

21 November 2002

early days in tallaght revisited

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Writers, he says, write in

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In his view it is an exciting time for readers as volumes of good literature are being published.

Among the work he recommends for young people

Maeve Binchy, Roddy Doyle, Patricia Scanlan and Joseph O'Connor.

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The series should be available in all libraries and the subject matter ranges from fiction to soccer, so there is a book suitable for all interests and age groups, says Dermot.

Turning back to the soli-



Author Dermot Bolger, Betty Stenson (development officer at Tallaght Library) and director Peter Sheridan.

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A former librarian for the South Dublin County Council, Dermot is delighted with the new role libraries are taking in the community.

"When I worked in libraries they were very narrow sort of places . . . Nowadays the libraries seemed to have opened themselves up to new ideas and staff are encouraged to take the initiative," he says.

is *His Dark Materials* trilogy by Philip Pullman, which are "as good as almost all books for adults".

Author of numerous books such as *Father's Music* and *The Passion of Jerome*, Dermot is also the executive editor of New Island Books which publishes books for adults with reading difficulties.

Four years ago, the company launched a series called *Open Book*. The authors who have contributed to the series include

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In a world trying to manipulate people's thoughts, Dermot says: "The minute you begin to write as a young person, whether you are writing poetry or writing a diary, you are thinking for yourself, you are beating the system."

"You are not being a slave to fashion, it is your first act to becoming an independent person."

21 November 2002.

the importance of words

READING is the true destination of writing and an event like this celebrates that, says Tallaght poet Eileen Casey.

"It is important that the reader input is celebrated," according to the poet who read a selection of her work alongside Rita Ann Higgins.

do not have the sexy image of authors and playwrights, or is there a more fundamental reason? According to Eileen it may be because poetry is not as accessible to the general reader as prose.

The way to appreciate poetry is to read it aloud and that puts peo-

Though the library has a healthy attendance, many facilities in Tallaght are not used to their full potential, she says.

Active within the community, Eileen was recently awarded a literary bursary from the South Dublin



Poets
Rita
Ann
Higgins
and
Eileen
Casey.

Praising the organisers for the success of the gathering, Eileen says it is nice to meet the people who read her poetry and to get feedback.

"It is refreshing to see so many people gathered here in the name of reading and writing," she says.

Particularly because poetry in Eileen's view is often perceived as the "poor relation" in literature.

Is this because poets

ple off. Also, she says, not enough people go to readings.

"Poetry is more alive when poets read their own poems. You need to have a voice with a poem, you need to hear a poem," she says.

There are outlets for all age groups who are interested in poetry, she says. These range from more formal readers' groups to the many readings in pubs around the city.

County Council.

As part of the award, she will be meeting various multinational groups and will then "use the material from the talks in a creative way".

Like many of those participating in the month's event, she called for *Like Wine Through Water* to be made an annual event.

"It is a great marriage of reading and writing," she says.

'Disgusting bugs' on display in library

SCIENCE buffs can enjoy a 'disgusting' exhibition in Ballyroan Library for the rest of this month.

Entitled *Disgusting Bugs*, it is part of *National Science Month* and is aimed specifically at children.

Also this month there are two other exhibitions during opening hours entitled *South Dublin in Photos* and *Poetry on the Wall*.

Today (Thursday) between 10.30am and 3pm there will be a science workshop in the library.

There is a parent and toddler group every Monday and Friday between 10.30am and noon while Irish conversation classes are available every Monday at 7pm.

Those who wish to learn German can do so every Tuesday at 7pm while there are also French classes available on Thursdays at 7pm.

The writers' group meets every Thursday at 10.30am while the Junior Chess Club meets on Saturdays at 10.30am.

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Thursday 21st November 2002

dedicated to an artist's life

by **aoife o'reilly**
features@echo.ie

PROOF that you can work to live, rather than live to work, can be found in a solo exhibition by Tallaght-artist John Carpenter.

On show in the Tallaght library this month, the work is the product of John's decision that "there is more to life than stuffing mushrooms".

Walking away from his job as a salesman, John has no regrets about becoming a full-time artist last March.

His aim is to create art that people can afford. Art they would like to hang up on their walls or give as a

wedding present, art said.
at the right price, John To date, John's



Artist John Carpenter with his wife Monica and South Dublin County Council mayor Councillor Jim Daly at the launch of his art exhibition in the South Dublin County Council Library.

work has been purchased by the Office of Public Works, the Mediation Bureau, Boland's Mills and a number of banks.

"The exhibition is going very well, four paintings have been sold so far," he said.

As well as producing his own work, John teaches various groups in the area.

He facilitates three drop-in art sessions a week in the Virginia House, Tallaght. They are informal, aimed at people who want to paint but may be intimidated about joining art classes or groups.

"Some people feel

embarrassed starting out as they may not have painted since school," said John.

The intention is to create a place where people feel comfortable and secure, to give them the confidence to create art, he said.

Attended by people aged 17 to 70, a session costs two euro and all materials are supplied.

John also works with special needs clients in Cheeverstown, with the YMCA and in Dublin libraries.

The exhibition is being held at County Library, Tallaght, until November 30.

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Nov. 21st
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21 November 2002

a celebration of reading and independent thinking

by **aoife o'reilly**
features@echo.ie



Philip Casey (writer), Peter Sirr (poet), Hugo Hamilton (writer) and Marian Finucane (RTE broadcaster).

"Reading is like climbing into the driving seat of someone else's imagination and seeing the world through their eyes."

EILEEN Casey opens her poetry recital at a recent readers gathering in the Plaza Hotel, Tallaght, with an appropriate quote from Brian McMahon.

Like Wine Through Water was organised by South Dublin County Council Arts and Libraries to bring readers and writers together.

Among those who attended the event

were author and playwright Dermot Bolger, author Julie Parsons, crime reporter Paul Williams, director Peter Sheridan, RTE presenter Marian Finucane, author Hugo Hamilton, poet Philip Casey, poet Peter Sirr, *Irish Times*' journalist Kathryn Holmquist, poet Rita Ann Higgins, writer Anthony Glavin, poet Eileen Casey, author Neville Thompson, RTE presenter and producer Seamus Hosey, musician Noel O'Grady and author Joseph O'Connor.

the life

The Echo Weekly Entertainment Guide

November 21, 2002



The honest job of reading

Dermot Bolger and Eileen Casey

celebrate the gift of reading

- see page 39

authors take over the plaza for readers' day

by **aoife o'reilly**
features@echo.ie

PEOPLE hoping to hear some of the country's best-known authors speak in Tallaght should move fast – tickets for 'Read-

ers' Day' are being snapped up.

Like Wine Through Water has been organised by South Dublin County Council and South Dublin Libraries to celebrate the joy of reading.

The event, to be held next month, places the emphasis on the reader.

Tallaght poet Eileen Casey.

Her work has been widely published at home and abroad. She is the 2002 recipient of the literature bursary from South Dublin County Council's Arts Office.

Dermot Bolger will also speak at the event. Poet and nov-

take the form of workshops and readings as well as discussion forums.

Others lined up for the event include author Julie Parsons, crime reporter Paul Williams, director Peter Sheridan, RTE presenter Marian Finucane, author Hugo Hamilton, poet Philip Casey, poet Peter Sirr, *Irish Times* journalist Kathryn Holm-quist and poet Rita Ann Higgins.

Also speaking will be short-story writer Anthony Glavin, author Neville Thompson, RTE presenter and producer Seamus Hosey, poet Noel O'Grady and author Joseph O'Connor.

Starting at 9.30am running through to 5pm, the workshops can be booked on a first come, first served basis.

For information contact Betty Stenson on 4597843 or Patricia Fitzgerald on 4149000.



It hopes to promote and celebrate the reader who is often seen as abstract in the literary world.

Among the authors who will gather at the Plaza Hotel on November 16 will be

elist, Dermot's work includes *The Journey Home*, *Father's Music* and *The Valparaíso Voyage*. He is the current holder of the Trinity College Writer's Fellowship.

The event will

31 October 2002.

spellbound poster unveiled at the square

10-YEAR-OLD Fiona Halpin from Clondalkin was this year's winner of the children's book festival poster competition in south Dublin.

The competition was organised by South Dublin Libraries as part of the children's book festival, Spellbound 2002, which took place in October.

Children between the ages of 7 to 9 and 10 to 12 were asked to design a poster on the theme 'Myths and Legends: Past and Present'.

The entries were judged by author and illustrator Marie Louise Fitzpatrick.

Fiona, who is in 5th class in Scoil Ide

in Clondalkin, was presented with her prize by the Mayor Cllr Jim Daly.

Her poster was professionally printed

and was displayed on a billboard in the grounds of The Square shopping centre in Tallaght.

Fiona also won

some gift vouchers for herself and three friends for Pompeii Paints from Leisureplex who sponsored the competition.



Teresa Walsh (co. librarian), Liz Kelly (Leisureplex), 10 year old Fiona Purcell (winner of the poster competition), Mayor Jim Daly, South Dublin County Council and Audrey Dempsey (teacher).

Library languages

FRENCH, German and Irish classes are now taking place at Ballyroan Library every week.

The French conversation group meet each Thursday at 7pm while the German group meet on Tuesdays at 11am.

Anyone interested in refreshing their Irish are invited to join a conversation group that meets each Monday at 7pm.

The three conversation groups are facilitated by experienced speakers and are free of charge.

Further information is available from Ballyroan Library at 4941900.

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17th October 2002.

Tallaght poetry group takes another award

by **aoife o'reilly**
features@echo.ie

TALLAGHT poet Patrick Sneyd was placed second overall at the Clough poetry competition in Co Down for his poem 'Escape Plan'.

Patrick is part of the writers group, Virginia House Writers, whose members have had numerous successes in the recent past.

Maria Wallace was placed second in this year's Sword Heritage Festival poetry competition for her poem, 'A Tradition'.

She was also the selected as the poet for this year's *Poetry on the Wall* which tours the South Dublin County Council Libraries.

Maria is not short on literary successes. Her poetry has been published twice in the *Sunday Tribune* and she has been a finalist in the Hennessy Literary Awards.

Maria has seen her work published in

Poetry Ireland and in other anthologies. Two years ago she came first in the Gurteen Pen competition.

For the last six years, her poetry has been shortlisted in the Scottish International

Open Poetry Competition and has been placed third in the long poetry section.

The win is particularly noteworthy as the competition receives about 2,000 international entries each year.

Of course her work has not been over-

looked by the community and she has been shortlisted on a number of occasions in the Literary Awards run in Tallaght.

Other talents emanating from the writers group include John Conroy. Known for his work at Tallaght Community Radio and the

Tallaght Youth Theatre, John has also reaped success at the Swords Short Story Festival.

Fellow group member Pauline Dillon meanwhile has been shortlisted in the Gerard Manley Hopkins poetry competition.



Dublin football manager Tommy Lyons with Eoin McAuley from Tallaght at the launch of the *Spellbound 2002* children's book festival in the County Library, Tallaght, on Monday evening.

Photo by Richard O'Meara

Thursday, October 17, 2002

Echo

22 years
as it h



Mary Clinton of the 'Trickey Tricksters' painting the face of Leanne Long from Jobstown at the launch of the Spell-bound 2002 children's reading festival in the County Library, Tallaght, on Monday evening. Photo by Richard O'Meara



Dublin football manager shows young Dubs' fans John Starrs, Samantha Devlin and Gaoreta Murphy (all from Tallaght) the Leinster Senior Championship trophy at the launch of the Spellbound 2002 children's book festival in the County Library, Tallaght, on Monday evening.

Photo by Richard O'Meara



Little Josh Clinton with Dublin manager Tommy Lyons and the Leinster Senior Football Championship trophy. Also in picture are Mayor Jim Daly and Dublin players Alan Brogan, Darren Homan, Coman Goggins, Ray Cosgrave and Barry Cahill at the launch of the Spellbound 2002 children's book festival in the County Library, Tallaght on Monday.

Photo by Richard O'Meara

the magic of storytelling

by **aoife o'reilly**
features@echo.ie

Over two weeks, the children's book festival *Spellbound 2002* sets out to lure children by the magic of storytelling.

Run by Alternative Entertainments and South Dublin Libraries, the festival gives kids a chance to experience the true Irish art form of storytelling.

Libraries in Tallaght, Ballyroan, Clondalkin, Castleymon and Lucan will be packed with mesmerised children enchanted by some of Ireland's finest *seanachi* (storytellers).

This is the second year Alternative Entertainments has organised a children's festival.

Before that it ran an adult literary festival but due to falling attendance, the focus was switched to children and judging by the response of the 1,200 kids that attended last year, they love it.

This year, organiser Caroline Barry

said it was decided to emphasise the tradition of storytelling and most of the events will be held during school hours in the various libraries.

Among the visiting storytellers will be Liz Weir who hails from Belfast.

Liz works as a professional storyteller travelling the world telling stories.

Formerly children's librarian of Belfast, Liz was the first recipient of the International Storybridge Award from the National Storytelling Network in the United States.

Another welcome guest is John Campbell, an internationally-renowned storyteller from the old tradition.

He has represented Ireland at many international festivals in both Europe and the USA.

John lives in the village of Mullaghbawn, in Co Armagh.

South Armagh is



Pat Sweeney with his children; Ross and Ashling (Walkinstown) at the launch of *Spellbound 2002*, at Tallaght Library last Monday evening.

famous for its tradition and folklore. It has provided one of the richest veins of Gaelic literature over the past three centuries including the highly respected poets Art Bennet, Peadar O'Dorin and Art MacCooley.

In 1996, John received the Arts Personality Award from the Newry and Mourne District Council and in 1991 he was awarded the Entertainment Media and Arts Award (Folk and Traditional Performance Section).

Also in attendance will be multi-instrumentalist Toby Kin-

sella.

A performer for 25 years, Toby plays instruments from around the world, tells stories, sings songs and delights children with his show *Musical Stories*.

Juggling, puppets, and masks are used to add visual effects to this very exciting interactive show.

In the evenings Aideen McBride will run a parent-children family nights and people are advised to book in advance.

Aideen began her journey as a storyteller when she recounted

stories to her pupils in a Ballymum primary school.

Her stories are sad and funny include folk tales handed down to her by her father in Carlow. She includes her audience in the stories, many of which have a participatory element, as she weaves her yarns with all the magic of the Irish tradition.

Spellbound runs until Friday October 25. For information contact the South Dublin library near you or Caroline at Alternative Entertainments on 4621029.

RED COW INN

NAAS ROAD. PHONE: 4593650

Coming Attractions
HALLOWEEN NIGHT

Dominic Kirwan
Doors Open 9.30
Tickets Now On Sale

CLUB DIVA

heile welt exhibition opens at Draoicht

A NEW exhibition, *Heile Welt*, by German artist Simone Schneider has opened in the Draoicht.

Simone graduated from the National College of Art and Design in 2001 with a Masters in Fine Art.

'Heile Welt' is a German phrase which loosely translated means an intact world.

Simone's exhibition on the ground floor of the gallery comprises of clusters of drawings in a variety of media

similar to comic strips. Described as "playful compositions", the pieces explore images of home, happiness and tokens of love or sentimentality.

The work is done on sheets of candy pink paper and probes the meaning of "harmonious domestic living".

Simone's interpretation of an intact and safe world inevitably suggests its fragility as an atmosphere of tension is always present.

Artists draw on council funds to continue work

FOUR artists from Tallaght and Rathfarnham were this week awarded bursaries each worth 2,000 euro by South Dublin County Council.

A total of 26 artists applied for financial assistance under the council's arts bursary scheme that was launched in 2000 to support individual artists living within the county.

The awards – to help further the artists' studies – were granted under four categories: visual arts, literature, performing arts and music.

Kate Hearne from Rathfarnham will be using her bursary to help fund her studies of the Baroque Cello and Recorder at the Royal College of Music in Sweden.

The 23-year-old has just com-

By Sharon Geoghegan

pleted her studies at the Royal Irish Academy and will begin the two-year double Masters degree course in Sweden next month.

She said the bursary would greatly help with the next phase of her music studies.

The performing arts bursary will also enable Lorraine Cullen from Springfield to take up a full scholarship at Merseyside Dance and Drama Centre in Liverpool.

Lorraine has just completed professional training at the College of Dance in Monkstown where she studied classical ballet, tap-dancing, jazz and contemporary dance.



AWARD: Eileen Casey will use the grant to record the stories of immigrants.

Artist Mary O'Rourke from Glensmole will now be in a position to participate in the Camsiad Project that brings together young people, artists and technicians for the purpose of exploring the traditional processes of making and wearing masks and costumes in Europe.

Poet, Eileen Casey has been granted the literary bursary to help fund the recording and publication of stories and life experiences of individuals drawn from the new multicultural

community in Tallaght.

Eileen has previously had her own work published and is a creative writer tutor with County Dublin VEC.

Delighted with the bursary, she said: "I am going to tell the story of our new multicultural community through the medium of poetry and prose.

"I will be talking to people about their experience of coming to Ireland. The creative element will be very strong."

8 August 2002 - Echo.

19 September 2002.

Library talk offers tips on tracing family trees

THERE are several events and exhibitions ongoing at the County Library in Tallaght this month and all are welcome.

Today (Thursday) genealogist John Grenham will hold a session on tracing your family tree between 12.45pm-1.45pm.

He will deal with the major methods for researching your family tree, provide

advice and tips and facilitate hands on practice at using the resources of the library.

On September 19, Tomas Maher will host a walking tour of historical Tallaght between 6.30pm-8pm and those interested are asked to assemble outside the library at 6.20pm.

On September 30, the official launch of the *South Dublin in Photographs and Prints* exhibition will take place and will be on display for a further month after that. Also this month, an exhibition on W and R Jacob Limited, *The Story of an Irish Industry 1851 to the Present*, is on display and all are welcome.

Ballyboden legal aid centre opened

RESIDENTS of Ballyboden can now avail of free legal advice and information on social welfare and other matters from a new outreach service at Whitechurch Library.

Eamonn Ryan TD of the Green Party officiated the opening last Friday of the Ballyboden Free Legal Advice Centre (FLAC) and a new outreach service to be provided by Tallaght Citizens' Information Centre.

The legal advice centre will operate every Monday night from 7pm to 9pm while volunteers from Tallaght CIC will be on hand at the library for the same period every Monday night and on Fridays from 10am to noon.

Speaking at his first official opening since elected to the Dail last May, Deputy Ryan said the new services were at "the heart of what democracy is all about".

He said the library which was built in 1912 with funding from the late American industrialist Andrew Carnegie,



Eamonn Ryan TD with librarian Breda Bollard and Gail Roantree (adult literacy organiser with County Dublin Vocational Education Committee) at the opening of the Free Legal Aid Advice Centre in Whitechurch Library.

By Sharon Geoghegan

was an appropriate location for the new services because "the only motive is to inform and it is completely inclusive".

Tallaght CIC deal with over 1,000 queries

a month regarding social welfare entitlements, taxation, disability benefits and other matters.

Vicki Hughes of Tallaght CIC said: "We also have a directory of all the different support services in Tallaght. We have a refuge information serv-

ice once a week."

She said the intention was to expand the service in Ballyboden in the future depending on demand.

Edel Ryan of FLAC noted that there are now 46 advice centres in the country and the service was increasing because of demand,

particularly in disadvantaged areas.

She welcomed solicitor Keith Walsh on board as the first of a team of solicitors to agree to give free legal advice in Ballyboden.

She said advice on all kinds of legal matters would be provided by the centre.

Thursday 12 September

NEWS view

Library course for Spielberg hopefuls

A COURSE in film directing will be run next month in the County Library in Tallaght for teenagers aged 13-17.

Although both weeks are already fully booked out, organisers said they are compiling a waiting list for future courses.

The event will be run by Alternative Entertainment Arts Group and participants will be trained in script writing, acting and filming.

The groups will shoot scenes on location around Tallaght and the finished products will be shown in UCI cinemas during the Junior Dublin Film Festival.

According to Caroline Barry from the arts group, it will also be running a literary festival in south Dublin libraries in September and there will be brochures available to advertise this.

For more information contact Caroline on 4621029.

25 July 2002 - Echo.

Colour promised at Tallafest despite cuts

By Sharon Geoghegan

THE Tallafest 2002 promises to be an intercultural celebration with a diverse programme of family and child-orientated events taking place on July 5 and 6.

The festival, now in its fourth year, has been reduced to just two days because of financial constraints and will centre on the theme of celebrating inter-culturalism in Tallaght.

The estimated cost of this year's festival is 40,000 euro and sponsorship is still being sought from the business sector and other interested groups, particularly for the annual street carnival.

The programme will begin with creative workshops for children on July 5 at the county library in Tallaght, based on the flags of the world and the continents.

Young participants will also be assisted by professional artists to create the headdresses of South America, Africa, Oceania and India and will also learn about Maori Body Art, the make-up worn by Maoris in Australia and henna printing that is a form of tattooing.

Local author Patricia Devine will give a lunch-time reading to children from her latest publication, titled *The Hungry Horse*, in the library.

On the same day *Down to Earth Theatre Company* will present their highly acclaimed show, *The Round Tuit*, in the civic theatre at 2.30pm.

The show, written by Joe O'Donnell of *Bosco* and *Wanderly Wagon* fame, is suitable for children aged between six and 10 years.

The National Basketball Arena will be the venue for intercultural celebrations on July 6 with creative workshops and display stands exhibiting various ethnic delicacies and hair braiding.

Inflatable City combining super slides, obstacle courses, climbing towers, bouncy castle, face painting and balloon modellers will be held in the arena car park.

Later in the evening, Dublin group *Kila*, supported by Intercultural artists and surprise guests, will draw the festival to a close with a unique musical performance in the arena.

Shane O'Doherty, one of the organisers explained that the festival, previously a week-long event, was reduced to two days because: "We are working within a strict budget."

20 June 2002 - Echo

Childhood museum feasibility examined

THE feasibility of developing a children's museum in south Dublin that would provide information and learning opportunities is to be examined by the council.

Calling for the provision of such a facility, An Meara Chontae Councillor Cait Keane said children's museums are the fastest growing cultural institutions in the world.

The best designed and most successful museums are located in the United States where there are more than 50.

According to South Dublin County Council, the modern concept of a children's museum would require

significant resources in terms of space and investment to make it feasible.

The council has agreed to research the concept, including costings and a suitable site location and report back to councillors when completed.

It noted: "The failure of the Viking Adventure Centre following an investment of over 6m euro is an example of the difficulty of making such a project financially viable.

"There is no existing building in the South Dublin libraries network that would be suitable to house and sustain such a project.

"The five libraries in the south Dublin area had 951,443 visits in 2001."

20 June 2002 - Echo

New name search

LUCAN Library is taking names for a new creative writing group.

No date has been set for an inaugural meeting but those interested may leave their name and contact details at the library within the Superquinn complex on Newcastle Road.

16 May 2002 - Echo

Photos sought for council competition

PHOTOGRAPHS of Lucan and Palmerstown are being sought for the archives by South Dublin County Council through a competition.

In its third annual call for local pictures, the council is offering a perpetual trophy and camera shop vouchers to the top three entries.

All entries will be displayed in the Ballyroan branch library for the month of September, but entries may be submitted through Lucan, Palmerstown, or mobile branch libraries.

South Dublin County Libraries aim to create a collection of such photographs and said the collection will become part of the heritage of the county.

It suggests a number of subjects as themes for suitable submissions.

They include buildings, landscapes, street furniture, schools, roads, railways, canals, sport and entertainment.

Other subjects could include people at work or play, customs and practices, as well as festivals and community events.

Entry is open to all, and the closing date is June 24.

There is a maximum allowed entry of three pictures per person, but pictures may be of any size.

There are two age categories for the competition – less than age 18 on June 24, and more than age 18 on June 24.

20 May 2002 - Echo

Local author in line for top book award

A CLONDALKIN author has been short-listed for the Bisto Book of the Year Awards.

Marie Louise Fitzpatrick from St Brigid's Road has been writing full time for the past number of years and last week was added to a list of nine other authors hoping to win the top prize.

The winner will be announced at a major ceremony on May 30 in The Ark in Temple Bar.

Last year, Ms Fitzpatrick won the top award but said it would be "very unusual" for her entry this year – *I'm a Tiger Too* – to scoop it again.

She said she was very surprised when she learned she had been short-listed again and said it was an achievement "just to make the list".

Although Ms Fitzpatrick has no children, she said many of her friend's children are

By Karen Dunne

"happy to oblige" and share their experiences and imaginations with her for her books.

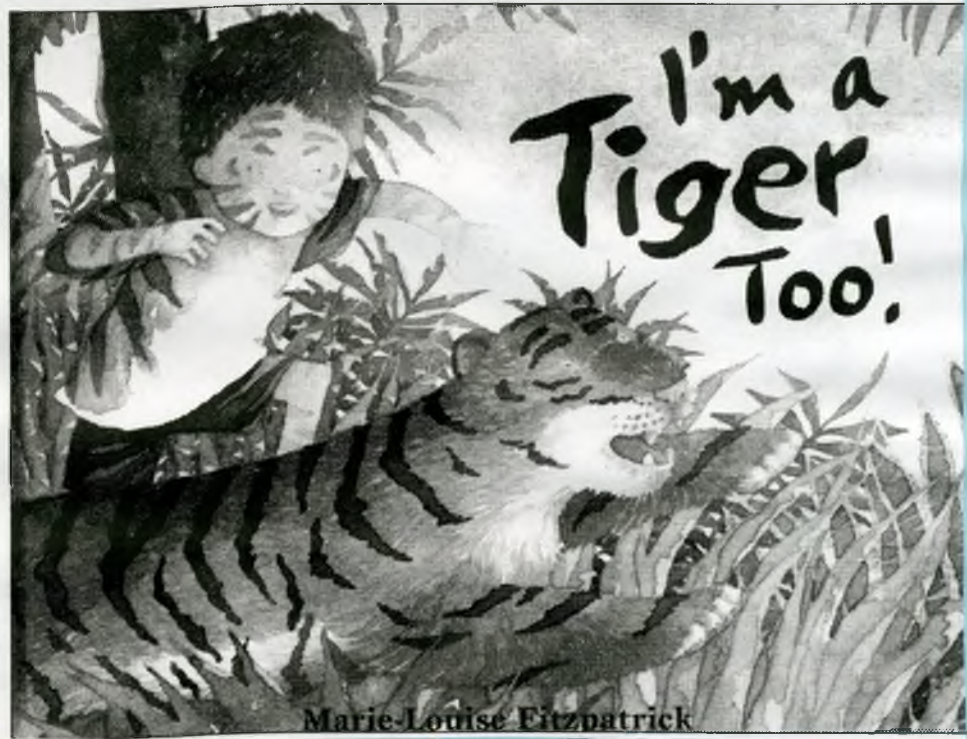
I'm a Tiger Too is a story about a boy who conjures up animals from his imagination to play with until a friend moves in next door.

This is Ms Fitzpatrick's fifth book, which she illustrates as well as writes, and she has also held writing workshops for children in Clondalkin library.

She caters for young children aged four to seven as well as older kids.

The aim of the Bisto Award is to recognise excellence and promote high standards in children's literature by Irish authors, illustrators and publishers.

The winner will receive international recognition along with a cash reward of 6,400 euro.



2 May 2002 - Echo.

Event-packed April at library

A FEAST of activities is planned for April in Clondalkin library.

Proceedings kick off at 3pm on April 4 with Easter cookery for seven to 10-year-olds, while there is arts and crafts for 10 to 12-year-olds on April 5.

As part of the council's multicultural week, several workshops and activities are planned, starting with a creative writing class for children aged nine to 11 with author Pauline Devine on April 15.

There will be storytelling for children on April 16 at 10.30am with Larry O'Loughlin, while on April 17 an interactive workshop for teenagers will be held.

This will be run by Moyesola Adebayo and looks at the changing cul-

tural landscape of south Dublin and problems that might arise.

An introduction to puppetry with Ursula Ritzlaff will be held on the 17th.

This will focus on the use of recycled products and is aimed at 10 to 12-year-olds.

On April 18, children's music and storytelling workshop figures, Spud and Yam, will visit the library at 10.30am.

The week's events will finish on April 19 with a Batik painting workshop with John Carpenter.

Booking is essential for all of these events as places are limited and parents are advised to book early to avoid disappointment.

For further information telephone 4593315.

4 April 2002 - Echo

Library celebrates old age

CLONDALKIN library is to hold a month-long celebration for older people during May.

There are several events and activities planned including an exhibition taking a nostalgic look at the area, called 'Lost Clondalkin'.

On May 14 and 21, between 10am and 12 noon, there will be computer classes for senior net surfers aimed at explaining the Internet.

Locals are invited to take part in a walk through Clondalkin looking at various historical and cultural sites on May 15 and 22 with historian Joe Williams.

The meeting place is Clondalkin

library at 10.30am and booking is essential.

On May 16 at 11am, there will be a flower arranging workshop with Connie Merriman, which includes a demonstration.

On May 23 at 11am, artist John Carpenter will hold a Batik painting workshop and places need to be booked.

Computer classes for over 55s will continue throughout the month on Fridays at 10am and cover basic computer and Internet skills.

For more details, Tel: 459 3315 or email: clondalkin@sdublincoco.ie

7 April 2002 - Echo.

Countywide scheme to fuse cultures

By Sharon Geoghegan

CULTURAL diversity in south Dublin will be fused in a week-long programme of events from April 15 to 19 in public libraries throughout the county.

The programme, titled *Fused*, is an extension of the one-day intercultural event organised by South Dublin County Council for the past two years.

The week will include workshops in drama, puppetry, story telling, creative writing, art and crafts.

Adults can enjoy an introduction to Polish art and papercraft known as Wycinanki while worldwide web skills will be passed on by Denise Daly of Tallaght Artsquad in a series of four workshops.

Well known Irish traditional musicians and singers like Andrew Murray of De Dannan fame and Maurice Lennon, formerly of Stockton's Wing, will be among the performers at Lucan Library on April 16, starting at 8pm.

African women's choir, AZAC, will perform on April 15 in Tallaght Library at 7pm.

Tallaght Youth Theatre will take to the stage on April 17 at Ballyroan

Library to perform *A Part of Ireland Now*, a dramatic presentation of the subjective experiences of refugees and asylum seekers in Ireland. The drama begins at 7pm and all are welcome.

County arts officer, Patricia Fitzgerald is spearheading the week in association with South Dublin libraries, Tallaght Artsquad and Alternative Entertainments.

She explained that the aim was to share and learn from other cultures and to promote understanding, equality, harmony and justice in a diverse county.

She said: "In order to encourage the positive growth of plurality within our society, many of the week's events are aimed at young people, with active participation from local schools.

The week will be fused together on April 19 with a music and dance extravaganza, including Irish, African, Blue Grass and Brazilian, in the council's headquarters in Tallaght at 7.15pm.

Further information is available from Patricia at 4149000.

11 April 2002 - Echo.



Miriam Nolan (left)
with Eileen Casey

throughout South County Dublin and indeed, throughout the country.

For booklovers not yet initiated to the delights of the book club, it's worthwhile checking out existing ones at local level. The beauty of a library-operated book club is the fact that books are provided free of charge. This means that you get to sample the wares before committing to buy them, as gifts or for personal possession – most of the Castletymon members bought their own copy of *Girl With a Pearl*

Earring, mainly because of its very attractive cover display of Vermeer's famous painting.

Each session of a book club is a whole new chapter thanks to the variety of genres available. Murder mystery, romance, memoir, autobiography, short story, science fiction, and so on.

Reading aloud a piece of favourite text is also an enjoyable feature of the session and heightens the particular cadence

A popular book club tome at the moment is *My name is Red* by Orhan Pamuk, while some clubs are trying their hands at *Ulysses* and *Harry Potter*!

If becoming a member of a library book club is not an option, there is also the possibility of setting one up independently. Lots of book clubs operate successfully from the comfort of sitting rooms, once domestic clutter has been relocated for the duration of the

says “coming to the book club is like an hour of fantasy tinged with reality”.

It's not necessary to go overboard on providing refreshments though. Avoid the urge to hire caterers, bake a cake or have a fry-up. Otherwise you'll end the evening swapping recipes instead of digesting those bestsellers. If even brewing up is too much bother, you can always sip while you dip into the world of whatever takes your fancy.

To help you get started there's an excellent book available free of charge from Age and Opportunity (01-805 7709) called *Sharing a Personal Pleasure*, by Anne Dempsey. Miriam at Castletymon is at (01) 452 4888. New members welcome. ■

“ Jane Eyre and Mr Rochester were just like the Posh and Becks of their day ”

of exceptional use of language. Poetry, especially, lends itself to being read aloud. Most book clubs take a summer break, with members all looking forward to September. The summer period is a time when members make their own selections to be read in airports, on aeroplanes or under leafy umbrellas in back gardens.

hour or so. The delights of what a book club can offer are flexible and very member friendly. Some groups have hearty discussions over glasses of wine – and conversation often veers away from the book, to just a good old natter.

One book club member Irene Keegan sums it up well when she

Join the Woman's Way book club!

Watch out for the *Woman's Way* book club which will be starting soon. It will be your chance to win free books and write a review of them in the magazine.

Poster contest to highlight library PCs

LIBRARIES across South Dublin are calling for entries to its *Get Comfortable With Computers*' art competition.

The aim of the competition is to highlight free computer access available in libraries.

The county library in Tallaght currently has eight Internet access computers available to the public.

It has a further four junior computers and two teenage ones. Both of these categories have educational software and games but do not have Internet access.

Kieran Swords of the library said there are plans to have limited Internet access on these computers.

He added: "At the moment we ask parents to book the Internet access computers and supervise their children, but we do have a plan to provide a form of Internet access on these computers."

The library's Introduction to Computers' classes are at present totally booked up.

However, the library also provides a number of self-help programmes on its computers and staff are always ready to help people.

Kieran said those of all ages avail of the computer services and the most popular features are the Internet and email.

He added: "One of the main reasons adults come to us is to use email to keep in touch with their children who are living abroad."

A union embargo is preventing the roll-out of a further 10 computers at the library.

Kieran said interest in computers is growing, with a huge usage rate in Tallaght.

"People have to book beforehand and last year 99 per cent of bookable slots were used," he said.

Free computer facilities are also available at Ballyroan, Castletymon, Clondalkin and Lucan libraries.

The *Get Comfortable with Computers*



Linda Keogh is assisted by Lou-Anne Dunphy, staff member at Tallaght Library.

competition has two categories, one of which is open to all ages and a special second-level schools' one.

The top prize in the open competition is 250 euro, with a 125 euro runner-up prize.

The winning school in the second-level

schools' category will receive 250 euro, with the student being awarded 125 euro.

Winning and commended entries will be exhibited at the County Library, Tallaght.

The competition is jointly sponsored by South Dublin Librar-

ies and Sord Data Systems.

The closing date for entries is April 12 and further information and application forms are available from any branch of South Dublin libraries or on the Internet at www.sdcc.ie/hqhome/poster.htm

7 March 2002 - Echo.

World Book Day events at library

AN EXHIBITION of books featured in Oprah's Book Club will be included in the events surrounding World Book Day in Lucan library.

World Book Day is on April 23, and on the preceding day, author Pauline Devine will visit the library at 11am.

On Book Day itself, author Eilis Ní Dhuibhne will visit at 11am.

23 March 2002 - Echo.



Local schoolgirl Nadege Futi chats to Salim Ally at the One Race, the Human Race stand in the Civic Centre exhibition which was organised by Dublin City Council as part of the Ballyfermot Cultural Appreciation week.

Culture celebration

By Sharon Geoghegan

A TOTAL of 300 families seeking asylum were living in Tallaght as of April 2001 of which 70 per cent were from Africa and the remainder from Eastern Europe.

People from Nigeria and Romania make up the largest communities in Tallaght.

The growth in multiculturalism in Tallaght was celebrated last Thursday at the county library with a sharing of African music, food, and art.

The event was organised to mark International Day Against Racism and was organised by Tallaght Intercultural Action (TIA) and Tallaght Community Arts Centre.

An exhibition of art work by a group of African women was launched at the library by Meara Chontae Cait Keane.

She said the value of diverse cultures in society should be

appreciated and a co-ordinated approach to target social exclusion and racism in society was required.

She said: "We here in South Dublin County Council are strongly committed to addressing exclusion and racism within the county when and where we can and working with all the relevant interests to realise this commitment."

The Meara Chontae added that Ireland was a changing society and "we should all be open and accepting to that change".

The art work, comprising a series of wall panels using African fabrics and designs, was completed by women from Nigeria, the Congo and Ghana during a five-week workshop at Tallaght Community Arts Centre.

To coincide with International

Day Against Racism, a report, entitled Combating Racism in the Community, was also published by TIA.

It was compiled from a one-day conference organised by TIA last January and recommended anti-racism education and training, cultural awareness and the establishment of a media monitoring group to address the problem.

The report also suggested bringing the matter into the political arena to bring about anti-racist legislative changes not just for asylum seekers and refugees but Travellers also.

According to the report racist incidents are a daily occurrence in Tallaght and can take the form of verbal abuse, physical assault and damage to property.

The report suggests a number of positive responses from the council, the Gardai and the Equality Authority.

28 March 2002 - Echo