



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge Waterford City & County Council

Waterford City & County Council Culture and Arts Report to Metropolitan Meeting – November 2020

DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR CATHRACH PHORT LÁIRGE

TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF WATERFORD

Senior Staff member with responsibility for Metropolitan Area Libraries: Senior Executive Librarian Noeleen Osborne, ph: 0761102519, email nosborne@waterfordcouncil.ie

Events

During the months of August, September and October, 4 Metropolitan Area libraries were open to the public with preparations underway to re-open remaining libraries in line with Government guidance.

Open branches operated a browsing service for August and September before moving from browsing services to Contact & Collect on 7th October when Level 3 restriction were introduced. The Contact & Collect service concluded with the implementation of Level 5 restrictions on 21st October, all branches now continue to support the community with book return facilities, phone and online services. A total of 96 online events occurred to mark festivals such as Heritage Week, Right to Read Summer Stars Reading Adventure, Positive Ageing Week, Culture Night, Well Festival of Arts and Wellbeing, Imagine and Waterford Writers' Festival, Children's Book Festival and Innovation Week.

As part of €3million funding for public library upgrades and measures to respond and adapt to Covid 19, Minister Humphreys has approved €100,000 funding for upgrade works to 3 Waterford Library branches. As the Minister stated: "These works will strengthen the library's position as a community hub and ensure that it is a modern, well-equipped and comfortable facility that will leave a positive legacy for years to come" Applications were made for works in Central Library and works will commence as soon as possible.

In addition to this funding Waterford Libraries received Healthy Ireland funding from the DRCD for an Occupancy Control System for Carrickphierish Library and video equipment for online events across the service. Dormant Accounts funding was also received from the DRCD for: West Waterford Story Collection Phase II; Touch, Type, Read and Spell online literacy course; After School Activity Club; Shakti Social Enterprise Programme for migrant women, these initiatives relate to Carrickphierish and Central Libraries.

Central Library

Sinead O'Higgins Executive Librarian, ph: 0761 10 2771, email: sohiggins@waterfordcouncil.ie

Activity Table (Summary)

Branch	August	September	October
Issues	2221	3061	1743
Visitors	2159	2349	966
Number of Internet	N/A Covid	N/A Covid	N/A Covid

PC Hours available	Restrictions	Restrictions	Restrictions
Number of Internet Sessions Used	N/A Covid Restrictions	N/A Covid Restrictions	N/A Covid Restrictions
Number of Events	49 Service Wide	23 Service Wide	24 Service Wide

Local Studies

During the months of August, September and October, in line with Covid-19 Restrictions, Local Studies services moved online, with queries taken via email and telephone. During this time there were a total of 40 Local Studies queries and 236 unique searches on the genealogy online resource, Ancestry.com. There were a total of 3020 online record views on the Irish Newspaper Archives not including the month of October.

	August	September	October
Tours	N/A Covid Restrictions		
Online Talks/Exhibitions/Staff training	14	2	0
Research Queries in person, phone or correspondence	8	6	26
Microfilm viewed, by appointment	0	1	0
Other visits -personal research etc	N/A Covid Restrictions		
Service wide online services			
Irish Newspaper Archives (online record views)	988	2032	Not available until the end of November
Ancestry.com Unique searches	37	182	17

Ardkeen Library

Tracy McEaney Executive Librarian, ph: 0761 10 2844, email: tmceneaney@waterfordcouncil.ie

Activity Table (Summary)

Branch	August	September	October
Issues	3362	3614	3264
Visitors	3433	3392	1366
Number of Internet PC Hours available	N/A Covid Restrictions	N/A Covid Restrictions	N/A Covid Restrictions
Number of Internet Sessions Used	N/A Covid Restrictions	N/A Covid Restrictions	N/A Covid Restrictions
Number of Events	49 Service Wide	23 Service Wide	24 Service Wide

Carrickphierish Library

Niamh Baldwin, Executive Librarian, ph: 0761 102963, email: nbaldwin@waterfordcouncil.ie

Activity Table (Summary)

Branch	August	September	October
Issues	2773	2783	2656
Visitors	678	1152	597
Number of Internet PC Hours available	N/A Covid Restrictions	N/A Covid Restrictions	N/A Covid Restrictions
Number of Internet Sessions Used	N/A Covid Restrictions	N/A Covid Restrictions	N/A Covid Restrictions
Number of events	49 Service Wide	23 Service Wide	24 Service Wide

Tramore library

Loretta Kinsella Assistant Librarian, ph: 0761 10 2593, email: lkinsella@waterfordcouncil.ie

Activity Table (Summary)

Branch	August	September	October
Issues	2507	2787	1957
Visitors	1759	2078	574
Number of Internet PC Hours available	N/A Covid Restrictions	N/A Covid Restrictions	N/A Covid Restrictions
Number of Internet Sessions Used	N/A Covid Restrictions	N/A Covid Restrictions	N/A Covid Restrictions
Number of Events	49 Service Wide	23 Service Wide	24 Service Wide

Browns Road Library and Dunmore East Library

Tracy McEaney Executive Librarian, ph: 0761 10 2844, email: tmcaney@waterfordcouncil.ie

Due to Covid-19 Restrictions Brown's Road and Dunmore East branches remained closed in August, September and October of 2020. Whilst closed the Dunmore East Branch Librarian has been redeployed to Central and then Dungarvan Library, the Brown's Road Branch Librarian to Carrickphierish Library. During their time at these libraries, they have helped to reach 7938 patrons and issue 16330 items. These members of staff are very active in the design and delivery of online library events, which has been a focus for the service in maintaining contact with patrons when Covid-19 restrictions are in place.

Building maintenance and upgrades continue in Browns Road and Dunmore East libraries with the installation of new windows in Dunmore East Library and preparations to reopen libraries in line with Government guidance.

Arts Report

- A very valuable painting by Frederic William Burton of Mary Palliser, who was born in Comeragh House in County Waterford, has been acquired on long term loan from the Saskatchewan local government in Canada (perhaps we could investigate twinning with them?). It will be the centrepiece of our 2021 'Portraits' exhibition for the Waterford Gallery of Art.
- We are pursuing an option for Art Storage away from the current Art storage room which will free it up for other uses.
- All galleries and venues are closed under current restrictions. Dr. Eimear O' Connor, is doing essential condition checking and cataloguing of the Waterford Art Collection.
- The Arts Practice Grants Festivals grants deadline has passed with adjudication taking place later this month in advance of a workshop with Councillors.
- The Imagine Arts Festival, Waterford Writers Weekend and John Dwyer Traditional Music Festival went online.
- The Waterford International Film Festival kicks off shortly – again online.
- The contract for the formatting and editing of the first volume of New Plays Of Ireland's South East (New POISE) has been awarded to internationally acclaimed playwright Gary Mitchell ([In a Little World of Our Own](#), [As the Beast Sleeps](#))

