

IRISH | LIBRARY | NEWS

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Opening of Mullingar Library

On Thursday 11th June the Cathaoirleach of Westmeath County Council, Cllr. Joe Whelan, officially opened the new County Buildings in Mullingar. Situated in the heart of the town in one of the most historic areas of Mullingar (on the site of the old Jail) the 6,950 m² building will ensure enhanced standards of customer services by bringing a range of Council Services together under one roof with the library occupying a prominent and highly visible location within the development.

The building was designed by Bucholz McEvoy Architects and built by local firm Bennett Construction. It incorporates a sustainable building management environmental strategy which utilises low or passive energy designed concepts relying on a natural ventilation strategy throughout the building and maximisation of the use of natural light.

The first floor library is 847 m² and is fully accessible by ramp from Mount Street. When fully operational the library will have a stock capacity of 30,000 items.



At the opening of the new library and Civic Office are Cllr. Denis Leonard, Cathaoirleach Joe Whelan and Mary Farrell, CountyLibrarian

Opening of Mullingar Library (CONT'D)

→ | FROM COVER

The library incorporates:-

- adult and children's lending and reference services
- a dedicated teenage area
- exhibition/events space with seating capacity for 50 persons
- separate dedicated computer areas, offering access to internet, CD-ROM, Microsoft Office and language learning resources
- local studies department which houses a wide range of reference materials on the history and heritage of the county
- administrative offices for staff.

IT provision includes a suite of 16 dedicated public access computers.

The library is open to the public 44.5 hours per week, Monday to Saturday and currently has a staff compliment of six. **ILN**



Clockwise from above Local Studies, Desk and Childrens area, Teenage Area

↑ OPENING OF MULLINGAR LIBRARY

↓ BORROWING HABITS OF THE NATION

Borrowing habits of the nation

The new Public Lending Remuneration system has provided an opportunity to analyse public library borrowing patterns nationwide. The first phase of establishing the scheme includes the collection of data on library loans from Irish public libraries. The PLR Office has compiled the 'Top 10' list of most borrowed authors and titles for each month since January 2009. The complete 'Top 40' list of most borrowed authors and titles from January-June 2009 can be seen on the PLR website at www.plr.ie ~~for the~~

MOST BORROWED AUTHORS

January – June 2009

1. Francesca Simon
2. Jacqueline Wilson
3. Daisy Meadows
4. James Patterson
5. Maeve Binchy
6. J.K. Rowling
7. Stephenie Meyer
8. Cecelia Ahern
9. Cathy Kelly
10. Sheila O'Flanagan

Most Borrowed Titles

1. Official Driver Theory Test
Prometric/Road Safety Authority
2. Heart and Soul Maeve Binchy
3. This Charming Man Marian Keyes
4. The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas John Boyne
5. The Secret Scripture Sebastian Barry
6. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows
J.K. Rowling
7. My sister Jodie Jacqueline Wilson
8. Dracula Bram Stoker
9. Forgive and Forget Patricia Scanlan
10. A Thousand Splendid Suns Khaled Hosseini

An interesting aspect of the list is that only one of the titles in the Top 10, namely *The Official Driver Theory Test* is non-fiction stock with the other nine entries either children's literature or fiction. *The Official Driver Theory Test* was the most borrowed book in five of the six months; to date such Official publications are not eligible for payment.

It is evident that any concerted promotional effort by a particular library service can have a significant influence on the number of times a book is borrowed. Bram Stoker's *Dracula* was selected for Dublin City Library's *One City: One Book* in April and features at No.8 in the combined list.

Children's books continue to be very popular with Irish readers, however, one name dominates above all others and that is the prolific Francesca Simon, whose *Horrid Henry* series is going from strength to strength.

Irish authors Maeve Binchy, Cecelia Ahern, Cathy Kelly and Sheila O'Flanagan all feature in the Top 10 list.

James Patterson's success as the UK's Most Borrowed Author for the last two years reflects his popularity on both sides of the Irish Sea with the thriller writer placed at No.4 on our list. **ILN**

Grow your own customers

Last September journalist and author Michael Kelly called an open meeting of like-minded vegetable growers in Waterford City Council's Central Library and to his utter amazement 90 people turned up on the night. The group was a mix of young and not so young, old hands and complete beginners.

There were people with no garden at all and people with five acres. All were united by the fact that they wanted to get involved in producing their own food. As a result of that first meeting GIY or Grow it Yourself was formed.

Over the last year Michael and his group of food growers have worked in partnership with the library, holding monthly meetings (attended by almost 100 people!), experts have spoken on everything from keeping chickens and preparing your soil to making your own home brew. Many new users have found out about and started to use the library through the food grower's group.

Spurred on by the success of the group in Waterford City Council Central Library, networks have been established in Tramore and New Ross libraries. Michael is hoping that similar groups can form throughout Ireland with the library network ideally positioned to offer help and support.



Michael Kelly addressing the Grow it Yourself meeting in Waterford City Library

↑ ↓ GROW YOUR OWN CUSTOMERS

Meetings are free and open to people interested in food growing at all levels, i.e. from growing a few herbs on the balcony to complete self-sufficiency, from beginners to old hands. There are now five GIY networks in the southeast and many more in development nationwide.

Jane Cantwell, Waterford City Librarian says “the local library is usually an ideal venue for any individuals or groups who may be considering establishing local networks. As an added bonus, the library has a good range of books and magazines which would be of interest to food growers”.

Grow it Yourself will be launched at a conference hosted by Waterford Institute of Technology on September 12 2009. Details can be found at: <http://giyireland.com/>

Following the event, the GIY Ireland website (www.GIYIreland.com) will be a one-stop shop for people interested in finding out about GIY networks in their area and will provide local networks with the information and materials (e.g. leaflets, grower's calendars etc) to make their network a success

GIY Ireland is planning to establish at least one network in every county in the next 12 months by finding ‘local champions’ to set up a network in their area. The organisers are particularly keen to invite people who are interested in establishing a network in their area. The organisation will provide these local champions with the necessary help and support they need to get a successful network up and running. They are also interested in hearing from existing food growers groups that might be interested in becoming part of GIY Ireland.

Given the very positive experiences to date, the local library has proven to be an ideal venue for these network meetings. **ILN**

Kilkenny Libraries

When staff in Kilkenny Libraries organised their Bealtaine Programme they thought of the past, present and the future for their over 55's audience. They organised an intergenerational exhibition where the children approached older members of their family and friends and asked for photos of events, people and places and an explanation of the photos. The result was a photo/essay exhibition with subjects ranging from great grand fathers in France during WW 1 to the blessing of a new local grotto 50 years ago. The photo of the new railway bridge in Castlecomer is 150 years of age but the child knows the street as the place that the New Year Wellie Race – a local charity event - takes place every year. The exhibitions took place in Castlecomer and 3 other libraries in the county.

Loughboy library ran an information evening on Hip and Knee Arthritis hosted by a consultant orthopaedic surgeon and his multi-disciplinary team. Later in the month author Breda Gardner, gave a talk on “The use of complementary medicine and positive thinking in a changing environment. To round off good ideas for the present, Edward Hayden, author of the cookbook “Edward Entertains” gave a cookery demonstration in 2 libraries.



Over 55's in a class on getting started with your mobile phone

↑↓ KILKENNY LIBRARIES



The new access ramp at the front door of Carnegie Library



Comedian Ricky Grover

“txt msg classes n@d lib” was a headline which baffled over 55's before they undertook classes in the library on getting started with your mobile phone. These classes were organised in collaboration with Age Action Ireland. Volunteers showed older people the basics of their mobiles and opened up a whole new world for them. Computer classes in the libraries along similar lines were also started with the assistance of Age Action Ireland.

The new access ramp to the front door of the Carnegie Library in Kilkenny City was available just in time for Bealtaine. It is finished in Kilkenny limestone. It carries babes in buggies and readers in wheelchairs into a building that was unavailable to them until now. The layout also includes a new pedestrian crossing.

Comedian Ricky Grover took time out from his busy schedule at the Cat Laughs this weekend to meet with some adult learners at the City Library, Johns Quay. Ricky has difficulty with reading and writing and shared his experiences with the group. Now a well known comedian and actor he feels that he is in a good position to highlight the subject and promote better understanding and acceptance of reading and writing difficulties. Ricky spoke openly about his experiences and this was followed by a lively discussion with the group, a very enjoyable time was had by all. **ILN**

OFFALY COUNTY LIBRARY
SERVICE TURNS BOYS
INTO BOOKS

The Boys into Books reading challenge began as a pilot in Birr Library in January 2009. After speaking to the 6th class boys from a local school, it was clear that boys have problems finding “good” books. They could only see the shiny pink covers that were obviously girlie books!

It was decided by the librarian, Martina Needham, that a special section be created for the boys. The boys selected the books to be put in “their” space. There is no official signage to indicate this is a section for boys but word of mouth has ensured the success of this area.

The boys agreed to undertake the Boys into Books reading challenge – 16 books in a 16 week period – “one book every week”.

Mr. Niall Cropton, the class teacher, was very supportive of the project and the class visited the library every three weeks. Every boy was issued a “boy into books”

award card. They received a stamp for every book borrowed. The date of issue and the due date of the book were recorded on the award card.

On the 5th June 2009; 26 boys from 6th class – St. Brendan’s National School received a special award of achievement in the council chambers of Birr Civic Offices and Library. The awards were presented by Olwyn Enright T.D. and the County Librarian Mary Stuart. In total, the boys read 456 books in the 16 week period. This achievement is more astonishing considering that the boys were preparing for their confirmation and other local commitments including preparation for the Féile na nGael, which took place in Birr on June 20th.

The Boys into Books project will be regular activity for the 6th class in St. Brendan’s National School and has been timetabled into their class work.

In September 2009, the library will launch their reading challenge for girls – *Girl Power*. It was decided that this project would remain a 6th class project and would last for a 16 week period.



Mary Stuart, Niall Cropton and Olwyn Enright, T.D.



Certificate of achievement



Can't stop now...

↑ OFFALY

↓ CORK COUNTY

CORK COUNTY LIBRARY
AND ARTS SERVICE



Annie Proulx

This year’s *West Cork Literary Festival* which ran from 5th – 11th July in Bantry was the 11th year of a festival of writers and writing which has gone from strength to strength. Cork County Library and Arts Service has been the major sponsor of this Festival from its beginnings as a fringe element of the West Cork Music Festival. It has grown to a vibrant one week independent festival, with a line up of authors and literary talent to rival any comparable event. The undoubted

star attraction this year was the reclusive, Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Annie Proulx, whose reading on the first night of the festival attracted a capacity crowd of 500 people. Annie read from her new collection of stories and then engaged the audience in a two way question and answer session, as her current research is into early West Cork settlers who went to her literary homeland of Wyoming in the 19th century.

But while you could rub shoulders throughout the week with Annie Proulx on the streets of Bantry, this festival is not only about big names and international stars of the literary world. The new artistic director of the festival, Sinead Collins who is Library Arts Officer with Cork County Library & Arts Service had put together an excellent and varied workshop programme. Ferdia MacAnna was giving participants secrets of writing for the screen, Martina Devlin worked with fledgling writers in the *Novel for Beginners* workshop, while Manchán Magan was making exotic and dangerous locations accessible in his travel writing workshop entitled *The Gospel of Vagabondage*.

This is only a small sample of the workshops which among others also included five day sessions on poetry, stage writing, food writing, radio writing and a three day song writing workshop with Jack L. Jack L’s protégés were then prevailed upon to perform their newly composed songs to an appreciative audience at the *Bedtime Story* ‘open mike’ session which went on in the Maritime Hotel each night of the festival.

A huge success at this year’s festival again was the children’s events, a capacity crowd of *Horrid Henry* fans queued patiently to get a chance to meet Francesca Simon after her reading, and Darren Shan had his large audience enthralled. The children’s workshop programme kept young participants happy, and P.J. Lynch gave a master-class in illustration to a lucky few. The exhibition strand of the festival saw Bantry hosting a showing of P.J. Lynch’s original drawings and Niamh Sharkey also exhibited in Bantry library, alongside a unique artwork *The Glass Book*, which was commissioned by Cork County Library, and is a multi-media book which writes and animates itself.

There were many free events as usual at the festival in a number of locations, and Bantry library saw almost 1,200 people attend readings and talks which included Irish writers like Julie Parsons, Billy Roche, Dermot Bolger, Derek Mahon and many others. Ruth Flanagan, County Librarian, commented at the launch that the hard work in staging all these library events and co-ordinating much of the rest of the festival was a credit to Bantry librarian, Noel O’Mahony and his staff and to the County Arts Office and Arts Officer Ian McDonagh. So a week including poetry and music from Roger McGough, Lera Auerbach and Louis De Bernieres, mixed with some home truths from Nell McCafferty, came to an end. The festival team were very pleased with its success and look to build on this for the future.

CLARE COUNTY LIBRARY

An Evening with Great Irish Writers takes place at Scariff Library, Co. Clare at 8 pm on Tuesday 25th August when actor and radio/TV performer, Neil O'Shea, will be performing his one-man show in an event marking Heritage Week. The show highlights the richness of our literary heritage as Neil brings us on a journey through the writings of some of Ireland's most famous authors. The performance has a great emphasis on humour (and a sprinkling of the more serious and lyrical) with short extracts by many internationally known writers such as Jonathan Swift, Oscar Wilde, G.B. Shaw, W. B. Yeats, J.M. Synge, Sean O'Casey, Percy French and more. Contact Scariff Library on 061 922 893.

Further information about the library can be found on the Library Buildings database (www.librarybuildings.ie).

DUBLIN CITY LIBRARIES

The Kenyan Ambassador to Ireland, Her Excellency Catherine Muigai Mwangi accepted a gift of over 4,500 books (which includes 2,000 children's books) from Dublin's Lord Mayor Emer Costello at Cabra Bibliographic Centre on June 24th. The book donation is part of an initiative proposed by the Kenyan Ambassador seeking to develop closer friendship relations between Nairobi and Dublin. The provision of books to the library system in Nairobi was seen as an opportune first step in developing projects between these capital cities. The books, donated by Dublin City Libraries, are destined for the public libraries in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi.

As part of Dublin's Internationalisation programme, Dublin City Council is working to build practical co-operation with cities in the developing world. The Global Hands programme of Dublin is an umbrella term that covers practical projects that support and build capacity in developing cities.

Within that framework of sharing, Dublin City Librarian Deirdre Ellis – King identified the opportunity to donate books to a developing city.

Ambassador Mwangi expressed on behalf of the Mayor and the People of Nairobi gratitude for the good gesture of true friendship by Dublin City Council.

CORK CITY LIBRARIES

The Grúpa Tuistí agus Leanaí recently established in the Children's Library, Grand Parade,

was presented with toys and information on Friday 12 May by the national organisation Comhluadar [<http://www.comhluadar.ie/>].

The organisation supports families raising children with Irish. The City Library group will feature in a television programme which will be aired on a local community station, DCTV in Dublin and Cork. The programme will showcase the different activities parents and children participate in throughout the country.



↑ CLARE

↓ LEITRIM

↑ DUBLIN

↑ CORK CITY

LEITRIM COUNTY LIBRARY

A lecture titled *The School's Folklore Project of 1937-38* was presented by Mary Conefrey, Assistant Librarian, Leitrim County Library during the annual *John McKenna Traditional Festival*, Drumkeerin Co. Leitrim. Mary spoke about the Department of Irish Folklore and gave some background as to how and why the project came about in 1937. She outlined some of the guidelines and subject headings followed by

teachers, pupils and contributors, as well as emphasising the importance of the material gathered. She then narrowed the focus on the local area, where in 1937; there were 11 Schools in Inishmagrath and 7 Schools in Killargue Parishes. One essay from each of these Schools was demonstrated to the crowd and various topics were covered. The Leitrim pages of this fascinating material, in the original handwritten format are preserved on microfilm at the County Library in Ballinamore.



Mary Conefrey, Assistant Librarian, Leitrim County Library pictured with Annie Conlon (McTiernan), Lugnaskeehan N.S., Mary Hazlett (Flanagan), Ardvarney N.S. and Maura McNiffe (Murphy), Lugnaskeehan N.S., all three ladies were participants of the 1937/38 Project

A warm welcome was given to two former pupils of Lugnaskeehan National School, Annie McTiernan (Conlon) and Maura Murphy (McNiffe) who were joined by Mary Flanagan (Hazlett) a former pupil of Ardvarney School. Annie had written in 1937 about old houses based on information she collected from 80 year old Michael Gallagher of Buckhill Barr, while Maura wrote about how potatoes were grown on her home farm, which she collected from Francis Murphy. Mary Flanagan told of the happenings around the Fairy Fort in Gortatresk, which was close to her home in Cashel, Dromahair as told to her by her mother.

In conjunction with the lecture, current senior pupils from Creevelea, Drumkeerin and Tarmon Primary Schools had each written an essay using the guidelines of the original project. All of this work was displayed on the night, they were judged by Mr Tom Hyde who selected a winner from each school.

DUNDALK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY LIBRARY



Staff members at Dundalk Institute of Technology Library pictured at the recent awards ceremony for the Fás Excellence Through People Standard accreditation.

Dundalk Institute of Technology Library has achieved Excellence Through People Accreditation from Fás (Training & Employment Authority).

The Library is the first unit of the Institute to be awarded EtP and also the first Institute of Technology Library to achieve the accreditation.

LOUTH COUNTY LIBRARIES

launched 'Quest Seekers' its 3rd Summer Reading campaign for children in July. This year the theme is all about the power of the imagination.

The challenge offers incentives and rewards to participating children who visit their local library over the summer. Upon completion of the challenge the children will be presented with certificates to mark their achievement.



Two Quest Seekers

It is hoped that the children will read a wider variety of material, will share their reading with others, discuss the books read and that their reading confidence and creativity will grow as a result of taking part in the challenge. It is also hoped that children will discover the joy of reading and that the experience will nurture a life-long love of books and a quest for knowledge.

DARWIN, PRAEGER AND THE CLARE ISLAND SURVEYS

Darwin, Praeger and the Clare Island Surveys is the title of the latest exhibition at the Royal Irish Academy. The exhibition celebrates the 150th anniversary of the publication of Darwin's *Origin of Species* and the 100th anniversary of the start of the Clare Island Survey.

Highlights from the Royal Irish Academy Library's rich natural history collections and exhibits from collections of the National Botanic Gardens and the Natural History Museum, among others, are used to tell the story of how Darwin came by his ideas and how Robert Lloyd Praeger and his co-workers on the Clare Island Survey strove to investigate some of the questions at the heart of Darwin's work, 'throwing light on the question of island life and the problems of dispersal'.

The findings of the first surveys, together with the work of the modern New Survey of Clare Island (1992–2009), provide unique insights into the increasingly important issues of turnover of species, climate change and loss of habitat.

The exhibition which runs from July 2–10 and July 20 – December 14 2009 is accompanied by a series of free lectures (see www.ria.ie for details).

A new book, also called *Darwin, Praeger and the Clare Island Surveys*, amplifies the themes of the exhibition through contributions by Peter Bowler, Timothy Collins, Thomas Duddy, Matthew Jebb, Greta Jones, Conleth Manning and Martin Steer.

↓ NATIONAL LIBRARY

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND

- Heritage Week 2009: Tours of the exhibition *Yeats: the life and works of William Butler Yeats* focusing on the theme of 'Yeats and Myths' will take place in the National Library at 1pm on 24, 25 and 26 August.
- Match Attax to Manuscripts: Young Collectors Workshop, 27 August from 11.30am – 1pm. Suitable for children 7 – 13 yrs. In this workshop one of the Library's conservators will show young collectors some of the methods used to take care of the Library's collections, and will suggest practical methods that children can use to look after their own collections. Admission free, but booking is essential. To reserve a place, please T: (01) 603 0277.

↑ LOUTH

MARSH'S LIBRARY

Beware the Jabberwock! an exhibition of books on the animal kingdom in Marsh's Library was opened by Dr Martin Mansergh, T.D., Minister of State, on Tuesday June 30 2009.

The title comes from the nonsense poem about odd creatures in Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. The books have splendid woodcuts and engravings, There are books by famous 16th and 17th-century writers on natural history, covering exotic birds, butterflies and bees, elephants, horses, cats and tigers, reptiles and sea monsters. The exhibition includes many volumes by the Italian writer Ulisse Aldrovandi, whose magnificent work on natural history is regarded as the greatest zoological compendium of the early 17th century.

↓ MARSH'S LIBRARY

The bird of paradise is shown in the massive encyclopaedia by the 16th-century Swiss writer Conrad Gesner. Other well known early writers on natural history on display in this exhibition are Thomas Moffett, the Comte de Buffon and Gulielmus Rondelet. Rondelet's 'Monkfish' and 'Bishopfish' are both illustrated wearing their full clerical attire! Oliver Goldsmith's *Animated Nature* is represented in the first Irish edition, published in Dublin in 1777.

↑ CLARE ISLAND SURVEYS

The Exhibition is open to the public during the Library's normal working Hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri.: 9.30–1.00 and 2.00–5.00; Sat: 10.00–1.00. (Closed Tues. & Sun.) It will continue until Spring 2010.

Dr. Mansergh also formally launched the book *Marsh's Library: a Mirror on the World – Law, Learning and Libraries, 1650–1750*, proceedings of the Tercentenary Conference held in Marsh's Library on June 30 2009.



Pictured in Marsh's Library at the opening of the 'Beware the Jabberwock!' exhibition' and the launch of the 2007 conference papers volume 'Marsh's Library: a Mirror on the World' are (left to right) the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Reverend Dr. John Neill, Dr. Muriel McCarthy, Keeper of Marsh's Library and Dr. Martin Mansergh T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism with special responsibility for the Arts.

August 2009

23–27

Libraries create futures: building on cultural heritage

IFLA World Library and Information Congress: 75th IFLA General Conference and Council, Milan.

Details: <http://www.ifla.org/annual-conference/ifla75/>

September 2009

23

Safe Evacuation for All

The National Disability Authority and the Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) (Fire Risk Management Section) are hosting a one-day conference on “Safe Evacuation for All” at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Northwood, Santry on 23rd September, 2009.

This event will provide practical advice on planning for the safe evacuation of all building users, including people with disabilities. The conference fee (including lunch) will be €50 per person, with a concession rate of €40 for people with disabilities, staff of disability representative organisations and IOSH members.

Further details can be seen at: <http://tinyurl.com/safeevac>

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Culture Night

See: <http://www.culturenight.ie/detail.asp?ID=192>

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European Day of Languages

October 2009

1

All Ireland Poetry Day

7–9

Impact, Inclusion, Information: the value of libraries in their communities

Public Library Authorities Conference, Bristol.

Details: <http://www.cilip.org.uk/groups/plg/pla2009/>

15–16

Internet Librarian International Novotel London West, London, UK.

Details: <http://www.internet-librarian.com/2009/>

November 2009

5

Print and legitimation in 1916: the activities of Joseph Mary Plunkett by Professor W.J. McCormack, Keeper, Edward Worth Library: the 21st Hugh M. Fitzpatrick Lecture in Legal Bibliography to be held in the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Dublin. Further details are available from Hugh M. Fitzpatrick, 9 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2.

T: 01 269 2202; F: 061 9239;

E: hmfitzpa@tcd.ie

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RFID Libraries 2009

King's Place, King's Cross, London.

Details: <http://www.cilip.org.uk/interests/rfid/rfid2009/programme.html>

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SLARI presents Nicola Morgan

author of *Blame my brain: the amazing teenage brain revealed*, and many other titles. Further details will

be available on the SLARI website

soon: <http://www.slari.ie> or contact secretary@slari.ie

↑ CALENDAR

↓ MEATH

↓ CONTACT

Meath County Council Library Service

Meath County Council Library Service (Local Studies Department) and Meath Heritage Office organised a one-day heritage seminar titled *Meath: Landscape and People in Trim* Castle Hotel on Saturday, 11th July 2009.

The three presentations in the morning and the three case studies in the afternoon delivered a very interesting day. Kevin Brady, Business Development and Marketing manager with the Ordnance Survey of Ireland, opened proceedings with *Mapping Meath with the Ordnance Survey (1837-2009)*. He provided an overview of the technology which the Ordnance Survey of Ireland has employed to map the country and the advances in making that mapping available to a growing audience through the public library service and the worldwide web.

Professor Patrick J. Duffy, Associate Professor of Geography, NUI Maynooth, who lectures in cultural and historical geography, spoke on *Heritage and History: Exploring Landscape and Place in Meath*. Dr. Duffy presented his idea of the landscape as one of the most important facts of our lives and its significance to our sense of identity.

The morning sessions were concluded by Kevin V. Mulligan, whose presentation was titled *The County Houses and Demesne Landscapes of Meath*.

The afternoon case studies allowed speakers to delve in greater detail into their own areas of interest in Meath's landscape and people. Dr. Liam McNiffe, principal of St. Patrick's College, Cavan, presented his work on *Williamstown House & Townland*, tracing settlement in the area close to Kells from early Christian times, with particular focus on the period 1670-2003.

The second case study delivered by Antoine Giacometti and Steven McGlade, consultants with Archaeological Technology Ltd., presented the Meath Industrial Heritage Survey (MIHS), a database of 1,705 features of industrial heritage interest in Meath. The project was commissioned by Meath County Council and The Heritage Council in 2008 with the aim of producing a searchable digital inventory of industrial sites in the county.

The seminar concluded with an update on the *Meath Fieldnames Survey* from John McCullen, author, historian and farmer.

The Seminar was funded by The Heritage Council and delivered free of charge to over 85 delegates. The intention is that this Landscape and People themed-seminar will be an annual summer event.

Next Issue

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

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