

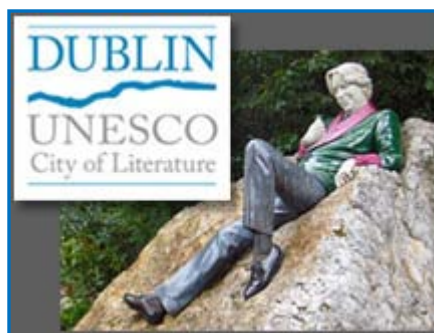
IRISH | LIBRARY | NEWS

#304 August 2010

Dublin: UNESCO City of Literature

[Dublin City Public Libraries](#) welcomes the wonderful news that the capital has been formally designated a UNESCO City of Literature, part of [The Creative Cities Network](#). In receiving this accolade, Dublin proudly joins Edinburgh, Iowa City and Melbourne as one of only four cities in the world to bear the title of UNESCO City of Literature.

City Librarian Margaret Hayes said 'I am particularly pleased that Dublin City Council, through its library service, has played the lead role in winning this great honour – one which reflects the fact that although Dublin is indeed a literary city, it is the gateway to literary Ireland. It is my belief that Libraries all over the country can take real pride in this re-affirmation of our importance as cultural and literary ambassadors'.



The sought after accolade was bestowed by the Director General of UNESCO and recognises Dublin's cultural profile and its international standing as a city of literary excellence.

Detailed application was made to UNESCO last November by a steering and management group led by Dublin City Council's library service and was subject to a rigorous vetting procedure. Partners in the submission included representatives from literary-related organisations as well as culture, arts, tourism, government, media and educational institutions across the city and country.

Visit the Dublin city of Literature [website](#).

[Dublin's writers](#) explain why Dublin is a city of literature.

For further information contact: Jane Alger 01 6744809.

Bealtaine Festival, 2010

[Bealtaine](#) is a national festival celebrating creativity in older age and offers people over 55 the chance to try something new, to express their creative side or to come back to something they had not done for years. Bealtaine is an [Age & Opportunity](#) initiative part-funded by the [Arts Council](#) and delivered by hundreds of organisations around the country during the month of May.

...and now the dust has settled, the evaluation forms returned and the numbers have been crunched for the 2010 Bealtaine Festival, Age & Opportunity revealed that over 101,000 are estimated to have taken part in this year's festival – enough to fill the Aviva Stadium twice over and still have 1,000 people queuing outside!

More than 500 Bealtaine organisers staged over 2,500 events in theatres, libraries, along river banks, in arts centres, residential care centres, beaches, galleries, cafes and day care centres all over Ireland. *'The festival has been growing in popularity, size and quality year on year – but 2010 has seen an enormous leap in attendance at events,'* said Sue Russell, Media Coordinator for Age & Opportunity.

These figures are based on reports from Bealtaine organisers. The numbers organising events are up by 27% with increase of 23% in number of events. One county alone – County Mayo – recorded attendance figures of 25,000 at a variety of events they organised throughout the county.

The festival was independently evaluated by Irish Centre for Social Gerontology. The report entitled *The Bealtaine Festival: A Celebration of Older People in the Arts – an Evaluation* found that Bealtaine demonstrates the social and health benefits of participatory arts activities – over 86% of participants said it improved their quality of life. The research provides a compelling argument for reviewing older people's involvement in the arts in the light of future demographic trends.

One of the Libraries which embraced this year's Bealtaine Festival was Waterford City Libraries. Read on to find out about the events which took place across their three branches.

Waterford City's Bealtaine Festival's Celebration Night was held in the [Central Library](#) on Friday June 25. The Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Davy Daniels was in attendance to launch the exhibition of inspired art pieces which were produced during the festival. The creative writing competition winner, Eamon Duffin was also presented with a prize of €100, kindly sponsored by Bank of Ireland.



L-r: Sandra Kelly, Bank of Ireland; Fergus Dillon, art tutor; Deputy Mayor Cllr. Davy Daniels; Margaret Power, gardening tutor; Susan Enticknap, art tutor; and Pat Nolan, digital photography tutor.



Exhibition of art work created during the Festival



Anne Walsh and Helen Downey at the Celebration Night in Central Library



Clay-modelling workshop with tutor, Maeve Collins (right)

The Bealtaine Festival in Waterford has grown from strength to strength over the last few years. This year it ran for a full month with 386 participants in 45 events across the Waterford City Council Library Service's three branches; [Central](#), [Ardkeen](#) and [Brown's Road](#) libraries. Library members participated in taster sessions in gardening, alternative therapies, art, clay-modelling and tracing your family history as well as a digital photography course and a creative writing competition. The work produced from these events was displayed during the Celebration Night and is being exhibited over the coming weeks in all branches of Waterford City Council Library Service.



Carnation Theatre acting out 'Carnation goes West' in St. Patrick's Hospital, Waterford.

This year the library also branched out, broadening its horizons with events that included an interactive Western play from Carnation Theatre which was held in both the [Waterford Lifetime](#), Lady Lane House and St. Patrick's Hospital. All events were free of charge. This play was organised with the [Waterford Europe Direct Centre](#) as part of their 2010 programme of events to combat poverty and social inclusion.

Bishopstown Remembers The Holocaust

The Power of Civil Society was launched in [Bishopstown Library](#) on the Wednesday the 14 July by Mary Banotti, who is a founding member and Trustee of Holocaust Education Trust Ireland and former MEP. Present at the launch was Mrs. Rositsa Videlova, Third Secretary and Consul at the Bulgarian Embassy representing the Bulgarian Ambassador, who spoke of the importance of civil and religious tolerance in Bulgarian society. Councillor Michael O'Connell, recently elected Lord Mayor of Cork, was on hand to stress the important role the library service in Ireland has to play in insuring we never forget this darkest period of human history. Consisting of twenty two linen printed panels, the exhibition describes how the collective voice of the people of Bulgaria prevented the deportation of its Jewish population to the concentration and death camps of the Third Reich, and highlights the choices people make and the moral consequences of making those choices. Through the exhibition we see the results of those choices – nearly 50,000 Jews were saved from Nazi persecution and certain death. Bulgaria was the only country under German influence or control whose Jewish population actually increased during the war years –It is a record of which Bulgarians are justifiably proud. The exhibits are accompanied by a documentary, *Beyond Hitler's Grasp*, which runs continuously during the exhibition. The exhibition was donated to the Holocaust Education Trust Ireland by H.E Mr Emil Yalnazov, Ambassador of Bulgaria to Ireland, on behalf the Republic of Bulgaria State Institute for Culture and Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and it is planned to have it tour the country in the next few months.



“We would like to thank the Bulgarian people, the Embassy in Ireland and of course Mary Banotti and the [Holocaust Education Trust Ireland](#) for extending this opportunity to us to tell such a very important story” said David O’Brien, Executive Librarian for Bishopstown library.

The Power of Civil Society will run in Bishopstown Library until 30 July.

South Cork Mobile takes part in School Open Day

On Tuesday June 12 the South Cork [mobile library](#) headed to Riverstown National School in Glanmire to participate in the school's Fun Day. The school, which has over 700 pupils, opted to have a Fun Day this year instead of a school tour for the pupils. The line up for the day included a play by 6th class, an ice-cream van and a visit by one of [Cork County Library and Arts Services'](#) mobile libraries. On arrival at the school the mobile library and staff received an immediate warm welcome from children and staff. This was the second year that the mobile library had participated in the school's fun day and the children were very excited to have the mobile library visit their school again.



The first class to come on board were Junior Infants who were amazed with the range of books to choose from. After a quick look around the library, staff read them a story by Oliver Jeffries. The children would have loved to stay on a little bit longer but it was time to move on to allow the next class their chance.

And so the day continued in a blur of class after class with storytelling, book browsing and a host of questions for library staff: How do the books stay on the shelves? Why did the staff work on a bus (as opposed to a library building)? Do the staff sleep on the bus? Library staff had a great time providing answers to all these wonderful questions and many of the pupils agreed that the mobile library was a *cool* place to work.

A staff member from the local Glanmire Library was also on hand to talk to the children about the [Clowning Around](#) Summer Reading Programme. This programme, running in most of the libraries in Cork County over the summer months, invites the children to *clown around* as part of a countywide reading initiative. The children will receive their clown card at the beginning of the summer and each time they return a book they can add a balloon to the card. At the end of August it is hoped to present all children who took part with a certificate.

This visit was very successful in continuing to build relationships with school, their staff and pupils and in promoting awareness of the Library service and in particular the Council's commitment to rural schools and communities through the mobile library service.

Frances Browne Exhibition at Ballybofey Library

Ballybofey Community Library put together an exhibition of the life and works of the blind Poetess of Ulster, [Frances Browne](#). This author and poet was born in [Stranorlar](#) in Co. Donegal in 1816 and despite being blinded by smallpox at 18 months went on to become a hugely successful writer of her time and published her most famous work *Granny's Wonderful Chair* in 1857. Despite her success, the memory of Frances seemed to fade over many years so much now is being done to revive interest in Frances Browne and her works and much is being done to preserve this part of our heritage for many years to come.



*Katie Bradley, Balor Theatre reads from *Granny's Wonderful Chair* by Frances Browne.*

"The blind poetess of Ulster", Frances Browne came to life so to speak at Ballybofey library in the month of July with various events held in her honour. As well as the exhibition on her life and works a storytelling event for young children held in the library on the July 9 and facilitated by local performer/workshop facilitator Katie Bradley, Balor Theatre. Katie read from *Granny's Wonderful Chair* and the children were then shown the exhibition that reveals most of the significant details of Frances's life.

These events at Ballybofey library were organised to run in conjunction with an innovative arts project carried out as part [Donegal County Council Public Art Programme](#). [Redmoon Company of Chicago](#), worked with local schoolchildren in a five-week residency and brought the work of Frances Browne to life by means of shadow puppetry and live animation. This project culminated in an illuminated animation performance on the front wall of the local Balor Theatre in Ballybofey on the evening of Saturday July 3rd.

The Frances Browne exhibition will run in Ballybofey library until the end of August.

Children's Art in Libraries Programme

Dublin City's [Arts Office](#) in collaboration with [Dublin City Public Libraries](#) is offering the children and young people of Dublin City the opportunity to participate in a range of arts projects that are as diverse as puppetry and architecture during the summer

After a series of successful pilot projects which took place in six different library venues around the city throughout May, the programme is to be rolled out across more libraries over the coming months.

A range of artists have been commissioned to create short-term art programmes that any child who lives in the city will have the opportunity to access.

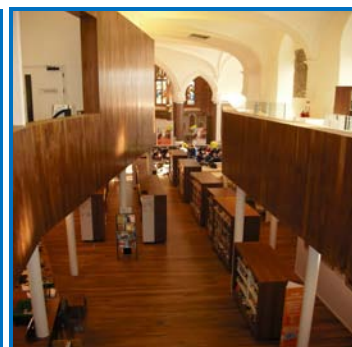
In addition to the art programmes which are taking place throughout the summer and autumn of 2010 the Arts Office has also commissioned a series of art and science workshops entitled *Imaginative Skies Workshop: Shiny Stars - Hidden Planets Pretty Comets* that will take place in the City's libraries during Science Week in November this year. Further information is available from the Arts Office: Tel: 01 222 7305 or e-mail: [Ann Marie Lyons](#).



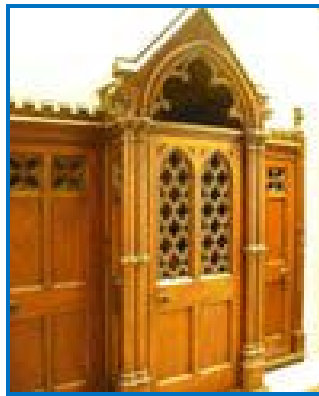
Residents rush to join new library

Rush Library, County Dublin, opened its doors on Monday July 12 2010 to an extremely enthusiastic local community and boasted approx 2,000 visitors on the first two days of opening!

[Rush library](#) is housed in the recently converted and restored St Maur's Church which dates back to 1835 and which itself was built on the site of an earlier 1760's Church. St Maur's functioned as a Church until 1989 when it was developed as an arts centre prior to today's function as a two storey state of the art public library with a vibrant young adult and an inviting junior section, adult lending, reference and local studies collections, a multipurpose meeting room, study spaces, free internet access PCs for adults, juniors and young adults and an attractive and very large exhibition space raised up on the former altar area.



The library, which retains many of the original church features and motifs, such as beautiful stained glass windows, side altars, altar and choir rails, was designed by [McCullough Mulvin Architects](#), and was the recent winner at the RIAI Irish Architecture Awards 2010 in the [Best Restoration / Conservation](#) category.



Confessional-Wired for Sound

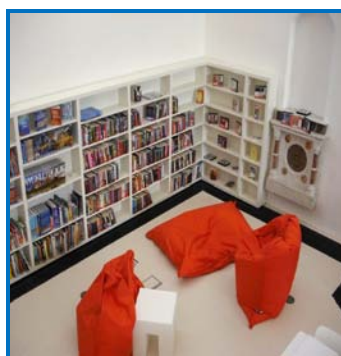
Confessional box transformed into

Initially the library, which houses a stock of over 28,000 items. (including the very latest Playstation, X box and Nintendo games), will open for 31 hours per week, over five days with two late evening openings on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Rush Library is the first Fingal library to be equipped with RFID self service technology with two customised self service units conveniently integrated into the American black walnut public desk, which sweeps the length of the building reflecting the surrounding seascape. Rush Library can already confirm a 90-95% uptake on self service and Fingal intends to build on this very high success rate by introducing RFID technology into [Blanchardstown Library](#), with the installation of four stand alone self service kiosks, by the end of July 2010.



First to use the self service technology in the new Rush Library.



Young Adults Section



The opening of Rush Library brings to nine the number of branch libraries operated by Fingal County Council.

Kildare County Council's Clocha Rince Library Project receives An Taoiseach's Public Service Excellence Award 2010

On July 8th, 2010, the project team, Ms. Breda Gleeson, County Librarian, Ms. Marian Higgins, Senior Executive Librarian, Ms. Caroline Farrell, Executive Librarian and Mr. Frank O'Meara, Principal, Clocha Rince National School, attended the ceremony at Dublin Castle to receive the award, with Mayor Brendan Weld accepting the [award](#) from An Taoiseach, Brian Cowen.



Frank O'Meara, Mayor Brendan Weld, Breda Gleeson

Clocha Rince Community Library was established in 2008. It is a unique initiative that was cultivated through consultation between Ms. Breda Gleeson, County Librarian for [Kildare Library & Arts Service](#), Mr. Frank O'Meara, Principal of Clocha Rince National School, and with support from the school's Board of Management, the local Parish Priest and the Department of Education and Science. Previously, research from a report that was commissioned for the Oak Partnership found that the area of North West Kildare had a deprivation score of 8, the maximum score being 10, and the national average being 5. The variables measured included unemployment, age dependency ratio, percentages of children leaving education at 16 years of age, proportion of lone parents, percentages of people involved in small farming and people in unskilled manual class. Working with this information, a strong belief emerged that provision of the library would help to redress the inequalities outlined above through accessible services that would also help to promote a culture of reading while placing the library at the heart of the community.

While maximizing the potential of the school building, its' accessible location to the wider rural population of North Kildare and the resources and expertise of Kildare Library & Arts Service, a

fusion of ideas resulted in the community library being established in the school. The library was officially launched on the 21st October, 2008 by Mr. Michael Kitt, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Through ongoing local projects that are based in the library environment, positive community relationships continue to be fostered, with library membership continuing to grow to over 500 people. The library has now become an integral service that provides access and opportunities to the cultivation of ideas, information, knowledge, life options and learning.

The project is an example of what can be achieved when innovation and partnership is encouraged between already established services, where ideas are met with initiative and where solutions that positively reach the goal of serving the community are realised. Kildare County Council is committed to using new ways of seeing and thinking to deliver better services and will utilize the continued learning from the Clocha Rince Project to look at ideas to provide community services to rural areas that would otherwise not be able to access them, crossing traditional boundaries, nurturing new relationships and delivering workable and cost effective services.

Rising to the challenge: Kilkenny Library celebrates the Six Book Challenge 2010

Kilkenny Libraries Six Book Challenge 2010 drew to a close last week with Irish author Mary Stanley presenting certificates to over 50 participants. The scheme is aimed at less confident adult readers, inviting them to read six books between January and June. This is the second year that the challenge has been run by Kilkenny Library Service, the first public library service in Ireland to take part in this scheme.



Six Book Challenge participants proudly display their certificates of achievement

Over 120 people registered to take part, with 105 actively participating in the challenge. “A great mix of people took part this year including adult learners from the Sudanese and Traveller communities” says Trish Nolan, course co-ordinator for the Library Service. Mary Stanley found the event to be a moving experience and says “I am so impressed by the programme you have created, the perseverance of everyone who participated and the efforts made by their supporters and tutors”.



Mary Stanley and the Six Book Challenge tutors

Last years challenge received a highly commended Star award from Aontas in recognition of outstanding service to adult learners. Those taking part have really enjoyed the experience, their sense of achievement and recognition of their efforts. From books on CD, to Quick Reads to novels and non-fiction titles the challenge has encouraged a variety of reading styles suited to the individual reader.

Gardening Together Programme Comes to an End.

Every Thursday for six weeks, eight groups of parents and children attended the *Gardening Together* classes at Gardenia, John Street, co-ordinated by Kilkenny County Library. The brainchild of Trish Nolan

at Kilkenny County Library, the programme was developed to encourage families back out into the garden and demonstrate just how easy it is to grow – and how much fun it can really be! On Thursday last the groups were presented with their certificates by RTÉ's Helen Carroll, and each received a surprise gift from Gardenia to encourage them to continue gardening.



Those who took part expressed their gratitude for the classes saying that they learned so much more than they had originally expected – professing that they were delighted to discover that it really is easy and fun to plant their own vegetables! “All of the parents and children who took part in this pilot programme have told us that they really enjoyed it, that they learned a lot and loved re-discovering the library as well as learning how to garden” says Trish, who is looking forward to being able to offer this course again next spring.



The course was facilitated by Gardenia, and a ground space donated by St. John's Primary School will be maintained by the pupils at the school over the coming months. Caitriona Byrne at Gardenia says "this was a wonderful project to be involved with and we are delighted that those who took part enjoyed it so much."

For those feeling inspired to learn a little more about growing their own garden, a full range of books is available from the library at John's Quay – right next door to Gardenia who have all the tools and plants you need to get started!

Gardening Diary by Sam Walsh & Eddy Oneck, students at Kilkenny Vocational School.

Two of the participants, Sam and Eddy kept a diary of what they learned. Here are a few of the entries:

22nd April 2010

Today we were introduced to Caitriona from Gardenia and Trish from the library. Firstly Trish went through waste, compost and recycling. Then we planted mustard and water grass inside egg shells, we were asked to pick an item of recycling and plant inside it, we were given supplies to make our own mini garden. We then went to the library and joined it.

29th April 2010

Today we planted carrots, beans, potatoes and lettuce. Then we brought the vegetables to the school using many trolleys and a pallet truck. And then we were given our pictures with the Mayor of Kilkenny, Malcolm Noonan.

13th May 2010

Today we started in the library and we planned our garden. Then we went to the garden and we dug the garden. We found a lot of chafer grubs and then we picked out the big rocks.

Kenny donates parliamentary debates to Mayo County Library

Fine Gael Leader, Enda Kenny, T.D., has donated his personal collection of Dáil debates to Mayo County Library.

The bound volumes of debates contain the official transcript of Dáil Éireann since the late 1970's and contain many interesting debates from the Dáil chamber over the years, including the contributions of the various Teachtaí Dála that have represented the Mayo constituency and the former constituency of Mayo West over the past three decades.

Deputy Kenny said: "I hope this gesture will make a serious contribution to those in the locality studying Irish politics and history as well as the general public that may have an interest in learning about the Dáil. The various volumes contain a wealth of information in hard-copy format and many interesting debates are contained in the donated volumes. I have always recognised the importance of increasing the public understanding of Dáil Éireann and politics in general; as a result, I hope this is a positive step toward improving that understanding. I know that people have access through the internet but it is also nice that people have access to the actual debate book and read it.

"I am grateful to Mayo County Librarian, Mr. Austin Vaughan, for his acceptance of the bound volumes which do require quite a deal of physical space, and that they are available in the [Castlebar Branch](#) of the Mayo Library Service," Deputy Kenny added.



Fine Gael Leader, Enda Kenny, TD and Mayo County Librarian, Austin Vaughan viewing the donation of Dáil debates at Castlebar Library

150th anniversary of the birth of Douglas Hyde

President McAleese hosted the annual Twelfth of July garden party at Áras an Uachtaráin. This year's event celebrated the cultural diversity of the island of Ireland and marked the 150th anniversary of the birth of Douglas Hyde, first President of Ireland who died on 12th July 1949.

A delegation from Roscommon County Council, including Mayor Cllr. Luke Flanagan, County Manager Mr. Frank Dawson, Director of Services Mr. Tommy Ryan, County Librarian Mr. Richie Farrell and Curator of the [Douglas Hyde Centre](#) Ms. Deirdre O'Gara attended the event.



Members of Roscommon County Council; L -R Frank Dawson, County Manager, Cllr Luke Flanagan, Mayor, Richie Farrell/A/Director of Services and Deirdre O' Gara, Curator, Douglas Hyde Centre at Áras an Uachtaráin for the President's 12th July garden party incorporating events to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Douglas Hyde.

Roscommon County Council was there to help celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Douglas Hyde. The exhibition at the Centre in Portahard, Frenchpark was upgraded, remodelled, reproduced and transported to the Áras along with a range of exhibition items from [Roscommon County Council Library Service's](#) Local Studies and Archive Collections for display.

As the first President of Ireland, the figure of Douglas Hyde was an integral part of the occasion where, apart from the exhibition, a series of entertainments, including musical and dramatic pieces relating to Hyde, were performed for over 250 guests from across all sections of the community both north and south.

The newly enhanced exhibition will be returning to Roscommon and will form part of the upgrading of the exhibition at Portahard, Frenchpark and members of the public and visitors to the county are urged in this special year of celebration of the life and work of Douglas Hyde to visit the centre.

Changed....

Changed, a book about the world was launched recently in [Roscommon County Council Library Services](#); this publication contains stories and illustrations by children and parents from the county. The programme which led to *Changed* involved the liaison of the parents and teachers in Elphin, Loughlynn and Liscaul National Schools, Co. Roscommon VEC, HSCL, County Roscommon Library Service and Kids' Own Publishing Partnership and was funded by the Department of Education through DEIS Funding.



Family learning is concerned with helping parents to support their children by increasing their own confidence and skills. *Changed* is part of this process and was accomplished after many hours of fun and hard work by both parents and children.

Second International Percy French Summer School

The **Second International Percy French Summer School**, a collaboration between Roscommon County Council: Library Services and Castlecoote House took place at, Roscommon from July 14-21 2010.

In his opening address, County Librarian Richie Farrell described the man as, *'...a remarkable figure, being blessed with range of talents and skills as a writer, raconteur, performer, painter, poet, musician to name but a few and it is only right and proper that we accord the due attention and regard to his work, legacy and memory though this school'*.

Whilst the Mayor of Roscommon, Cllr. Luke Flanagan referred to the event as *'...an important occasion in the cultural calendar of County Roscommon as it seeks to further develop this school as part of the rich cultural, heritage, historical and tourist orientated programme which takes place across the county on an annual basis. It is also serves to promote the profile of this remarkable, versatile and at times forgotten figure and to keep alive his work in the consciousness of the people'*.

The 2010 School featured contributions and performances from John Scally, Brian Leyden, Bryan Hoey, Toni Walsh, Mary O'Donnell, Siobhan Doyle, Philip Byrne, Phyllis Arnold, Brian Munn, Bernard MacLavery and the Roscommon Drama Group, under the expert guidance and direction of Mr. Tommy Murray, who performed a special piece for the launch in Roscommon Library. Roscommon County Council Library Services hosted a series of events throughout their branch locations in Roscommon, Ballaghaderreen, Boyle and the Arts Centre. The Library is also marked the occasion with a two-week-long exhibition entitled, *French Miscellany*.



Mayor Luke Flanagan and Richie Farrell (Roscommon Library), Cllr Paddy Kilduff, Cllr Laurence Fallon, Cllr Orla Leydon, Cllr Jimmy Kenny, Cllr Sean Beirne pictured at the launch of the Percy French Summer School held at Roscommon Library on Wednesday evening. Photo: www.hursonphotography.com

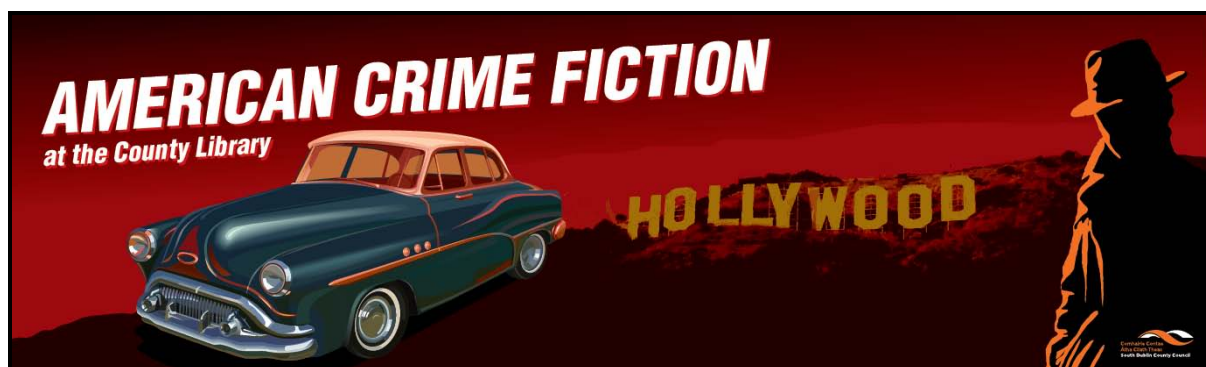


Roscommon Drama Group who performed at the launch of the Percy French Summer School held at Roscommon Library on Wednesday evening. Photo: www.hursonphotography.com

Reading promotion in South Dublin

South Dublin County Libraries have new book promotions to delight both adult and younger bookworms over the summer break.

Celebrate U.S.A. Independence day with an American Crime Read



Staff at the [County Library](#), Tallaght put together a new collection of American Crime Fiction which is on display in the library during the summer months. The collection includes some old friends but will also introduce readers to some new authors. Eye-catching bookmarks have been designed for the promotion which will run during July and August.

Books with Bite – a deadly choice for teenage readers!

Do you feel like Vampires are invading your life? Vampires are everywhere - from the TV Show *Vampire Diaries* to the world wide phenomenon that is the *Twilight Saga*. The [County Library](#), Tallaght has embraced the vampires and has put together a vampire book display for those of you who like *Books with Bite*. The display includes some custom-made *Twilight* bookmarks. Call to the library if you dare...

Space Hop – the summer reading challenge for children

South Dublin County Libraries are launching children into orbit for an intergalactical adventure that will keep them reading throughout the school summer holidays. [Space Hop](#) Summer Reading Challenge is simple – children are encouraged to read six or more books of their choice during the holidays with collectable incentives and rewards, plus a certificate for every child who completes the Challenge. This popular reading challenge is an important tool to inspire children to read in the long summer break from school when their reading skills can decline.



Bastille Day – Vive La France!

County Library Tallaght celebrated Bastille Day on July 14th with French Café music by Mick Flynn and Sean Gilligan, tasting sessions of French cheese and wine, followed by a screening of the film "Coco Before Chanel" directed by Anne Fontaine.

The large crowd attending were invited to browse a range of library materials with a French connection: travel guides, language courses, novels in French, translations of French novels and books set in France.

C'était très amusant – a very "French" good time was had by all!

South Dublin County Libraries sign up for SmartSM – Evidence Based Stock Management System

[South Dublin County Libraries](#) are the first Irish library authority to officially sign up for [SmartSM](#), followed by [Cork County Libraries](#).



SmartSM is an evidence-based stock management system. It assists librarians in making the management of stock more effective, more customer-focused, less wasteful, and more measured and performance based. EBSM is practiced by many library services across the globe, who are now able to demonstrate superior stock performance and realise the many time and money saving benefits that come from an evidence based improvement framework. More importantly it delivers the improvements in stock provision to meet ever increasing customer demands.

Bridgit Cribbin, Senior Executive Librarian with South Dublin County Libraries, said: "We are pleased to be the first library service in the Republic of Ireland to embrace EBSM provided by SmartSM. We are hoping that in these days of financial difficulty SmartSM will help us to maximise our stock budget and maintain or even improve our stock provision to our valued customers".

Sam Melbourne Launches Tipperary's GAA Archive Project

On Saturday last, 3 July, [Tipperary Studies](#), the local history library for Co. Tipperary, was proud and honoured to welcome Sam Melbourne and his family to their home in [The Source](#) on Cathedral Street in Thurles. To GAA folk of a certain vintage, Sam Melbourne's name is one synonymous with the memorabilia of the glorious days gone by, days lit up by the likes of Christy Ring and Mick O'Connell. During the course of his near 90 years Sam has seen and enjoyed the best to swing the ash and field the football, and his lifelong collection of GAA related material is testament not only to his own unique love for the games, but also the greatness of the Gaels that played them. Since his youth Sam has been an avid collector of all things GAA related, and every corner of the country – and the corners of some others abroad – have had, at some time or another, the pleasure of a visit from Sam's travelling GAA Museum. His store of hurleys, sliotars, jerseys, medals, miniatures, ticket stubs and scrapbooks form perhaps the most wide-ranging, comprehensive and well known gathering of GAA paraphernalia ever amassed. For the last number of years much of Sam's memorabilia collection has been on display in Thurles at [Lár na Páirce](#), the interpretive centre for Gaelic Games on Slievenamon Road and, on Saturday last, Tipperary Studies became the new home for his many folders of GAA press cuttings.



L-R: Sam Melbourne, Mary Guinan-Darmody, John O'Gorman

The collection dates back to the 1950s, and contains thousands of articles, reports and pictures concerning the activities of the Association over the course of the last half century or so. A casual browse through one of Sam's scrapbooks will provide the reader with reports of county, provincial and All Ireland fixtures at all grades and in every code, rare photographs of some of the well known (and not-so-well known) faces that have shaped the history of our Games throughout the 20th Century, and countless nuggets of fact and opinion as appeared in the media, both national and local. When the reader delves into Sam's decades old labour of love they are, in effect, transported back to the heady hurling and football summers of yore.

It is indeed fitting that Sam's collection of memorabilia, in Lár na Páirce, and his scrapbooks, in Tipperary Studies, have now found their way to his own former home of Thurles, and the birthplace of the GAA.

Sam Melbourne's presence in Thurles last Saturday had another purpose, as he also took the opportunity to launch a joint initiative between the Tipperary GAA County Board and Tipperary Libraries aimed at collecting and preserving the multitude of GAA memorabilia that has been amassed by GAA members over the course of the last 125 years. It is hoped that this appeal for archival material will unearth a wealth of GAA-related match programmes, books, photographs, annuals etc. which will be safely deposited among the archives in Tipperary Studies. This will then enable both GAA historians of every level, from the interested browser to the prospective author, to easily access the wealth of information that has been printed about our Games. If anyone has any material that they may be interested in donating to the archive we would be delighted if it could be dropped into your local Tipperary Libraries branch, of which there are 12 throughout the county. For more information please contact [PJ Maxwell](#), 087 9588233, or John O'Gorman, [Tipperary Studies](#), at 0504 29278.

Tipperary Reads Festival

Joseph O'Connor launched the 2010 *Tipperary Reads Festival* in Thurles Library, The Source on Saturday 17th July. This is the third year of the festival, which is going from strength to strength. Joe delighted the large crowd with a reading from his award winning novel *Star of the Sea* which is the focus novel for this year's festival. It has proven a very popular read with Tipperary Libraries members; in fact it was the most borrowed title for the month of June.



L- R: Lorraine Treacy (Thurles library), Joseph O'Connor, Marie Murphy (Chairman of Tipperary Joint Libraries Committee) and Martin Maher (County Librarian).

The reading was followed by a question and answer session, when readers were given the opportunity to pose all those burning questions they had been dying to ask. As well as answering questions relating to *Star of the Sea*, Joe also gave advice to aspiring writers on a variety of subjects including how to get published.

Joe will be returning to Tipperary Libraries for a number of discussion sessions on Friday 26th & Saturday 27th November. For more details log on to www.tipperarylibraries.ie

Delve deeply into your past...

Waterford City Council's [Central Library](#) is hosting a talk on family history and local studies research on Thursday August 26th at 3.30 p.m. as part of its [Heritage Week](#) programme. Wendy Quirke of Familysearch will give a presentation on how the public can use the [Familysearch](#) online catalogue to source relevant historical records and order these records to be viewed in Central Library. The library has ordered records such as the Waterford Gaol Registers and Petty Sessions of Waterford City 1851-1921 from the catalogue in the past, and now these records are part of our collection.

The [Familysearch](#) website allows the public to access genealogical information and to order microfilm to be sent to their local library for viewing. Central Library has recently become the only affiliate library in the south-east region, therefore allowing access to a great variety of historical information previously unavailable to people in the region.

Other Heritage Week events in the library service include the opening of the Anna Manahan exhibition (on loan from Dublin City Public Library and Archive), a paper making and book craft workshop, military history talks and much more...

Dublin City Librarian Deirdre Ellis-King Retires

Deirdre Ellis-King, who served as Dublin City Librarian since 1985, has retired.

The occasion of her retirement was marked by a reception in City Hall, Dame Street, on Tuesday 11th May 2010.

In attendance were the Lord Mayor, Councillor Emer Costello, City Manager John Tierney, Assistant City Manager Philip Maguire, Director of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna (Library Council) Norma McDermott, President of the Library Association of Ireland (LAI) Siobhán Fitzpatrick, Acting City Librarian Margaret Hayes and award-winning novelist Joseph O'Connor who gave a reading for the occasion. Also in attendance were her many colleagues, present and former, and library colleagues from around the country.



Deirdre served as President of the [Library Association of Ireland](#) (LAI) on two occasions, and as the nominee of the LAI on the board of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna (the Library Council), a position she held for 22 years. Deirdre also represented An Chomhairle on [COLICO](#) from 1993 to 1996.



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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