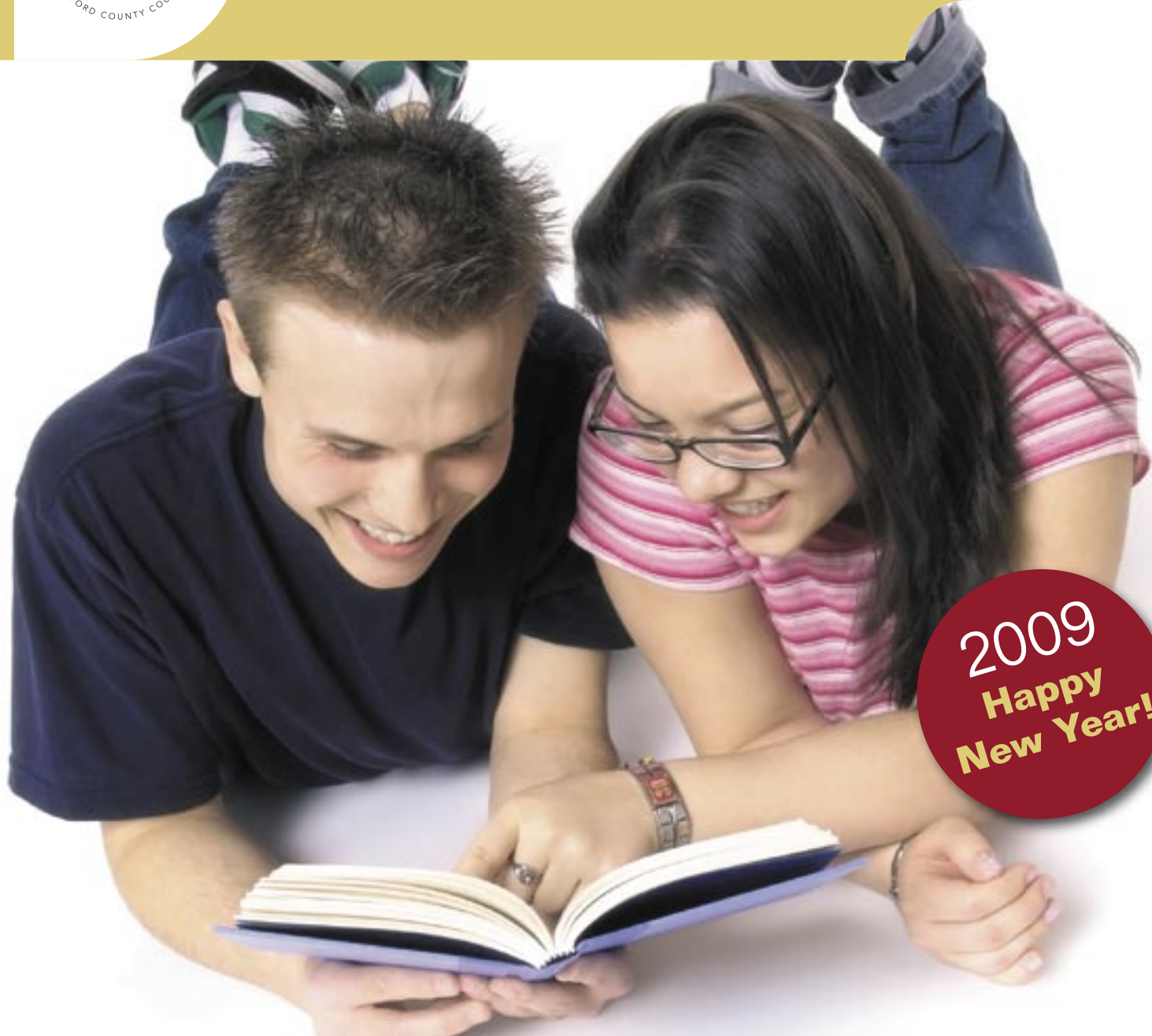




Public Library Matters

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2009
Happy
New Year!

Book up this Winter

“A novel is a two-way street, in which the labour required on either side is, in the end, equal. Reading, done properly, is every bit as tough as writing. As for those people who align reading with the essentially passive experience of watching television, they only wish to debase reading and readers. The more accurate analogy is that of the musician placing her sheet music on the stand and preparing to play. She must use her own, hard-won, skills to play this piece of music. The greater the skill, the greater the gift she gives the omposer and the composer gives her.”

Zadie Smith The Guardian, 13 January 2007

Life-Long Learning

Wexford readers meet the writers

- Orna Ross
- Kerry Hardie
- Liz Mellon
- Kevin Whelan
- Claire Kilroy
- Billy Roche
- David Donoghue
- James Ryan
- Julie Parsons
- John Dougherty
- Roisin Meaney
- Margaret Galvin
- Vona Groarke
- Jim Maguire
- Alice Taylor
- Tom Feeney
- Sylvia Cullen
- Pauric Brennan



Poetry Forum

Margaret Galvin's contemporary poetry course, run throughout the autumn, has spawned a forum for readers and writers. It meets in Wexford town library every Tuesday afternoon from 2pm.

Everybody is welcome. Try it out next time you are in town. Tel: 053 91 321637.

Astrophysicist Colin Melody, who gave the fascinating lecture on The life and death of stars, in Bunclody for Science Week recommends Stephen Weinberg's The First Three Minutes, [1988] and everything written by Richard P Feynmann.

Borrow them from us.



Get the reading lists from Niall McMonagle's recent inspirational workshops on prose (Into and away from ourselves) and on poetry (Word of mouth) at the library.

Or from www.wexford.ie/library That's you sorted for the next 12 months. Enjoy!



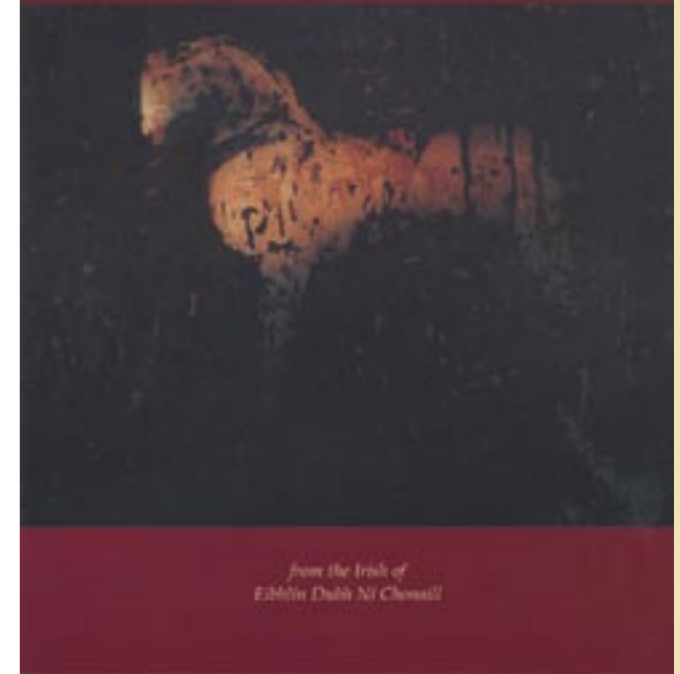
Ireland's first National Poetry Day

was celebrated on 2nd October across the library service with evening readings in Wexford, Enniscorthy & Bunclody. Seventy people in total attended the four events.

Caoineadh Árt O'Laoire, an dán tabhachtach curtha i mBéarla ag file Vona Groarke le déanaí, a bhí ar fáil i gcóir na féile ceoldrámaíocht i leabharlann Loch Garman. The original work, written in Irish in 1773, is **'the greatest poem written in these islands in the whole eighteenth century'** according to Oxford Professor of Poetry, Peter Levi. Vona's translation [2008] is admired as *"vigorous and sincere, speaking of its time and place, and to modern times"*. The reading was an outstanding success.

LAMENT FOR ART O'LEARY

Vona Groarke



The 10th Wexford Storytelling Festival was run in November, involving 3 storytellers and 36 workshops in libraries, schools, playgroups and care centres county-wide.

A two week residency by Sri Lankan storyteller, Debbie Guneratne, was featured and this raises our awareness of other cultures. Her master-class for local story storytellers also addressed this theme.



Booked from Birth

Eoin Colfer's novels were linked with Playstation for a fun-competition in all the libraries over the summer.

Thanks to everyone who participated. Winners were Mary Cleary, [Wexford town] & Ben Cowman [Bunclody] using *The Opal Deception*, and Ciara Gaffney, [New Ross] & Con Maher [Enniscorthy] who worked with *Artemis Fowl*.



Library Workshops

Right: The longest book, created in Bunclody

Below: Storyboarding the classic Billy Goat Gruff in New Ross



Winners in the Enniscorthy summer '08 photographic project were:

Seighin Murphy (8 yrs) and Ciara Denton (12 yrs).

Daithi Medcalf (8 yrs) and Victoria Murphy (10 yrs) were highly recommended

Narnia Day in Enniscorthy



Funday Saturday



Funday Saturday had Wexford town library rocking thanks to a partnership of the Wexford town library staff with the County Wexford Childcare

Network, Wexford Borough Council and the Community & Enterprise Department of Wexford County Council service.

October is Children's Book Festival time.

Hectic but effective! This year five authors visited the county. Firm favourites like John Sexton were joined by new voices such as Roisin Meaney and David Donohue. More than 800 children from 22 schools met the authors at 19 events in Bunclody, Enniscorthy, New Ross and Wexford town libraries.



Blast from the Past

The way it was

The Oral History programme, launched during Heritage Week, is so popular.

Go to the local library or www.wexford.ie/library/ for the details.

Thank you for all the nominations... and keep them coming. We are working through the lists.

And the contributors, so far, are:

Paddy Berry - Drinagh
Marie & Vincent Brady*
George Bridges*
Noreen Butler*
Kevin Byrne
Tommy Cleere - Oylegate
Nicky Cleary
Tom Cleary*
Keith Collie
Pat Collins*
Mary Connors
Don Conroy - Enniscorthy
Des Corish*
Ned Culleton - Piercestown
Anne & Don Curtin*
Seamus De Val*
Seamus Dooley
Joan Doyle*
Marie Fane*



Marie Flanagan
Billy Fox - Killurin
Mairéad & Nicholas Furlong, and Joan Lambert* - Drinagh
Jim Golden*
Tom Harrington*
Jackie Hayden - Killinick
Charlotte Hendrick*
Ted Howlin*
Maria Janssen
Michael Kavanagh - Murrintown
Albert Lacey*
Robert Lambert - Crossabeg
Dr Nora Liddy*
Peter Maguire* - Rosslare
Patsy, John & Margaret Maher* - Ballinkeelee
Aodhán Marken
Mairtín McCullough* - Dublin
Mary McGillick
Sheila McGuire
Dan McLean - Bunclody
Doris Molloy - Rosslare
Peg Murphy - Tagoat
Annie Murphy*

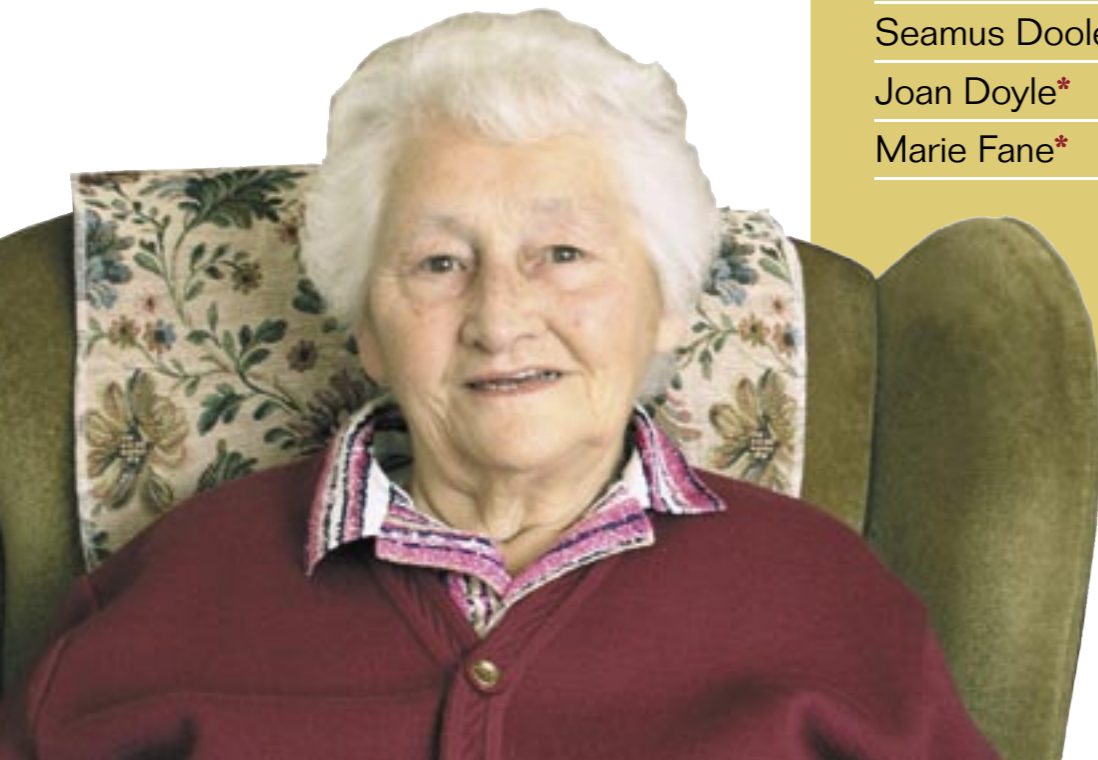
Frank Murphy*
Michael Murphy*
Mick Murphy - Crossabeg
Mollie Murphy - Glenbrien
Patsy Murphy*
Michael Nolan*
Major Anthony Nunn
Sally Murphy
Betty O'Brien*
Maureen O'Brien - Curracloe
Sylvia & Jimmy O'Connor*
Jack O'Leary
Kevin O'Leary - Forth Commons
Alan Owens - Ferns
Séamus O'Rourke*
Padge Reck
Helga & Jurgen Sassmannshausen*
Eithne Scallan*
Nancy & John Sherwood*
Peggy Shiggins*
Judy Sinnott*
Helen Skrine*
Pat Whelan*
Fergus Wickham
Chris Wilson - Curracloe



**part of The People's Festival : the Genesis of the Wexford Festival Opera project 2008*

Thank you

Des Corish, Jimmy & Sylvia O'Connor, Major Anthony Nunn, Fergus Wickham & Brian Cleur for your donations of older recordings. We will treasure them.





The way it is

We are building a complete photographic record of buildings & streetscapes of the towns, villages and parishes of the County. The Council's Planning Department and Wexford Borough Council is helping. This will take a while!

Courtown, Ferns, Bunclody and Taghmon are done. Significant buildings in Piercestown and Castlebridge are recorded. The Quays and main retail street of both New Ross and Wexford Town are photographed also.

Digital images will be added to the library catalogue in 2009. Recording will be on-going, influenced by the priorities set it in the current County Development Plan.



The way it was and is!

A set of computerised maps defining the boundaries of each RC parish in County Wexford has been prepared. View the work on-line on the Wexford County Council website, www.wexford.ie Click on "interactive maps".



"Territoriality is a deep rooted feature of Irish life. Allegiance to the parish and to the parish chapel was an enduring bond which integrated communities. So the parish represented not just a functional entity, rather a community of the mind, not just a utilitarian territorial entity, but an emotional empire of the heart. Parish boundaries heightened community consciousness by demarcating one community from another."

Dr. Kevin Whelan

READ Alice Taylor, The Parish

Kerry: Brandon, 2008. ISBN 978 0863223747. [subject number 307.72] Borrow it.



Culture

ID

Identity and adulthood was at the core of performances by teenagers from Bunclody VEC in the library on December 9th. Their monologues touched on themes of friendship, isolation and conflict, choices and their impacts. The performance was the end result of 12 weeks of workshops organized by the Bunclody library staff and the Arts Department. Funding was thanks to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government % for Art scheme. The Scheme allows 1% of the overall cost of a construction project (up to a ceiling), in this case Bunclody Library, to be spent on a creative project.

And Elizabeth Fitzpatrick said.... *'I enjoyed this project a lot. I wrote a story about a character back in the past because it would make my story different from the others. I think that it is an amazing opportunity if you are thinking about becoming a writer.'* All who started stayed. And the gig was massive!



Petmania drew the crowds to Enniscorthy

Petmania brought along a selection of pets to Enniscorthy Library to advise children and families about petcare. So popular we had to run it twice.



Bunclody library is maintaining strong links with the local Polish community. The Information meeting was held in late September and a special Christmas celebration was held on 16th December.

Protecting the Environment



Two separate workshops were presented in Wexford town library in association with other Departments of Wexford County Council. They were *All about Rubbish*, and *Energy Efficiency in the Home*. Both were very well received and will be repeated.

From Beijing to Bunclody was 4 days of athletics training, e-learning, library skills and craft-work organised with the Local Sports Partnership and Athletics Ireland.



99 family fun and learning activities were organised in libraries in July and August: 26,200 children's books were borrowed.

A ComReg public information session was held in Wexford town library in October

ComReg is the statutory body responsible for the regulation of the electronic communications sector (telecommunications, radiocommunications and broadcasting transmission) and the postal sector.



Wexford Libraries : simply the busiest

Wexford's libraries are, by far, the busiest cultural services in the county. Considering all you do, it's not surprising.

8,900 visited their local library during the week commencing the 6th October. [It's a new measurement required by central government. We have to count you.] That's more than 400,000 visits every year.

Better library services for primary schools

Thanks to all the teachers who completed the primary school library service survey in September. We are part of a national research project, that is looking at the state of school libraries countrywide and at how local public libraries can support the curriculum better. The research will be published next year. The Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government and the Department of Education and Science is backing the research within a new national public library development plan, *Branching out: Future Directions (2008 – 2012)* ISBN: 978 1 4064 2132 3 which was launched in the spring.

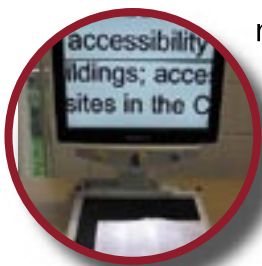


**Wexford County Council
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New Ross Library : it's simply the best

**Winner of an Excellence
through Accessibility Award.
That's thanks to a lot of work
from a lot of people.**



Looking around the library now, improvements are obvious: better access to the building, better car-parking facilities, improved signage, specialised



equipment and better toilet facilities. All these things make for a better experience for customers. Also there are the intangible improvements that provide

better service to customers, for example, staff trained in sensitivity to various disabilities, correspondence available in different formats and an



organisation committed to listening to customers' views, and acting on them.

Thanks to everyone who helped us. Tosach maith..... a good start and four more libraries to go....