

Trim Library and Cultural Centre

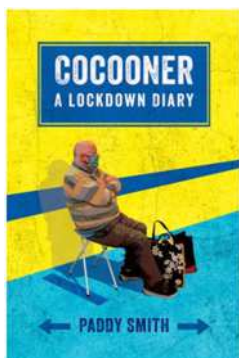
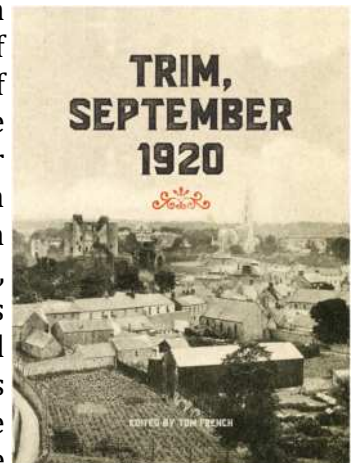
Work on the Trim Library and Cultural Centre is due to begin shortly. The new facility will see the development of a theatre space with over 200 seats on the site of the existing library and the old Methodist Chapel on High Street. The library will be housed on the ground floor of the new facility which will take in the old library, the church and the courtyard. The new library facilities will include a library study space and support area as well as meeting rooms. The main auditorium with stage and retractable seating will be on the second floor and will include a balcony with sound desk. With



the seats retracted it can be used as a large meeting space. The old church will become a space for meetings for about 40 people or may be used as exhibition space. There are also two small meeting rooms for community use. The library service is moving around the corner to Mill Street for the duration of the work which is expected to take around 18 months to complete. Staff from Trim library are pictured during the move.

New Publications

'Trim, September 1920' On Thursday 24th September 2020, Meath County Council held its first virtual event to launch the publication of 'Trim, September 1920' in Trim Library. Jackie Maguire, Chief Executive, was joined by Cathaoirleach Cllr. David Gilroy and by the authors of the book, Cllr. Noel French and Tom French, and by writer and broadcaster Myles Dungan. In September 1920 the British government outlawed both the Dáil and Sinn Féin. The IRA began ambushing Royal Irish Constabulary and British Army patrols, attacking barracks and forcing isolated stations to be abandoned. As part of that campaign Trim RIC barracks was raided by local Republicans and arms were taken. The reprisal by Black & Tans for this action came in late September 1920. This volume assembles, for the first time, historical documents, photographs and files from a wide range of national and local archival collections and presents contemporary newspaper accounts of the tumult which the town of Trim experienced one hundred years ago. Meath County Council is very proud to have supported the publication of this book and it is one of the centre pieces of our Decade of Centenaries programme for 2020. The book is available to purchase from all Meath libraries for €10.



Cocooner: A Lockdown Diary by Paddy Smith. In this illustrated diary Paddy, veteran journalist and Trim native, turns his attention to the worldwide pandemic and records its impact on his family's daily life as the extraordinary becomes 'the new normal'. Nothing is beneath his attention and he manages to be both entertaining and poignant, christening the bees, benevolently allowing the neighbours to shop for him, and taking time to regard the clouds in their transits over his native town. *Cocooner: A Lockdown Diary* is one of Creative Ireland's 25 creative projects for older people, produced in collaboration with Meath County Council. The book is available to buy in Antonia's Bookstore, Trim.

Children's Book Festival



Children's Book Festival 2020 was like no other for Meath Libraries. The closure of schools due to the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in the festival taking place online. In total 35 events were prepared and recorded for viewing on our YouTube channel. There was a variety of author talks, illustration workshops, storytelling sessions, science experiments, mini music tutorials, book doctor consultations and a book quiz. Almost 5,000 children in forty schools watched the videos recorded by Cressida Cowell, Kieran Fanning, Nicola Pierce, Tom Palmer, Oisín McGann and The Rediscovery Center to name a few. Our online Family Fun Weekend which took place on the 24th and 25th of October was also a great success with families logging on to enjoy the events together.

Healthy Ireland At Your Library

Never before has it been so important to focus on our physical and mental health. The Healthy Ireland at your Library initiative will continue online with a series of talks and workshops. Louise Shanagher will discuss mindfulness and self-compassion in parenting, while for children she will focus on mindfulness, gratitude and kindness. Linda Breathnach and Melissa Moore will discuss stress management, relationship challenges and work life balance. Deirdre Kilrane will host adult and children's yoga sessions and Breege Leddy will help us to sleep well during Covid 19. Raising resilient children and reducing child anxiety are just some of the talks that Dr. Mary O'Kane has recorded for parents. All of our Healthy Ireland videos are available to view on our YouTube channel.



eServices in 2020

While our doors were closed during 2020 our eServices proved to be a reliable resource for people with 24/7 availability. All of our online services experienced increased levels of usage with April showing our highest ever figures across all our online services. Our new online newspaper service, PressReader, launched in March and was immediately a hit with users new and old. PressReader gives access to full colour digital newspapers and magazines from Ireland and all across the globe, in English as well as a host of other languages. The service has attracted an average of 1320 users per month since and has proved itself the most popular of our eServices in 2020. BorrowBox, our eBook & eAudiobook app, saw a 53% annual increase in users with just over 1000 new users in 2020. Total loans increased by 115% with eAudiobooks surpassing eBook loans for the first time with over 25000 eAudiobooks borrowed. And nearly 40,000 new copies were purchased to cope with increased demand. Our full colour Digital Magazines from Rbdigital were also popular, with a 50% increase in both loans and new users. *Hello! Magazine* once again took the top spot in the lending chart, with *Woman's Weekly*, *Heat Magazine* and *The Economist* following behind. Over 60% more courses were started by users in 2020 on our eLearning platform, Universal Class. Excel 2019 was the most popular course, while other computer courses; Windows 10, Microsoft Word and Computer Literacy, also featured. Others that made it in to the top 10 were Yoga 1010, How to Draw, and Digital Photography. Transparent Language Online, another new service this year, gives access to over 100 language courses. It also offers a number of English courses in different languages. It attracted some new users and there were over 3500 sessions in 2020. To find out more about these services visit www.meathlibraries.ie/onlineresources for details and user guides.



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