

Library Times

Meath County Council Library Service Newsletter Issue 2. July to December 2017

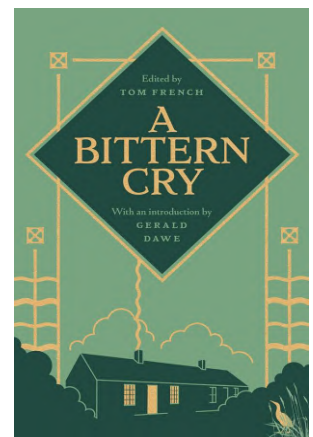
Children's Book Festival



Meath libraries hosted another jam packed book festival for school children in October. Over ninety events took place in 13 locations and were attended by 3,409 children from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. We had author visits, storytellers, illustration workshops, comic book workshops, a Great Big Book quiz and a National Print Museum workshop where children learned how to hand set and print with metal type. Storyteller Niall De Búrca and author Dave Rudden entertained both students and teachers alike in The Solstice Arts Centre. A Junior Book Club/Family Open Day was held in Navan library where children were able to visit a Children's Books Ireland Book Clinic to get a prescription for an exciting new read from their local library.

A Bittern Cry Book Launch

The life and poetry of the Slane poet Francis Ledwidge was explored at a seminar in Slane Castle to mark the centenary of his death. Francis Ledwidge: Poetry and the First World War 1917-2017 - was organised jointly by Meath County Council and the Francis Ledwidge Museum Committee. It also saw the launch of *A Bittern Cry*, a testament to Francis Ledwidge, the man and poet. Edited by author and poet Tom French, with an introduction by Professor Gerald Dawe, it contains essays and poetic contributions by 19 writers. The book is published by Meath County Council, Poetry Ireland/Eigse Eireann and the Francis Ledwidge Museum. Copies can be purchased from any library.



Summer in the Library

Our Summer programme of events was a great success again this year, over 300 events took place during the school holidays. We had a puppet shows with Moon & Sixpence Puppet Theatre, 'Be Dog Safe' workshops with Dogs Trust Ireland, Mini Music Clubs, Cupcake Decorating, Lego competitions, Arts & Crafts, Stories



and Songs sessions, Monster Doodles, a PlayStation Challenge, Yoga, Minecraft Tips and Tricks workshop to name a few. Ciara O'Brien-Quinn from Oldcastle was the winner of our Summer Reading Scheme bag photograph competition. Ciara is pictured receiving her prize, a €50 One4all voucher, from librarian Dympna Tuite.



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

Francis Ledwidge Creative Writing Award 2017

Meath County Council Cultural Services established the Francis Ledwidge Creative Writing Award to commemorate the Francis Ledwidge Centenary 1917 – 2017. The award consists of a one week stay at the prestigious Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Annaghmakerrig, Co. Monaghan plus a cash amount of €1,500. The award was open to practitioners of all creative writing genres on the island of Ireland and the competition attracted a large number of very high quality entries from across the country. The winner was Louise Nealon, a twenty-six year old writer from Co. Kildare. She studied English literature in Trinity College Dublin, and then completed a Masters in Creative Writing at Queen's University Belfast in 2016. Speaking at the award, Cathaoirleach Cllr Gerry O'Connor congratulated the winner on her great success in 2017 and noted how fitting it was that Meath County Council should close off the Francis Ledwidge centenary year by investing in the future of Irish writing.



Summer eReading Challenge Winner



Ailbhe Hackett from Trim was the winner of the summer eReading Challenge. With over 300 full colour digital magazines, 5000, eAudiobooks and 13000, eBooks there is something to keep everyone of all ages entertained. All you need to access our online resources are your library card number and PIN number. Visit www.meathlibraries.ie/onlineresources to get started. Ailbhe is pictured receiving her prize of a 10" Samsung Galaxy Tab from Navan Library Staff Officer Carmel Brecknell.



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Primary Schools Department



St Patrick's National School Baconstown and O'Growney National School Athboy were just two of the schools who signed up to receive our monthly library events email at the Navan Education Centre summer courses for teachers. They were entered into a draw and were the winners of two hampers of books. If you would like to receive updates call 046-9021134 or email navanlib@meathcoco.ie with your name and email address.

Mosney Pre-School Library



Meath County Council Library Service launched a new library for the pre-school children resident in the Mosney Accommodation Centre in October. Hundreds of new books are now available to the upwards of eighty children who attend the pre-school on a daily basis. The library is co-funded by Cllr. Sharon Tolan, who allocated funds to the project from her Municipal District discretionary allocation.



Right to Read

Healthy Ireland at your Library

The library service of Ireland in partnership with the Department of Health recently launched a new initiative called Healthy Ireland. It's aim is to promote healthy living and lifestyle and it run in all public libraries. The main focus of the programme is to educate and assist members of the public towards leading healthy active lifestyles. The library will act as a sign-posting service for people who may have queries about issues and where to get help. The programme, delivered by trained library staff will enhance current health information in libraries by providing new book stock, e-Books, Audiobooks, e-Magazines and information on health and wellbeing. Talks, discussions and workshops will be run in libraries with a focus on physical health, mental health and health literacy. Meath Library Service will run events for all ages on specific topics and will link at a local level with schools and community groups.



Healthy Ireland
at your Library

Full STEAM Ahead at the Library

We had a very busy Science Week in November, school children from all over the county attended talks and workshops covering a range of topics. These included Beekeeping and Biodiversity with Helen O'Connell, an Introduction to Irish Wildlife with Juanita Browne, Heather Bothwell gave a talk exploring food webs and habitats in County Meath. We had 'Sensational Science' from the Rediscovery Centre and Dr. Ken Farquhar entertained us all with his Science

Circus. We are currently planning a fun filled programme of STEAM based events, including a Lego competition that will take place during 2018 watch out for events in your local library.



Culture Night in Dunshaughlin Library



Our first Culture Night was held in Dunshaughlin Library in September and was an outstanding success. The event which was part of the local Harvest Festival was attended by over 140 people and there was music, song, dance, poetry and an art exhibition. International cuisine was provided by people from other countries who are part of the local community. The weather held out and the early part of the evening was hosted outdoors.



Crafty Christmas



The very talented crafters who meet in Trim library created this beautiful crocheted banner to adorn the wall in the library. If you are interested in joining a craft group regular meetings take place in



Ashbourne, Athboy, Dunboyne, Dunshaughlin, Kells, Navan, Rathcairn and Trim libraries. Call your local library for more information. The Christmas tree and recycled decorations pictured were created by staff in Trim and Navan branches.

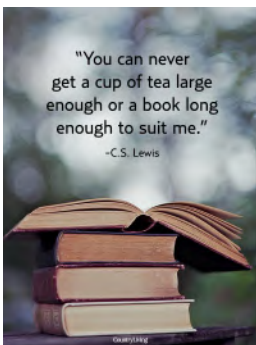


Summer Stars Reading Challenge

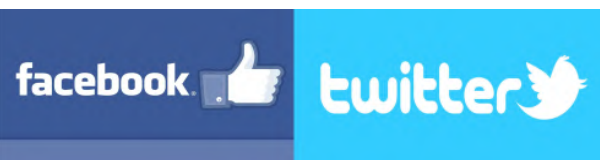
Cathaoirleach Cllr Gerry O'Connor launched our Annual Summer Stars Reading Scheme in July at Ashbourne Library with children from St. Declans National School. 1,200 children signed up to the reading scheme which ran in all Meath libraries. Children recorded their progress on their reading cards and were given fun rewards along the way. Those who completed the 6 books challenge were entered into a draw for a



Kindle Fire tablet and the lucky winner was Luke Walsh from Ashbourne. Luke is pictured receiving his prize from Executive Librarian Mary Murphy.



Never miss another library event by signing up for our monthly library events email. Call 046-9021134 or email navanlib@meathcoco.ie with your name and email address.



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