



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council

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Waterford City & County Council**

Date: March, 2021

**DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR CATHRACH PHORT LÁIRGE
TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF WATERFORD**

Arts & Culture Report

Senior Staff member with responsibility for Metropolitan Area Libraries: Senior Executive Librarian Noeleen Osborne, ph: 0761 10 2519, email nosborne@waterfordcouncil.ie

Staff member with responsibility for Ardkeen, Brown's Road, Portlaw and Dunmore East Libraries: Executive Librarian Tracy McEneaney, ph: 0761 10 2844, email: tmceneaney@waterfordcouncil.ie

Staff member with responsibility for Central Library: Executive Librarian Sinead O'Higgins, ph: 0761 10 2771, email: sohiggins@waterfordcouncil.ie

Staff member with responsibility for Carrickphierish Library: Executive Librarian Niamh Baldwin, ph: 0761 10 2963, email: nbaldwin@waterfordcouncil.ie

Staff member with responsibility for Tramore Library: Assistant Librarian Loretta Kinsella, ph: 0761 10 2593, email: lkinsella@waterfordcouncil.ie

Events

Metropolitan Area branches were closed in January and February under Level 5 restrictions; branches continued to serve the community with phone and online services, with total of 63 online library events delivered during those two months. A book delivery service to vulnerable patrons also commenced in February which has seen 1,475 items issued for 186 book deliveries to households and schools. Work also continued on the Community Call initiative, with library staff making calls to vulnerable members of the public.

In January and February metropolitan area branches received funding as part of the Community Resilience funded Keep Well 'Switching off and Being Creative' initiative; 23 events relating to this initiative have been delivered to date, with more events planned for March. Staff have been promoting the Ireland Reads 'Squeeze in a Read' national reading day campaign in February; Ardkeen Library Executive Librarian Tracy McEneaney spoke on RTE Radio's Claire Byrne and WLR with Geoff Harris to promote the initiative and provided book recommendations to listeners. More

online events will be delivered in March for festivals including Seachtain na Gaelige, Engineers Week and St. Patricks Day.

Metropolitan Area branches continued library development in January and February with Carrickphierish Library's Touch Type Read and Spell program roll out, installation of Covid Compliant public study space desk dividers and outreach conducted to schools to offer delivery of class sets to teachers. In addition to this work Carrickphierish library also offered the Media Literacy 'Misinformation Edition' online exhibition and created Data Detox Kits for distribution to WCCC employees. In Central library Small Scale Capital Works are ongoing and staff have created an extensive program of online events and activities relating to literacy, work matters, STEAM activities, music, local history, children's and family content and age-friendly support. A series of online Biodiversity webinars was rolled out in February with high viewing numbers from Ireland and abroad, including 'Giving your Garden Back to Nature- with Irish Landscaper Mary Reynolds'. Executive Librarian Sinead O'Higgins spoke about the challenges and experiences reaching communities with online events at the LGMA Skills Share event Using Digital Platforms and Technology for Hosting Online Events. Central Library are also organising a Virtual Trip to Brussels representing Waterford EDIC for the new European Bauhaus and a Work Matters Local Enterprise Week business support promotion.

Upgrades to Brown's Road branch have been completed to ensure the library can safely open to the public when restrictions allow. The branch librarian is delivering books to vulnerable patrons and developing online story times and craft events for children.

Dunmore East Library has remained closed during Level 5 restrictions in January and February; Ardkeen Library staff have been delivering books to vulnerable patrons in the Dunmore East area during this time. The Dunmore East Librarian is working from Dungarvan Library, developing Local History online resources and delivering online events and activities in Irish for Seachtain na Gaelige.

Tramore Library has been active in the development and delivery of Dyslexia services and sensory services to aid in those with learning difficulties, dementia, autism and sensory impairments. The library have also moved their book clubs to Zoom, developed a weekly Spokes Poetry group, online scrabble group, a BorrowBox 'Blaa Books' podcast, delivering books to vulnerable patrons in the area and also do work with the direction provision centre.

Local Studies

During the months of January and February, while Level 5 remained in place, Local Studies services have continued online and by phone with 15 Local Studies queries taken. There were a total of 1747 social media engagements for 8 Local Studies events delivered during this time.

Activity Table (Summary)

	January	February
Tours	N/A Covid Restrictions	
Online Talks/Exhibitions/Staff training	2	6
Research Queries in person, phone or correspondence	8	7
Microfilm viewed, by appointment	N/A Covid Restrictions	
Other visits -personal research etc	N/A Covid Restrictions	
Irish Newspaper Archives (online record views)	4	Not yet Available
Ancestry.com Unique searches	194	24

Arts Report March 2021

The Arts Offices continues to provide an arts service to artists, arts organisations and the community as a whole especially in the areas of Grants, Bursaries and Festivals supports and advice.

- Mentoring, advice and close contact with arts groups continued throughout February
- The Arts Office also worked on a number of partnership fronts within the Council and especially within the Culture Team. This included developing projects for the building resilience/keep well programme in literature, painting and graphic representation as well for other projects e.g. St Patrick's Day Programme and making time for social contact with artists.
- Council programmes in Arts in Health, Literature and Education continued along with Dance, Theatre, Youth and technology.
- Planning for International Womens Day in March, Poetry Day Ireland in April and Bealtaine – Celebrating Creativity as we Age in May is underway as well as for Culture Night in September. At the moment programmes are being developed as on-line offering but with the option for limited public interaction is also being built-in should things improve.
- Partnership negotiations opened with publishers New Island Books for the printing and marketing of two volumes of new Plays from the South East that are currently being edited by Playwright Gary Mitchell.
- While the Waterford Gallery of Art remained closed – one of the community rooms had a Green Screen built and hung and is waiting electrical and internet streaming works prior to commissioning. Maintenance continued on the Gallery as a whole including Artworks management.

Preparations continued for acquiring a storage facility for Waterford Art Collection – it is now at contract stage. Internal works and outfitting (design) will commence shortly.

- GOMA Waterford, with a grant from the Arts Council, realigned their Arts Garden so as to increase Covid-safe people spacing for their schools and outreach programmes. GOMA's artist's studios remained open but with restricted Covid-safe attendance. GOMA's delayed 2020 WIT Student exhibition came down with the help of volunteers. Incidentally the Waterford Art Collection's 2020 WIT bursary went to Marika Manning.
- Rogue Gallery's shop window on Michael Street was updated to reflect the current times. Meanwhile work continued in drawing-up plans for their section of Thomas Street House.
- Music Generation continued its programme with young people via digital platforms.
- ArtLinks Bursaries are currently open for artists in all disciplines to apply for support for them to develop professional development opportunities. Closing date is mid March.