

IRISH | LIBRARY | NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2008 · #285

CORK COUNTY LIBRARIES 2

CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL 2008 2

West Cork Literary Festival

The West Cork Literary Festival's 10th anniversary in Bantry from July 6th-12th was marked by an exciting programme, with a variety of new events added to those which have made the Festival so successful to date.

Bantry Library's new bunting, both inside and outside the building, featured photographs of the participating authors.

There was an extra day included this year, making six full days of readings, workshops, seminars, children's events, exhibitions and music. The stellar line-up of more than 50 authors who took part in this year's Festival was headed by Joseph O'Connor, Colin Dexter, Colum McCann, Paul Durcan and Dervla Murphy. The latter alone attracted over 300 people to the Maritime Hotel in Bantry.

The Festival has always been driven by a very strong workshop programme. In 2008, the number of five-day workshops for aspiring writers was increased, with twelve workshops for adults, including *The Thriller*, *The Novel*, *The Short Story*, *Poetry*, *Writing for Women*, *Playwriting* and *Song writing*. The afternoon seminars also proved very popular with the one on *Spirituality*, jointly conducted by John Waters and Michael McCarthy, making a big impression. The scope of these seminars was broadened to encompass a *Masterclass* with Colum McCann and talks that



The bedecked Bantry Library

merged the arts, for example, sculptor Rowan Gillespie spoke about how the written word acts as a source of inspiration to the artist.

The *Bedtime Story* was an innovation introduced this year which was a shot in the dark that turned into a huge success, with attendances of up to 70 people each night in the Maritime and Bantry Bay Hotels. The format of one person starting it off and then an "open microphone" worked well and, as the week progressed, the number of people gaining confidence in their public reading, and in their work, was one of the big successes of the Festival.

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Cork County Libraries

With record rainfall and beaches deserted this July and August, children and parents alike, were just delighted to enjoy the activities of the Summer Arts Festival at Cork County Libraries. This annual summer festival, now in its seventh year, offers a varied range of high quality arts activity to young people in libraries during their school holidays. This year's programme was hectic and fun-filled with an exciting mix of authors, workshop-based activities and live performances. There were over 100 events in 28 libraries with 27 professional artists working throughout July and August.



Highlights of the festival included storyteller Billy Teare in guises ranging from chicken hypnotist to jester! Storyteller Amy Kerwin, from Chicago told young children stories and the children had great fun taking a story, adapting it for 'stage', making scenery and concluding the workshop with a performance.

Cork based Downtcha Puppets performed their new show and Miriam Lambert of the Lambert Family Theatre Company came, accompanied by *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*.

The Cork Textiles Network brought together some of Cork's finest craft workers. Marie Brett helped children in libraries throughout the county to draw, paint and decorate wooden picture frames decorated with glitter, foam, feathers and sequins.

Margie Milenkiewicz had the children wearing goggles and flippers and taking a dive into the ocean. They were mesmerised with deep tales of pirates, lost treasures and mermaids and each child created their own sea animal aquarium to take home. Their sea plunge workshop ended with a snack of ocean biscuits and seahorse juice as they listened to dolphin music on their own private beach and enjoyed a bit of bubble blowing.

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↑ CORK COUNTY LIBRARIES

↓ CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL 2008

Children's Book Festival 2008

Children's Book Festival 2008 will run from October 1-31 2008, with over 1,500 events expected to take place nationwide to celebrate children's books and encourage reading amongst children and teenagers.

The Festival will start on Wednesday 1st October when *Skulduggery Pleasant* creator Derek Landy will be kicking things off in scary style at a special launch event in Dublin. Children will be invited to attend the launch dressed as their favourite *Skulduggery* character, with a prize for the best costume.

New initiatives for 2008 will include the participation of Cumann Scríbhneoirí Óga is Úra na Gaeilge in writing projects with children from their local area, a touring exhibition of artwork from Amnesty International's forthcoming title *We Are All Born Free*, partnership events between CBI and the Octocon Science Fiction Convention and a cross-border tour of children's authors and illustrators from Poland.

After almost two decades of faithful service, the 'Design a Bookmark Competition' has been gracefully retired to make way for an exciting new 'Design A Book Cover' competition, sponsored by The O'Brien Press. For details of how to enter see www.childrensbooksireland.ie or contact your local library or schools.

The Festival website, part of the main Children's Books Ireland's website, will be going live in September. Schools, libraries and bookshops can order festival promotion packs from the CBI office. For more information see the CBI website or contact Jenny Murray on (01) 872 7475 or email Jenny@childrensbooksireland.ie to place an order.

The Children's Book Festival also publishes *Book Fest – The Recommended Reading Guide*, which will be available in most libraries and bookshops beginning mid-September.

For further information, please contact Tom Donegan
T: +353 1 872 7475; E: tom@childrensbooksireland.ie
W: www.childrensbooksireland.ie ILN



Eiléan Ní Chuilleanain



Bernard O'Donoghue

West Cork Literary Festival

→ | FROM COVER

It was the first year of a full side-by-side Children's Festival, with events each afternoon at St. Brendan's School which featured readings by different children's authors such as Marita Conlon-McKenna, Oisín McGann and Derek Landy. There were workshops for ages from 4-14, timed so that parents could attend their own events.

The library hosted its usual exhibition in conjunction with the festival which, this year, was a very special event. Well-known photographer, John Minihan, has attended the Festival over many years and has photographed many of the participating authors. This exhibition was appropriately titled *Ten Years On* and featured such writers as Seamus Heaney, Michael Hartnett, Dermot Healy and Pat McCabe.

The two main venues, Bantry Library and the Maritime Hotel had combined audiences of about 2,600 people. Increasing the number of quality events with high profile writers also created a good momentum.

The West Cork Literary Festival is sponsored by Cork County Council Library and Arts Services, and also receives support from the Arts Council. [ILN](#)

↓ IPRIN CONFERENCE

↑ WEST CORK LITERARY FESTIVAL

Oireachtas Library & Research Service hosts IPRIN conference



At the conference (from l-r) Mr Rob Clements (Director of Research, House of Commons Library), Mr Kieran Coughlan (Secretary General, Houses of the Oireachtas, and Clerk of the Dáil), Ms Madelaine Dennison (Head of Library and Research Services, Houses of the Oireachtas).

The annual IPRIN (Inter-Parliamentary Research and Information Network) conference took place at the Houses of the Oireachtas, July 9-11. IPRIN serves as a forum for parliamentary research and information service staff in the islands of Britain and Ireland and Crown dependencies to exchange ideas, information and knowledge in order to develop and improve efficiency, effectiveness and quality of service to Members.

This was the first time that the Oireachtas Library & Research Service had hosted this event. Over 50 delegates attended; from the Houses of the Oireachtas, House of Commons, House of Lords, National Assembly for Wales, Northern Ireland Assembly, Scottish Parliament, and Isle of Man Tynwald.

The keynote address was provided by Ms Catriona Crowe, Senior Archivist, National Archives, who spoke about the digitisation of the 1911 Census. The conference's nine workshops provided an opportunity to discuss a wide variety of topics including the provision of library/research services in a changing procedural environment, geographic information systems, enquiry tracking systems, developing client relationships and copyright/attribution. An enhanced IPRIN website was launched at the conference, this will facilitate increased co-operation between the various parliamentary library/research services. An IPRIN Annual Review publication is disseminated to network members following each conference. [ILN](#)

MEATH COUNTY LIBRARY'S

Oldcastle Branch hosted a unique mixed media exhibition by ten artists from around the country as part of the recent *Le Chéile Arts*



Noelle Harrison leads the panel discussion.

and Music Festival. The exhibition, *A Womb of One's Own* explored the symbolic significance of the womb to women in twenty first century Ireland. The exhibition opening included a discussion by a panel of artists and writers.

ITMA AT 21

A celebration to mark the 21st anniversary of the foundation of the Irish Traditional Music Archive (ITMA) / Taisce Cheol Dúchais Éireann was held in 73 Merrion Square, Dublin on Tuesday July 29 2008.

As one of a number of events to mark this anniversary, a new internet initiative of the Archive which begins to make its unique catalogues available via the Internet was launched by Dr Olive Braiden, Chair of the Arts Council/ An Chomhairle Ealaíon.

This initiative is in two parts:

- The ITMA's holding of information has been organised since 1987 on unique locally online computer catalogues, which now contain over half a million content items and are available to visitors to the Archive. A programme has begun of making these catalogues available world-wide and free of charge on the Internet via the ITMA's existing website www.itma.ie.

- Since the 1990s the Archive has been digitising its vulnerable sound recordings, printed materials and visual materials, for preservation and for public access. A programme of making copyright-free selections of these digitised materials available via the ITMA website has now also begun, free of charge, and will continue in two-monthly increments.

For further information contact the Archive at 73 Merrion Square, Dublin 2
T 01 661 9699 F 01 662 4585
E admin@itma.ie W www.itma.ie

MARSH'S LIBRARY

In the article on the library buildings database in *Irish Library News* #283 reference was made to Dundalk Library being the first public library in Ireland. Whereas Dundalk Library was the first public library to be provided by a local authority, Marsh's Library holds the honour of being the first public library in Ireland, founded, as it was, by the Archbishop in 1701. **ILN**

↑ MEATH

↓ READATHON

↓ LEITRIM

↑ ITMA/CORRECTION

MS READATHON 2008

The MS READaTHON is a chance for children to read books, raise money for MS, AND be in with a chance of winning prizes!

The sign-up period for this year's MS READaTHON will start at the beginning of September, with the reading period running from October 17 until November 17.

In 2007 31,000 young readers aged 6-16 raised over €1.4 million for those living with MS in Ireland. Since 1988, when the MS READaTHON was first held in Ireland, over €10 million has been raised.

Schools can compete for the *Winning Schools Trophies* and for thousands of euros worth of books with which to update their school libraries. There are prizes for teachers and librarians too. In addition, ten per cent of the money raised in each school can be kept to buy books or reading aids for the school.

The enrolment period begins at the start of September. Children can sign up individually to take part, and/or schoolteachers can sign their classes up. Schools can sign up by filling out the entry forms that they will all receive in September. Individuals can pick up entry forms from their local library or bookshop, which will also be available from that time.

For more information visit www.msreadathon.ie or
T: 1850 650 950.

SEÁN MACDIARMADA'S PERSONAL POSSESSIONS

Leitrim County Council has recently purchased a number of items which belonged to Seán MacDiarmada, a signatory of the 1916 Proclamation and one

of Leitrim's most famous sons. The items purchased were his leather travelling case, an original mounted photograph of him taken in 1904 and three newspapers from the 1907–1913 period. These items are now held at the County Library, Ballinamore.



Pictured at the unveiling of the items: Martin Morris, County Archivist, Jackie Maguire, Leitrim County Manager, Damian Brennan, who was Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council at the time of unveiling, Seán O Suilleabhain, Leabharlannaí, Mary Conefrey, Local Studies, Leitrim County Library, Orla Parkinson, Kiltyclogher Library, Gabrielle Flynn, Executive Librarian, Leitrim County Library and Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Community and Enterprise, Leitrim County Council.

OBITUARIES

It is with sadness that we mark the passing of two colleagues who did much to shape the public library service in the latter half of the last century.



Maurice Flynn, F.L.A.I. former librarian of Limerick city, died in St. John's Hospital, Limerick on Wednesday April 16 2008. Maurice had been ill since Christmas 2007.

A native of Abbeyfeale, Maurice (or Mossie) as he was known, attended both Primary & Secondary School in his native town. He was an excellent Handball Player and won many championship medals. He began his career in libraries with Limerick County Library Service in 1955 with the then County Librarian, Daniel Doyle. While there he met his wife to be, Joan Liston. They married in

1961 and had two children Anne and Gerard.

Maurice studied for and received his Fellowship from the Library Association of Ireland and later became a Tutor to many students who were studying for the same Fellowship. He was involved in the L.A.I. as a member of the Executive Board and also as Chair for the County & City Librarians' Section.

He was promoted as Assistant Librarian to Galway County Library Service in 1964. He was appointed County Librarian, Wexford County Council in 1967. In 1970 he moved west of the Shannon as County Librarian to Mayo.

However, in 1974 he moved nearer to his native county, as City Librarian with Limerick City Library Service. He spent almost 20 years in Limerick and is remembered for expanding the service by moving to a new Central Library & Headquarters in the Granary Building in 1985.

He made his vision of computerising the library service a reality in 1989. Limerick City Library was one of first services to be computerised. As a result of this vision, Microsoft Ireland

offered a suite of PC's, software, furniture and training to Limerick City Library in 1997, which brought the World Wide Web within reach of every citizen in Limerick. He will be remembered as a gentleman who had a wonderful sense of humour and a friend to all his colleagues.

Our sympathy goes to his wife Joan, daughter Anne and son Gerard. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Máirín O'Byrne, former Dublin City and County Librarian died aged 88, on August 1 2008. Máirín began her public library service with Dún Laoghaire Corporation where she progressed to the post of Senior Library Assistant. In 1948 she was appointed Librarian of Bray Urban District Council, the smallest public library authority in the country. In 1961 she became City Librarian of Dublin and in 1969 she was appointed Dublin City and County Librarian.

During her tenure a number of major developments took place, including automation, the opening of the Central Library in the ILAC Centre and the award winning Ballyfermot Library.

She was active in the affairs of the Library Association of Ireland. A member of the Executive Board and its various committees from 1952 to 1984, Máirín was Honorary Secretary from 1954-1962, Vice-President of the Association from 1963-1965 and President from 1966 to 1967. In 1967 was conferred with life Honorary Vice-Presidency of the U.K. Library Association (CILIP).

Máirín served as the Library Association of Ireland's nominee to An Chomhairle Leabharlanna from 1967 to 1982 and as a co-opted member of the Committee on Library Co-operation in Ireland (COLICO) from 1978 to 1980.

She retired in 1984 but continued in a public role. In 1986 she was appointed Chair of the Public Library Review Group which was established by the Minister for the Environment, John Boland, T.D.. The Review Group's report was published by the government in January 1987.

Máirín O'Byrne was appointed as a member of the RTÉ Authority, the Public Service Advisory Council and was a trustee of the National Library.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h'anam.

↓ RESEARCH PROJECT

ONE-PERSON LIBRARIANS SOUGHT FOR RESEARCH PROJECT

Are you working as an OPL (One-Person Librarian)?

Eva Hornung is conducting research into the views on and experiences OPL's with Continuing Professional Development (CPD). Because of the reflective nature of this project, you might gain some personal and professional benefits. CPD has been increasingly on the agenda of LIS practitioners and thinking about one's practices might initiate new ways of pursuing CPD.

|||| If you like to know more about this project or know of someone who might be interested, please contact Eva by email at e.hornung@sheffield.ac.uk or by T: 087 234 3406

↓ SOUTH DUBLIN

SOUTH DUBLIN LIBRARIES

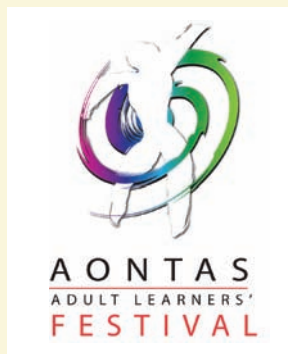
Starting with Heritage Week (August 24th-31st), and running into October, South Dublin Libraries has organised a wide range of activities to celebrate the rich history and heritage of South Dublin County. Events include *Tracing your Family Roots* with Ruth Lawler, *Mud, Blood & Guts – Life in the Trenches* by Michael Moylan, *The Magic of Printing* with the National Print Museum and many exhibitions taking place in all of South Dublin County Libraries.

Highlights of the festival include two book launches: the second edition and audio book of *If Those Trees Could Speak* by Frank Tracy (followed by a talk by the author), and *Bumps in the Fields and Crumbling Walls: Field Archaeology for Sunday Afternoons* by Hermann Geissel.

The annual photographic competition *OidhREACT: Our Heritage* has now gone digital and a digital exhibition showcasing this year's entries will take place in the County Library, Tallaght during September.

↓ AONTAS

AONTAS INVITES NOMINATIONS FOR THE STAR AWARDS 2009



AONTAS, The National Adult Learning Organisation is now inviting nominations for the STAR Awards for adult learning projects that takes place as part of the third annual Adult Learners' Festival (2nd-6th February 2009).

Fourteen awards in total will be granted to adult learning projects based within the island of Ireland who demonstrate the following criteria:

↑ OBITUARIES

- A high level of teamwork and partnership amongst participant groups
- A learner-centred approach to education provision
- Adult education practice and methodologies
- Evidence or Outcomes.

Nominated projects can involve initiatives, resources or group work. Projects may come from adult learning organisations, community and voluntary groups, the private sector, government agencies, statutory bodies and non-government organisations.

The closing date for receipt of nominations is Friday, November 14th at 5pm.

|||| For further information on how to nominate visit: www.adultlearnersfestival.com

October 2008

8–10

Culture Connects

Public Library Authorities
Conference 2008, Crown Plaza
Hotel, Liverpool. Further details at:
[http://www.cilip.org.uk/groups/plg/
plaz2008/index.html](http://www.cilip.org.uk/groups/plg/plaz2008/index.html)

16–17

Translating 2.0 Technologies for Tangible Benefits and Transparency

Internet Librarian International 08,
Novotel London West; Details:
www.internet-librarian.com

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Green Gables to Globalization:

Crossover, Canada and

Children's Books

iBbY Ireland Conference, Church
of Ireland College of Education,
Upper Rathmines Road, Dublin
6. The conference will examine
ways in which children's literature
transcends boundaries of all
kinds, focusing in particular on
crossover fiction and a sense of
belonging in books from Canada, a
post-colonial, multiethnic society.
Further details can be found at:
<http://www.ibbyireland.ie/>

November 2008

5–7

Library Services to Teenagers

the LAI's Public Libraries' Section
Annual Conference 2008 at the
Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise. The
conference theme is library services
to teenagers and among the
confirmed speakers is psychologist,
television presenter and author,
David Coleman. This year's
programme will include a quickfire
session, where library services will
be offered 10-15 minute slots to talk
about their own innovative services
to teenagers. Further information is
available from Melanie Cunningham
who can be contacted at:
[publiclibraries@libraryassociation.
ie](mailto:publiclibraries@libraryassociation.ie). Conference 2008, Crown Plaza
Hotel, Liverpool. Further details at:
[http://www.cilip.org.uk/groups/plg/
plaz2008/index.html](http://www.cilip.org.uk/groups/plg/plaz2008/index.html)

↑ CALENDER OF EVENTS

↓ TIPPERARY

↓ CORK CONTINUED

↓ CONTACT DETAILS

Tipperary reads itself



Frank Delaney

Tipperary Libraries has plans to
get the whole of Tipperary reading
Tipperary – a novel by the best selling
Tipperary author Frank Delaney.

The novel is set primarily in the
south of the county during the
period 1860-1930. It features
many well known Irish characters
such as Oscar Wilde and Charles
Stewart Parnell and is a wonderful
introduction to Irish history.

Starting in September, for a period
of eight to ten weeks, borrowers
will read the novel. Then during the
week 17th-22nd November, they will
get the opportunity to meet Frank
Delaney in person. He has kindly
agreed to make himself available for
a series of discussions about *Tipperary*
in a number of branches throughout
the county.

The intended audiences for this
initiative are adults and older
teenagers, from Transition Year
upwards. Library staff will be visiting
schools in September to talk to
students and to provide them with
copies.

Tipperary Libraries will also be
launching a short story competition
in September entitled Premier
Short Stories. This will be open
to Transition year students and
adults alike and will be judged by
Frank Delaney, with the winner
being announced during his visit in
November.

The project has been generously
sponsored by the Arts Council,
Coolmore, O'Mahony's and IES
booksellers.

Cork County Libraries

CONTD | →

Musical events included Val Davin
and his action-packed show during
which even the staff danced. Clued
In Music's *Become a DJ* workshop
showed teenagers in Glanmire
and Mallow about the types of DJs
– Commercial, Club and Radio. The
Equipment – Set Up and Use. Beat
Mixing, Scratching – Tips and Tricks.
Microphone Technique etc. and
Glen Boyne's introduction to rhyme
and rap went down a treat amongst
groups of teenagers around the
County.

The Summer Arts Festival at Cork
County Libraries continues to
grow in popularity with this year
being the busiest to date with a
total attendance of 4,200. Perhaps
this festival, and not the weather,
was responsible for the deserted
beaches in Cork County. ILN

Next Issue

Copy date for next issue is September 20th 2008

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