

26 June 2003.

summer schedules for libraries

AS the schools close and the summer holiday's kick off, the libraries are rolling out their summer schedules for children. Here is a taste of what is on offer over the coming months. Booking is essential for most of the events and people interested are advised to contact the libraries directly.

Each of the libraries are seeking participants for the summer inter-library quiz and heats will run throughout July.

Castletymon Library

The highlights in the library include a still-life painting workshop with Betty Kelly (July 1, 3), Interactive storytelling with Bualadh Bos for under 8s (July 2), sock doll making with Ann Foster (July 4), 'Fun and Funky Fridge Magnets' with Miriam for 6 to 10 year olds (July 8), an interactive movement and story workshop with Veronica from Artscope (July 10), arts and crafts with Imelda (July 11, 15, 17)

County Library Tallaght

Throughout the month of July, the library will run *Spraio '03*, which promises lots of summer fun for children of all ages. The line up features art and crafts workshop for 8-12 year olds with Sinead McGeany (July 14), digital art with Caoimhe O'Sullivan for eight year olds (July 14, 15, 21, 22), a hip-hop dance workshop with Dance Theatre Ireland (July 15), arts and crafts for 4-7 year olds with Catherine Corcoran (July 16), instant orchestra with Nico Brown (July 16), Irish History Live - Robert Emmet and the weapons of rebellion (July 17 and 18), a drumming workshop with Brian Fleming (July 21) and a clown workshop with Valerie Coyne (July 24)

Tallaght artist John Carpenter will be the artist in residence for July and will hold a series of workshops on Saturday mornings from 11am to 1pm. Meanwhile, Terry Hassett Henry will hold a series of workshops for 8-12 year olds from July 1 to 11.

Lucan Library

The activities at Lucan Library will include Indian Sikh Culture; a talk about customs and society for over sevens (June 30); a presentation by Afro Art of African music, stories and dance (July 1); summer arts and crafts for children aged between 8-13 years (July 2 and 3); an interactive story adven-

ture with Silly Billy Learning for children aged 2-5 years (July 3); Internet fun for children aged seven and over (July 3), nature/gardening workshops for children (July 7 and 8), tile painting and t-shirt design - a two-hour workshop for children aged 8-13 years (July 7) and an artscope workshop for children aged 7 and under (July 10).

Ballyroan Library

Summer delights at Ballyroan library will include a magic workshop with Pat Fallon for over eights (July 1), an Aboriginal art workshop with Aileen Shelton for over sevens (July 2), Sillybilly Learning for 2½ - 5 years (July 4), an instant orchestra with Nico Brown for two to six year olds (July 8, 15), a Pine Forest Art Workshop for six to nine year olds (July 9), a photographic workshop with Brian Mc Cormack (July 11 and 18), and summer arts and crafts with Sinead Mc Geaney from The National Gallery of Ireland (July 16)

Clondalkin Library

They start with a chess blitz on July 1 and 8, but Clondalkin Library's activities also feature storytelling and art for children of all ages (July 2, 9, 10, 16, 23, 30), a puppet show with Julie-Rose McCormack (July 7), magic workshop with Pat Fallon (July 14), Drama with Pearl: a workshop for 8-12 year olds (July 15), a clown drama workshop where kids can earn a red nose (July 21), glass painting with Michelle Cruise (July 22 and 29) and tradition street games with Jean Cruise (July 28).

Mobile Library Service

Mobile library service will change for the summer months as many customary stops in schools will be replaced with alternative venues. Readers at Sacred Heart Senior National School, Knockmore National School and Killinarden Community School will find the service outside Killinarden Community Centre on Monday mornings from 11-12.30am and on Tuesday afternoons from 3-5pm.

Pupils of Holy Rosary, Ballycragh will find the libraries at Ballycragh at the side of the Community Centre, Allenton Drive, on Monday from 3-4pm and Thursdays July 10 and 24, August 7 and 21

For timetables for the mobile libraries call 459 7834.



Face painting at Tallaght Library.

artartart

a celebration of diversity

A festival celebrating cultural diversity in South Dublin will be launched on Monday, June 9.

The week-long festival, *Fused*, aims to promote understanding, equality, harmony and justice in society.

This is the second year of the event, which is run by South Dublin Libraries in association with the South Dublin County Council.

Cultural events and art workshops will be held in the various libraries throughout the week.

Highlights include Aboriginal art workshops by Aileen Skelton; a *Seashore Show* by Nico Browne from The Arc in Temple Bar; storytelling workshops by children's author Siobhan Parkinson and African Board Game classes

led by Ronke Arogundade.

There will also be workshops in salsa, hip-hop, samba, belly dance, Russian crafts, Indian music, Traveller's stories and Eastern European cookery demonstrations.

The festival will begin with an energetic opening next Monday, featuring performances by The MaSamba Samba Band, the King Kiarie-Limbo dancer and the Capoeira dancers.

The launch will be held in the South Dublin County Council Civic Square from 6.30pm and all are welcome to attend.

Details for the various workshops and classes can be obtained from the libraries in Ballyroan, Castlemoyon, Clondalkin, Lucan and Tallaght.

12 June 2003.



Dervla McDonald with her mother Marie O'Connor at the launch of South Dublin Libraries Intercultural Festival, *Fused*, last Monday. See the life page 43.

Photo by Sean Dwyer

poetry

by sharon geoghegan

poetry on the wall

Founder member of St Colmcille's Writers Group in Tallaght Geraldine Mills is this year's winner of the South Dublin Libraries' *Poetry on the Wall* competition.

An accomplished and award-winning writer, Geraldine will be presented with her latest prize at the annual ceremony in early September in Aras Chronain in Clondalkin by South Dublin Mayor Councillor Maire Ardagh.

Geraldine lived in Tallaght for a number of years before moving to Galway, where she lives today.

She was one of 800 writers from all over Ireland to enter the *Poetry on the Wall* competition, which is now in its third year.

Geraldine's work has been broadcast nationwide on RTE, Lyric FM, Galway Bay FM and Cork Campus FM.

Her first collection of short stories, *Unearthing Your Own*, was published in 2001 by Bradshaw Books and a second collection is due for publication next year.

Last year, Geraldine received a number of awards, including the Clogh Writer's Poetry Competition and Ballina Poetry competition.

More recently, she was awarded a Tyrone Guthrie Centre Bursary by Galway County Council.

She was also shortlisted for the Frances McManus Short Story Competition and was the Millennium winner of the Hennessy/Sunday Tribune New Irish Award.

Poetry on the Wall co-ordinator, Kate O'Shea said "The quality we got was unbelievable. We had a great response from the local area.

"Tallaght is buzzing at the moment. We got a lot of entries from Northern Ireland, Wales and the Galway region."

The judge for this year's competition was poet Michael O'Dea.

Geraldine follows in the footsteps of Dublin writers Eileen Casey and Ann Leahy as a winner of this prestigious competition.

She will read a selection of poems of poems from her collection at the awards ceremony next month. One of the winning poems is entitled 'What We Understood'.

It reads: "It was not enough for her to say smell that. The hazel that one of us was sent to pick brandished before us, threatening, as she lined us up against the kitchen wall, moving the stick nose after nose. Smell that

"All summer our teeth sank into the unripe nut not given time to harden against us. We dug our nails in and under the hazel embryo, scooped it out, ate it like crumbs of shop bread.

"White and soft. Hadn't she told us every year, hives: We'd be full of them, glutting on kernels still new, scratching all night till she was worn out painting us with calamine.

"That morning when she told me to run to the neighbours with the message and not forget.

"I ran past the tinkers' camp in the hazel trees, their dog's breath curling white in the cold air, past the haunted house, the clear of the spring well, repeating over and over again.

"Tell Mrs Topping your father's dead, remember, tell her."

June 2003.

local carnegie libraries to celebrate 100 years of public service

A PHOTO exhibition to commemorate 100 years of Carnegie Libraries in Ireland will be launched in Clondalkin on Tuesday next (28th).

The exhibition has been prepared by the South Dublin Association of An Taisce and will be on display in Clondalkin Library until the end of February.

There are 66 Carnegie Libraries in Ireland; the first of which were opened in 1902. They include the Clondalkin and Whitechurch libraries which were founded in 1911.

Industrialist and philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie, a Scottish immigrant in the US, made his millions in American steel and went on to found 2,500 libraries worldwide.

Organisers hope the exhibition will remind people of the role Carnegie Libraries played in advancing public education in Ireland, while also drawing attention to the importance of the library buildings themselves.

The exhibition will be opened by the Mayor of South Dublin County Council Jim Daly, and Dr Maura Kennedy will give a lecture on Clondalkin Library and its early history.

it tallaght to perform in dublin castle and the rest of the news

IT Tallaght drama society will present two one-act plays by Tom Murphy tonight (May 1) at the Crypt Theatre in Dublin Castle.

In its last production of the college year, the society will perform the plays *On the Outside* and *On the Inside*, which are set around a dancehall in the 1950s.

The performance starts at 8pm, tickets are five euro or four euro with concessions.

South Dublin Libraries launched their collection of **multicultural books for children** in the County Library, Tallaght, on Unesco World Book Day last week.

The new books offer young readers an insight into other cultures, allowing them to experience the colourful tapestry of societies around the world.

Author Peter Sheridan will visit **Ballyroan Library** in

Orchardstown Avenue as part of the month-long Bealtaine Festival, which celebrates creativity in older people.

The author of *Forty Four* and *Forty Seven* *Roses* will read from his work on May 8 at 7.30pm.



Children's author Siobhan Parkinson at World Book Day.

8 May 2003.



Danielle Ryan, from St Anne's Senior National School in Fettercairn, who received a merit award at the opening of the Litter Awareness art exhibition in Tallaght Library on Tuesday, is presented with her prize by Mayor Jim Daly.

8 May 2003.



Artist Eddie Doran and Mayor Jim Daly with Shane Grogan, Ellenbeth Morris, Adele Connolly, Craig Kinsella, James Carroll from Tallaght Community School at the opening of the Litter Awareness Exhibition in the County Library on Tuesday.

Photo by Sean Dwyer

'New library must be first priority of new county plan'

by Sharon Geoghegan

COUNCILLOR Fintan McCarthy has sought to secure the delivery of a public library to Palmerstown as a priority in the draft county development plan.

The Lucan councillor agreed to amended his motion seeking assurances that "the development of a library in Palmerstown, subject to the acquisition of a suitable site and to satisfying Department of the Environment and Local Government criteria is to be a first priority of the library building programme."

The amended motion was adopted at a special meeting last Thursday to consider issues relating to the pre-drafting of 2004 South Dublin County Development Plan.

Existing council policy supports the development of the library service to meet the needs of the community, subject to the availability of

finance.

The council said: "In the implementation of this policy the council will continue its existing branch network and will expand and improve the service in accordance with the objectives and priorities identified in the council's library development programme 1996.

"The programme may be reviewed and updated from time to time as required.

"Suitable sites will be identified and acquired for library purposes throughout the county."

Cllr McCarthy said: "It is important that the need for a library in Palmerstown is not down graded.

"In 1998 Development Plan, Palmerstown was mentioned as second priority for it [library]."

He said he was satisfied that the council would endeavour to provide a library in Palmerstown, subject to funding becoming available.

22 May 2003.

Echo Nov 20th 2003

WWI exhibit

war remembered

LOCALS are being invited to view an exhibition on World War I on display in Tallaght Library.

The exhibit, entitled *The Great War and The Irish Regiments*, is being hosted by local man Joe Geoghegan, who has included some personal memorabilia in the display.

He said: "I'm not a historian, but I have a great interest in the Great War and in history in general, so I decided to share

this with other people."

The exhibition features an array of propaganda posters and photographs, with reference to both sides of WWI.

Mr Geoghegan's personal items include medals, emblems, books and weaponry as well as a narrative about the Irish regiments.

The exhibition is open to all during the month of November and admission is free. Details at 414 9000.



Joe Geoghegan's grandfather served in the Royal Field Artillery in the First World War. One of the items on display is Bombardier Christopher Joseph Geoghegan's Wound Certificate signed by King George.

enjoying the county's diversity



SOUTH Dublin County Council last week ran its first Social Inclusion Awareness Week, which it now expects to become an important part of the annual calendar.

The key objectives of the week were to promote an understanding of social exclusion and poverty in the county, to highlight the social inclusion and anti-poverty work being undertaken by member agencies of the South Dublin County Development Board and to

Mayor Máire Ardagh is pictured with Berenice and Oida Mpy at the launch of the manual from the Ethnic Minorities Project.

celebrate the diversity of the people in the county.

The week was developed and coordinated by the South Dublin County Social Inclusion Network with the support of South Dublin County Council's Social Inclusion Unit.

The events held during the week included Tallaght Partnership's launch of the manual from the Education and Ethnic Minorities Project in the county library, as well as language

classes, talks on autism and multicultural book reviews.

As part of the initiatives begun last week, the council is also examining the fea-

sibility of redesigning its website to be W3C compliant (accessible to people with sensory impairments).

Nov. 27th 2003.

Dec 11th 2003

The ECHO, Thursday, December 11, 2003

Mayor to launch new disability handbook

MAYOR Maire Ardagh and Labour Party leader Pat Rabbitte will this week officially launch a new handbook on disability.

The event, organised by the Disability Equality Steering Committee, will take place on December 12 in the County Library in Tallaght at 3pm and local organisations and individuals with an interest in disability issues are invited to attend.

The handbook, entitled *On The Right Track*, is written for community development projects, family resource centres and local community groups and looks at ways these groups can achieve full inclusion with people with disabilities.

Focusing on the barriers people with disabilities face and how they can be supported, as well as rights, employment issues and issues surrounding young people, the book is being funded as part of European Year of People with Disabilities.

Further details available from Karen on: 4627741 or Tracey on: 4623222.

October 16th 2003 (The Echo)

Web to give public access to county planning files

New technology examined to allow people to view detailed planning files on computer

THE council is examining the possibility of using new technology to make planning files available to the public through the Internet.

At last week's Terenure/Rathfarnham Area Committee meeting, Councillor Maire Ardagh asked the council to "rectify the problem of missing files at the public desk".

She said on two occasions, constituents had gone to the County Hall to view planning applications which are kept on public record only to find that they could not be located.

She said: "It is very embarrass-

ing. These people went up twice and the files just weren't there. Do these missing files ever show up?"

The council said it makes "every effort" to make planning files available, but if they are not, it is policy for staff to take a contact number for the person looking to see the file and call them when it is available.

Furthermore, a new system has been introduced into the department whereby planning applications are scanned to a document management system.

This means the files can be

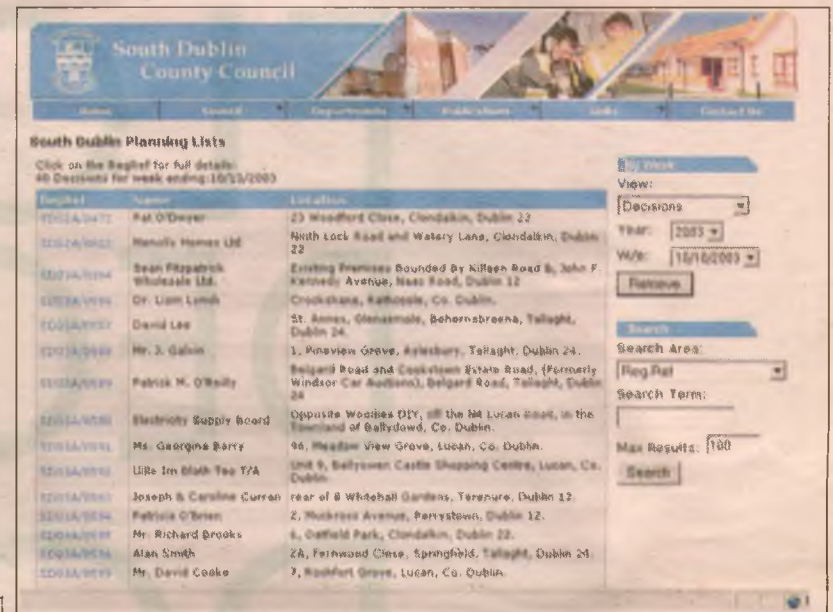
by **Karen Dunne**

viewed on a computer screen and it is intended to extend this facility to the public counter so that locals can view files without having to have the actual file to hand.

Officials said it is also intended to "roll out" this service to the county libraries as well and also to put it on the Internet so the files can be accessed at any time.

The council said: "That won't be happening tomorrow, but it is not too far down the road, we're talking some months."

"Every effort is made to keep the files together and available so people can see them."



Basic planning details can be accessed on South Dublin County Council's website - soon the entire file, complete with submissions and objections, may be available.

Nov. 20th 2003

(Echo)

building a city with kids

by karen dunne

A GROUP of children from Killinarden last week got a lesson in planning when they launched an art project which involved them 'constructing a city'.

The Killinarden Childcare Management Limited, which is an out-of-school childcare service, caters for children in the west Tallaght area. And during the summer months, it ran an environmental arts project in conjunction with Tallaght Community Arts Centre.

The recycling initiative was entitled 'If I could build a town' and the local community became involved in collecting recyclable goods for use in the project.

Over the course of 10 weeks, 23 children aged from four to 12 years designed and built a city using recycled materials, paints and photographs.

The aim of the project was to develop the creative skills of the children, as well as to demonstrate to them that certain waste products can be recycled and transformed into interesting, use-

ful objects.

Last week, Mayor Maire Ardagh presented all the participating children with a certificate and the project was officially launched and put on public display.

According to childcare manager Lelia Murphy, during the course of the project there were talks, stories, discussions and workshops on environmental issues, architecture, town planning and the various uses of buildings and dwellings.

She said: "The children were encouraged to make allowance for green spaces as well as roads and traffic systems."

The organisers want to thank Deborah Moon, managing director Tallaght Community Arts Centre, and Mary Pine, senior executive officer at the development department at South Dublin County Council, for their help.

This project is now on display in the children's section of Tallaght Library. Further details at 4521273.



Mayor Marie Ardagh pictured with the children who 'built a city'

art exhibit for castletymon library

by jim deere

MAYOR Maire Ardagh will launch an exhibition of art for the St Aengus Project, Tymon North in Castletymon Library next Wednesday (November 26) at 11.00am. Don Baker, star of the film *In the name of the Father* and described by Bono as the world's best har-

monica player, will also be there to meet the artists.

Artists John Carpenter and Ben Cusinston train the art group and the exhibition will feature students' work carried out over the last six months.

The art group produced the Special Olympic Mural painted on the rear wall of the Library, The St. Aengus

Project offers classes in art, drama, computer training and work and education preparation.

It is funded by FAS under the Community Employment Scheme and all of the trainees come from the Tallaght area.

This is the first public exhibition of the art group's work.

Teen thugs torch library

Facility closed for two weeks as fire causes €30k damage; gang caught on CCTV

TEENAGE thugs set fire to Castletymon Library last weekend causing approximately €30,000 worth of damage and temporarily closing it.

The incident happened at about 1am last Saturday

by **Karen Dunne**

morning when a gang of youths were captured on CCTV pushing a pile of wooden pallets to the front door of the library and setting them alight.

According to chief librarian Teresa Walsh there was a substantial amount of damage done to the inside of the building and the front porch and entrance hall are completely destroyed.

She said: "The library will be closed for at least two weeks. It was mainly the kids' library end and a lot of the books and the ceiling was damaged.

"We'll just have to replace all the books, there's

nothing else we can do. All the book clubs and events we had planned have been cancelled for the next two weeks.

"This is devastating for the staff here as they work very hard and provide an excellent service, everybody in the area uses this library."

Ms Walsh said it is estimated that it will cost €30,000 or more to repair the damage and replace the books.

She said however, that customers are welcome to use the other branches in the county while the repairs are ongoing.

She said: "We'd advise people who aren't sure if a planned activity is going ahead or not to contact us beforehand to check if it's been moved to another library or postponed.

"We have some video evidence of the incident and those involved and that is with Gardai at the moment."

Gardai at Tallaght said no one was injured during

the incident and the investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to contact 6666000.

This is not the first time that the library has been vandalised as last year the boiler to the rear

of the building was also set alight, causing some damage.

Further details available from South Dublin County Libraries Headquarters on: 4597834 or on www.sdblincoco.ie



External (above) and internal (right) damage caused to Castletymon library by youths.

Photos by Joe McCartney

24th Sept 2003

(Irish Independent)

Two libraries win design awards

TWO Irish libraries have scooped top prizes in the 2003 Public Library Building Awards, beating competition from over 30 libraries in the UK and Ireland.

Ardkeen Library in Waterford City won the Best Small Conversion, while Cootehill Library in Co Cavan won the Best Small New Building category.

A shortlist of 30 entries were judged on architec-

tural merit, how they functioned as libraries, services, and community impact.

The judges were impressed with "the overall ambience of Ardkeen Library, where space, light and attractive furniture have been used to maximum effect". Cootehill Library was "small but perfectly formed" and was praised for its facilities for the disabled.



Heritage highlighted

SOUTH Dublin's heritage will be on show next week with the launch of a photographic exhibition and competition in Ballyroan Library.

On September 8, Mayor Maire Ardagh will officially launch *Oidhreacht - Our Heritage* and will present prizes to the winners. This exhibition and competition, now in its fourth year, is one of the South County Libraries' contributions to Na-

tional Heritage Week which runs from September 7 to 14.

The competition, which aimed to promote and raise awareness of the county's heritage, attracted over 70 entries in two age groups and the results will be on show during the exhibition.

The programme of events will continue at Ballyroan Library on September 10 with *Exploring Our Hills and Valleys - Dublin 14 and 16*, an illus-

trated lecture by Dr Christopher Moriarty who has written numerous books on the south Dublin area.

On September 12, Clare Brophy will give an illustrated talk to local schoolchildren on the history of the Pearse (formerly Hermitage) Museum and St Enda's Park.

Events are free and all are welcome. Further information from Ballyroan Library on 494 1900.

Sept. 4 2003

learning from the jazz master

by shauneen armstrong

A leading figure in Irish Jazz will be taking guitar masterclasses later this month in Tymon Bawn Community Centre.

Mike Nielsen from Sligo has been called one of the "pioneering figures" in Irish jazz by the *Sunday Tribune*.

He will be taking time out of his preparations for the forthcoming Cork Jazz Festival to come to Rathfarnham and Tallaght to perform a recital and take a masterclass.

Nielsen has been playing professional guitar since he was 12 and studied classical guitar with Niels Krosboll in Denmark.

He also studied at the Royal Academy of Music and the College of Music and drama in Dublin.

When he is not playing, Nielsen teaches jazz improvisation at the Dublin Institute of Technology, College of Music and Drama as well as guitar and improvisation at Newpark Music Centre in Blackrock.

Jazz is not his only interest, however. He has also performed with contemporary classical ensembles, including the Crash Ensemble and Vox21.

Over his career, Nielsen

has recorded 12 CDs and another yet-unnamed CD is due to be released later this year.

His previous CD release, which was recorded with the Brussels-based singer Ellen Demos earlier this year, is entitled *Osmosis*.

He describes *Osmosis* as "a mix of jazz and other pop music".

Among the many performers Nielsen has worked with are Kenny Wheeler, Larry Coryell, Joe Lovano, Kenny Werner, NHOP and saxophonist Dave Liebman.

Liebman has been wax lyrical in his praise of Nielsen. The two have worked together on two CDs, *Tomorrow's Expectations* in 1989 and *After Dark* in 2001.

Writing on Nielsen's CD sleeve notes, Liebman said: "I have always loved Mike's unusual approach to guitar and music in general".

He went to say: "Truly a unique, one of a kind voice, the music here burns with creativity and passion."

While the *Sunday Tribune* said: "Nielsen is rapidly gaining a reputation as one of Europe's most dis-

tingtive and iconoclastic guitar voices, equally innovative on electric and acoustic guitars."

The *Irish Times* called Nielsen one of the most "original jazz talents" ever produced in Ireland.

Also a proficient composer, Nielsen has been commissioned twice to compose music for The Improvised Music Ensemble (TIME) and he also composed music for the orchestra and choir for the 25th birthday celebrations of Newpark Comprehensive School.

Other commissions include a suite for a jazz quintet featuring trumpeter Guy Barker which was recorded live for Lyric FM radio.

He has also written for solo guitar, guitar duo, flute and guitar duo, quartet, sextet and octet. There has also been work for larger ensembles and more than 20 compositions have been recorded.

Speaking to *The Echo*, Nielsen said: "I do various things, but I mostly teach.

"I am a jazz and classical guitarist. I play with contemporary classical ensembles with the electric guitar."

Before taking the masterclasses, Nielsen will perform a recital on September 26 at 8pm in Whitechurch Library, Taylor's Lane in Rathfarnham.

Nielsen has previously led masterclasses in the

centre and is delighted to have been invited back to oversee more.

Proficient musicians are invited to take part in the masterclasses, which will be held on September 27 and 28 in Tymon Bawn Community Centre on Firhouse

Road West.

Admission to the recital in Rathfarnham is free but places are limited.

The masterclasses cost €40. But again, places are limited. Contact Caroline at 4621029 for more information.



Mike Nielsen

11th of Sept. 2003

Sept. 18 2003.

library's finest pipped at the post

by karen dunne

BRAIN boxes from Tallaght Library were recently just pipped at the post in the Grand Final of the Inter-Library Quiz.

The quiz is an annual event held between the four local authorities aimed at eight-to-12 year olds.

The idea behind it is to test the skill and knowledge of the contestants and to encourage cooperation between the library authorities.

This year the team from Cabra Library were the winners during a very close competition, just beating Tallaght Library for first prize.

Tallaght team members, Conor Parle, Emma Lacey, Kerry Ward, Robbie Hudson, Emily Flaherty and James Adderly were disappointed not to take the crown, but took their defeat with good grace.

The quiz master was author and environmentalist Eanna Ni Lamhna, of RTE's *Mooney Goes Wild on One* fame.

Also in Tallaght Library over the next few weeks, there will be an exhibition entitled *Ireland's Geological Heritage* and on October 14, archaeologist and author Geraldine Stout will host the third annual Leo Swan memorial lecture, *The Bend in the Boyne*.

Throughout September, the Local Studies section of the library will host an exhibition in St Maelruain's Church entitled *Tallaght and South Dublin in Maps*.

On September 23, Castletymon Library will host an interactive workshop for fifth and sixth classes entitled *The Ancient World - The Awesome Egyptians*.

Lucan Library is the venue for the launch of *A History of Palmerstown* on September 24, a book by Nessa O'Connor which is being published post-humously.

These events are all part of National Heritage Week and further details are available at participating libraries or from 4620073.

Sept. 2003.

Library launches adult ed courses

A RANGE of adult education classes and courses – from yoga and belly-dancing to flower arranging and Spanish – is scheduled to begin on September 29 at Whitechurch Library.

Enrolment for all courses, including art, yoga, massage and relaxation, flower arranging, Spanish as well as basic English and maths, will take place from September 15 to 19 between 10am and noon.

Ballyboden Adult Social Education (BASE), which has been running adult education courses in Whitechurch Library for the past 13 years, has this year introduced a number of new morning classes, including women's writing, handbag making and belly-dancing.

Women's writing from the 18th to 20th centuries will explore women's position in society through their writings by drawing attention to the social, economic and cultural conditions in which they worked.

Dancing the Rainbow is the title of a new course designed to release blocked energy in the body using movement, yoga, voice, paint and colour in a fragrant and sensual environment.

The belly-dancing classes are geared towards women of all ages, shapes and sizes.

Creche facilities will be provided by BASE and all classes begin at 9.30am on September 29.

Sept. 11th 2003

celebrating county's heritage

by jim deere

SOUTH Dublin Libraries' History and Heritage 2003 was formally launched on Monday by Mayor Maire Ardagh in Ballyroan Library, Rathfarnham.

The theme for this year's month long history and heritage event is historic houses and their status in the county.

Throughout the month of September, guided tours, talks, workshops and exhibitions will be held at St Maelruain's Church and the County, Clondalkin, Ballyroan, Castletymon, Lucan and Whitechurch libraries.



Laura Finn and Sarah Hill (Both Ballyboden).



Andrew Naylor (Butterfield, Rathfarnham).

August 21st 2003

Library events to promote local history, heritage

THE month of September will be dedicated to the promotion of the history and heritage of South Dublin.

The events will include a lecture on Lord Massy of Kilakee, an exhibition on historic houses and a guided tour of St Maelruain's medieval tower.

South Dublin Libraries has organised a series of events, beginning on September 3 with a talk on 'The Surnames of Ireland: Where History and Genealogy Meet'.

The talk will be given by genealogist and author John Grenham in the county library in Tallaght, starting at 7.30pm.

The county library will host an exhibition on the 'Historic Houses of South Dublin County' from September 10, launched by South Dublin Mayor Councillor Maire Ardagh.

To coincide with the launch, Dr Terence Dooley of NUI Maynooth will give a talk on the past, present and future of historic houses in Ireland.

On September 11, promoter of heritage awareness, Con Connor will present a talk, entitled 'Ancient Astronomical Alignments from the Boyne to the Liffey' at the county library, starting at 8pm.

'If Those Trees Could Talk - the story of Lord Massy of Kilakee' is the title of an illustrated talk to be given on September 17 by Frank Tracy.

St Maelruain's Church in Tallaght village will be the focus for some activities,

by Sharon Geoghegan

with a guided tour of the church and its surrounds at noon on September 7, led by local historian Tomás Maher.

Members of the public can also view an exhibition, 'Tallaght and South Dublin in Maps' in St Maelruain's Church tower following each service during the month of September.

The winners of the annual Oidhreacht Photographic Competition will be announced and an exhibition of photographs launched on September 8 at Ballyroan Library.

Clondalkin Library will be the venue for an exhibition on 'The Story of Corkagh House and Demense' during the month that will be combined with the launch on September 8 of *The House of Corkagh*, a book written by Joe Devine.

Local studies librarian Kieran Swords said the theme for this year's heritage month would be based on historic houses and their status in the county.

He said: "We would treat September in South Dublin as history and heritage month. There is a steady interest in all of the local studies stuff we put on. The exhibitions that we would produce are based on materials we would have in the library."

Admission to exhibitions and lectures is free of charge and further information is available from Kieran at 4620073.

Aug. 21st
2003

noel crotty in 3D

A collection of 3D art created by local artist Noel Crotty is on display in Lucan Library. The exhibition mostly features landscape paintings but seven exhibits were compiled with recycled material, something inspired by Noel's family's willingness to recycle.

The overall theme for the seven pieces is 'Celtic Revival'. Noel explained prior to the opening of the exhibition: "I wanted to get across the idea there will be a Celtic revival and was looking to get across a tribal instinct, but not in the military sense.

"For example, there is a piece that reflects the tribe of the six nations. Rugby is the conflict but it is not a war situation. That's the kind of tribalism I was looking to reflect.

"I suppose what inspired me was I've made a bit of hobby out of giving new life to things that are going to be discarded."

More than 20 paintings by the married father-of-one are on display in the gallery. Some were

created specifically for the event.

Among the places featured in the paintings are Clifden in County Galway, The Galtee Mountains in Co Tipperary and Youghal in Co Cork.

Noel said: "I've been interested in art since I was a child. It's different things that inspire me like certain landscapes.

"If I see something nice, I'll take notes or I might even sketch it out on paper with a pen.

"I find painting very relaxing and I have a place at home where I can just lock myself away and work on my art."

Also featured in the collection will be a drawing of Lucan Bridge and a cottage that Noel noticed while out cycling near Westmanstown.

Noel has been living near Lucan village for around 20 years and said: "It is a good place for an artist with the river and lots of variety located nearby."

The exhibition will run in the library at Newcastle Road until August 30. Admission is free.

1st - (8th) August 2003

COMMERCIAL FEATURE: LIBRARY SERVICES

Libraries still the best source of information in the modern

There is so much more to libraries than simply borrowing books. David Boland finds out what is on offer

world

LIBRARIES - traditionally refuges of learning, peace and solitude. A place where people can escape the hurly-burly of the world and find solace in a book, or choose from a myriad of titles until they find the perfect novel or reference book to curl up with at night. Of course, libraries still offer all these services, but what might surprise people is that they can also offer much, much more.

Libraries should be familiar to everybody. Especially beloved by children and students, it is perhaps a shame that so many people in their twenties and thirties seem to lose touch with what libraries have to offer. But those who do go back will probably find them significantly changed from what they knew when they were kids.

Libraries now offer more than the reading rooms and lending so familiar to the young, and are responsible to a large extent for trying to bring technology to the people.

Libraries are managed by the relevant local authorities, and each has its own individual means of bringing its service to the public. For example, South Dublin County Council provides a progressive, com-

munity-based public library service to all who live, work or study in South Dublin. The public library service is an important focal point at the heart of the local community and aims to be pro-active and dynamic in addressing its manifold needs, particularly in the areas of information, culture and heritage, literature and lifelong learning.

The branch network at, Ballyroan, Castletymon, Clondalkin, Lucan and Tallaght serves a population of 240,000 people in 68,000 households. Last year there were more than 900,000 visits to these libraries and 982,088 items were borrowed.

Mobile Libraries provide an invaluable service to various communities unable to access a static branch library and includes schools and hospitals/institutions in its service runs. The four Mobile Libraries make 45 scheduled stops weekly, and the Housebound Service operated by the Mobile Libraries visits senior citizens in their homes with a selection of materials.

Alongside its routine services, such as book lending and handling information

enquiries, the library service also promotes local studies, hosts lectures and exhibitions, runs programmed events for adults and children, provides access to information technology and in a host of other ways stimulates self-discovery and personal development. One of the aims of the South Dublin Libraries is to foster and facilitate learning opportunities that are accessible to all. The branch

The four Mobile Libraries make 45 scheduled stops weekly, and the Housebound Service operated by the Mobile Libraries visits senior citizens in their homes with a selection of materials

libraries offer a range of self-learning options in both languages and computers.

As well as the free internet access, computer training courses for adults were expanded throughout the service in 2002, and into 2003. The courses are extremely popular and are booked out well in advance. They range in duration from five to 10 weeks and are aimed at

teaching basic computer literacy skills.

On top of the regular programmes at the libraries, there are also a number of special events which take place throughout the year, either locally or nationally. For example,

History & Heritage month will take place in South Dublin Libraries for the whole of September. Some highlights to look

Third Annual Leo Swan Memorial Lecture: 'The Bend in the Boyne' by Geraldine Stout. All these events will be listed in the Duchas booklet which is a nationwide accumulation of the months' events. Brochures will be available in the branches in the coming weeks.

As well as this, the prizegiving for South Dublin Libraries annual Poetry on the Wall competition will take place in Arus Chronain in Clondalkin at the end of September, while the Children's Book Festival will take place from October 13 to 24.

The second annual Readers Day - Like Wine Through Water - will take place in the Plaza Hotel in Tallaght on Saturday, November 1. As in last year's spectacular success, this year's event will again be hosted by author, poet and playwright Dermot Bolger. A day-long programme of authors, poets, playwrights and raconteurs will speak to the audience about the experience of writing and the subject experience of reading as experienced by the individual.

Waterford libraries have invested large sums of money to bring the best library service

possible to the people of the region. The City Library is currently being renovated and extended, and the new €5.8m refit is set to modernise and increase the size of this historical building.

To add to this, 2002 saw the opening of Ardkeen Library, on the first floor of a new shopping centre on the Dunmore Road. This new high-tech library offers 13 PCs, as well as a host of different services, including a self-issue machine, to the people of Waterford. This allows the public to check out a book using a PIN, without having to go to the desk to do so. There is also a plasma screen which hangs down into the entrance of the shopping centre, giving local authority information to the people of Waterford, such as community information and library details of upcoming events.

Ever committed to bringing technology to the people, Waterford City Council has devoted an entire floor to internet access at the main city library, and looks forward to liaising with colleges in the provision of distance learning. It has also been successful in placing their catalogue of stock on-line.

It is also carrying out research into the provision of services for asylum seekers and refugees, and has been successful in bringing in books in other languages for non-Irish users.

September and October are busy months for Waterford libraries, seeing Literary Week, Heritage Week and the Children's Book Festival take place. Waterford has also been successful in pioneering a programme with Cork County Library in developing web services for community groups in libraries, called Agora. This enables "late adopters" of technology to become more au fait with IT, in that they produce the information themselves, with the library acting as a host, providing the webspace for the community groups.

"There is a huge amount to libraries that people are not aware of," said Jane Cantwell of Waterford Libraries. "Libraries are proactive in the development of their stock, and in providing any community and government information that people need. People may not realise the range of service available - it's not just for elderly people and kids, so drop in and have a look."

17th August 2003

South Dublin Libraries



- Are for everyone
- Support lifelong learning
- Connect people with ideas
- Foster community identity
- Are great places for kids

Free membership. Free internet and E-mail access.
Book, print and music lending. Photocopying and
printing facilities. CD roms and games.

Community information.

Periodicals and newspapers. Language courses.

Mobile and housebound service. Adult literacy.

Study areas. Local history and reference.

Exhibitions and classes.

Ballyroan	4941900	Tallaght	4620073
Castletymon	4524888	Whitechurch	4930199
Clondalkin	4593315	Mobile office	4597834
Lucan	6216422	Schools office	4597834

www.southdublin.ie

21st August 2003



Anna Ryan (Probation Service and the Deonach management committee) and Alice Murphy (Deonach management committee) at the launch on Monday night in the county library of the Wild At Art exhibition by young artists from the Deonach and Target programmes in St Dominic's Contact Centre. The exhibition was launched by County Mayor Maire Ardagh and runs until August 29.

Photo by Sean Dwyer

Village recalled in old photos

Exhibition highlights ancient heritage and records development of Saggart



Kay O'Reilly studies some of the old Saggart images.

PHOTOGRAPHS of old buildings, particularly of those which have now been torn down, are a valuable resource for future generations, Mayor Jim Daly has said.

Last week, Mayor Daly launched the Saggart in Old Photographs exhibition at Saggart Heritage Centre, which was attended by local people and Councillor John Hannon.

The exhibit is on display this weekend (March 1 and 2) in the centre, all are welcome and admission is free.

The photos were originally gathered for inclusion in the book *A Pictorial Record of Rathcoole, Saggart, Brittas and Newcastle* which was produced in 1992 by The Four Districts Day Care Centre.

They were displayed previously in the day care centre and the County Library and now that the heritage centre in Saggart is up and running it was decided to show them off there too.

The exhibition was



Mayor Jim Daly with Liam Roche of Saggart Heritage Group which organised the exhibition.

brought together by Saggart Heritage Group, under Liam Roche, and South Dublin County Council's Library Service.

Mayor Daly said photographs are very important as a record of people, places, activities and architecture and he urged locals to dig out any old snaps they have to give to the library or heritage group.

He particularly mentioned the work of developer Jim Mansfield in restoring the old castle at Tassaggart House, which Mayor Daly remembers as being "a derelict building with trees growing out of it".

Group visits by schools or other organisations to view the photographs can be arranged through Saggart Heritage Group.

The Four Districts Day Care Centre intends to produce a second volume of its book and those with suitable photos to be included should contact the centre.

If you wish to donate photographs to be included in the photographic collection of the County Library, you can contact Kieran Swords on 4620073.

February 27, 2003

South Dublin library celebrates cultural diversity

The MaSamba Band was among the entertainers who performed at the energetic opening of the South Dublin Libraries' intercultural festival, *Fused*, last Monday.

The week-long event celebrating cultural diversity in South Dublin aims to promote understanding and equality in society.

Other performers at the colourful opening included the King Kiarie-Limbo dancer and the Capoiëra dancers.

The festival ends tomorrow (Friday, June 13) and details about the final workshops can be obtained from the libraries in Ballyroan, Castleymon, Clondalkin, Lucan and Tallaght.



Left: At the *Fused* event: Josephine and Ellen Hatton at Tallaght Library.

Above: Debbie Coagy puts make up on Louise Dunne at the *Fused* event at Tallaght Library.



Sarah Toner, Owen O'Neill and Alan Harting give the drums a gopod thumping at the Samba Masammba show in Tallaght Library.



Above: Balloon Woman Rachael Keenan making balloon shapes/animals for the kids at the *Fused* event, Tallaght Library.

Below: Peter Keenan of Samba Masammba at Tallaght Library



12 June 2003.

wondrous world of a child's imagination

THE richness of a child's imagination is a source that Dubliner Siobhan Parkinson draws on when she sits down to pen her award-winning children's books.

by **aoife o'reilly**

The multi-Bisto Book of the Year winner depicts a world as seen and interpreted by our youth.

From Ricky's problems as a foster kid in *The Moon King* to the turbulent relationship between stepsisters in *Sister . . . No Way*, her books tell of the courage, hope, innocence

and humour found in every day life.

An engaging speaker, Siobhan talks about reading with great passion and conviction. Fresh from a ceremony in Tallaght Library celebrating Unesco World Book Day, Siobhan says people need to be reminded of the importance of reading and the pleasure they can

get from books.

This is especially true for children, who gain enormous joy from the written word, she says.

"Once a child has learned the mechanics of reading, it is important that they acquire the habit of reading, to learn how to enjoy reading because it will be with them all their lives."



Siobhan Parkinson.

Photo by Sean Dwyer

Books, she says, differ to TV and the cinema because the written word allows a reader to participate in the creative process, so readers can

build their own images of the characters and settings.

As part of World Book Day, South Dublin Libraries launched a collection of multicultural books for children. The books offer children an insight into other cultures and how people live in countries around the world.

Siobhan says: "The theme of [this year's] World Book Day was to provide books for children regardless of their culture and background, so they can find something they can relate to in the books - so they are not alienated from books."

The new range of books now available in the South Dublin Libraries deals with universal concerns and interests of children. Many of the books are "dual-language" to provide a bridge between cultures.

When Siobhan selects a piece of fiction to read, she looks for a well-written, engaging story. She requires the same standards when she writes her books.

"I am writing about my own experience, telling a story that is interesting and engaging. And also [books that] give children a literary experience, the kind of books that challenge children to explore language and enjoy language."

Siobhan was born in Dublin and grew up in Galway and Donegal. She later returned to the capital to

study English literature and has lived here ever since.

Now residing in Harold's Cross with her woodturner husband, Roger Bennett, and her son Mathew, Siobhan uses her surroundings as settings for most of her books.

And even those that deal with exotic places do so from an Irish child's point of view. One such treasure is *Call of the Whales*, a captivating novel about the freezing Arctic landscape as seen through the eyes of an Irish boy.

When Siobhan is not writing, she is actively promoting reading in the community. As part of the *Writers in School* scheme, she visits at least one school a week to talk to children about reading. She is also editor of *Children's Books Ireland*, which promotes quality children's books and reading.

With so many distractions battling for children's attention, there is a fear that young people will stop reading. However, a recent survey by *Children's Books Ireland* found that children do read and, says Siobhan, probably more than most adults realise.

She says: "The pleasure you get out of reading as a child is so huge, from eight to 12 is an intense period of reading."

The survey did indicate that children (below 13) are reading within a narrow range

of material. Like adults, they mainly choose best-sellers from such authors as Jacqueline Wilson and JK Rowling.

Yet children are not completely hoodwinked by popular culture. Siobhan notes the *Harry Potter* "phenomena" was started by young people. "It was the children who discovered them and spread the word," she says.

The survey also highlighted how reading falls off during secondary school years.

Girls always read more than boys, says Siobhan, but once they enter the teenage years they read less and boys read even less again.

Preventing this trend is a problem, the author says. Even her son, once her best proofreader, fell away from reading in his early to mid-teens but he is now coming back to books.

"That's why it's important to form the habit as a child, so even if children go through a phase of not reading, they will come back to it."

The best way to encourage children to keep reading is to surround them with books, "loads and loads of books", Siobhan says.

"Books in the home are important and not just children's books. Adults also need to be reading and should have books around so children become aware that reading is an important part of life."

Thurs, April 24, 2003

art&theatre

by michael mcglynn

Feb 12 2003

artist's view of ireland

LUCAN Library is preparing to host a new painting exhibition and sale by local artist Gillian Byrne.

Aspects will feature 20 paintings of Gillian's paintings and they will be on display in the library from February 14.

Gillian commented: "The work that will be on display features landscapes and seascapes that have been painted on oils, waters, pastels and pencil."

She added: "I knew I would be staging an exhibition since last April, so I have been working towards this since then.

"I felt a lot of the work was almost like looking through a window and was depicting aspects of Ireland as seen by myself through colours."

Ms Byrne said images from the east coast to the west coast of Ireland will be depicted in the exhibition.

Many are from Connemara and Carlingford, where Gillian spent part of last Summer.

Images of Lucan will also be depicted in the paintings. These will include the local weir, bridge, village and parts of Griffeen Valley Park.

The paintings will also be on sale at the event. Prices will vary from €100 to €500 and 30 per cent of the proceeds will go towards Lucan Presbyterian Church.

Gillian said art has always played an important role in her life, and she has completed courses on oils and pastels at the National College of Art and Design.

Her work was previously displayed in November 2002 at Naas Library and at Lucan Library last Summer.

She has also talked with the council about having her work displayed at its offices in Tallaght and said she it hopeful it will take place next year.

Elements was the title of a previous exhibition that was staged by the artist at Lucan and

Naas.

Gillian commented: "This looked at the way weather affects our feelings and the work was purely figurative. I used the colours to create the atmosphere that people feel.

"I got a fantastic response from people in Lucan and was really happy with the way it went."

Regarding her upcoming exhibition, she commented: "I'm feeling a slight sense of trepidation but I am really looking forward to it.

"I always feel a bit nervous before an exhibition because it's showing people things that I do in private but I love doing this and am confident things will turn out well."

The exhibition will be officially opened next Monday at 8pm by the Italian Ambassador to Ireland, Alberto Schepisi. 'Aspects' will run from February 14 to 28 at the library and admission will be free.



Gillian Byrne.

30 January 2003.



Shirin Duffy and Pauline McCabe listen to Dr Maire Kennedy, divisional librarian with Dublin City Libraries, during talk on the history of Clondalkin library.

23 January 2003.

local carnegie libraries to celebrate 100 years of public service

A PHOTO exhibition to commemorate 100 years of Carnegie Libraries in Ireland will be launched in Clondalkin on Tuesday next (28th).

The exhibition has been prepared by the South Dublin Association of An Taisce and will be on display in Clondalkin Library until the end of February.

There are 66 Carnegie Libraries in Ireland, the first of which were opened in 1902. They include the Clondalkin and Whitechurch libraries which were founded in 1911.

Industrialist and philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie, a Scottish immigrant in the US, made his millions in American steel and went on to found 2,500 libraries worldwide.

Organisers hope the exhibition will remind people of the role Carnegie Libraries played in advancing public education in Ireland, while also drawing attention to the importance of the library buildings themselves.

The exhibition will be opened by the Mayor of South Dublin County Council Jim Daly, and Dr Maura Kennedy will give a lecture on Clondalkin Library and its early history.

30 January 2003.



Magdalene Robertson from Nangor Road talking with South Dublin Mayor Councillor Jim Daly at the launch last Tuesday in Clondalkin Library of the exhibition 100 Years of Carnegie Libraries. Magdalene was born in the library in 1911. Her father was caretaker there and her family lived on the ground floor. Clondalkin Library first opened its doors in January 1911.

Photo by Sean Dwyer

TRUE LIVES

THE BOOKWORMS



Castletymon book club in full swing

The Harry Potter craze has seen lots of children taking a renewed interest in reading. But they are not the only ones who are book mad

READING IS FUN and helps to keep the brain cells ticking over. Often seen as a solitary experience, now reading can be a social activity too.

Book clubs have really taken off countrywide so that bookworms, or gobblers as Marian Finucane describes them, can indulge their passion, either with a group of like-minded people or through book clubs on the radio, such as that run on Marian Finucane's morning show.

Groups get under the skin of characters, find out what makes them tick, and follow breath-stopping plotlines! Thanks to book club, this pleasure can be shared.

Castletymon Library, in Tallaght, has just such a book club. Set in the local shopping centre, the library is at the heart of the community. Now celebrating its first anniversary, this particular book club began life with an author visit by Neville Thompson, a successful Poolbeg Writer. This visit highlighted the important partnership between writing and

reading and underlined the fact that a book isn't really complete until taken up by the reader.

This is why book clubs work so well. Every reader is an individual with an individual life experience and so this personal way of looking at the world is brought to the exploration of selected books. A case perhaps of one man's hero being another's villain.

On the last Tuesday of every month, the Castletymon book club meets. Head librarian Miriam and her dedicated team at Castletymon are absolutely brilliant, making the book club corner cosy and welcoming. Miriam is always keen to update the booklist to suit the requirements of its members.

"The Library is delighted to offer this facility," Miriam says. "The setting is ideal with its wall-

to-wall books and convivial atmosphere."

This sentiment is echoed wholeheartedly by all 12 members of the book club. Mair O' Cathasaigh says the ambiance is like being "cocooned in a much loved armchair".

There are few rules in a book club but it is important that books are completed. Courte alone makes a strong case for it and also finishing a book is a good reading discipline to develop. There are times, naturally, when it's case of 'once I put it down, I just couldn't pick it up again!' but often, after hearing the merits of the very same book being lauded, there's a reversal of fortune for the abandoned work.

To date, membership in Castletymon Book Club is made up mostly of women. There is one man in the group, affectionately called I D'Arcy. Not to be outdone, other members have donned their ideal fictional personas varying from Scarlett O'Hara to Mrs Dalloway.

Claire Cronin reverts to the classics for her favourite heroine and in her opinion "Jane Eyre and Mr Rochester were the Posh and Becks of their day". In fact, once character names become attached to individuals, it's much easier to remember their real names. Particularly the book club boasts no less than three Anne. A year up the road, Castletymon book club has a genuine rapport and there's been lots of laughs along the way. Last month's offering, for example, *How to Be Good* by Nick Hornby provoked much entertaining speculation on what else - how to be good!

Castletymon book club is just one of a whole network of clubs operating successfully



Some of the women give themselves names of characters from books

27 March 2003.

emmet's life and loves to be debated

THE United Irishmen's most romantic hero, Robert Emmet, is to be honoured by South Dublin Libraries in a bi-centennial commemoration starting next week.

Mayor Jim Daly will launch the celebration when he opens an exhibition, *Robert Emmet and the Rathfarnham Connection*, at the Ballyroan Library next Thursday, April 3.

It was Robert's fate to lead the unsuccessful 1803 rebellion in Dublin, for which he was beheaded on the city streets at the age of 25.

Following the disastrous 1798 rebellion, the United Irishmen once more placed their trust in the French to send them a large expeditionary force to aid an Irish rising.

Robert's brother Thomas Addis Emmet acted as an agent for the United Irishmen in Paris, and it was Robert's job to rally the Irish force, buoyed up by additional promises of assistance from revolutionary societies in England, Scotland and the higher classes in Ireland.

However, this seemingly sure bid for Irish freedom was ill-fated from the start.

An explosion at the house acting as depot for arms in Patrick Street forced Robert to bring the date for the rebellion forward without waiting for the promised French assistance.

Despite assurances that the country would rise up behind him, only a small fraction of the men expected to rebel in Dublin turned up.

In the end, Robert and his followers dispersed, and it was decided to wait for the French to arrive.

But before his urgent message to Thomas Ad-



dis arrived in Paris, Robert was captured at Harold's Cross as he attempted to see his love, Sarah Curran.

The final act of betrayal in the young hero's short life occurred during his time in Kilmainham jail as he awaited his execution.

Robert trusted a prison warden, George Dunn, to deliver a letter addressed to "Miss Sarah Curran, the Priory, Rathfarnham". Instead Dunn gave it to the government authorities, an action that nearly cost Sarah her life.

The romantic history was given another twist with the bravery of Robert's housemaid Anne Devlin, who refused to inform on her master despite imprisonment, torture and starvation.

Robert, Sarah and Anne, along with the 1803 rebellion, will be discussed by leading historians at various libraries around the county over the next month.

All the events are free. For a full brochure contact the participating libraries in Tallaght, Ballyroan, Clondalkin and Lucan.

Creative side of older age

THE annual Bealtaine Festival will begin next week with a series of arts and cultural events celebrating creativity in older age.

Now in its eighth year, the programme will include a vibrant and invigorating range of events throughout Dublin and around the country in May.

Organised by Age & Opportunity, the festival takes its name from the symbol of fire, vitality and rebirth. It covers all art forms, including theatre, literature, dance, film, storytelling, music, painting, sculpture and criticism.

Those hosting events in south west Dublin during the festival include the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA), Draiocht in Blanchardstown, the South Dublin Libraries, Ballyfermot Public Library, Blanchardstown Public Library and the Tallaght Commu-

nity Network.

In collaboration with the Abbey Theatre and the Film Institute of Ireland, IMMA will run *Affairs of the Arts*, which invites older people to explore contemporary theatre, visual art and film (May 7-12).

During the month of May, members of the St Michael's Parish Active Retirement Group in Inchicore will be in conversation with members of the IMMA team in the gallery space. A selection of work by the group will go on exhibition in the Droichead Arts Centre in Drogheda.

The Draiocht has devised a programme of events targeting older people, including *An Afternoon of Stories*, a gallery talk, a visual art workshop and a photography workshop.

The various libraries will hold a wide range of events including an arts,



Eileen Medforth in St Mary's Day Care Centre preparing for St Patrick's Day celebrations.

Photo by Derek Speirs

culture and history quiz (Ballyfermot Public Library), an evening of music and song with Denis McArdle (Blanchardstown Public Library), a reading with Peter Sheridan (Ballyroan Library), a writing exhibition (Clondalkin Library), a workshop on the art of digital photography (County Library, Tallaght) and art classes with Lucan artist John Carpenter (Lucan Library).

Meanwhile the Tallaght Community Network in association with the South Western Health Board will hold an Old Time Dance on May 17.

For information about festival events contact the venues individually or call the main organisers, Age & Opportunity, on 805 7709 (www.olderinireland.ie).

Emmet recalled in library talks

A LECTURE series to commemorate the bicentenary of the execution of 1803 Rising leader Robert Emmet will begin tonight at Ballyroan library.

South Dublin Mayor Councillor Jim Daly will launch the four-week lecture series in memory of the hero who inspired Irish patriots with his famous speech from the dock.

Emmet was hanged and beheaded on September 20, 1803 outside St Catherine's Church on Dublin's Thomas Street.

After being sentenced Emmet

gave a passionate speech which ended: "When my country takes her place among the nations of the earth, then, and not until then, let my epitaph be written."

The opening lecture by Dr Ruan O'Donnell of the University of Limerick will recall the *Rising of 1803 in South Dublin*. Seamus Cullen will give an illustrated talk on April 10 on *Kildare Involvement in the Emmet Rebellion*.

On April 17, Dr Patrick Geoghegan from Trinity College, author of a recent biography on Robert Emmet, will speak about his role as a hero.

The final lecture will be on April 24 when Mary Cullen of NUI Maynooth will discuss the role of Emmet's housekeeper Anne Devlin as a heroine of 1803. All lectures are free of charge and will begin at 8pm.

For the benefit of children aged between eight and 12 years, Irish History Live will present an interactive session on April 30 about Robert Emmet and the weapons of rebellion, starting at 3pm.

Further information about the lectures is available from Ballyroan library by phoning 4941900 or email ballyroan@sdublincoco.ie