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Cork City Libraries' Year of the Constant Reader

Cork City Libraries have launched a year long celebration of books and reading called *The Year of the Constant Reader*, to run from February to November 2009.

At the launch of the initiative Liam Ronayne, Cork City Librarian, said: 'At Cork City Libraries we've always felt that we have a special relationship with our Constant Readers. It is our readers who have created a lively space, a trusting urban space of books and reading. For years readers have challenged us with their requests and critiques; and we have been inspired by the wonderful traffic of ideas, the friendships within a world of reading and the lifelong search for the truly brilliant book, for the truly inspiring authors. In 2009 we celebrate these relationships; we celebrate the years of reading where books have flourished. 2009 will be a reminder that writers matter because of books and books matter because of the constant reader.'

Each month will have a different theme, from Romance to Business, from An Gaelige to World Travel. February begins with the happy shock of 1,000 Lattes, with vouchers that can be redeemed for coffees in our partner cafés, an antidote to the pervasive doom and gloom. April, with its air of romance and promise, will be a Month of 1,000 Roses, roses for our loyal readers. And the year will march on, a prodigious trade of ideas and books, of competitions, lectures, exhibitions and



At the launch of the initiative writers Alannah Hopkin and Theo Dorgan, members and staff of Cork City Council and Cork City book club members pictured at the launch of the Year of the Constant Reader Stories project in the English Market.

star-studded readings, with something for every kind of reader, young and old, serious and playful, native-born and new community.

The Year begins in style with *Cork Re-Joyce!* on February 2, the master's 127th birthday, with David Norris kicking off a marathon read-in of the best of James Joyce. This will be a year of inspiration and friendship, a year of constant reading?.

Further details of the programme can be seen at: www.constantreader.ie. Monthly updates will also be posted on www.library.ie. ILN

Of Readers and their Days



At the 7th Annual Readers's Day is Salman Rushdie, presenting a signed copy of his latest novel, *The Enchantress of Florence*, to the Lord Mayor, Councillor Eibhlin Byrne, at the Dublin City Libraries Readers' Day 2008.

Many members of the 220 strong audience at Dublin City Libraries' 7th annual Readers' Day on October 11 were in tears as they listened to Sebastian Barry read from and talk about his Booker-shortlisted *The Secret Scripture*. The emotion evoked was a powerful illustration of the power of literature. That power was also in evidence at the opening session when Salman Rushdie and Mary Shine Thompson from St. Patrick's College had a wide-ranging absorbing discussion about his work. A charming relaxed man, he led the fascinated audience through subjects ranging from growing up with opinionated sisters to his 11 year old son's demand for a story to modern Indian literature.

David Guterson, author of *Snow Falling from Cedars* talked about the spiritual aspect of his writing and showed his wonderful descriptive skills with a reading from his new book *The Other*. Rebecca Miller (*The Private Lives of Pippa Lee*) and Anita Notaro (*Take a Look at Me Now*) discussed their approach to their work though the audience was mainly interested in Anita's research for her book about middle class prostitution!

A lively discussion about the merit (or otherwise) of literary prizes added to the day. Readers' Day, long a fixture on Dublin's literary calendar, is for members of Dublin City Libraries' 107 book clubs. Tickets are not available to the general public as they are snapped up immediately – showing the strength of demand for good literary experiences. [ILN](#)

↑ OF READERS AND THEIR DAYS

↓ SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY LIBRARIES AND ARTS

South Dublin County Libraries and Arts

The 7th annual Readers Day at the Tower Hotel Tallaght took place on Saturday November 8. Dermot Bolger, acclaimed poet, playwright and current writer-in-residence at Farmleigh, hosted the event, as he has done since its beginning. This year's line-up featured authors Brian Keenan, Patricia Scanlan, John Boyne, Glenn Patterson and Claire Kilroy. An interesting addition to the line-up this year was a rare public interview with John Minihan, photographer. He gave a fascinating talk accompanied by a slide projection showing photographs of the reclusive Beckett and his famous series of photographs of the last wake in Athy. Over 300 people attended the event, and all enjoyed the day. Dermot as always did an excellent job in interview with all the speakers, making for a relaxed and informative response.

Readers Day 2008 also provided an opportunity for emerging writers from South Dublin County to showcase their work as they read from a new publication *Night and Day*, a collection of poems and prose edited by Dermot Bolger and produced as part of South Dublin County Council's *In Context 3* (Per Cent for Art Scheme).

South Dublin County Libraries and Arts held its first Readers Day in 2001, in response to the growing popularity of book clubs and as a celebration of the reader. There are now long-running book clubs in all South Dublin County Library branches and Readers Day continues to go from strength to strength. [ILN](#)



Brian Keenan at the readers day

Belfast Central Library

Belfast Central Library celebrated its 120th Anniversary in October 2008 and to mark the occasion a series of special events were held. Included in the week-long programme was a Victorian Evening comprising of music, poetry and the reading of old letters from staff members over the years which gave an insight into library life over the last century.



At the launch of the 120th celebrations of the opening of Belfast Central Library Minister for the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure Gregory Campbell, the Chief Executive of the BELB David Cargo and Chief Librarian Katherine McCloskey discuss some of the exhibits in the natural history exhibition.

Belfast Lord Mayor and author, Tom Hartley also paid a visit to talk about his book on the history of the city cemetery. There were conducted tours of the library and a Murder Mystery Evening provided the opportunity to acquaint newcomers to the library in a fun and entertaining way. This is the first time that the library has hosted a Murder Mystery Evening and it was such a success, the library is delighted to announce plans for another one in February 2009. Over 280 members of the public attended events over the course of the week.

Two major exhibitions were also launched in the library during the anniversary week. The exhibition in the foyer showcased some of the library's natural history collection. There was also an exhibition in the Belfast, Ulster and Irish Department on aspects of the life of the Central Library and its impact on the city over the last 120 years. This featured previous unseen material from the library's own extensive archives.

One of the highlights is a series of letters between the Chief Librarian and William Brown, a young assistant librarian who fought and died in the First World War. The exhibition illustrates how Ireland's turbulent history impacted on the library service and the lives of those who worked in the building in its early years. Information on the building itself can be found in the Latest News section of www.librarybuildings.ie. [ILN](#)

↓ THE GLASS BOOK

↑ BELFAST CENTRAL LIBRARY

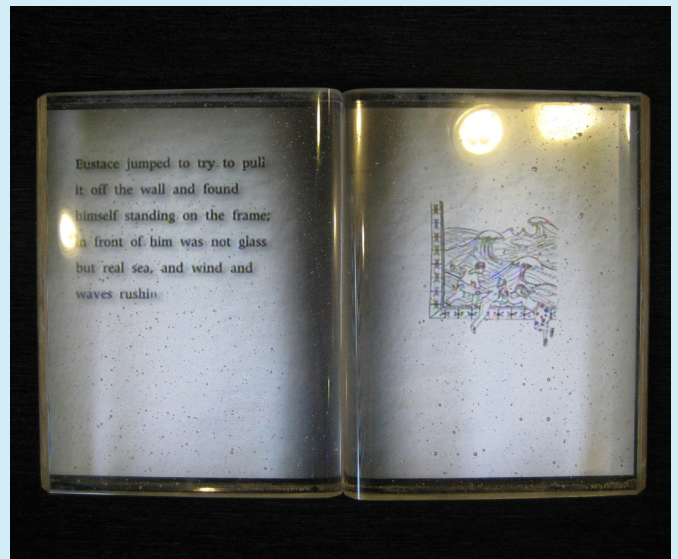
The Glass Book

A unique artwork commissioned by Cork County Library and Arts Service was unveiled at a ceremony on Monday, September 29 at Cork County Library Headquarters. Entitled *The Glass Book – Foundations of Fantasy*, this unusual new work originated by multi-media artist David Bickley in collaboration with a group of illustrators and a glass maker is designed to stimulate interest in the world of fantasy literature.

The Glass Book is an object designed to engage with young people by using a range of visual and aural media to imaginatively present selections from some of the great work of children's fantasy literature. It was conceived by visual artist David Bickley and is based on experiments that he has been working on since the early 1980's that of using different glass lenses to complement the moving image. *The Glass Book* combines new visual technologies and traditional glassmaking techniques.

The concept is based on the idea of a book that writes and animates itself as found in *Phantastes* the influential imaginative work by the Scottish writer George MacDonald (and an idea openly copied by his friend C.S. Lewis in *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*).

The Glass Book uses extracts of children's fantasy literature from the 50's, 60's and 70's including the *Moon of Gormath* by Alan Garner, *Stig of the Dump* by Clive King, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* by C.S. Lewis and *Tom's Midnight Garden* by Philippa Pearce and incorporates specially commissioned illustrations from Thorey Mjallhvit, Jim Fee and Cork artists, Julia Palone and Fiona Calnan.



The Glass Book

For more information contact The Arts Office Cork County Council
T: 021 4346210 or E: arts@corkcoco.ie [ILN](#)

COMREG



Commissioner Alex Chisholm and Mayor John Gilligan

As part of an ongoing initiative of informing consumers, ComReg, the statutory body responsible for the regulation of the electronic communications and postal sectors, in conjunction with An Chomhairle Leabharlanna (Library Council) and Limerick, Westmeath, Wexford and South County Dublin library services organised "information clinics" for consumers in September 2008, visiting libraries in Watch House Cross, Athlone, Wexford Town

and Tallaght.

The scheme was launched on 10th September, 2008 in Watch House Cross Library, Limerick by Commissioner Alex Chisholm and Mayor John Gilligan.

Alongside the launch of the scheme in Limerick, ComReg, in cooperation with the selected libraries, has arranged for free internet access to both its consumer websites: www.callcosts.ie and www.askcomreg.ie.

All the libraries visited now stock copies of all ComReg's plain English consumer guides which offer relevant information about specific topics such as complaints, cold calls, phone and broadband contracts, switching landline phone service provider, universal service obligation, postal and callcosts website.

LEITRIM COUNTY LIBRARY

On October 1 last a new service was launched in Leitrim County Library which will be of interest to students doing Leaving Cert Irish.

The service was developed by NUI Maynooth in co-operation with

Meath County Library and it has now been extended to Leitrim County Library.

Students can access the service in their local library and can read notes on their course and ask questions via e-mail by asking library staff to log on to the Maynooth site.



At the launch of the new service: Kieran MacRagnail, Caroline Beirne (Carrigallen Vocational School), Katie Fennell (NUIM); Joanne Lee (Ballinamore PPS); Anne Marie Carroll (Lough Allen College); Ian Robertson (NUIM); Seán O Suilleabhain (Leitrim County Librarian). Seated: Jackie Maguire (Leitrim County Manager) and Liz McCormack (Cathaoirleach Meath County Council)

↑ COMREG

↓ CORK

↑ LEITRIM

↓ FINGAL

CORK CENTRAL LIBRARY

The Deputy Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Jim Corr, recently presented 22 members of the public with certificates to mark the completion of introductory courses on computers and the internet at a function at Cork Central Library, Grand Parade.

The scheme, operated in four local libraries in conjunction with the City of Cork VEC, which provides the tutors, has been extended and is now provided in all local libraries and in the Central Library from this winter, with new classes already planned for spring of 2009.



Some of the recipients pictured with Deputy Lord Mayor, Jim Corr and organizers

FINGAL COUNTY LIBRARIES

Anne Enright, Man Booker winner 2007, gave a Reading on August 25 as part of the annual Finscéal Literary Festival of Fingal County Libraries in conjunction with our Arts Office.

Anne read an extract from her novel *The Gathering* as well as a short story from her latest book *Taking Pictures*.

Tony Curtis gave the first of a series of monthly poetry readings a poetry reading on Thursday October 30th. Poets Alive in your Local Library will run in Blanchardstown Library until April 2009.

The next in the series will be Enda Wyley (February 26), Michael Longley (March 5), Celia de Fréine (March 26) and Maighread Medbh (April 30). All readings take place at 7pm.



Anne Enright and Charlie Quinn

A recorded interview with Anne Enright and a readings and interview with Tony Curtis were broadcast as part of the library's monthly radio programme with local radio station Phoenix FM Bookings for all future events can be made at 01-890 5563 and further information is available from Charlie Quinn, Senior Librarian, Blanchardstown Library, Civic Centre, Dublin 15; charlie.quinn@fingalcoco.ie.

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL LIBRARY SERVICE

The creation of a photographic record of the architecture and streetscapes of County Wexford is underway in association with the Planning Department of Wexford County Council.

To date, the towns of Bunclody, Ferns, Taghmon and Courtown, the retail streets of Wexford and New Ross and buildings within the rural RC parish of Piercestown have been recorded. The images form a resource within the Local Studies Collection and will be available on the library's catalogue.

The People's Festival: an oral history programme about memories of the early days of the Wexford Festival Opera was launched as part of the 2008 Fringe Festival.

This project of 62 recordings forms part of the Library Service's Oral History programme, which also covers lifetime experiences of Wexford people county-wide.

Recordings from the entire collection are being made available on the library website as pod-casts as well as for loan.

SE Radio is broadcasting a series of programmes, created by the library service in which selected interviews are being aired.

LIMERICK STUDIES

Minute books and records of the Limerick County Committee of Agriculture dating back to 1900 were deposited in the Archives Department at Limerick Studies, Lissanalta House, Dooradoyle Road recently.



At Limerick Library are John Gallagher, Cathaoirleach Limerick County Council accepting a minute book from Fachtna O'Driscoll, CAO / Area Manager Teagasc and John MacNamara, former CAO Teagasc. Also included in the photograph are Damien Brady, Limerick County Librarian and Tony Storan, Executive Librarian.

↑ WEXFORD

↓ KILDARE

↑ LIMERICK

↓ ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL LIBRARY AND ARTS SERVICES

Kildare County Council Library and Arts Services in partnership with Clocha Rince National School hosted an exciting launching ceremony of the new Community Library facility for the Community of Clocha Rince on October 21 2008.

The 'red ribbon' was cut and the Community Library officially launched by Mr. Michael Kitt, TD, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Speaking to a packed school hall, the Minister praised how Clocha Rince National School has functioned at the heart of the community for the past 20 years, and engaged in all manner of partnered programmes with Kildare County Council.

ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY LIBRARY

An exhibition at the end of 2008 in the Royal Irish Academy Library showcased the Academy Library's unique collection of Irish manuscripts which has been assembled over more than two centuries, beginning in the Academy's foundation year, 1785, when the Book of Ballymote was presented by the Chevalier O'Gorman.

Pride of place in the collection goes to the Cathach, or Psalter of St Colum Cille, believed to date from the late sixth century.

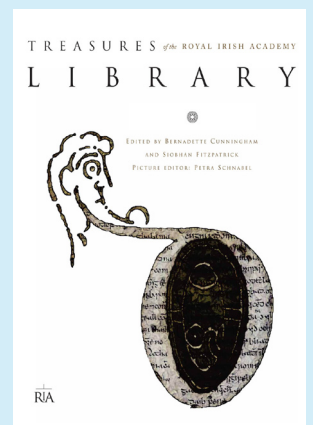
Other notable vellum manuscripts among the collection include the so-called Leabhar Breac, dating from the early fifteenth century – the largest Irish vellum manuscript by one scribe – and the original manuscripts of the Annals of the Four Masters, probably the first substantial original Irish compilation written on paper.

The exhibition coincided with the publication of *Treasures of the Royal Irish Academy Library*.

Treasures of the Royal Irish Academy Library / edited by Bernadette Cunningham and Siobhán Fitzpatrick; picture editor Petra Schnabel. Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 2009. ISBN: 978-1-904980-54-6.



Cutting the red ribbon was Mr Michael Kitt



The treasures publication

March 2009

2–6

Library Ireland Week

www.libraryirelandweek.ie

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Library Association of Ireland's annual general meeting

Royal Irish Academy, 10.30–13.00

5

World Book Day in Ireland

www.worldbookday.com/world_book_day_in_ireland.asp

6–8

Ennis Book Club Festival

<http://www.ennisbookclubfestival.com/>

April 2009

23

World Book and Copyright Day

http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=5125&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

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Managing Change in the Information Age

Joint Conference of the LAI and CILIP Ireland, Hilton Hotel, Belfast. Conference secretary, Elga Logue: elga.logue@btinternet.com

May 2009

7–9

EBLIDA Annual Council Meeting and International Conference

A Library Policy for Europe, Vienna, 7–9 May 2009.

July 2009

5–10

International Association of Music Libraries

Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML) annual conference, Amsterdam. Details: <http://www.iaml.info/en/activities/conferences>

August 2009

23–27

IFLA World Library and Information Congress

75th IFLA General Conference and Council. Theme: Libraries create futures: building on digital heritage.

Details: www.ifla.org/IV/ifla75/1st-ann2009-en.pdf

November 2009

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Newsplan: A Digital Universe for Newspapers

5th National NEWSPLAN Conference, The British Library Conference Centre Euston Road, London NW1

↓ SCHOOL OF INFORMATION

↓ PEOPLE

↑ CALENDAR

↓ CONTACT DETAILS

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Please forward any adverts to claire.nolan@ucd.ie.

People

Caroline Cahill retired from Ulverscroft Large Print Books Ltd. at the end of December 2008. Caroline's role has been taken over by Robert Hughes who has extensive knowledge of the publishing industry.

We wish Caroline a long, healthy and enjoyable retirement.

Next Issue

Please note that from issue 287 onwards, Irish Library News will only be published in electronic format. It is available to download from www.librarycouncil.ie/publications/iln.shtml. 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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