

Library Times



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meath county council

Meath County Council Library Service Newsletter

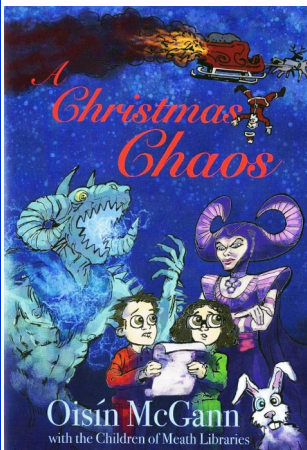
Issue 6. July to December 2019

Slane Library Refurbishment

The Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council, Cllr. Wayne Harding performed the official re-opening of Slane Library in July. The project consisted of the conversion of the former Slane Community Enterprise offices to a library meeting room and staff welfare facilities. The building was totally upgraded and the branch was completely re-fitted and re-designed. The total cost of the project was in excess of €150,000 and this was fully funded by Meath County Council. Self-service issue and return, information tablets for use within the branch and a range of digital screens and services in the meeting room are among some of the new services available in the upgraded branch. The service also meets all of the requirements necessary to qualify as an age-friendly library. Library assistant Margaret is delighted with changes made to the library and was eager to see library users enjoying the new services.



Christmas at the Library



Our Writer-in-Residence, author and illustrator, Oisín McGann held a Christmas story creative writing workshop in Ashbourne, Kells, Navan, Oldcastle and Trim libraries in November and December. Using ideas about plot, characters and setting gathered at the workshop Oisín wrote *'A Christmas Chaos'* When two children discover a lost page of Santa Claus's List, they decide to write a story on the lovely, Christmassy paper. But that paper has power, and everything that's written on it has to happen. It's a law of Christmas. Things are about to get weird... All the children's names were included at the end of the story as creative contributors; every child received a copy of the story. The story is available to read on Borrow Box.

Christmas family time at your library events were also held in all libraries during the month of December. There were stories, songs, movies, board games, crafts and treats to take home. Festive events for adults included wreath making and musical events. Dunboyne library held a special Christmas miscellany with the Meath County Council staff choir and friends. Oisín is pictured left with children who attended the creative writing workshop in Trim library.



'Your Library - Take a Closer Look' campaign

Library assistant Ciara McGurl from Trim library was recently chosen to take part in a new nationwide library awareness campaign which will launch in January. The objective of the 'Your Library - Take a Closer Look' communications campaign is to encourage more people to visit, use and join the library in the coming year and for people to tell their friends to do the same. Radio, cinema, digital and social media advertising will invite the public to #TakeACloserLook at their library. We will also be posting some 'Did you know?' snippets on our social media platforms, for example, did you know that 5 people visited Trim library on Christmas day using the My Open Library service? There are also plans to hold a Library Open Day on February 29th. This open day will give libraries an opportunity to showcase to new users the range of services available to members. Check our Facebook and Twitter pages for upcoming information.



Summer Fun In The Library

With over 300 events held during the summer school holidays there was something for every age group. We held Yo-Yo Yoga sessions, teddy bears picnics, STEAM stories, space adventures, mindfulness and scratch coding workshops. Illustrator Ciara Winkleman brought her fabulous fabadoodle creation on tour, Robin Barry from Bee Wise introduced children to the honey bee and The Irish School of



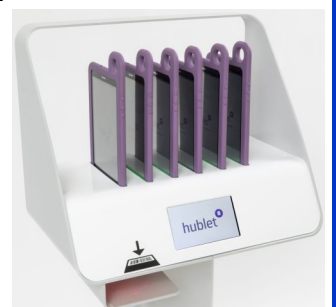
Archaeology showed children how to strike coins and how to make a leather coin pouch. The fun didn't end there though, children also got creative with arts and crafts, t-shirt upcycling, baking, creative writing and book upcycling. Children also took part in our annual Summer Stars reading adventure. All children who participated received a certificate and those who completed the challenge were entered into a draw to win a Kindle Fire tablet.

I.T. News



Following on from the huge success of the magic Tovertafel tables in Navan and Trim libraries two further tables are planned for Kells and Nobber libraries. The Magic Table (Tovertafel) is a fun, care innovation designed for people with dementia, autism and learning needs and can be used by care providers and their clients, families and other groups or individuals who would benefit from its use.

Hublet tablets are now available for use in Ashbourne, Dunbooyne, Dunshaughlin, Kells, Navan and Trim libraries. Tablets can be released from the charging station by using a library card and PIN number. Users can use the device within the library building, when the tablet is returned to the station all user-specific information is deleted and the tablet is reset for the next user.



Science Week

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 a talk about Meath's migratory birds with Terence Cassidy from Birdwatch Ireland. The Rediscovery Centre held workshops that investigated science in our everyday lives. Meteorologist Joanna Donnelly talked all things weather related. Protecting the local environment and its natural resources was the topic of conversation at the Living Science workshops with Robin Barry. How big is the universe? was the question that Seamus Yore asked at his presentation which featured lots of images, animations and diagrams. Children from Ashbourne, Dunboyne, Navan and Trim libraries tested their



knowledge on all things science at our Big Science Quizzes. Iridologist and Nutritionist Jale Egan discussed what food science is with children and explained how food affects the brain and what being healthy means. Jale also gave a talk on herbs and their powers for vibrant health for adults in Dunshaughlin library.

Children from St. Mary's National School in Trim are pictured at the Up-Up and Away Roadshow constructing kites.

Childrens Book Festival

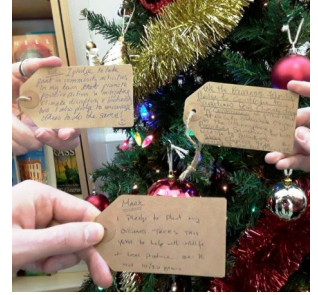
Ninety events were held during our recent Children's Book Festival. Over four thousand children attended the events which took place in 13 locations across the county and included author visits, illustration and writing workshops and storytelling. The official festival launch took place in the Solstice Theatre with Oisín McGann and Jason Byrne and their 'The Accidental Adventures of Onion O'Brien' series. With over 300 children in attendance the event was packed with laughter and jokes. Caroline Busher, Niall De Búrca, Tatyana Feeney, Shane Hegarty, Alan Nolan and Michael Smith were just some of the names who entertained children during the festival. At our very popular family open day in Navan library we introduced our first sensory friendly, relaxed performances with John Kane. These performances focused on inclusivity and catered for children with autism. We had writing workshops with Helana Duggan and an illustration workshop with Oisín McGann. Other events on the day included book upcycling and STEAM games.

Pictured at the festival launch are pupils from Scoil Mhuire, Navan with Jason Byrne, Oisín McGann, librarian Mary Murphy, Cllr Wayne Harding and librarian, Eve Morrisson.



Climate Action In The Library

Meath County Council recently appointed Caroline Corrigan as Climate Action Officer, it is believed Meath County Council is the first local authority to appoint such a full time resource. Caroline spoke at our December staff training day and asked staff to make a pledge for 2020. Here are the pledges of the Dunboyne Library Staff. For more information go to <https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/environment/climate-change>



STEAM Saturdays



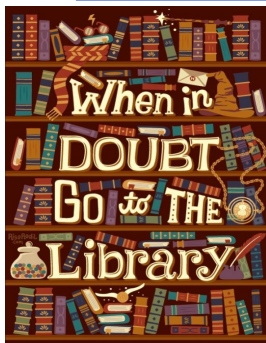
Our STEAM play sessions every Saturday in Ashbourne, Athboy, Dunboyne, Navan and Trim libraries encourage parents and children to play and learn together using specially selected toys and games. STEAM play influences children's abilities in science, technology, engineering, art and maths and helps to encourage children of all ages in robotics, critical thinking, coding and building skills.

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