

Library Services

The Library Service continued to be a key resource in local communities, delivering a broad range of services to meet a diversity of needs in information, learning, literacy, employment skills, business and leisure

New Services in 2014

During 2014 Wi-Fi was extended to the City Library John's Quay and Loughboy Library., providing an enhanced Public Internet service to library users, both locals and tourists. Ferrybank branch also has Wi-fi since opening in December 2012

There was a further enhancement to the Library Service's suite of online services - available through www.kilkennylibrary.ie - with the addition of Zinio Online magazines. Titles include: The Economist, Newsweek, New Scientist, Hello, Rolling Stone, Ideal Homes etc. Other available online resources include: Britannica Online, Naxos Music Online, Transparent Languages Online and One Click Digital e-audiobook.

Adding to the Library's social media presence on Facebook, and Twitter, the Library Blog was introduced during year

The Irish Newspaper Archive online, featuring national and local newspapers was made available for public use in the Local Studies Department @ Library H.Q. Since then it has been made available in the City Library with future rollout plans to all branches.

LITERACY SUPPORT FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN

Up to 600 children from across the County participated in the annual Summer Reading Challenge. Children were asked to read six books over a six week period, and received small incentives along the way, and a medal and Certificate on completion. All who completed the challenge were treated to a magic show in the Watergate Theatre in early October. The SRC helps children to develop and maintain their reading skills, during the out of school summer months. Other Reading Initiatives for Adults and families - in branches during the year- included the Six Book Challenge and the Twelve Books of Christmas. The Storysacks Family Learning Project at Ferrybank Library was shortlisted for a national Aontas STAR Award

Another initiative to promote reading, in school and homes in the Thomastown area was the One Book Project. It was joint venture between the HSCL teacher, Grennan College teachers, students, parents and Thomastown library. The book chosen for the initiative was War Horse by Michael Morpurgo. The novel follows themes of bravery, courage, friendship and survival and during World War 1.

FREE Digital Skills courses for the Public

The Library Service continued to provide digital skills courses for the public, with computer classes taking place during the year in libraries around the County. These were through partnerships with other agencies e.g. SOLAS, Age Action, Co. Kilkenny LEADER, and the Irish Computer Society/SAN IT. More FREE classes are planned for 2015.

Library Cultural Activities.

The Library Service organised an annual cultural programme incorporating events across the library network e.g. author visits, exhibitions and performances. National and local festivals were celebrated including the

Adult Learners' Festival, Bealtaine, International Women's Day, Culture Night, Heritage Week, Science Week, All Ireland Poetry Day, Savour Kilkenny and Seachtain na Gaeilge.

In June, Loughboy Library played host to Tipperary author Donal Ryan, Winner of the Irish Book of the Year 2012 and long-listed for the Man Booker Prize 2013. Over 100 readers came to listen to Donal discuss "The Spinning Heart" and "The Thing About December". Blogger and author Lorna Sixsmith, also spoke. This annual gathering provides a unique opportunity for all readers –book clubs and individuals - to swap recommendations and discuss all things literary with like-minded people.

World War commemorations

There was a number of fascinating World War One events in library branches. These included "Researching your relatives who fought in WW1" by author Neil Richardson, "Poetry from the War Poets" by Poet Mark Roper and "Castlecomer People who served in WW1" by Dr Maire Downey. There were ongoing book displays in library branches while a WW1 commemorative booklet, "Kilkenny on the Eve of War" was produced from the Local Studies collection. An international WW 2 exhibition took place in the City Library on the "Warsaw Uprising".

There was an exhibition by first year students of Grennan College in Thomastown library during January as part of the One Book Project.

2014 Statistics

- 314,750 visits to libraries
- 301,612 books, CD's, DVD's, language courses, audiobooks, e-audiobooks, and magazines were borrowed/downloaded
- 28,507 Internet/Wi-Fi sessions were undertaken