracy levels among underachieving teenagers who may be struggling in school.

The launch was also attended by the Mayor of South Dublin County, Cllr Mick Duff, TDs Charlie O'Connor, Conor Lenihan and Brian Hayes. Councillor Eamon Walsh, South Dublin County Council's County Librarian, Georgina Byrne and Senior Librarian Kieran Swords were also present as was Jane O'Hanlon from Poetry Ireland and Aidan Clifford, Director of the Curriculum Development Unit. Representatives from the Curriculum Development Unit, NBSS, CDVEC and the JCSP support service also attended. Staff from the local primary schools and parents also came to the launch.

After a welcome by Lauren Spellman, a first year student, the launch started with beautiful music from Le Chéile, the school music group, which included singing, guitars and samba drums. St Aidan's Principal, Mr Frank Moran then welcomed everyone to the school. There was a speech from the Mayor Cllr Mick Duff. The Mayor said that "The love of books and the joy of reading is something that stays with you throughout your life. Libraries are about sharing knowledge in different ways – books, magazines, papers, the internet, meeting and sharing information with people, training and much more."

Aideen Cassidy, National Co-ordinator of the JCSP Programme and Kathleen Moran, Senior Project Librarian with the JCSP Demonstration Library Project also spoke of the success of the Project to date and of the Project research findings which document the very positive impact the libraries and librarians (as front-line staff in the education system) are having on students' overall experience of education and in particular on their literacy levels.

Ailish Larkin, School Librarian, thanked the staff and students of St Aidan's for their enthusiasm for and support of the library and a few JCSP students - Niall Brooks, Jordan Canning, Shannon Banks and Niamh Kelly spoke about the various things they had achieved in the library. The Tánaiste spoke, congratulating the school on its' beautiful new library and imploring the students to make use of it. She confirmed the ongoing commitment of her Department to supporting all schools, but particularly those in disadvantaged areas. Refreshments were served and entertainment was provided by more beautiful singing from Le Chéile.

Ballyroan Library steps back in time...

A sumptuous Victorian Tea Party was held in the Ballyroan Library Garden on Thursday May 13, an afternoon of romance, drama, conviviality and delicious treats. What a delight!

The Victorian attired guests were treated to a reading from Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*, some poetry from the Romantics, and many love letters including one from a young Queen Victoria to Albert, as well as scenes from Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

This marvellous afternoon was topped off with cucumber sandwiches, drop scones with cream and jam, lemon cake, fruit cake, chocolate sponge and all manner of delicacies - all of which were washed down with pots of hot delicious tea. Scrummy!!



A truly glorious afternoon, which we hope will be repeated! Bravo to all!!

NetVisionary Awards 2010

South Dublin County Libraries' Historical Mapping resource has been short-listed in the e-Government Award category of the NetVisionary Awards 2010. To check out Historical Mapping, please visit www.southdublinlibraries.ie and go to the Local Studies page.

The Historical Mapping resource maps the South Dublin County area over time and is an essential resource for researchers and students of Local Studies. The service, developed by Larry McEvoy in conjunction with South Dublin County Libraries, uses maps from different periods to show the development of town-lands over time.



Tipperary Libraries promoting summer reading for children

Tipperary Libraries are gearing up for a summer assault on family literacy. Children often make great progress during the school year. However, research indicates that this progress is lost over the long holiday period but students that continue to read over holiday periods usually improve and retain skills taught in school.

"...After participating in the Reading Tree, one of my children jumped two reading levels when school resumed last September" Clonmel Library Borrower - Karen Coyle

To this end, the library service will be employing a number of initiatives:

The annual **Summer Reading Tree** was a huge success last year with nearly 1,800 children taking part. This year, children who read 6 or more books will also receive a Reading Tree Medal and Certificate and the end of summer party. Tipperary Libraries gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship of O'Mahony's Bookshop.



In an effort to reach out to communities living further away from a library building, Tipperary Libraries will be reinventing the Schools Library Van for 8 weeks of the summer as a **Children's Summer Book Bus**. The Book Bus is a free service for children aged 0 - to young teens. The Summer Reading Tree will run through the Book Bus as well.

Tipperary Libraries' Schools Department will remain open during the summer months to teachers or parents who want to borrow special or additional needs reading material for their student or child during the summer. Parents are advised to discuss this with their child's support teacher before availing of this service to help us provide the right reading materials for your child.

Contact Emer O'Brien (0504 21555) or check the [website](#) for details of events.

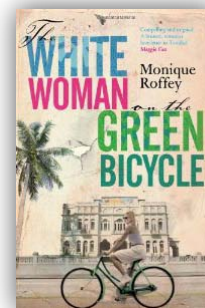
Book Clubs @ Clonmel Library

Clonmel Library Adult Book Clubs made their television broadcasting debut on the Afternoon Show on the 19th May.

[\(Watch Clip - starts at 3min 25sec\)](#) Representing the 5 Adult Book Clubs in Clonmel Library, Stephanie Woods, Marie Boland (Executive Librarian, Clonmel Library) and Maura Stapleton, joined Sheana Keane to discuss this month's book choice *"The White Woman on the Green Bicycle"* by Monique Roffey. The book is a sensual and unforgettable love story, brimming with passion and politics, set over fifty years in Trinidad - a place at times enchanting, and at times dangerous! Everyone loved the book and it was fantastic to see such passion for books and reading amongst the panel. The show also showed some prerecorded footage of the Clonmel Book Club in action in Clonmel Library itself. The staff and bookclub members were delighted to spread the word



about the enjoyment and pleasure they get from reading and discussing what they have read. "We are very proud of the readers in Clonmel and are delighted that a national programme of such prominence saw fit to showcase the Book Clubs in Clonmel Library. They are an example to us all." commented Emer O'Brien, Senior Executive Librarian with Tipperary Libraries.



Clonmel Library hosts 4 adult book clubs, a Quick Reads Book Club, 2 childrens groups and a teen book club. Tipperary Libraries also offers a Book Club –in- a- Bag Service for loan to private book clubs. Each kit includes 6 copies of a chosen title; there are over 250 titles to choose from. Membership in Clonmel Library was up over 10% in 2009 and it is easy to see why.

Face Book Club

Social networking is providing libraries with great opportunities for innovative ways in which we reach our communities and beyond. **Waterford City Council Library Service** set up the [Waterford Book Club](#) on Facebook, and are reaching new audiences and library customers alike.

The Library Service facilitates a number of "real" bookclubs in the community and saw an opening for an online bookclub, building up a steady following since February 2010. Councillors, authors and city council staff are just some of the people actively participating in discussions on books they are reading. Library staff and book club members have enjoyed interacting with each other, and getting a chance to discuss books, reading, literary events and leading others to interesting websites.



The May book choice Wolf Hall "gave a whole new angle on a reasonably familiar story and envelopes you into how life was lived" - a comment from one of the Facebook members of the Waterford Book Club. Hilary Mantel's epic novel exploring the imagined life of Thomas Cromwell has been hugely popular in libraries and bookshops and was an obvious choice for groups to read. The June read will be Stieg Larsson's "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo". Join [Waterford Book Club on Facebook](#).

Europe Day Prize giving ceremony at Waterford Europe Direct Information Centre

The **Waterford Europe Direct Information Centre** at Central Library was a hive of activity last Saturday afternoon (8 May) as the Deputy Mayor of Waterford Cllr. Cha O'Neill and the talented young prize winners celebrated Europe Day with library staff at a special ceremony.

The two lucky winners of the 'Where I am from...' poetry competition and 'Colour a Superhero' colouring competition Mollie Crawford and Yuriy Eliyashevskyy were presented with their bicycles by the Deputy Mayor. There were also nine runner-up prize winners. Cllr. Cha O'Neill told the prize winners all aged between 8 and 11 who were assembled with their proud family and friends; "There were a lot of entries, 481 to be precise, and the standard was very high! So you should all be very proud to be one of the best entries here today". The 'Where I am from...' poetry competition celebrated the diversity of the class room community and 'Colour a Superhero' encouraged children to name and colour a climate change fighting superhero. City Librarian, Jane Cantwell explained; "The Waterford Europe Direct Information Centre, run from Central Library is a contact point for all queries on the EU for the South East Region. The Centre aims to promote informed debate and active European citizenship by providing EU information tailored to meet the needs of the local community".

The Europe Direct Information Centre also thanked Declan Pierce from The Comixstop for creating the artwork and O'Mahonys Bookshop for sponsoring books for the runner-up prizes.

You can contact the Waterford Europe Direct Information Centre on 051 849975 or by email europedirect@waterfordcity.ie. The Centre is also on facebook at www.facebook.com/eudirect.

Colour a Superhero Competition – winners

First Place: Yuriy Eliyashevskyy, Mount Sion N.S.

Second Place: JuliaCyfer, Waterpark N.S.

Third Place: Hannah Dalton, Our Lady of Mercy N.S.

Runners Up: Lance Baylon, St Mary's N.S. Ross O'Donovan, Gael Scoil Phortláirge and Niamh-Anni Bent, Gael Scoil Phortláirge.

'Where I am From' Poetry Competition – winners

First Place: Mollie Crawford, St Ursula's N.S.

Second Place: QueenAisha Ganiyn, Our Lady of Mercy S.N.S.

Third Place: Brooklyn Quinn, Ballygunner N.S.

Runners Up: Grace McGrath, St Ursula's N.S. and Gopika Suresh Vadackal, St Ursula's N.S.



Pictured at Waterford City Council Central Library where Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Cha O' Neil presented the two lucky winners of the 'Where I am from...' poetry competition and 'Colour a Superhero' colouring competition run in conjunction with Europe Day celebrations with their bicycles, the first prize winners were Mollie Crawford, St. Ursula's N. S. and Yuriy Eliyashevskyy, Mount Sion N. S. Also included were runners up Brooklyn Quinn, Ballygunner N. S., Julia Cyfer, Waterpark N. S., Grace Mc Grath, St. Ursula's N. S., Ross O' Donovan, Gael Scoil Phortlairge, Hannah Dalton, Our Lady of Mercy N. S., Gopika Suresh Vadackal, St Ursula's N.S., Lance Baylon, St. Mary's N.S, Niamh-Anni Bent, Gael Scoil Phortláirge. Sinead O' Higgins, Executive Librarian and Jane Cantwell, City Librarian.

Photo: John Power

West Cork Literary Festival

The **West Cork Literary Festival 2010** programme was launched by writer and broadcaster Deirdre Purcell at the Maritime Hotel in Bantry. Bantry is again the centre this July for a host of interesting and stimulating authors, from all parts of the world. Bantry Library has been a central part of the festival since its inception over a decade ago, and the festival itself will kick off in the library on Sunday July 4th.



Deirdre Purcell at the launch



Deirdre Purcell, Denyse Woods and Sue Leonard

Michael Palin is one of the headline names for this year's festival. Denyse Woods, Festival Artistic Director said in her speech at the launch that Michael will be taking part as a diarist in the festival, a departure from his other comic acting and travel writing talents. Denyse said she hoped she had put together a programme with appeal for many types of readers, and that the involvement of writers from West Cork to the West Bank would give pleasure and stimulate discussions for the week.

Other main evening events scheduled include novelists Margaret Drabble and Fay Weldon, poet Eavan Boland and travel writer Tim Mackintosh-Smith.

Afternoon seminars cover topics like *Why we read*, with Irish Times Literary correspondent Eileen Battersby, *Society's Seven Best Kept Secrets* with Dr. Tony Humphreys, and *Hypochondria: the Art of Illness* with Brian Dillon.

Children are also fully catered for with readings by writers like Anthony Horowitz (*Alex Rider/The Power of Five*) and John Boyne (*The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*).

A huge selection of workshops for both adults and children, include Writing Fiction, Short Stories, Freelance Journalism, Poetry, Crime Writing, Fantasy Novels, or Song Writing. These workshops are being lead by top writers and performers including, Julie Feeney (Song Writing), Alex Barclay (Writing Crime), Leanne O'Sullivan (Poetry), and Catherine Dunne (Writing for Women).

Children's Workshops look after the younger visitors with drawing workshops with Don Conroy, *Rhyming Stories* with Maddie Stewart, and *Storytelling* with Liz Weir among others.

This festival is a well established part of the Summer in West Cork. Under the direction of West Cork Music, it is supported by Cork County Library & Arts Service, the Arts Council and Lyric FM. A packed programme of events, readings, workshops, covers a very wide area of interests for both adults and children.

The festival runs from July 4th – July 10th. Further information from www.westcorkliteraryfestival.ie



2010 has been designated the European Year of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. For more information please visit:
<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=637>

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