

Metropolitan District Report October 2022

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Our metropolitan branches are busy with community groups, classes, launches and exhibitions. There were 667 Library based activities and events in the metropolitan area during August, September, and October. These Libraries serve their communities by providing regular event and activity programming. Parent and toddler groups, knitting, writing and bookclubs are all valuable social supports, 163 group or club meetings took place in Libraries in the metro area during this time. There were also 48 story times for young children, a valuable early literacy initiative. Libraries also facilitate many classes and workshops by working with partner organisations and tutors to provide classes like; Digital Connectivity, Chair Yoga, Craft and English Language and pop-up activator pole sessions, 90 such classes were held in metro branches this past quarter.

Metropolitan Libraries took part in national and local programmes such as: Reuse Month, Positive Ageing Week, the Summer Stars Reading challenge, Heritage week, the Grow Harvest festival, Children's Book festival and Culture Night.

15 events relating to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Climate Action were held in Libraries in the Metro area between August and October. Events ranging from the Stories and Seeds story time in Ardkeen, Beeswax Wrap making workshops in Central and a Family Eco day in Newtown woods in association with Tramore Eco Group with 30 attendees. Waterford Libraries are providing information and resources on climate change for the entire community. Tracy McEaney of Ardkeen Library worked with ACT Waterford on their take the bus for a change campaign, she provided her expertise to the nation on Claire Byrne speaking about books on climate change available in your Library. A clothes swap was held in Central Library by Europe Direct Waterford in association with Ella Ryan Environmental officer attended by 77 people. On the night Home Energy audit kits funded by Europe Direct Waterford were also launched, these kits give people the tools to assess and change their own home energy use.

Exhibitions: The Press Photographer of the Year exhibition ran in Ardkeen Library in October. *Imagine* an exhibition focusing on the work of Music Generation Waterford was held in the Index Gallery in Central Library and launched with a live performance attended by Mayor of Waterford Cllr John O'Leary. Slí (Sustainable living initiative) Waterford and artist Aoife Doherty held an exhibition in the young adult area of Central Library, Us, and the Big Blue which focusses on our relationship with the Oceans. Carrickpherish Library hosted a Healthy Ireland at your Library National Breastfeeding Week exhibition and a Siege of Waterford photographic exhibition.

Waterford Libraries was awarded €16022.75 in funding by the DRCD Dormant accounts fund to support people in the community with Dyslexia. There are now 27 Reader pen devices available to loan in branches across the area. There are regular targeted workshops for dyslexic students held in Tramore Library and there are 400 users of the Touch Type Read Spell software.

There are many events scheduled for the upcoming months including Science Week in November and Family Time at your Library in December also a European Year of Youth-Make Your Voice heard! Conference in Theatre Royal Waterford with over 300 secondary schools' students in December.

	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>
<u>Central</u>			
Issues	4119	3571	3511
Visitors	5822	6304	6911
Events	14	46	72

<u>Ardkeen</u>			
Issues	6715	5697	5206
Visitors	8035	6843	6810
Events	38	25	56
<u>Carrickpherish</u>			
Issues	3589	4331	4106
Visitors	1816	3152	3955
Events	47	95	115
<u>Tramore</u>			
Issues	4746	3795	3582
Visitors	3929	3450	7398
Events	40	37	44
<u>Browns Rd</u>			
Issues	732	752	588
Visitors	856	918	950
Events	7	9	14
<u>Dunmore East</u>			
Issues	552	349	240
Visitors	415	220	157
Events	0	7	1

Local Studies in Central Library.

Category	August	September	October
Talks/Exhibitions/Staff training	4	0	2
Research Queries in person or via correspondence	89	78	74
Irish Newspaper Archives (online record views)	17	56	9
Service wide online services	3770	2360	2944
Ancestry.com Unique searches	1102	751	45

Waterford Cultural Quarter

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Following a co-design process with students and staff of the Architecture Department of South East Technological University and with Waterford Area Partnership, the WCQ weekend crafts market has been designed and a pilot crafts market will run as part of the Winterval Festival 2022, with the full crafts market planned to launch in Spring 2023 with 10 market stalls.

Under the Urban Regeneration Development fund, works to the ground floor until of 16/18 O'Connell Street are running from November 2022 to January 2023. The planned use of the building is to be a **Community and Cultural Hub**, providing information, language and translation supports as well as workshops and classes for the local and city-wide community of Waterford. Other projects under this funding are commencing and are at land acquisition stage as well as preparation of design briefs for uses of the planned buildings – these include artist in residence spaces, galleries, office and co-working spaces and collaborative projects with third level institutions and agencies in Waterford.