



DLR Libraries Events Review Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Imeachtaí

2005



ABOVE: Fifth annual Transition Year Literary Project in Deansgrange Library



ABOVE: Handling giant millipedes at the Big Bug Show in Shankill Library



ABOVE: Enjoying the Harry Potter quiz in Deansgrange Library in June



ABOVE: Author Claire Hennessy during a class visit in Deansgrange Library during Children's Book Festival



ABOVE: Neel Chrillesen and Serena Connor, winners of the French language Féile Filíochta International Poetry Competition



ABOVE: Mary Ryan, Rose Doyle, Tara Heavey, Joan O'Neill and Catherine Dunne at A Book Affair to Remember



ABOVE: Art workshop in Dundrum Library with Mary Carroll of the Pine Forest Art School



ABOVE: Roderic Wilson, Séamus Connolly, Frank O'Reilly and John Connolly at the launch of Gone But Not Forgotten



ABOVE: Tony Bianchi, winner of the Féile Filíochta Poem of Europe Award, with Niamh Bhreathnach

The prize fund was 17,000 euros and the judges for 2005's competition included Críostóir Ó Floinn, Rosi Beech, Mark Hutcheson, Tanja Dembski, Jean-Phillipe Imbert, Silvia Bertoni, Myrddin ap Dafydd, Antonia Flores, Rody Gorman and Annika Burholm. The winners of the 2005 competition will receive their prizes on March 24th 2006, coinciding with the Poetry

Now Festival (PNO6) which is organised by the County Council's Arts Office. A booklet with all the winning poems will be produced and the poems will also be available on our website www.dlrcoco.ie/library

Internet Resources

During 2005, there were 56,500 Internet sessions booked in libraries, with people emailing friends and family, doing research, accessing online learning or surfing the net. **WebWise** the libraries' Public Internet Access training programme proved very popular again this year, with 712 free Internet tutorials provided. The 24 hour online library continues to grow with major additions this year including Britannica Online and Xreferplus all available via our website www.dlrcoco.ie/library **Lifesteps** was another new initiative consisting of a series of practical guides on 'real life' topics such as advice on Learning to Drive or Starting your own Business. The guides were available in all libraries or again from our website. Finally, at the end of the year, library borrowers were notified about the **Borrowbooks Project** where library users can now search all online catalogues simultaneously to locate and request an item which is not held in their own library service. Further information at www.borrowbooks.ie



ABOVE: Author Jennifer Johnston with librarian Marian Keyes in Dalkey Library during Bealtaine

Outreach Activities

In addition to the important Housebound Service which involves regular visits to over 80 members of the public who are unable to visit a library, 2005 saw the continuation of the Book Buddy scheme in association with Southside Partnership. This involves volunteers reading to children on a weekly basis in Community Crèches in this area and we are very grateful indeed to coordinator Angela Stenson and to all our volunteers who have given their time to this worthwhile project.

Exhibitions

In 2005, 14 new exhibitions were shown in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Libraries and the major exhibition **Gone But Not Forgotten**, curated by historian Sinéad McCool was launched in May. For the first time ever, the virtual exhibition was launched at the same time as the actual exhibition ensuring a wide national and international audience for this exhibition.

New Exhibitions for 2005

City of Children. An exhibition of photographs taken by Brazilian photographer, Elis Taves.
Dún Laoghaire Regattas. A Flavour of Past and Present Glories 1828-2005. Exhibition coordinated by the Heritage Office of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.
Echoes from the Deep. Exhibition of excerpts from new book produced by Dalkey Writers' Workshop.
Exhibition of drawings and paintings by Don Griffin.
Festival Bookmark Exhibition 2005. Children's Book Festival competition winners 2005.
Gone But Not Forgotten. Local women of the last century who made history. Exhibition and website profiles the lives of some of the women from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown who fought for Irish independence, worked for human and social rights and were active as educators, politicians, judges and writers.
History of Cinemas in Dublin. Exhibition curated by Marc Zimmerman.
Latin American Rucksack. A collection of photographs taken by Dublin-based photographer, Ross Killeen during his year-long travels around South America.
One Hundred Years of Carnegie Libraries. Photographic exhibition produced by the South County Dublin branch of An Taisce.
Postcards of Blackrock and environs. Exhibition of selected postcards from the Local History collection in Dún Laoghaire Library.

Self-Portraits. Exhibition of self-portraits from 5th Class, Archbishop McQuaid School, Ballybrack.
Sixteen Years of the Féile Filíochta/International Poetry Competition. Posters, programmes, photos from 1989-2004
Swimming in Blackrock Baths! Exhibition based on Billy Morrison's article on Blackrock Baths in Volume 9 of the Blackrock Society Proceedings
Taste of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. Winning entries from the photographic competition organised by DLR Tourism in association with Fujifilm
Compiled by Marian Keyes, Senior Librarian (Culture). If you have any comments or suggestions for events you would like to attend in your libraries:

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DLR Libraries Events Review 2005

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Imeachtaí

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to **DLR Libraries Events Review 2005**, the fourth in our annual celebration of the many cultural events and activities that have taken place in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Public Libraries. It has been a very busy year with 25,847 people taking part in or attending the 1,745 events organised by our libraries (an increase from 23,420 people in 2004). Over 692,283 books were issued to the public in 2005 and the culture department as always supports the promotion of books and the development of reading through its extensive programme. The major festivals taking place each year include **Bealtaine**, the **Saoire** summer programme, the **Youth Literary Project** in autumn, **Children's Book Festival** in late October and of course the **Féile Filíochta International Poetry Competition**. In 2005, additional events included the sellout Readers' Day in February, the enormously popular series of talks **The Write Stuff**, the celebration of Blackrock Library's centenary in May and **Topical Texts** in November, an opportunity to showcase local writers from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. This review highlights the diversity of cultural experiences and provides a pictorial flavour of the year. Our thanks to all those who enriched our cultural programme throughout 2005 and above all we would like to thank you for supporting the events. We look forward to seeing you again in 2006!

At a glance!

During 2005, Shankill Library was repainted, Glencullen Centre was refurbished and new signage has gradually been appearing at all branch locations. Book Sales were a feature this year, proving to be a very useful way to make space for all the excellent new stock bought for all libraries. It is hoped to expand on the choice of book promotions in 2006 as these were very well received last year. They included the **Get a Grip** promotion for adults, **The Book Made Me Do It** for children and the Agatha Christie promotion held during September, the 75th anniversary of Miss Marple's first appearance in **Murder at the Vicarage**. Two



ABOVE: Ryan Tubridy with children in Dalkey Library during a Nutrition Awareness Day in April

major book launches were held in 2005 - Pat Walsh's **Images of Ireland; Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown** in June and Dalkey Writers' Workshop's **Echoes from the Deep** in November. Book clubs continued to get up in Dalkey Library early in the year. Members of this club appeared on TG4's **An Tuath Nua** in December and Deansgrange Library's book club appeared on **The Afternoon Show** in October. The Abbey Theatre Storytelling Project wowed audiences at three of our libraries during their November tour of **The Little Deer**, **The Crimson Fly** and **The Swan Children**.

February - March Readers and Writers

2005 was a superb year for the quality and quantity of authors attending events in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Libraries. Over 80 authors read and discussed their work in 2005, doubling the 2004 total of 40 authors. Our second Readers' Day was held close to Valentine's Day entitled **A Book Affair to Remember** and was organised by Sarah Webb. Many of Ireland's favourite

authors appeared, such as Marian Keyes, Claudia Carroll, Catherine Dunne, Martina Devlin, Rose Doyle, Melissa Hill and Sinéad Moriarty. **The Write Stuff** was a six-week series of talks coordinated by Sarah Webb and aimed at those interested in writing commercial fiction. Speakers addressed the audiences from a variety of perspectives covering a range of genres - romantic comedy, crime fiction, historical fiction etc. and included many useful hints on negotiating the tricky territory of getting published for the first time.

May - Bealtaine

The Festival of **Bealtaine** is held nationwide every May and its aim is to celebrate creativity in older age. 34 events were held in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Libraries attracting well over 1,000 people. Workshops were held on subjects as diverse as lino printmaking, spinning and weaving, flower arranging, tai chi, how to use a digital camera and an introduction to playing bridge. A range of talks were offered and storytelling and musical evenings were held in several libraries. The annual Bealtaine Active Age Table Quiz in Deansgrange Library continues to be as successful as ever. Particular highlights of 2005's **Bealtaine** programme were the visits by authors Brian Keenan to Cabinteely Library and Jennifer Johnston to Dalkey Library.

FRONT-COVER: clockwise from top right: Melissa Hill, Marian Keyes and Martina Devlin at Readers' Day A Book Affair to Remember, Patrick and Tatiana Temperley in Sallynoggin Library during Science Week, Book Sale in Deansgrange Library, Author Paul Howard with Alan Grace in Blackrock Library, Helena Walsh and Bryan Burroughs from the Abbey Theatre in The Swan Children in Dundrum Library, Blackrock Library's birthday cake and Tai Chi with Bei Zheng Liu in Stillorgan Library during Bealtaine.



ABOVE: Mary Lynch and Patricia Byrne, Schools' Librarians in Dún Laoghaire



ABOVE: Volunteer book buddies from community crèches, Caitriona Fogarty, Carmel O'Connor, Colette Allen and Gaye Vaughan



ABOVE: Brazilian photographer Elis Taves in Deansgrange Library at launch of City of Children



ABOVE: Learning about lizards at the Animal Magic Roadshow with Rosie Campbell during Science Week



ABOVE: Terry O'Brien, Niamh Bhreathnach, Donal O'Neill and Joe Carroll at the Blackrock centenary celebration



ABOVE: The Pavaly Company performing for the International Puppet Festival in September



ABOVE: Lino printmaking with Jackie Gray in Dundrum Library



ABOVE: Author Pat Walsh with An Cathaoirleach Councillor Niamh Bhreathnach at the launch of Pat's book in June in Dún Laoghaire Library



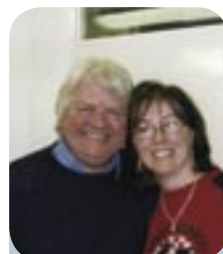
ABOVE: Sinéad McCoolle at launch of Gone But Not Forgotten



ABOVE: Michael Doorley, Richard Whelan, Philip Lecane and Frank Bouchier-Hayes at Topical Texts seminar in Deansgrange Library



ABOVE: Author Brian Keenan in Cabinteely Library



ABOVE: The Write Stuff. Don Conroy and Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick



ABOVE: The Write Stuff. Sarah Webb and Tina Reilly



ABOVE: Attendees at the launch of the Latin American Rucksack exhibition by Ross Killen in Deansgrange Library



ABOVE: New signage at Dundrum

May - Blackrock Centenary

Blackrock Library celebrated its centenary in May 2005 with events, exhibitions, competitions and a big party hosted by An Cathaoirleach Councillor Niamh Bhreathnach and County Librarian Muiris O'Raghail. Author Paul Howard entertained a capacity audience in 'Rock Library' earlier on in the week and he judged the large amount of entries submitted to the centenary Limerick competition which was won by Ursula O'Farrell from Booterstown. Billy Morrison gave a very entertaining talk on Blackrock Baths which attracted many swimmers from the glory days of the baths in the 50s and 60s. Volume 13 of the **Blackrock Society Proceedings 2005** includes Councillor Bhreathnach's talk about her memories of Blackrock Library and of how much it meant to her as a child growing up in Blackrock and also a fascinating account by former Blackrock librarian Fionnuala Murphy on what it was like to work in Blackrock Library during the 1940s and 1950s.

June - August Saoire Summer Events

The summer programme **Saoire** was full of exciting events for children with nearly 3,000 children attending over 70 events in the libraries between June-August.

The Festival of World Cultures, organised by the Arts Office of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown took place over the weekend 26th-28th August and several branch libraries hosted exhibitions and events all day Friday 26th August to celebrate the Festival. Events included African hair braiding and bracelets with Ronke Arogundade, Asian puppet workshops, Klezmer and Balkan music from the Hora Quartet, Indian adornment with Bhavna Inamdar, Indonesian shadow puppet workshops with Johanna Varghese, Japanese Tea ceremony workshops with Saeko Ogosi and Yoko Wakabayashi of the Chester Beatty Library Education Services, a Mah Jong workshop with members of

Cabinteely ARA and tales from around the world with storytellers Niall de Burca and Toby Kinsella.

October - Youth Literary Project

Now in its fifth year, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown's Arts Office and Libraries ran its literary project for Transition year students. The project took place in Deansgrange Library in October and 20 participants came from 10 secondary schools in the county. The project aims to develop readership among this age group with a programme of literature and arts throughout the week. Facilitated and programmed by Aisling McLaughlin, the excellent timetable included sessions with some of Ireland's best known authors, poets, dramatists and critics including Brian Keenan, Donal O'Kelly, Peter Sarr, Claire Reilly, Amanda Piesse, Paul Howard, Irma Grothuis, Martina Devlin and Éilis Ní Dhuibhne. This year's project also included a visit to the Pavilion Theatre to see the one man show **Tom Crean - Antarctic Explorer**, written and performed by Aidan Dooley.

Children's Book Festival

Children's Book Festival is a nationwide festival taking place at the end of October every year and is a major highlight in our cultural calendar. We were delighted to welcome authors Margrit Cruickshank, Claire Hennessy, Joan Lingard, Eileen O'Hely, Joan O'Neill, Gordon Snell and storytellers Toby Kinsella and Paul Tubb. As always, an array of art, fitness, pet care and history workshops were also held and in all, nearly 2,000 children took part in the Festival in our libraries. The **Design a Bookmark Competition** attracted 1,640 entries and the overall winners were Eleanor Long aged 10 and Dearbhla Flynn aged 13.

November - Science Week

For the second year running, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Libraries took part in **Science Week** which was on nationwide during November. Due to popular demand, libraries were very pleased to welcome back shows like The Big Bug Show with Mr. Lee Gibbs, interactive Science Workshops with Michael Moylan and the Armagh Planetarium's Star Dome. Exciting new initiatives included the Animal Magic Roadshow with Rosie Campbell which featured a variety of fascinating animals and Christine Campbell's excellent Anyone 4 Science workshops which were held in Cabinteely and Sallynoggin.

Féile Filíochta/International Poetry Competition

Over 5,375 poems in 9 languages were received from all over the world for the 17th Annual Féile Filíochta/International Poetry Competition organised by DLR Libraries.

BELOW: Winning bookmark by Dearbhla Flynn



BELOW: Winning bookmark by Eleanor Long

