

IRISH | LIBRARY | NEWS

#303 July 2010

€7.8 million allocated to public library capital development programme for 2010

Minister for Housing and Local Services, Michael Finneran, T.D., announced his approval for a two year Capital Programme for Public Libraries 2010-2011, amounting to €7.8 million in 2010, which will contribute towards the development and refurbishment of a range of public libraries throughout the country.



Minister Finneran was happy to note that, despite the pressure on public finances, his Department was in a position to continue to deliver on the very important commitment set out in 2008 in *Branching Out - Future Directions*, the Governments policy document on public library service provision. Minister Finneran expressed the hope that the new programme would also make a significant contribution to promoting economic recovery in the towns involved as the building and refurbishment of this vital social infrastructure will create significant local employment jobs in construction, fit out and ICT. This, the Minister noted, was in keeping with the aims of *Building Irelands Smart Economy - A Framework for Sustainable Economic Renewal* launched by An Taoiseach in December 2008.

The Minister added that, since the publication of *Branching Out - Future Directions* in July, 2008, his Department has also provided funding to a range of library projects throughout the country. The new 2010-2011 programme will build on that -with support for library development in Ballyfermot, Dublin City; Dún Laoghaire and Ballyroan, Co. Dublin; Carlingford, Co. Louth ; Gweedore, Co. Donegal; Roscommon Town; Muine Bheag, Co. Carlow; Tullamore, Co. Offaly; Swinford, Co. Mayo and a replacement mobile and delivery van for Limerick County.

Subject to public finances being available in 2011, library projects in Kilkenny City, Donegal Town, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, Portarlington, Co. Laois and Arklow, Co. Wicklow will receive grant aid. Funding is also designated in 2011 to provide library vehicles to South Dublin (schools mobile) and Cavan (mobile library).

The Minister reiterated his belief that the Government's substantial investment in libraries to date will yield a huge dividend in the years to come in terms of personal and community development for people of all ages and backgrounds. With more than 14 million visits in 2008, public libraries continue to attract an increasing number of users, not just to borrow books, but to avail of the wide range of other services now available in libraries. The Minister added that he was particularly pleased to see evidence of very significant increases in library usage across the country generally with people availing of initiatives like free e-learning to update their skills to enhance their chances in the jobs market.

In conclusion, the Minister thanked all those who had contributed to the new Library Capital

Programme, including An Chomhairle Leabharlanna and each of the Library Authorities. He particularly wished to thank the staff of every local library for their professionalism, dedication and enthusiasm which, he noted, greatly enhanced the quality of civic life in communities all across the country.

PUBLIC LENDING RIGHT

Horrid Henry is the most popular child in Ireland with the Official Driver Theory Test in pole position

Irish children are great readers and very influential users of public libraries. They have ensured that children's authors from Ireland, Great Britain and the United States dominated the most-borrowed books in Ireland's 352 public libraries.

Roderick Hunt, author of over 300 titles in the Oxford Reading Tree series, is Irish children's top choice, narrowly beating the creator of Horrid Henry, Francesca Simon. Children enjoyed Horrid Henry's antics and borrowed the range of titles 98,000 times in 2009.



Reacting to her popularity in Ireland, Ms Simon declared her inside knowledge:

'I'm delighted that Horrid Henry is such a popular boy in Irish libraries as I spent all of my lunchtimes volunteering in my school library and most of my afternoons in my local one.'

The team behind Daisy Meadows' *Rainbow Magic* featured as the 3rd most-borrowed authors. Ever-popular authors Enid Blyton, Roger Hargreaves, and Roald Dahl all ranked in the top ten.

'America's favourite novelist', Nora Roberts, who also writes as J.D. Robb, was the most-borrowed general fiction author at number 7, followed by fellow-American James Patterson at number 8, and Lee Child, author of the Reacher books, at number 10.

Darren Shan claims the prize of the most popular Irish author in 2009, at number 13. Darren, whose tales of vampires and demons have sold 15 million copies worldwide was thrilled to learn of his high rating:

'I was delighted when I heard I was the most borrowed Irish author in Irish public libraries in 2009', said Limerick-based Mr Shan, 'but I know that I wouldn't be where I am today if not for Ireland's fabulous libraries. I've always been proud of how well my books have fared in Ireland, but no writer makes it to the top by themselves, and any success story of mine is also a success story for Ireland's librarians and libraries. They're a national treasure.'

Irish authors, both children's and adult, are attracting lots of Irish readers, with 17 featuring in the top 100. When it comes to the most-borrowed books, 6 Irish books are in the top ten. The top spot is taken by the *Official Driver Theory Test*. John Boyne's *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* was edged into second position by Ireland's fledgling car users. Published in 2006, Boyne's searing story continues to

enthrall. A successful film based on the book was released in 2008. Reacting to the news, Mr Boyne enthused about library readers' vote of confidence:

'I spent a huge part of my childhood in libraries. I discovered my love of books there. I started writing there. So to hear that one of my novels is so popular among library-goers today makes me very proud and grateful to Irish readers.'

Fiction dominates both the author and title list. The strength of Irish fiction in the list endorses the popularity of Sebastian Barry's *The Secret Scripture*, at number 3, *This Charming Man* by Marian Keyes at number 4, Maeve Binchy's *Heart and Soul* at number 7 and Cathy Kelly's *Lessons in Heartbreak* at number 10.

Irish authors claim 22 of the top 100 most popular books.

The public's appetite for fantasy shows no sign of waning, with Stephenie Meyers's *Twilight* at number 6, and the penultimate Harry Potter title, *Harry Potter and the Half-blood Prince* taking 8th slot. Neither of these books is new and librarians noticed the interest in borrowing since films based on both titles were released.

The most-borrowed non-fiction book, *The Secret* by Rhonda Byrne, is at number 68.



An Chomhairle Leabharlanna has compiled the list from information supplied to the recently established Public Lending Remuneration (PLR) Scheme. 9,657 authors resident in 31 countries registered their interest in the

Irish PLR last year. €349,874.74 was paid out to 4,608 authors in recognition of their total library loans. Five authors received the maximum payment of €3,000, and the rate-per-loan was 13.93 cents.

Commenting on the first year of PLR, Senator Mark Dearey, Chairman of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, stated that An Chomhairle was delighted to initiate the scheme of the PLR payments to authors, thanks to funding provided by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government:

'PLR is both a support to authors and a public acknowledgement of the value of their work. We are pleased that so many authors received a payment, however small'. Senator Dearey thanked managers and staff in public library services around the country for their co-operation with the Scheme, and congratulated An Chomhairle Leabharlanna staff on delivering the PLR Scheme on time and within budget.'

Full details of the most borrowed titles and further information about PLR is available at www.plr.ie.

CORK CITY LIBRARIES

A Soft day in Cork City

Cork City Libraries Children's Department unveiled its new suspended soft sculpture on Teen Day, 2010. Depicting aspects of Little Red Riding Hood the sculpture is the work of Victoria Tammadge a student completing the Higher Professional Diploma in Creative Practice at Coláiste Stiofáin Naofa. The Children's Department acted as a client for Victoria as part of her final assessment. She worked with a group of teenagers with learning disabilities in the city library and their innovative sketches provided the blue print for the sculpture. The resulting artwork is carefully designed to fit the space allocated to it and by the use of appropriately bright colours it is generating great interest and excitement to the many young children visiting the library.



Pictured above: Victoria Tammadge, art student and Stefanie Dinklebach, course director at the unveiling of Cork City Library Children's Department new suspended soft sculpture.

Summer in the City

As studies show that summer reading programmes help prevent learning losses during the summer months, Cork City Libraries launched *Stick with Reading* on June 1. The initiative encourages children to read as many books as they can by filling a sticker book with stickers they receive for each book they read. The stickers show RED the Children's Services logo in various guises. On completion of the programme one lucky reader will win a trip to the home of Hans Christian Andersen in Copenhagen, kindly sponsored by International Education Services. The project is proving extremely popular with schools throughout the city. The summer programme of over 95 free events city wide which will be held throughout July and August will also support children's literacy through storytelling, drama, creative arts and performances for tots to teenagers! Sticker books and summer programmes are available from all Cork City Libraries.



Cork to Gdansk – My Feelings

On June 2 a unique art exhibition was launched simultaneously in Bishopstown Library, a branch of Cork City Libraries, and Filia Gdansk, the Public Library of Gdansk, Poland. The exhibition called *Cork to Gdansk, My Feelings* is the work of Polish artist Magdalena Majewska – Keane, originally from Gdansk and who is now living in Cork.



Cllr John Buttimer, Deputising for the Lord Mayor, David O'Brien Executive Librarian Bishopstown and Magda Keane at the launch of From Cork to Gdansk, my feelings at Bishopstown Library.

A recognized portrait artist in her native country, Magda has painted portraits and commissioned pieces for the Polish Prime Minister and for Lech Walesa among others. Magda established a number of successful exhibitions in London, Paris, Amsterdam and several cities in Germany and her native Poland before she settled in Cork in late 2006. She said *"I see this exhibition as a way of expressing my love for Cork.... Connection and sharing of our lifestyle and culture is what my art and my vision is all about."*

The exhibition launch was unique as the opening took place on the world wide web. It was launched by the Lord Mayor of Cork using Skype via internet link with the President (Lord Mayor) of Gdansk, was the first "Internet twinned" exhibition for Cork City Libraries. "Our idea was to foster closer ties between our two cities and our two cultures... and it came at the suggestion of Librarian David O'Brien who has been instrumental in getting this concept to work." as Magda explains.

The exhibition is comprised of over 30 paintings in a variety of mediums which covers locations and scenes in both Gdansk and Cork. The theme of cultural identity is interwoven in both exhibitions. Visitors to both libraries have the chance to experience not only their own city through Magdas' art, but also to catch a glimpse of the unique culture and cityscapes of the other participating city.

Among the guests were elected representatives, members of the artistic community, members of the Polish community living in Cork and other citizens. A group of award winning Irish dancers also performed live via the internet for guests at both library locations. "We at Bishopstown Library are extremely proud to be able to host this prestigious exhibition and look forward to getting to know our Polish colleagues through *Cork to Gdansk, My Feelings*" says Library Staff Officer Matt Farrell. The exhibition runs until the end of June.

CORK COUNTY LIBRARIES

One Council, One Book

All Cork County Council staff have been invited to join in the *One Council, One Book* reading initiative from June 2010. A scaled-down version of **One City, One Book**, this project is being jointly organised by Cork County Library and the IT Department. The aim is to give all readers on the Council's staff an opportunity to enhance their enjoyment of reading by having one common topic of discussion. With approximately 2,600 staff employed by the Council, we hope to increase awareness of our services internally in the organisation, and to entice some of our colleagues in other departments into the library membership fold.



Pictured at the launch of the One Council, One Book initiative:

Seated: Cork County Manager, Mr Martin Riordan, Author Bill Wall, County Mayor, Cllr Derry Canty.

Standing: Lorraine Lynch, Library; Joe Donnelly, ICT Dept, James Fogarty, Head of I.C.T Dept, Christina O'Sullivan and Eileen O'Brien, Library, Valerie Murphy and Mary O'Brien-Drummond, ICT Dept.

The book chosen is *This is the Country* by renowned Cork author, William Wall. It charts the story of a teenage boy growing up in rough circumstances, falling for the wrong girl and finding himself on the run from her brother, a notorious criminal. This book has something for every reader: forbidden romance, drug deals, and hired killings. It is written with a warmth and humour and the narrator's voice is both intelligent and authentic throughout.

The IT Department have created an online forum located on the Intranet so that staff can review, comment on, rate and discuss the book. Copies of the book are available at all Cork County Library branches. Publicity has been via email and intranet as well as distribution of brochures and posters to all council offices and town councils.

The highlight of project will take place at lunchtime on June 30th when William Wall will host a lunchtime reading and discussion of *This is the Country* in the County Hall campus. This will provide a great opportunity for all the readers to meet the author, and gain an insight into the writing of the book.

Young Authors showcase their books in Mallow Library

On Thursday May 27th Mallow library were pleased to welcome First Class of Scoil Gobnatan along with parents and teachers to the library to be presented with Certificates of Achievement for their *Write A Book Project*. The books were put on display for two weeks and attracted great admiration from library patrons.



Librarians Grace Whooley and Rory Bunce with the pupils of First Class, Scoil Gobnatan, Mallow.
Photograph by Fiona Fuller

Ms. Nollaig Murphy, first class teacher praised the pupils for their creativity and imagination. The project also included pupils from Fifth class who assisted with the process of editing each book; each first class pupil was assigned a fifth class student to act as a “buddy” to help edit their book. The *Write a Book Project* lasted for two months during which each first class student created their own book, bringing it from the ideas stage, through drafting, editing and illustration, to the final product. During their visit three pupils were chosen to read their books aloud, during which we were treated to tales of India, holidays in Lanzarote and the views of a dedicated supporter of Celtic F.C., these are just a sample of the wonderful selection on display. We look forward to seeing these budding authors on the bestseller lists in years to come!

Dublin's City Central Library launches new resource for literacy tutors

Going back to education as an adult isn't easy and for those with reading and writing difficulties the stigma can prove daunting and discouraging. Often, people with literacy difficulties had a negative experience of school and associate learning with that experience. Trained literacy tutors play a key role in helping adults achieve these skills and in recognition of this Dublin City Central library has compiled a new resource bank of publications to support their professional development.

The publications include a range of recommended reading material related to adult literacy theory and practice, and are aimed at those who work in the adult literacy sector, and in particular those completing the [NALA/Waterford Institute of Technology's distance education programme](#).

Adult literacy tuition is very different to learning in school. It primarily centers on the needs and interests of the learner. Seminal works such as Pedagogy of the Oppressed emphasise the importance of the learner experience in adult education, while Meek's On Being Literate illustrates that literacy is at the heart of all social concerns.

The [National Adult Literacy Agency](#) and Dublin City's Central Library are cooperating on promoting this reading material for adult literacy practitioners. "This resource strengthens the Central Library's support for adult literacy effort and we will be cooperating with NALA to promote availability of the resources" said Bernadette Cogan, Divisional Librarian, Central Library.

"We are delighted that Dublin City Central Library has researched and developed this new resource to support literacy tutors. Currently in Ireland there are over 50,000 adults attending literacy courses nationwide. This service is mainly provided by the VEC Adult Literacy Services and is highly dependent on trained tutors providing one-to-one and group tuition. We have no doubt that the publications stocked by Dublin City Central Library will support the work of literacy tutors and improve approaches to teaching and learning," said Inez Bailey, Director, National Adult Literacy Agency.

For user convenience the resource includes both a lending and a reference copy for consultation in the library. Further information from:

Aisling Murray or Padraic Stack

Central Library: Centrallibrary@dublincity.ie or Tel: 01 8734333

To view the list

www.dublincitypubliclibraries.ie online catalogue – recommended reads

KERRY COUNTY LIBRARY

Visions of Africa at Castleisland Library

The *Visions of Africa Photographic Exhibition* was hosted by Castleisland Library during the month of June. Selected from entries featuring the work of both amateur and professional photographers it comprised of 30 images selected by a panel of 7 judges from a total of 166 entries. Part of the events surrounding Africa Day, the event was organised by KADE [Kerry Action for Development Education] It was officially opened by the Mayor of Kerry, Cllr. Bobby O'Connell on Tuesday, 8 June and among the attendance was the Nigerian Ambassador to Ireland, Dr. Kemafo Nonyerem Chikwe.



KILDARE LIBRARY AND ARTS SERVICES

Kildare Community Library Officially Launched

The Mayor of County Kildare, Cllr. Colm Purcell and Kildare County Council Library and Arts Services (KLAS) were delighted to host the launch of the new Kildare Town Community Library facility by Mr. Michael Finneran, TD, Minister for Housing and Local Services, at the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government on Friday 30th April 2010 at 3.00 p.m.

The community of Kildare turned out in force to welcome Minister Finneran and celebrate the completion of their new facility in the Town Centre, Claregate Street.

Minister Finneran noted, "It is said that Kildare owes its ancient importance mainly to St. Brigid who founded her monastery here in the late 5th Century - a foundation that quickly became a renowned centre of learning. Were St. Brigid alive today to witness the opening of this wonderful library, here in historic Claregate Street, I sense she would be very happy that the spirit of her quest to educate and enlighten is still very much alive in Kildare Town so many centuries later!"



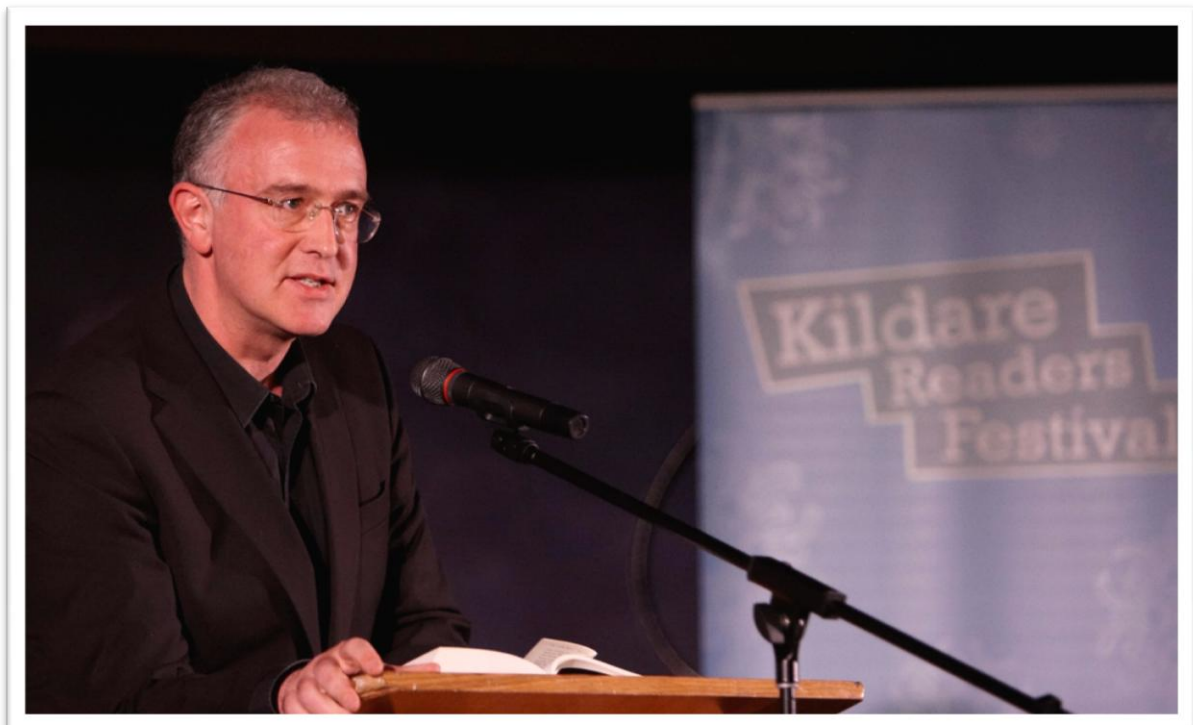
The library is placed in an ideally accessible and very central location, and is within walking distance from schools, main residential areas and work places. The new library facility has introduced a civic, cultural and citizen-focused service with 28.5 hours opening per week, to ensure best provision for all users. With an area of 5,000 square feet, facilities include 8 public access PCs, meeting rooms, study and exhibition space, a dedicated Teen Zone, Children's Library, leisure reading areas and a book and audio-visual collection of 19,000 items. Special collections such as Kildare Town Local Studies, Teachers Resources, and Public Art Works, which are on loan from The Arts Council's central collection, can be viewed during opening hours. A specially commissioned glass art work *Light on Literature*, has been created by artist Elke Weston and is on permanent display in the library. Over 1,700 new members have already registered in the new Library and borrowed over 15,000 items since opening for business just 7 weeks ago. For further information visit: www.kildare.ie/library

Kildare Readers' Festival

Kildare Library and Arts Service were delighted to host a most successful inaugural *Kildare Readers' Festival* which took place in Naas, Co. Kildare from Friday 14th to Sunday 16th May 2010.

The aim of the festival was to provide readers from our many book clubs and the general public with an opportunity to meet and discuss their favourite books with fellow book lovers, be inspired to join a book club and share the experience of reading.

Events included author readings, interviews and signings, a walking tour, drama performances and an opportunity to meet with other book lovers.



Guest authors for the 2010 festival included Dermot Bolger, John Connolly (pictured), Brian Keenan, Claire Keegan, Joseph O' Connor, Sheila O'Flanagan and many more. Details of the 2011 programme will be available next Spring



Kilkenny County Library Service

Ready To Read Project

This public library outreach project took place in the Newpark Family Resource centre for 8 weeks towards the end of 2009 and involved 30 children.

This joint initiative between Kilkenny County Library Service and the Rapid Co-ordinator was aimed at the promotion of reading and literacy development among children of all age groups in RAPID areas.

Structured workshops using drama, art, crafts were facilitated by author and poet Grace Wells. The project proved to be a very successful and positive one with children benefitting from having a focused access to books and from guided visits to Loughboy and the mobile library.



There were many important outcomes from this project and they include:-

- Newpark Resource Centre is now a scheduled stop on the Mobile Library Service allowing children access to a library space and resources.
- The public library provides huge alternatives to television, computer games other media formats. The purpose of the workshops was to invest children with an interest in books, an awareness of their local library and their potential for education and fun.
- One to one interaction with an adult, a child and a book is a most enjoyable and fruitful exchange for everyone.

This project was supported by the Education Action Group of Kilkenny County Development Board. www.kilkennylibrary.ie or Josephine Coyne (056) 7794041 for more details.

No side effects – read yourself well

Kilkenny Library Service has made available to the public high quality self help books covering a range of health issues in an effort to promote the health and well being of individuals and families. Kilkenny Library Service's *No Side Effects* scheme is based on the recommended titles from national bibliotherapy programme *The Power of Words*.

These reading lists have been distributed to health clinics, family resource centres and GPs in County Kilkenny and the collections will be housed in Graiguenamanagh and Loughboy Libraries but are available to all by request.

It is hoped that these self help books will allow the individual to actively involve and empower themselves in their own recovery.

For more information on this contact Brenda Ward, Kilkenny Library Service (056) 7794977 or www.kilkennylibrary.ie

LAOIS COUNTY LIBRARY

Mountmellick Library and Art Gallery Officially Opened

Mountmellick Library and Art Gallery, the latest new library in County Laois, was officially opened on 20th May 2010 by John Moloney, T.D., Minister for Disability and Mental Health.

The library, which is at ground floor and mezzanine level, measures 690 m² and is the largest library in the county, houses over 25,000 items including books, CD^s, DVD^s, etc. There are 18 public internet points, laptop plug-in points, WIFI, broadband, self-check, interactive technology and online OSI. Extensive study and seating areas are available throughout the library which leads on to a stepped open-air terrace to the rear for extended library use.

A coffee/tea facility and seating area is located within the library and a large dedicated Art Gallery leads off the first floor learning area. A programme of monthly art exhibitions will be arranged by the library staff to facilitate local, regional and national artists to display and sell their works. The project consisted of refurbishment of a former courthouse and extensive new build resulting in a facility of contemporary design preserving the essential essence of the original building.

The design team was led by Milligan, Reside, Larkin Ltd. Architects and construction was by Garoon Construction Ltd. The total project cost was €2.8m.

During the course of a discussion on the Rick O'Shea Show on RTÉ Radio2FM about various books reference was made to libraries and in particular the new Mountmellick Library:

"I visited Mountmellick Library quite recently. It is utterly fantastic. You feel like you are in a library in Milan. It's been super designed and is super fantastic. They have everything in it. We should start using our libraries again".



LIMERICK CITY LIBRARY

‘The Twits’ - A Northside Story.

Children and adults from the northside of Limerick City have been enjoying the magical world of Roald Dahl through a community wide literacy festival based on *The Twits*. The local northside education committee, which comprises of a variety of community stake holders including several schools and Limerick City Library, launched the programme in April.

The aim of the festival is to promote reading and literacy through the local schools and by encouraging family reading in the community thereby creating the shared experience of a huge book club. Copies of the book were distributed to every house in the areas of Moyross, Ballynanty, Thomondgate and Kileely and a variety of events took place including table quizzes, drama, reading, a snooker tournament, rap competition and much more.

The focus of the festival was a ‘Create a Character competition’ which saw primary classes from four schools in the area visit Watch House Cross Community Library over the course of the project. Children and parents were asked to use as much creativity and imagination as possible to produce their own character to enter the plot of ‘The Twits’. A host of wonderful characters were created; winners included ‘Timothy Twit’ the twits’ goodhearted son, and ‘One Eyed Anne’ the circus master. Sessions were led by library staff and over five hundred parents and children visited the library during the festival.



MEATH COUNTY LIBRARY

Official Opening of St. Patrick's Park Community Library

Councillor William Carey, Chairman Meath County Council today officially opened St. Patrick's Park Community Library in Navan. The new library is a partnership between Navan Travellers Workshop and Meath County Council. The venture was co-funded by Meath County Council and the Navan Travellers Workshop through Dormant Accounts funding. The ongoing operational costs are funded by NTW through a Community Employment scheme and Meath County Library support the staff through training and regular updating and exchange of stock.

The library is open twenty hours a week and it also serves as a homework club and meeting space for related agencies working with residents on education, health and community initiatives.

Speaking to the residents at the launch Cllr. Carey, Chairman of Meath Council said

"I am delighted that you have responded so positively to this new facility and the opportunities it affords you as a love of books is one of the greatest gifts we as parents can give a child."

Deputy County Manager, Tadhg McDonnell congratulated all concerned and looked forward to the development of the space as a major resource for all agencies working with Travellers in the years ahead.

Guest of honour award-winning Irish author and publisher Siobhán Parkinson who just last week was named as Laureate na nÓg, Ireland's first laureate for children's literature spoke glowingly about the project adding that one of her main aims as laureate would be to ensure that every child in the country has access to a nice, bright, warm, cheerful and comfortable library.



Tipperary Reads Festival 2010

Tipperary Libraries are delighted that acclaimed Irish writer, Joseph O'Connor, will be visiting in July to launch Tipperary Reads 2010 (sponsored by The Arts Council of Ireland).

Recently voted Irish Writer of the Decade, he will launch the festival in Thurles Library, The Source on Saturday 17th July at 3pm. and will return in November to discuss this book with lucky Tipperary readers.

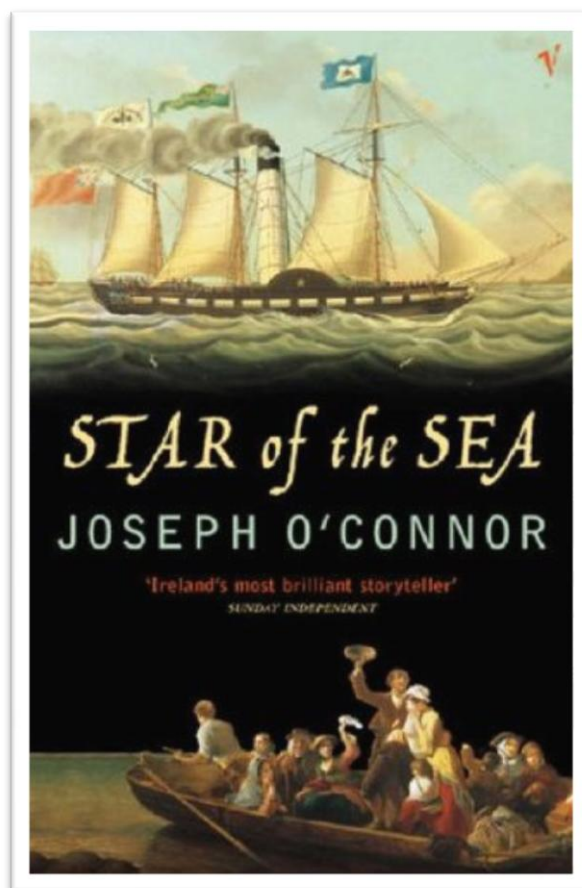
Tipperary Libraries are encouraging everyone in Co. Tipperary to read *Star of the Sea* which is the focus novel of this year's festival.

Copies of the books are available at public libraries throughout Co. Tipperary.

The festival is open to everyone including book clubs and individual readers and is a great opportunity to come together to discuss a truly remarkable read. Part mystery, part thriller, part romance, this novel certainly will provide plenty of food for thought!

The festival is a great opportunity for people to discuss a book and get talking rather than reading alone and it is a chance of a lifetime to meet and discuss the book with the author himself.

See website for more details: <http://www.tipperaryllibraries.ie/branches/Tipperaryreads2010.shtml>



we DARE you!

The *Teen Summer Challenge* has started in Thurles Library. Weekly draws will run from Monday 21st June to Monday 16th August. This year the library has broadened the challenge to include reviews of DVD's, CD's, games, films as well as books. Call to Thurles Library to collect your entry forms, one entry form per item. Good luck everybody, let the fun begin!

Go Read, Go Win! @ Cashel Library

This summer review or just rate any library book you've read and you'll be entered into weekly draws for lots of great prizes. You could win cinema tickets, vouchers for Xtravision, plus lots more. First draw takes place Friday 25th of June, and every Friday until August 27th. You must be aged 13 or over to take part. Entry forms can be picked up at the desk OR entries may also be emailed to

cashel@tipperarylibraries.ie. If you're not a library remember it's FREE for young adults to join up. For more information contact Cashel library at 062 63825.

WESTMEATH COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE

Launch of Healthy Reading Scheme

Many people have difficulty coping with the pressures of modern life. Bereavement, bullying, stress and low self-esteem are just some of the factors which can see people become overwhelmed by daily life. This can lead to people feeling isolated, alone and misunderstood.

Books can help! An appropriate book may not only suggest ways to manage problems but also reassure people that they are not alone. Reading can provide support, guidance, direction and empower the reader to work toward maintaining good mental health.



On Thursday 17th June, Westmeath County Library Service at County Buildings Mullingar hosted the launch of the new "Healthy Reading" support scheme.



This scheme identified a wide range of issues which can affect mental health including:

Understanding Mental Health, Stress, Anxiety, Depression, Self-Esteem, Bullying, Suicide, Bereavement, Schizophrenia, Addiction, Eating Disorders, Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia and Abuse.

A leaflet has been produced on each topic. Each leaflet lists books which can offer information and advice.

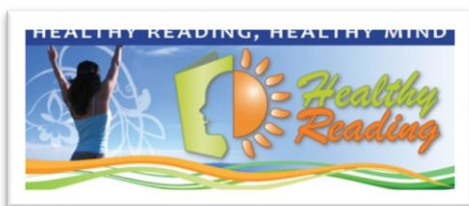
However the scheme goes a step further by identifying helplines and websites that can offer help and support to individuals who are struggling to cope and to friends and family who may have concerns.

The scheme initially will be piloted in both Mullingar and Athlone libraries, but people in any part of the county will be able to access the books and leaflets through their local library. Copies of the leaflet packs will be circulated to all doctors, social workers and help care professionals.

The scheme was launched by the Cathaoirleach Cllr Fintan Cooney and supported by other speakers involved in this partnership : Mr Peter McEvoy, HSE Community Services Manager Westmeath, Finola Colgan, Mental Health Ireland Regional Development Officer and Stephen Cummins President of Mullingar Lions Club.



The **healthy reading scheme** in Westmeath is a partnership project which has received advice and funding from: HSE Community Care, Mental Health Ireland, RAPID, Westmeath Community Development and Mullingar Lions Club.



The **healthy reading scheme** is a good example of what is possible when a number of service providers come together to work in a creative manner to improve the quality of life for the people of Westmeath

To find out more about the **healthy reading scheme** or about our libraries and their opening hours, visit www.westmeathcoco.ie .

Let's Share Our Ideas - Join the Irish Public Libraries LinkedIn Group

Liam Hogan (Limerick City Library) came away from the LAI/CILIP Joint conference in April with the idea of establishing a group on [LinkedIn](http://www.linkedin.com) for Irish public library staff.

LinkedIn is a professional networking site that has over 70 million members who are all networking with each other in their different areas of professional life. LinkedIn is the professional yin to Facebook's social yang. This platform is proving very useful in terms of collaboration, brainstorming and the sharing of resources. The American Library Association (ALA) have over 4,500 members on their LinkedIn Group and they are very active in sharing ideas, their experiences as well as the results of surveys and statistics. I thought that it would be great for us to foster this same spirit of collaboration.

Since the Irish Public Libraries group was created over 38 different public librarians representing have joined representing 12 different library authorities. Lively discussions have started and people are starting to open up and discuss the issues that they feel are most pertinent to their library service. It would be fantastic if more public librarians could join in and contribute to what is a very usual and invaluable source of knowledge and ideas, each other!!

How to Join in!

To join please navigate to www.linkedin.com. Register as a user on this website. Then when this step is completed, click on Groups, and do a search for Irish Public Libraries, and request to be a member. We look forward to seeing you there! If you've any problems joining or any other queries then don't hesitate to contact Liam at lhogan@limerickcity.ie

END

June 22 2010