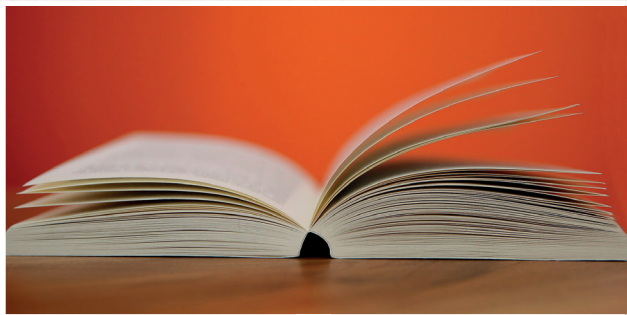




Library Staff Choices



As library staff, we love to make recommendations of our favourite books or books that we know our patrons will enjoy or benefit from! When we find a book we treasure, we cannot wait to pay it forward and recommend it to someone else. We then wait patiently before asking "Did you read it yet, "are you the part where..?" "Oh I won't spoil it for you!" "Did you read that author before?" or "Did you know this author writes similar books?"



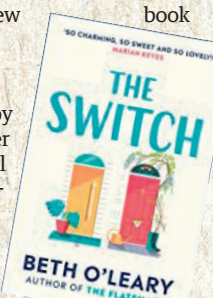
We are not currently in the library but we would still like to share some of what we have been reading lately, some of our favourite reads ever and some titles of what we are looking forward to reading.

Over the last few weeks, like many people, we have found reading to be a great distraction and escape in these strange times. Our recommendations will hopefully have something for every reader as they include some light and funny reads, thrillers, literary fiction titles, and non-fiction titles.

Fiction

The Switch by Beth O'Leary (pub. 2020)

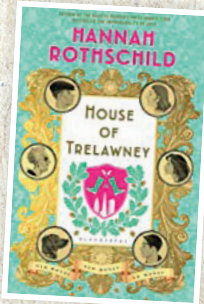
This new book by Beth O'Leary is eagerly awaited by fans of her first novel "The Flat-Share". **Majella from Grai-**



guenamanagh Library recently read this and found it to be a wonderfully light read, perfect in current circumstances if you want pure escapism. Leena a twenty-something, is struggling with her mental health after the death of her sister and so she decides to swap places with her Grandmother who has her own troubles as her husband recently left her. Leena and Eileen are very close and when they decide to swap lives they also swap phones!

House of Trelawney by Hannah Rothschild (pub. 2020)

Jean, our fiction buyer from our Library HQ recommends this new book by Hannah Rothschild. It is a witty and moving tale revolving around the aristocratic Trelawney family struggling in their crumbling 800 year old castle.



American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins (pub. 2020)

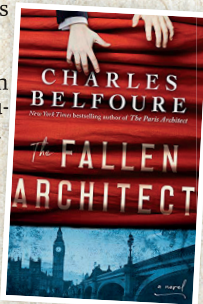
Helen from Ferrybank Library recommends this acclaimed new title. Lydia is a middle class Mexican who is forced to flee for her life after the all-powerful drug lord massacres her whole family in revenge for an article which her journalist husband wrote. The only survivors are Lydia and her 8 year old son Luca. They leave behind their comfortable past lives and become migrants, surviving on their wits, and picking up tips from fellow travellers as they make their way north towards the USA. It's a harrowing but gripping tale. Each time they have to board 'la bestia' I was holding my breath, almost afraid to turn the page.



There is danger everywhere and violence, theft, kidnapping and death are par for the course in the hazardous journey. All the while the drug cartels are hot on their heels. The question is who can they trust?

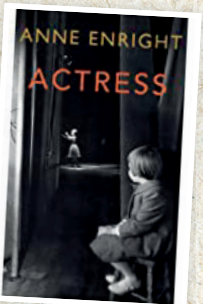
The Fallen Architect by Charles Belfoure (pub. 2020)

Caitriona from Loughboy library was reeled in from the first page in this intriguing thriller. Douglas Layton is the fallen architect. In 1900, part of a theatre he designed in London collapsed, killing fourteen people. He is found guilty of murder and spends five years in prison. When released, he takes on a new identity and is hell bent on discovering the real truth behind the accident. There are many suspects...



Anne Enright 'Actress'

Nuala from our Library HQ highly recommends Anne Enright's latest book "Actress". "I was given this book as a gift and it is indeed a gift! At times I paused to re-read sentences, the writing is so gorgeous." Actress tells the story of an Irish theatre actress Katherine O'Dell as told by her daughter Norah. It captures glimpses of Hollywood stardom, the Dublin stage and London's West End and is a moving novel about mothers and daughters and the men in their lives.



Non-fiction

If you fancy something more true to life, we have some great non-fiction recommendations too!

Anseo by Una-Minh Kavanagh (pub. 2019)

For non-fiction fans, **Olive from our Library HQ** highly recommends this memoir from Una-



Minh Kavanagh which shares her story of adoption from Vietnam and her childhood in her Kerry. Una-Minh was raised by her single mother and teacher and her Grandad, a retired garda. She talks about her love of the Irish language and her dealings with racism in Ireland as a young adult. It gets you thinking about Irish identity and the idea of family not always being biological.

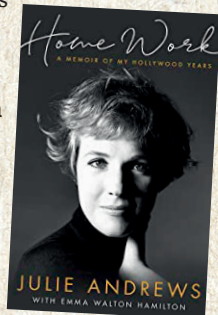
Unfollow by Megan Phelps-Roper (pub. 2019)



Karyn from Ferrybank Library has been reading Megan Phelps-Roper's book "Unfollow" in which Megan tells her story of what it was like to be raised in the infamous Westboro Baptist Church. The church has gained notoriety for decades as being extremely homophobic and for protesting at funerals of American soldiers. In her teens Megan slowly begins to question her family's staunch beliefs and we learn how she eventually makes the decision to leave the church at the age of 26 years. A really interesting and brave story.

Homework: A Memoir of my Hollywood Years by Julie Andrews (pub. 2019)

Hel-en from City Library recommends this memoir from the legendary actress Julie Andrews. It is the second instalment in her memoir, spanning the Hollywood years and it is really honest and insightful look into her world.



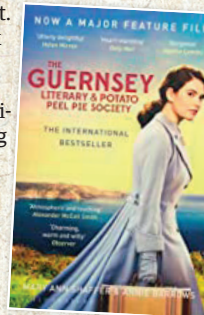
Oldies but Goodies

Do you remember these titles? If not, why not look out for them when you return to the library!

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Schaffer and Anne Barrows (pub. 2009)

Johanna from Thomastown Library recently read "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society" by Mary Ann Schaffer and Anne Barrows really

enjoyed it. The book tells the story of a community coming together as their home island Guernsey is occupied by German soldiers during World War Two. It is a good reminder of how reading can bring people together and provide strength in trying times.



Starter for 10 by David Nicholls (pub. 2004)

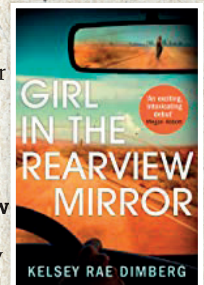


Jane from Grai-guenamanagh Library has enjoyed reading "Starter for 10" by David Nicholls. Fans of this author's smash hit "One Day" might not know that this book published in 2004 was David Nicholls debut novel and tells the story of Brian Jackson, a university student who wants to make it onto a TV Quiz Show. He is determined to win the quiz to win over the heart of his teammate Alice who he has fallen for. An enjoyable read, with laugh out loud moments on every page!

Online Resources

Have you tried our titles available online through Borrowbox? These eBooks & eAudiobooks can be simply downloaded to your smart device for FREE.

The Girl in the Rearview Mirror by Kelsey Rae Dimberg (pub. 2020)



Aisling from Library HQ has been reading this thriller about Finn Hunt who leaves her

past behind her to make a new life in Arizona. She finds work as a nanny for a Senator Philip Martin and quickly is immersed in their privileged life. Soon a stranger threatens to expose a scandal and Finn tries to protect the Martins she is drawn further into their secretive life.

Meave in America by Maeve Higgins (pub. 2018)

Karyn from Ferrybank Library has been listening to comedienne Maeve Higgins share her tales from life in America. An eAudiobook is the perfect companion when out walking these days as we socially distance from others.

Don't forget we also have e-Magazines available from RB Digital and Press Reader.

Mary from Castlecomer Library has been reading a monthly magazine called "The Simple Things". This magazine celebrates slowing down, enjoying what you have and making the most of where you live. It offers some respite from stress, worry and boredom at this difficult time.



We hope you will add some of these recommendations to your own "To Be Read List". Although our library doors are closed, know that library staff are working behind closed doors, carefully choosing new titles to add to our collections. We will look forward to when we can again share some more of our new favourite reads when we next see you in the library!