

## **Metropolitan District Report March 2024**

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Activity in the metropolitan area

Month	Issues	Visitors	Events
January	17,929	25,309	210
February	16,998	27,279	345

- Brown’s Road Library are delighted with the relationship they have built up with St. Paul’s Autism unit. The group visits every two weeks to allow the children to use the library. Once every 6 weeks we organise a craft session for the children, and they love exploring the various materials we have available.
- Jane Croke and Maggie Moody who spoke about the graveyard in Kilbarry in Ardkeen Library on February 27th and gave a history of the Knights Templars in Waterford, along with a description of the work that has been carried on the graveyard in recent years.
- Waterford’s 5<sup>th</sup> Global Women’s conference took place on March 8<sup>th</sup> in WCQ Place. The theme was Inspire Inclusion and speakers included Nyanchama Okemwa, Chair, European Network Against Racism (ENAR), the Malayalee Dance Troop, Dymphna Nugent, WLR and Joanne Rothwell Archivist. Over 110 people attended. The conference was organised by Waterford Libraries, Waerford Europe Direct and Wateford Integration Services.
- Libraries in the metropolitan area run 17 monthly bookclubs, these are an important social outlet and there are clubs for everyone from teenagers in Ardkeen to our ‘divas’ in Tramore.
- 50 Parent and Toddler and Storytime events were held in the metro area in January and February 2024.
- Ardkeen Library is hosting a 4-week modern storytelling in the Irish tradition workshop with Tom Mullane, which began on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- The ‘Right of place’ exhibition ran as part of the Well Festival of mental health and wellbeing in the Index gallery in Central Library from February 12<sup>th</sup> to 17th. It featured a selection of creative work by participants of the Right of Place – Beginnings group, which demonstrates the wellbeing benefits of coming together to learn and share new creative skills in a supportive space.

### **Library website figures.**

Jan: Views – 13,916      Visitors - 5,263  
Feb: Views – 13,835      Visitors - 5,631

Local Studies in Central Library has seen the following activity in the last quarter.

- January Exhibition in Index Gallery - “People & Places” Photos from the Kenrick Photo collection 1895 – 1915
- A stock take of newspaper microfilms (Munster express initially) to identify gaps in collection.
- Upcoming meeting on 17th April with Joanne and Digital Repository Ireland about collections and digital preservation.
- Local Studies Staff Training sessions were held for Central Library staff in January as part of a series of sessions aimed at providing all CL staff with updated LS skills. Further sessions are planned for March and April.

Photos.



Csilla Czelvikker, Sunimol Thambi, Mary Butler TD, Mary Conway Acting City & County Librarian, Nyanchama Okemwa (ENAR) and Usomine Oshiogwemoh at the Inspire Inclusion conference in WCQ place on March 8<sup>th</sup>.



The Malayalee dance troupe performance at Inspire Inclusion in WCQ place.



Joanne Rothwell Archivist Waterford City & County Council speaking at the Inspire Inclusion conference on March 8<sup>th</sup>.



Maggie Moody, Paddy Houlihan, Jane Croke and Dr Bláithín Hurley Waterford City & County Libraries at Ardkeen's' Tuesday night talks on the Knights Templar Graveyard.

#### Arts Report March 2024

The Summer In The City programme and Poetry Day programme are being finalised. Summer In The City will see a number of new initiatives including collaborations with Music Generation and the Sports partnership. Anna Jordan is curating, and the City Arts Office is producing.

The Council's Big Stage is being utilised over the spring and summer for a series of events including St. Patrick's Day, and Summer in the City.

The Waterford Gallery of Art has two exhibitions: 100 Years of the FNCI – which celebrates the founding of the Friends of the National Collections of Ireland (FNCI) by renowned artist and long-term resident of Dungarvan, Sarah Purser. On the 1st floor are Prints and Drawings from the Waterford Art Collection showcasing printed and graphic works on paper much of which has been recently restored and conserved. Exhibitions run from 14th February 2024 – 13th July 2024. Both exhibitions are free. WGOA is open Wed-Sat, 10-5.

The Waterford Gallery of Art and the Waterford Art Collection is also continuing its outreach programme which is aimed at community focused groups as well as new Waterford citizens.

Work on the Art Storage building is continuing.

The Arts Service is working with design students from SETU on branding for Feile An Grianstad. A festival that may take place in Dungarvan on the Winter Solstice if funding is forthcoming.

The Artlinks Bursaries are currently being awarded. The Arts Practice Grants are beginning to be drawn down at this stage.