

## **Metropolitan District Report March 2023**

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Our metropolitan branches are busy with community groups, classes, launches and exhibitions. There were 473 Library based activities and events in the metropolitan area during January and February alone.

30 partner organisations took part in events or programmes in Libraries in the metropolitan area. Groups such as Downs Syndrome Ireland who attended a Literacy event in Central Library. The Waterford Hungarian Cultural organisation who run monthly language and culture classes. Also, Waterford Area Partnership and the Waterford Sports partnership who work with us on numerous community events.

The Well festival of Mental health and Wellbeing saw 6 events with 119 attendees in the Metropolitan area. Ranging from activities for young people such as Circus skills and art to a Cuppa and Ceoil performance with Liam Merriman.

260 students of all ages from Waterpark Primary school attended a celebration of reading in Ardkeen Library for World Book Day 2023.

Carrickpherish Library is using Dormant Accounts Funding to provide 7,815 students from Waterford with access to the specialised numeracy programme Times Tables Rockstars. While 400 young people have access to Touch Type Read Spell a Dyslexia Support software programme. These targeted supports equip the young people of Waterford with necessary life skills.

Tramore Library is coordinating a Dyslexia program providing after-school craft and literacy support targeted at children aged 6 -12years of age with Dyslexia in identified areas of social deprivation. These sessions are provided each Wednesday in Tramore library. This programme also uses resources like Fact Factory audio magazines, dyslexia friendly readers and reader pens.

Metropolitan Libraries took part in national and local programmes such as: Seachtain na Gaeilge, Engineers week, The Well Festival of Mental Health and Wellbeing, International Women's Day and Ireland reads.

Exhibitions: Poole Photography of Waterford during the Civil war, SLI Waterford Sustainable Development Goals, Waterford Women's Shed and the Deise Men's Shed.

There are many events scheduled for the upcoming months including Spring into Storytime, The Towers and Tales Children's Festival and Bealtaine.

### **Activity in the metropolitan area**

Month	Issues	Visitors	Events
January	18,421	20,487	237
February	16,306	20,834	236

Local Studies in Central Library	January	February
Events	11	13
Research Queries in person or via correspondence	68	97

Irish Newspaper Archives (online record views)	5016	4315
Ancestry.com Unique searches	237	91

### **Waterford Cultural Quarter**

WCQ Place Community and Cultural Hub (16-18 O’Connell Street) works are progressing on site. The building is expected to host the 2023 Africa Day celebrations in May. Waterford Integration Services will be the primary tenant, offering informational and educational services to Waterford’s migrant community, and it is hoped to include community education with another service provider later in the year. In time the building will offer flexible space for cultural activity such as music, dance, festival and conference support. There are several other buildings under consideration for development in the WCQ area including the Art House on Thomas Street, 25/26 O’Connell Street, 3 & 4 Great Georges Street and buildings along Hanover Street as part of the city centre URDF funding.

WCQ Weekend Crafts Market is expected to be launched on Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. The market will run each Saturday from April to October and for Winterval. Locally produced crafts and cold foods will be sold with an emphasis on supporting the crafts community. The market will be animated with a variety of events during its hours of operation and will work closely with the festival sector and the hospitality businesses of the area to increase footfall to O’Connell St.

Weekend road closures from the bottom of Thomas Hill to Sergeants Lane will resume from St Patricks Weekend to facilitate this and other activity.

### **Creative Waterford**

The [Waterford Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2025](#) launch was attended by Mayor of Waterford City and County, Cllr John O’Leary, on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The strategy was launched in Dublin along with other local authority strategies by Minister Catherine Martin T.D. There are six priority areas in the new strategy with a series of actions related to each priority.

The [Creative Waterford Open Call](#) was announced on March 6<sup>th</sup> with applications due on March 31<sup>st</sup> at 4 p.m. Communities, agencies, organisations and individuals are encouraged to apply for projects that promote creativity in communities of place and of interest. There are two grant categories, up to €8,000 per project and up to €20,000. Details are available at [www.bit.ly/opencallwaterford2023](http://www.bit.ly/opencallwaterford2023)