

## **Metropolitan District Report March 2025**

Senior Staff member with responsibility for Metropolitan Area Libraries: Senior Executive Librarian Sinéad O'Higgins, ph: 051 849771, email [sohiggins@waterfordcouncil.ie](mailto:sohiggins@waterfordcouncil.ie)

Activity in the Metropolitan area in January and February 2025

33,569 Items borrowed in Library branches.

720 Events and Activities.

57,161 Visitors to Library branches.

1,912 Users of the My Open Library service in Tramore.

### **Library website figures**

**Jan 2025:** Views: 15,656 (+11.7% increase from Jan 24)

Visitors: 5,648

**Feb 2025:** Website Views: 14,325 (+3.39% increase from Feb 24)

Visitors: 5,356

Event Highlights included:

- Browns Road Library hosted 8 school visits in January and February welcoming over 150 children to this branch.
- Waterford Libraries and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in University Hospital Waterford in partnership with Garter Lane Arts Centre and Waterford Healing Arts trust, launched an initiative to bring comfort and emotional support to families with newborns in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) UHW. A Children's Book Trolley, specially curated by Waterford Libraries. Funding from the Well Festival of Arts & Wellbeing was used to purchase a variety of children's books to help parents and family's bond with their babies during their time in the NICU.
- The Ukrainian Emeralds performed in Arkdeen Library on March 3<sup>rd</sup> as part of Waterford's Anti-Racism month. The Index Gallery Central library opened its space to students throughout the month to the work of young people creating a giant Doodle wall.
- Author Jan Carson visited Tramore Library and chatted with Dymphna Nugent (WLR FM) about her writing career. There were over 75 attendees. This event was part of the Shared Island initiative in partnership with Europe Direct Waterford, Creative Ireland, Mid and East Antrim Council.
- Smartphone classes ran for seven weeks in Browns Road Library in January and February. There were 13 attendees for this popular and helpful course.
- A Period Equality Workshop with Amy Orr from 'youme' took place in Dunmore East Library on the 28th of February for the 5th and 6th Class Girls of Realt na Mara.
- Central Library hosted Sewing repair workshops on Friday mornings in February and March.
- Waterford's 6<sup>th</sup> Global Women's conference took place in Garter Lane Theatre on March 7<sup>th</sup>. The theme of this year's event was, 'Let's accelerate action.' Among the 19 speakers were; Humaira Ashraf - Waterford New Communities Network, Mary Conway – Waterford City & County Librarian and Head of Culture, Orla O'Connor - Director of The National Women's Council of Ireland, Sasha Terfous - Poet and a performance by the Igbo Community Waterford - Otu Ofu Obi Women's Dance Group. There were over 140 attendees.

#### Upcoming Events:

Waterford Libraries are delighted to welcome award winning author and columnist Martina Devlin to Central Library on Saturday 29th March at 3:00pm. This continues our Writers at Waterford Libraries series.

Bealtaine events for creativity in Older Age will run throughout May.

Spring into Storytime, part of the national Right to Read programme will run in April.

#### Photos.



Ukrainian Emeralds performing in Ardkeen Library



Jan Carson and Dympna Nugent entertaining their audience in Tramore Library.



Speakers, participants and organisers of Waterford's 6<sup>th</sup> Global Women's Conference in Garter Lane.





The audience at, 'Let's Accelerate Action,' Waterford's 6<sup>th</sup> Global Women's Conference in Garter Lane.



Students participating in Creative February in Carrickphierish Library