

## **Libraries NI**

### **Response to the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure's Inquiry into Inclusion in the Arts of Working Class Communities**

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Libraries NI, the public library service for Northern Ireland, welcomes the opportunity to submit evidence to this important inquiry.
- 1.2 This submission provides a brief overview of Libraries NI and then more detail about how libraries provide access to the arts and, finally, suggests a recommendation for the Committee's consideration.
- 1.3 The two key points we wish to make are:
  - Libraries NI currently provides local access to the arts through its network of libraries, many of which are based in working class communities
  - there is significant potential to improve access to and participation in the arts, if arts organisations were encouraged to use the library network as a means of engaging with local communities.

#### **2. Libraries NI**

- 2.1 Libraries NI is the public library authority for Northern Ireland and was established in April 2009. Our primary duty, as set down in the Libraries Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, is to provide a comprehensive and efficient public library service for persons living, working or studying in Northern Ireland. The Act also requires Libraries NI to have regard to the desirability of 'making libraries premises available for cultural and community activities' (Paragraph 2(2)(b)(v)).
- 2.2 **Our Vision** is to provide a flexible and responsive public library service which provides a dynamic focal point in the community and assists people to fulfil their potential. Various public consultations, carried out by Libraries NI over the past number of years, have highlighted the fact that libraries are at the heart of communities, many of which have few, if any other, shared cultural facilities and are used by people of all ages and backgrounds.
- 2.3 **Our Mission** is to enrich and enhance the lives of individuals and communities through providing and promoting a range of high quality library and information services.

- 2.4 The work of Libraries NI is guided by five key service priorities:
- Children and Young People's Services
  - Culture and Creative Development
  - Heritage Services
  - Information and Learning Services
  - Reading and Reader Development
- 2.5 Our services are delivered through a network of 96 libraries, two heritage libraries, 15 mobile libraries, 10 homecall vehicles and through outreach and online services. 28 of our libraries directly serve the 10% most deprived Super Output Areas as determined by the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2010. A further 28 libraries are located in rural communities i.e. settlements with a population of 4,500 or less, as identified in the Report of the Inter-Departmental Urban-Rural Definition Group Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements (NISRA, 2005).
- 2.6 Libraries NI has a Culture and Creative Development Strategy 2014 – 2017 which sets out the context and direction for an inclusive Culture and Creative Development service. The aim of the strategy is to increase participation in and access to culture and creative development activities and services (see Appendix One).

### **3. Barriers to Participation**

- 3.1 Libraries NI recognises the barriers to involvement in the arts which have been widely documented. The Arts Council of Northern Ireland's research into the actual and perceived barriers to publicly funded arts in Northern Ireland, 2005, although nine years old, remains relevant. It refers to cost, lack of time, location, lack of public transport, lack of information, unsuitable events and feeling uncomfortable or out of place as common barriers, as well as lack of awareness and lack of choice. DCAL's Cultural Deprivation Index (DCAL, 2014) recognizes that proximity to facilities is a factor in arts attendance. Libraries NI's experience is that local libraries can provide a means of overcoming these barriers.

### **4. Current and Future Provision**

- 4.1 Libraries NI's network of 98 libraries receives some 7 million visits annually from a wide range of people. Libraries provide a range of opening hours (morning, afternoon, evening) and access for people with disabilities. Many have been enhanced in recent years in ways which facilitate events and exhibitions. This means that Libraries NI is well placed to provide local access to the arts and creative development. Approximately 30 libraries have gallery space with professional hanging systems. Performance spaces are also available to amateur and professional performers.

- 4.2 Libraries NI has established a base of programming across the art forms. To give a flavour of this, Appendix Two gives some recent examples of events and programmes and Appendix Three is the Libraries NI programme for Creativity Month 2014.
- 4.3 Libraries complement rather than compete with the aims and objectives of a number of other arts providers in providing access to the arts through a network of local venues that are viewed by the general public as neutral, shared and accessible. The local, accessible and inclusive nature of libraries reduces barriers to the arts and provides platforms for artistic and cultural provision. In doing so, libraries contribute to skills and audience development which, in turn, contributes to the development of the Creative Industries.
- 4.4 Libraries have the ability to encourage increased knowledge, experience and participation across cultural and creative activities. They are places where all cultural traditions, both local and in the wider national and world context, can be encountered, experienced, examined and celebrated. This increases understanding of cultural diversity and shared heritage. Libraries are community hubs offering people from all backgrounds free access to:
- verbal arts - literature, poetry, storytelling
  - performing arts - music, song, theatre, dance
  - visual arts - painting, film, photography
  - traditional arts in Northern Ireland incorporating the indigenous music, song and dance of the region
  - Opportunities to explore and experience cultural diversity.
- 4.5 Libraries provide a platform for the creators of cultural and artistic work, both established practitioners and emerging talent and take cultural activities into communities, particularly those that are distant from other sources of cultural activity.
- 4.6 Libraries NI currently provides some programming which develops digital skills in relation to the arts, and is installing ICT systems, hardware and software to enable this area of provision to be developed much further. Our new ICT contract which is currently being implemented provides Wi-Fi and fast broadband in all libraries. Wi-Fi is particularly important in smaller and rural libraries, especially those where the space constraints have limited our ability, to date, to deliver group ICT sessions. With Wi-Fi in place we can use a set of tablet computers to deliver programmes. The new ICT contract also includes provision for Creative Labs in 8 libraries, offering suites of eight iMAC computers, a video camera, audio recording equipment and a music keyboard. In addition there will be software to allow users to create and edit multimedia content and to publish it to the web.

## **5. Partnerships**

- 5.1 Libraries NI works in partnership with many other organisations, including local community based organisations, to support and promote the arts. The paragraphs below describe situations where a partner organisation has availed of the local library network to make the arts more accessible.

### Golden Thread Gallery

- 5.2 Ardoyne, Shankill and Chichester libraries hosted a “My Generation” exhibition, in conjunction with the Golden Thread Gallery. This exhibition was an intergenerational project, developed by the Golden Thread Gallery in partnership with the Ardoyne Health Partnership, North Belfast Senior Citizens Forum, Let Youth Lead and the YEHA (Youth, Education, Health and Advice) project. It brought people together from North Belfast to swap clothes, attitudes, reminiscences and experiences. Funded through the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Belfast City Council the result was a series of drawings and photographs, a book and DVD.
- 5.3 Libraries NI has worked with the Golden Thread Gallery to exhibit the results of the project in venues across North Belfast making it accessible to all of the community. Shankill Library hosted a launch event and invited local groups to view the exhibition strengthening local partnerships. Local schools visited the exhibition.
- 5.4 Partnership with the Golden Thread Gallery continues with the library staff arranging for another exhibition to follow and the Gallery is keen to expand the partnership with libraries venues.

### Belonging Project

- 5.5 ‘Belonging’ is a multimedia project that portrays the individual stories of the growing migrant population in Northern Ireland through personal items and stories. The central part of ‘Belonging’ is a collection of portraits of migrants, each photographed with an object or memento, which they have brought to Northern Ireland from their home. They have also recorded an interview sharing their migration story. Both the portraits and recordings are integrated into the exhibition, allowing attendees to get a fuller picture of the diversity of migration experiences, and to confront their preconceptions of migrants.
- 5.6 As well as the exhibition there will be a series of workshops on immigration, diversity and equality, facilitated by the Belfast Migrant Centre, during the last week of March 2014. Workshops in Falls Road Library will be with Conway Mill After School Group, St Paul’s Primary School and Falls Senior Citizen Forum. Upcoming destinations for the exhibition include Ardoyne Library (on view throughout April) and Shankill (on view throughout May), after which the exhibition will tour a number of libraries across Northern Ireland.

- 5.7 The Belonging Project is supported primarily by the Intercultural Arts Grant awarded by Arts Council Northern Ireland, as well as the Good Relations Grant awarded by Belfast City Council.

Finvola: Gem of the Roe

- 5.8 Dungiven Library is an excellent example of a library at the heart of its community and one that enriches the cultural experiences of the local community. Following the opening of the new library on the main street in 2010, the local community decided to seek funding to commission a piece of public art that would enhance not only the library, but the town of Dungiven.
- 5.9 The Dungiven Public Art Steering Group was formed, involving community representatives, Libraries NI and Limavady Borough Council and a proposal was submitted to the Arts Council NI. As a result artist, Maurice Harron was commissioned to produce, not only the sculpture which is now located outside the library, but he also worked with six local schools to create a ceramic wall panel, which is now on display inside the library.
- 5.10 As a result of this work, interest in the role of the library as a venue for arts and other cultural events has increased and Libraries NI has recently procured a wall hanging system to provide display facilities for local artists, creative arts and local groups.
- 5.11 These projects are exemplars of how arts can be made more accessible, through partnership work using existing infrastructure and demonstrate the potential that libraries offer.

## **6. Recommendation**

- 6.1 Libraries NI is of the view that its network of libraries provides an effective means of making the arts more accessible and would welcome a recommendation that encourage arts organisations to avail of the network of libraries in order to increase access to and involvement in the arts in both urban and rural working class communities.

## Libraries NI

### Culture and Creative Development Strategy 2014-2017

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Northern Ireland Library Authority (known as Libraries NI) was established in April 2009. Our primary duty, as set down in the Libraries Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, is to provide a comprehensive and efficient public library service for persons living, working or studying in Northern Ireland.
- 1.2 **Our Vision** is to provide a flexible and responsive public library service which provides a dynamic focal point in the community and assists people to fulfil their potential.
- 1.3 **Our Mission** is to enrich and enhance the lives of individuals and communities through providing and promoting a range of high quality library and information services.
- 1.4 The work of Libraries NI is guided by five key service priorities:
  - Children and Young People's Services
  - Culture and Creative Development
  - Heritage Services
  - Information and Learning Services
  - Reading and Reader Development
 which are delivered through a network of branch libraries, specialist heritage libraries, mobile libraries and through online and outreach services.

#### 2. Rationale

- 2.1 Public libraries make a unique contribution to culture and creative development because of the combination of services and programming which they can provide and the local yet universal nature of the service.
- 2.2 Libraries are spaces where all cultural traditions, both local and in the wider national and world context, can be encountered, experienced, examined and celebrated in a local, neutral and welcoming environment. This increases understanding of cultural diversity and shared heritage.
- 2.3 Libraries reduce barriers to the arts as they provide local, accessible and inclusive venues and platforms for artistic and cultural provision. In doing this they contribute to skills and audience development which in turn contributes to the development of the Creative Industries.
- 2.4 This document sets out Libraries NI's strategy in relation to culture and creative development for adults for the period 2014 – 2017. It encompasses

the verbal arts (literature, poetry, storytelling), performance arts (music, song, theatre, dance), visual arts (painting, film, photography) and traditional arts.

### **3. Aims and Objectives**

3.1 The aim of this service priority is to increase participation in and access to culture and creative development activities and services.

3.2 The objectives are:

- to increase programming which supports the development of the Creative Industries
- to increase programming which contributes to an understanding of cultural diversity and the shared cultural heritage
- to increase programming in community and voluntary arts in areas of social need and for those at risk of social exclusion
- to provide access to stock, including opportunities for creativity and creative experience in multi formats and platforms
- to position Libraries NI as a recognised facilitator, disseminator and provider of culture and creative development
- to increase awareness of libraries as accessible, inclusive venues and as platforms for culture, arts and creativity.

### **4. Current Position**

4.1 Libraries NI's network of libraries, many of which have been enhanced in recent years in ways which facilitate events and exhibitions, means that Libraries NI is uniquely placed to provide local access to culture and creative development.

4.2 Libraries NI has established a strong base of programming across the art forms, particularly in relation to Creativity Month, which has attracted additional funding, and to Derry Londonderry UK City of Culture. There is potential to build on both of these initiatives as well as to continue the generality of programming.

4.3 Libraries NI has some excellent collections which support culture and creative development. We will work to make these collections more accessible and to enhance the ways in which we provide access to stock.

4.4 Libraries NI has a small team of experienced and motivated staff who are responsible for culture and creative development. The size of the team requires an approach which is facilitative and which in many cases will require partnership work.

4.5 Libraries NI has an existing range of partners in relation to culture and creative development including Arts Council NI and local councils. We recognise that a key partner, the local councils, will undergo structural change as a result of the Review of Public Administration and that this may impact on the implementation of the strategy.

- 4.6 There is considerable scope for Libraries NI to provide digital cultural services and programming. This will be developed throughout the lifetime of this strategy; the new creative lab and virtual learning environment technologies will be a major catalyst for this approach.

## **5. The Strategic Context**

- 5.1 In developing this strategy cognisance has been taken of the following key documents:

### **5.1.1 Programme for Government**

The Northern Ireland Executive has indicated in the Programme for Government that its primary focus for the period 2011-15 is to grow the economy and tackle disadvantage. The culture and creative development strategy supports this through the priority given to activities which develop the creative industries and cultural tourism.

### **5.1.2 Together: Building a United Community**

Together: Building a United Community specifically recognises the role libraries play to 'discover and share the stories of the people and places across the region and examine historical events from the distant and more recent past'. Culture and creative development will provide opportunities through its programming to increase understanding of cultural diversity.

### **5.1.3 Delivering Social Change Framework**

This framework aims to deliver a sustained reduction in poverty and associated issues across all ages and to improve health, well-being and life opportunities. There is a growing evidence base for the positive impact on physical and emotional well-being of participation in arts and creativity. By breaking down barriers to the arts and increasing participation in culture and creative development Libraries NI will contribute to the well-being of individuals and groups.

### **5.1.4 DCAL Corporate and Business Plan**

DCAL's key priority is to promote equality and to tackle poverty and social exclusion. This strategy addresses these challenges by providing opportunities to develop skills, to participate in programmes and to enhance understanding of cultural diversity. Libraries NI will give priority to supporting programmes in areas of deprivation and targeting those at risk of social exclusion.

- 5.1.5 DCAL also gives high priority to the Creative Industries. It is the lead department within government on this important element of the economy and it is promoting a broader creativity agenda that can stimulate new solutions to economic and societal challenges. Derry~Londonderry City of Culture 2013 has been an important element in this agenda and DCAL is committed to ensuring a sustainable legacy for the North West and beyond from the City of Culture. This strategy supports the Creative Industries through its focus on



increasing participation and on skills development and will take account of the City of Culture legacy plans as they unfold.

#### 5.1.6 **Delivering Tomorrow's Libraries**

DCAL's policy framework for libraries recognises that libraries *"are part of our cultural infrastructure and provide a pathway for people to experience the full range of cultural assets"*.

### 5.2 **Technological Factors**

5.2.1 This strategy takes into account the changing technological environment which extends the ways in which people can access cultural experiences, increases their expectations and provides new opportunities for access and for collaboration.

5.2.2 It also takes into account the new creative lab and virtual learning environment technologies which will assist Libraries NI in providing opportunities for e-participation to foster design talent, engender creative thinking, develop creative entrepreneurs and promote the digital arts.

### 5.3 **Societal Changes**

5.3.1 The current challenging economic climate is an opportunity for cultural services to contribute and support the development of the Creative Industries in Northern Ireland.

5.3.2 A growing multi-cultural environment and societal need for a greater understanding of the shared history of Northern Ireland is a further opportunity for Libraries NI to develop and deliver specific programming.

5.3.3 It is recognised that rurality and disability may impact on how services are delivered. The development of services under e2 will assist by facilitating virtual services.

5.3.4 Cultural services will be inclusive in the delivery of culture, arts and creativity programming.

## 6. **Statement of Strategy**

6.1 Libraries NI will:

- position libraries as accessible, inclusive venues and platforms for culture, arts and creativity through the provision of a range of cultural programming in libraries covering all art forms
- focus the programming on UK City of Culture legacy, Creative Industries, Cultural Heritage, Voluntary and Community Arts
- develop access to digital cultural activities, digital platforms, performances and resources
- develop an approach to future music provision.

## **7. Delivery**

- 7.1 Overall responsibility for the development and delivery of the culture and creative development strategy rests with the Assistant Director responsible for Culture and Creative Development.
- 7.2 The Head of Themes for Heritage and Culture will have responsibility for the implementation of this strategy.
- 7.3 The Senior Themes Manager for Culture and Creative Development will be responsible for the development and delivery of the three year development plan.
- 7.4 The role of the Culture and Creative Development Team will be to develop and deliver programmes and services in partnership with Libraries NI colleagues and other relevant organisations to implement this strategy.
- 7.5 Frontline staff will have a key role in providing access to culture and creative development activities and services.

## **8. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

- 8.1 The culture and creative development strategy will be reflected in the annual Libraries NI Business Plan and relevant Service Plans.
- 8.2 Progress on these plans will be reported to the Services Committee and the Board.
- 8.3 The key performance indicators for this strategy will be:
  - participation in programmes/events
  - number of programmes/initiatives/events
  - evaluation of customer experience through informal discussions and surveys.
- 8.4 This strategy will be kept under review as part of the annual business planning process and will be formally reviewed after three years.

## 9. Development Plan

Strategy	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
<b>Position libraries as accessible, inclusive venues and platforms for culture, arts and creativity through the provision of a range of cultural programming in libraries</b>	Work with selected festivals, councils, colleges and other partners to deliver cultural programming.	Work with selected festivals, councils, colleges and other partners to deliver cultural programming.	Work with selected festivals, councils, colleges and other partners to deliver cultural programming.
<b>Focus the programming on UK City of Culture legacy, Creative Industries, Cultural Heritage, Voluntary and Community Arts</b>	<p><u>UK City of Culture legacy</u> Investigate and research opportunities to support UK City of Culture legacy.</p> <p><u>Creative Industries</u> Pilot the delivery of activities to support the creative industries outside of Creativity Month.</p> <p><u>Cultural Heritage</u> Investigate and research collaborative opportunities to develop and deliver programmes to promote a shared future through an understanding of our Cultural Heritage.</p> <p><u>Voluntary and Community Arts</u> Research opportunities to develop programming in Voluntary and Community Arts.</p>	<p><u>UK City of Culture legacy</u> Develop and deliver library programming to support UK City of Culture legacy.</p> <p><u>Creative Industries</u> Secure funding to further develop and deliver a yearlong programme of events/activities to promote the Creative Industries culminating in Creativity Month.</p> <p><u>Cultural Heritage</u> Develop and deliver through collaborative working programmes to promote a shared future through an understanding of our Cultural Heritage.</p> <p><u>Voluntary and Community Arts</u> Develop and deliver programming in Voluntary and Community Arts.</p>	<p><u>UK City of Culture legacy</u> Develop and deliver library programming to support UK City of Culture legacy.</p> <p><u>Creative Industries</u> Secure funding to continue to develop and deliver a yearlong programme of events/activities to promote the Creative Industries culminating in Creativity Month.</p> <p><u>Cultural Heritage</u> Further develop and deliver collaborative programmes to promote a shared future through an understanding of our Cultural Heritage.</p> <p><u>Voluntary and Community Arts</u> Further develop and deliver programming in Voluntary and Community Arts.</p>

Strategy	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
<b>Develop access to digital cultural activities, digital platforms, performances and resources</b>	Identify opportunities to inform the development of access to digital cultural activities, digital platforms, performances and resources.	Develop opportunities to increase access to digital cultural activities, innovative digital art projects, digital platforms, performances and resources.	Deliver on the opportunities to increase access to digital cultural activities, innovative digital art projects, digital platforms, performances and resources.
<b>Develop an approach to future music provision in Libraries NI</b>	Investigate and research opportunities to inform future music provision in Libraries NI taking into account of the changing environment whilst building on current strengths.	Develop and deliver on the opportunities identified to progress future music provision in Libraries NI.	Deliver agreed music provision in terms of stock, digital content and programmes of supporting events/activities/workshops.

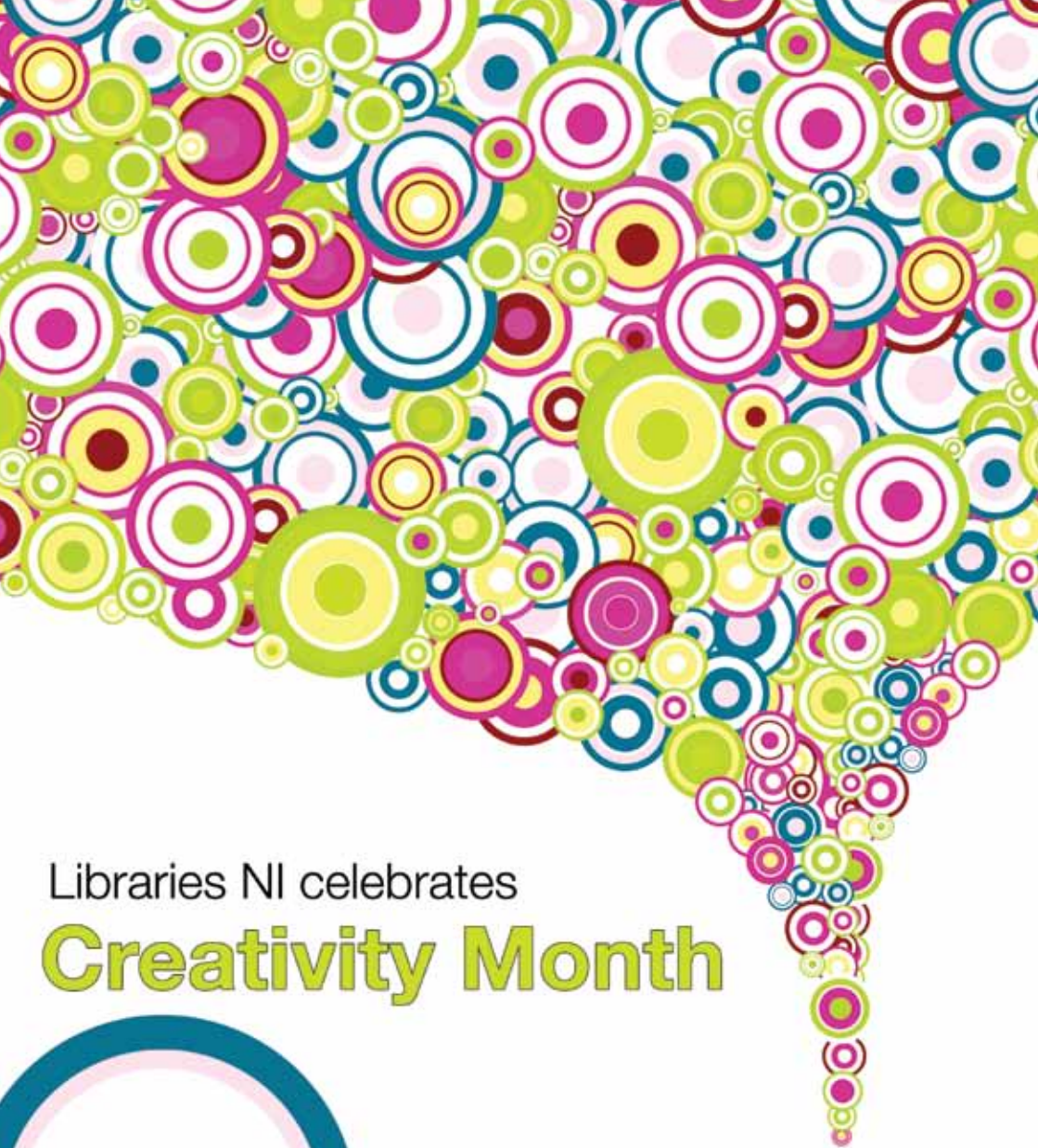
## Libraries NI

### Recent Examples of Events and Programming

Location	Event
Ardoyne	My Generation: Exhibition
Ardoyne Library	Ambulatorio: Exhibition
Armagh Library	Armagh Choir
Bangor Carnegie Library	Colin Davis: Exhibition
Belfast Central Library	One City One Book: Peter Sheridan in conversation with Lucy Caldwell.
Belfast Central Library	One City One Book: Women with extraordinary stories - Gail Walker interviews Joanne Maguire
Belfast Central Library	CPA Camera Club: Photographic Exhibition
Belfast Central Library	Arthur O'Neill: Exhibition
Belfast Central Library	Lift the Lid @ Lunchtime: Music Recital
Belfast Central Library	Pop-Up Poetry, Prose and Plays
Belfast Central Library	Meet the Author: Stuart Neville
Belfast Central Library	City Tales: Liz Weir
Belfast Central Library	Victorian Ghost Stories: Victoria Gleason
Belfast Central Library	Music Club
Belfast Central Library	Piano Recital: Alyson McDowell
Belfast Central Library	Ireland's Most Beautiful Ancient Airs
Brownlow Library	Virtual art exhibition and storytelling
Brownlow Library	Lough Neagh writing, photography and poetry: Exhibition
Chichester Library	One City One Book: Women with extraordinary stories - Lucy Caldwell interviews Kate Richardson
Coalisland Library	Declan Forde: Storytelling
Coalisland Library	Seamas Mac Annaidh: Talk
Cregagh Library	Wynchurch Art Group: Exhibition
Creggan Library	Releasing Rhythms: Drumming Workshop
Creggan Library	Uproar Comics: The Art of Storytelling

Location	Event
Derry Central Library	1993 A Year To Remember (GAA event - panel discussion)
Derry Central Library	Girls Brigade: Photographic Exhibition
Derry Central Library	Ulster Scots Music and talk (Community Relations Week)
Derry Central Library	The Grin: Music
Derry Central Library	Desert Island Books
Derry Central Library	Creative Writers at Derry Central Library
Derry Central Library	Five Leaves Left: Music
Derry Central Library	Man Booker Prize Night
Derry Central Library	Ababu Theatre (Irish language event)
Derry Central Library	Ann Cleeves
Derry Central Library	A tribute to Seamus Heaney
Derry Central Library	Burns Night
Enniskillen Library	Paul Murray: a talk on Bram Stoker
Falls Road Library	African Culture Workshop (Community Relations Week)
Falls Road Library	Home Neither Here Nor There: An Exhibition (Community Relations Week)
Hollywood Arches Library	One City One Book: Your Roots Are Showing
Hollywood Arches Library	Redhead Thread Exhibition: Kirsty McGuinness
Killyleagh Library	Childhood Recollections: Exhibition
Limavady Library	Photographic Exhibition
Lisburn City Library	Stevie Gill - Around the Allotments: Exhibition
Lisburn City Library	Liam de Frinse: Exhibition
Lisburn City Library	Gerry Madden: Exhibition
Lisburn City Library	South Eastern Regional College: Photography exhibition
Lurgan Library	C S Lewis
Lurgan Library	JFK
Newry Library	Stephanie Judd: Exhibition
Newry Library	Newry Art Society: Exhibition
Newry Library	Contemporary Works: Exhibition (Arts Council NI)
Newry Library	Steve Lally: Book Launch

Location	Event
Newry Library	Killian McEvoy: Exhibition
Newry Library	Rostrevor Art Group: Exhibition
Omagh Library	Carol Drinkwater: film and meet the author
Omagh Library	Speak Easy: Maeve Dunphy
Omagh Library	Mary O'Brien - Not a Leg to Stand On
Omagh Library	Open Mic
Omagh Library	Eye speak
Omagh Library	First Housing: Art Project
Omagh Library	Chinese New Year Celebration
Rathcoole Library	Coole Craic: Anselm McDonnell, Guitarist, Singer Songwriter & Composer
Rathcoole Library	Len Graham
Shankill Road Library	One City One Book- Memoirs - Malachi O'Doherty, Tony Macauley & Patricia Craig
Shankill Road Library	Reading by Tony Macauley
Shankill Road Library	Arts Care NI exhibition
Shankill Road Library	Ulster Scots talk
Shankill Road Library	Loud Silence exhibition
Shantallow Library	Paul Casey
Shantallow Library	Denise Blake
Stabane Library	Brian McGilloway
Strabane Library	Legendary Tales: a children's drama event
Strabane Library	Releasing Rhythms African Drumming
Waterside Library	Ulster Scots Evening
Waterside Library	Three Generations: Exhibition by D Peoples
Waterside Library	Celtic Women: Exhibition
Whiterock Library	One City One Book: panel discussion - David Park, Colin Bateman, Lucy Caldwell & C.L. Dallat



Libraries NI celebrates  
**Creativity Month**

**March 2014**

"You can't use up creativity.  
The more you use, the  
more you have."  
Maya Angelou



**libraries ni**  
[www.librariesni.org.uk](http://www.librariesni.org.uk)





For the fourth successive year, Libraries NI is participating in Creativity Month, an initiative of the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure. Creativity Month is held annually to stimulate new thinking, new collaborations and help creative people, creative ideas and creative businesses emerge and flourish.

Our programme offers the opportunity to participate in what promises to be an exciting and diverse range of free events in libraries across Northern Ireland, with something for everyone: from 'hi-tech' mobile movie making, smartphone photography and recording sessions, to poetry and creative writing workshops,

author visits, heritage sessions, art demonstrations and flamenco dance, as well more traditional crafts such as lacemaking and baking.

We would be delighted to see you at any of these events during March. You don't have to be a library member to attend, but why not take this opportunity to find out more about the range of services available? – you might be pleasantly surprised!

*Irene M Knox*

Irene Knox  
Chief Executive

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### Movies - Go Mobile Workshops

Got an idea for a short film or trailer? Need a storyboard, camera crew, edit suite, special effects unit, title generator and soundtrack?

This comprehensive workshop in mobile movie-making puts everything you need at your fingertips, making your ideas a reality.

Using iPads and a host of creative applications, you will storyboard, shoot, edit and showcase your short film in one day.

You will leave equipped with the skills to expand your film production knowledge.

#### Booking essential

##### Larne Library

**Saturday 1 March**

10:30am – 4:30pm

t: 028 2827 7047

e: [larne.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:larne.library@librariesni.org.uk)

##### Magherafelt Library

**Saturday 8 March**

10:30am – 4:30pm

t: 028 7963 2278

e: [magherafelt.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:magherafelt.library@librariesni.org.uk)



## Movies - Go Mobile

# Smartphone Photography



## Smartphone Photography by Geoff McGrath Photography workshop

During this workshop, photographer Geoff McGrath will take you through the steps on how to unleash your creative flair using your smartphone.

Geoff will cover the basics on capturing a great image and how to process your images using apps.

He will also cover basic photo-editing processes and enlighten you as to how to get your work 'out there' using various social media platforms.

**Booking essential**

**Holywood Library**

**Wednesday 5 March**

12:30pm – 4:30pm

t: 028 9042 4232

e: [holywood.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:holywood.library@librariesni.org.uk)

**Dungannon Library**

**Wednesday 19 March**

3:30pm – 7:30pm

t: 028 8772 2952

e: [dungannon.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:dungannon.library@librariesni.org.uk)

# Writer in Residence

## Brian McGilloway

Brian McGilloway is the bestselling author of the critically acclaimed Inspector Benedict Devlin series. He was born in Derry, Northern Ireland in 1974. After studying English at Queen's University, he took up a teaching position in St Columb's College in Derry, where he was Head of English.

His first novel, *Borderlands*, published by Macmillan New Writing, was shortlisted for the CWA New Blood Dagger 2007 and was hailed by The Times as 'one of (2007's) most

impressive debuts.' The second novel in the series, *Gallows Lane*, was shortlisted for both the 2009 Irish Book Awards/Ireland AM Crime Novel of the Year and the Theakston's Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year 2010. *Bleed A River Deep*, the third Devlin novel, was selected by Publishers Weekly as one of their Best Books of 2010.

Brian's fifth novel, *Little Girl Lost*, which introduced a new series featuring DS Lucy Black, won the University of Ulster's McCrea Literary Award in 2011 and was a UK No.1 Bestseller. The follow-up novel, *Hurt*, was published in late 2013 in the UK by Constable and Robinson. Both books will debut in the USA in early 2014.

Brian's books have been translated into Thai, Japanese, German, Italian, Hungarian, Polish, and Finnish and both the Devlin and Black series are currently in development for television. Brian lives near the Irish borderlands with his wife, daughter and three sons.



# Revealed . . .

Published crime author Brian McGilloway introduces himself as our Writer In Residence for Creativity Month 2014

## **Belfast Central Library**

**Saturday 1 March**

2:00pm - 3:00pm

t: 028 9050 9150

e: belfast.central@librariesni.org.uk



## **Meeting Points!**

Brian McGilloway meets the reading groups. Come along and join in the lively discussion.

## **Cregagh Library**

**Tuesday 4 March**

11:30am - 12:30pm

t: 028 9040 1365

e: cregagh.library@librariesni.org.uk

## **Lurgan Library**

**Tuesday 11 March**

7:00pm - 8:00pm

t: 028 3832 3912

e: lurgan.library@librariesni.org.uk

## **Hollywood Arches Library**

**Thursday 13 March**

6:45pm - 7:45pm

t: 028 9050 9216

e: holywoodarches.library@librariesni.org.uk

## **The Scene of the Crime**

### **Creative writing workshops**

A workshop for writers of all abilities. How to give your writing a sense of place. Bring your pen and paper and be prepared to get writing.

## **Strabane Library**

**Thursday 6 March**

6:00pm - 8:00pm

t: 028 7188 3686

e: strabane.library@librariesni.org.uk

### **Booking essential**

## **Enniskillen Library**

**Thursday 20 March**

7:00pm - 9:00pm

t: 028 6632 2886

e: enniskillen.library@librariesni.org.uk

### **Booking essential**



# The Clinics

## Creative writing clinics

Published author Brian McGilloway will provide one to one advice, guidance and feedback to budding writers and those more experienced.

Participants should submit their work 1000 words (short fiction or novel extract) by date detailed at venue. Submissions to [elizabeth.mcaleer@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:elizabeth.mcaleer@librariesni.org.uk)

Dates for submission -  
Belfast Central: Thursday 6 March  
Cookstown: Wednesday 19 March

### Booking essential

Meetings are in 30 minute slots

### Belfast Central Library

#### Thursday 13 March

12:30pm - 5:00pm

t: 028 9050 9150

e: [belfast.central@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:belfast.central@librariesni.org.uk)

### Cookstown Library

#### Wednesday 26 March

4:00pm - 8:00pm

t: 028 8676 3702

e: [cookstown.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:cookstown.library@librariesni.org.uk)



## On Home Ground

### The interviews

Writer in Residence Brian McGilloway interviews other crime writers on their home ground.

### Claire McGowan

#### Newry City Library

#### Monday 3 March

7:00pm - 8:00pm

t: 028 3026 4683

e: [newrycity.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:newrycity.library@librariesni.org.uk)

### Eoin McNamee

#### Kilkeel Library

#### Tuesday 4 March

7:00pm - 8:00pm

t: 028 4176 2278

e: [kilkeel.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:kilkeel.library@librariesni.org.uk)

### Stuart Neville

#### Armagh City Library

#### Tuesday 25 March

7:00pm - 8:00pm

t: 028 3752 4072

e: [armagh.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:armagh.library@librariesni.org.uk)





# The Next Chapter

## A series of workshops with Brian McGilloway

This innovative workshop trail will begin in Banbridge. Brian will present the group with the first chapter and task the group with writing the next chapter, which will then make its way to Ballymena who will create chapter three, Derry Central chapter four and finishing off in Omagh for chapter five. Everyone taking part will have an opportunity to give their input and the end result will be a complete work of five chapters created across Northern Ireland and available online at [www.librariesni.org.uk](http://www.librariesni.org.uk)

These workshops are suitable for both beginners and the more experienced writers and will give participants the opportunity to learn from each other and the published author.

*There will be a break for lunch*



### Banbridge Library

#### Saturday 8 March

11:00am - 3:30pm

t: 028 4062 3973

e: [banbridge.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:banbridge.library@librariesni.org.uk)

**Booking essential**

### Ballymena Central Library

#### Tuesday 18 March

11:00am - 3:00pm

t: 028 2563 3950

e: [ballymena.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:ballymena.library@librariesni.org.uk)

**Booking essential**

### Derry Central Library

#### Saturday 22 March

11:00am - 3:30pm

t: 028 7127 2310

e: [derrycentral.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:derrycentral.library@librariesni.org.uk)

**Booking essential**

### Omagh Library

#### Saturday 29 March

11:00am - 3:30pm

t: 028 8224 4821

e: [omagh.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:omagh.library@librariesni.org.uk)

**Booking essential**





## Inspiration - Where Does it Come From?

### Poetry workshops

This poetry workshop, with poet Moyra Donaldson, will look at how to draw on a well of experience that each of us carries within. We will explore the process of turning this experience into poems and stories.

Suitable for both beginners and more established writers.

**Booking essential**

**Newcastle Library**

**Tuesday 4 March**

6:00pm – 8:00pm

t: 028 4372 2710

e: [newcastle.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:newcastle.library@librariesni.org.uk)

**Limavady Library**

**Wednesday 12 March**

6:00pm – 7:45pm

t: 028 7776 2540

e: [limavady.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:limavady.library@librariesni.org.uk)



## Inspiration - Where Does it Come From?

# Samuel Beckett



## The Creative Mind of a Genius: Samuel Beckett

**Discussion with Dr Kathryn White, University of Ulster**

Dr Kathryn White discusses Beckett the man and artist, his ethos and his contribution to literature, exploring the reasons why Beckett is considered one of the most important and influential writers of the twentieth century.

**Coleraine Library**

**Sunday 9 March**

2:30pm – 3:30pm

t: 028 7034 2561

e: [coleraine.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:coleraine.library@librariesni.org.uk)

## Share in Julian Friers' World

### Acrylic painting workshop

Renowned landscape painter Julian Friers will provide insight into how he paints exciting, lifelike images.

Join in and take home your own masterpiece.

Refreshments provided.

#### Booking essential

#### Limavady Library

**Saturday 8 March**

11:00am – 1:00pm

t: 028 7776 2540

e: [limavady.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:limavady.library@librariesni.org.uk)

#### Ormeau Road Library

**Saturday 22 March**

11:00am – 1:00pm

t: 028 9050 9228

e: [ormeauroad.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:ormeauroad.library@librariesni.org.uk)



## Art Workshop with Julian Friers

# Julian Friers



## Julian Friers

### Art demonstration and talk

Enjoy a talk and demonstration by renowned landscape painter Julian Friers.

Opportunity to view an exhibition of the artist's work.

Light refreshments provided.

#### Limavady Library

**Saturday 8 March**

2:00pm - 3:00pm

t: 028 7776 2540

e: [limavady.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:limavady.library@librariesni.org.uk)

#### Ormeau Road Library

**Saturday 22 March**

2:00pm - 3:00pm

t: 028 9050 9228

e: [ormeauroad.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:ormeauroad.library@librariesni.org.uk)

## Watercolour Workshop by Mary O'Brien MBE

*Not a Leg to Stand On* – join Mary for an introduction to her work as a water colour painter and take home your own little masterpiece.

Light refreshments provided.

**Booking essential**

**Enniskillen Library**

**Saturday 22 March**

11:00am – 1:00pm

t: 028 6632 2886

e: [enniskillen.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:enniskillen.library@librariesni.org.uk)



## Watercolour Workshop

# Mary O'Brien



## Mary O'Brien MBE

### Exhibition and talk

Mary O'Brien talks about her autobiography *Not a Leg to Stand On* and how she overcame the problems that arose after losing both legs in a farm accident at the age of three. She has become an inspiration to many having achieved triple gold in the 1990 Amputee Games. She is an occupational therapist, musician, artist, basket weaver and, now, author.

**Enniskillen Library**

**Saturday 22 March**

2:00pm - 3:00pm

t: 028 6632 2886

e: [enniskillen.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:enniskillen.library@librariesni.org.uk)

Be inspired!

Opportunity to view an exhibition of the artist's work.

Light refreshments provided.

**Booking advisable**

Art

## Mixed - Enjoy Your Own Recording Session In Our Soundproof Recording Booth!

We will record you singing, playing an instrument or reciting poetry, in just 15 minutes – and at last you will have the opportunity to hear yourself professionally recorded on CD!

**Booking advisable**

### **Derry Central Library**

**Saturday 15 March**

11:00am – 4:00pm

t: 028 7127 2310

e: derrycentral.library@librariesni.org.uk

### **Belfast Central Library**

**Saturday 22 March**

11:00am – 4:00pm

t: 028 9050 9150

e: belfast.central@librariesni.org.uk

### **Newry City Library**

**Saturday 29 March**

11:00am – 4:00pm

t: 028 3026 4683

e: newrycity.library@librariesni.org.uk



# Mixed – Your Own Recording Session!

# Flamenco



## Flamenco

The art of the Spanish flamenco dance comes to Omagh Library.

Experience the traditions, colour and glamour of this Spanish folk dance from the region of Andalusia in southern Spain.

Avail of the opportunity to take part and learn a few Latin moves.

This is an intergenerational event, suitable for all.

**Omagh Library**

**Thursday 13 March**

7:00pm – 8:00pm

t: 028 8224 4821

e: [omagh.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:omagh.library@librariesni.org.uk)



# Why You Can't Find Your Ancestors Even Though They're There

## Workshop

Enjoy this event with genealogist and author John Grenham.

Among his publications is *Tracing your Irish Ancestors* (4th edition).

John will give an illustrated presentation followed by a workshop on how to find your elusive ancestors.

He is Ireland's best known genealogist and writes the weekly *Irish Roots* column in The Irish Times as well as running the Irish Times Ancestors website.

**Booking essential**

**Belfast Central Library**

**Wednesday 12 March**

12:30pm – 2:30pm

t: 028 9050 9150

e: [belfast.central@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:belfast.central@librariesni.org.uk)

**Armagh Irish and Local Studies Library**

**Wednesday 19 March**

12:30pm – 2:30pm

t: 028 3752 7851

e: [armaghirishandlocal@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:armaghirishandlocal@librariesni.org.uk)

**Enniskillen Library**

**Friday 28 March**

12:30pm – 2:30pm

t: 028 6632 2886

e: [enniskillen.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:enniskillen.library@librariesni.org.uk)



# Can't Find Your Ancestors?

# Women in the Irish Census of 1911



## Women in the Irish Census of 1911

**How much has changed in 100 years?**

**Talk**

Catriona Crowe, Head of Special Projects in the National Archives of Ireland, will combine her knowledge of the history of Irish women and how the 1911 Census of Ireland can be used for finding information on their living conditions at the turn of the twentieth century.

**Booking essential**

**Ballymena Central Library**

**Friday 14 March**

1:30pm - 2:30pm

t: 028 2563 3950

e: [ballymena.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:ballymena.library@librariesni.org.uk)

**Newry City Library**

**Friday 21 March**

12:45pm – 2:30pm

t: 028 3026 4683

e: [newrycity.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:newrycity.library@librariesni.org.uk)

## The Great Parchment Book Talk

A talk by Edward Montgomery from The Honourable The Irish Society on the significance of its recent discovery, its restoration and digital presence.

Described as forming 'almost a Domesday Book of Derry' it is an early 17th century survey of the City and County of Londonderry.

Edward Montgomery has served as The Honourable The Irish Society's Representative in Northern Ireland since 1996 and, together with a small team, has managed its regional assets, local relationships and charitable operations.

### Limavady Library

**Wednesday 26 March**

12:30pm – 2:30pm

t: 028 7776 2540

e: [limavady.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:limavady.library@librariesni.org.uk)



## The Great Parchment Book



# Creative Cup Cakes



## Creative Cup Cakes Workshop

Come along and enjoy a workshop facilitated by The Little Cupcakery, where you will create and go away with four beautifully decorated afternoon tea treats.

**Booking essential**

**Bangor Carnegie Library**

**Saturday 1 March**

10:30am – 11:30am

t: 028 9127 0591

e: [bangorcarnegie.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:bangorcarnegie.library@librariesni.org.uk)

## The Timeless Art of Lacemaking Demonstration

A demonstration by Máire Treanor, author and well-known teacher of Irish Crochet/Clones Lace.

Máire has been crocheting Clones Lace since 1988. Clones Lace, an Irish Crochet, was named after the town where it was marketed in the nineteenth century, developing its own character since 1847.

**Bangor Carnegie Library**

**Saturday 1 March**

12:00pm – 1:00pm

t: 028 9127 0591

e: [bangorcarnegie.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:bangorcarnegie.library@librariesni.org.uk)

**Booking essential**



# Lacemaking

# Creating a Stir



## Creating a Stir

### Talk and tea

SD Bells have been selling tea and coffee in Belfast for 125 years.

Join us for afternoon tea and hear Robert Bell tell the story of this successful family business.

**Bangor Carnegie Library**

**Saturday 1 March**

2:00pm – 3:00pm

t: 028 9127 0591

e: [bangorcarnegie.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:bangorcarnegie.library@librariesni.org.uk)

Music by pianist Alyson McDowell.

**Booking essential**

## Sharing Books With Your Children

By prizewinning children's author Sally Grindley

Sharing books with your children is one of life's most enjoyable and beneficial experiences. This is your opportunity to take part in a workshop especially created and delivered by Sally to meet this challenge.

**Booking essential**

**Dungannon Library**

**Wednesday 12 March**

10:00am - 11:30am

t: 028 8772 2952

e: [dungannon.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:dungannon.library@librariesni.org.uk)



## Sharing Books With Your Children

## Leading Children's Authors Visit Schoolchildren Across Northern Ireland

A trio of leading children's authors - Gill Lewis, Sally Grindley and Terence Blacker - will speak about their books, writing, and being an author to invited school classes in various libraries across Northern Ireland.



**Gill Lewis**



**Sally Grindley**

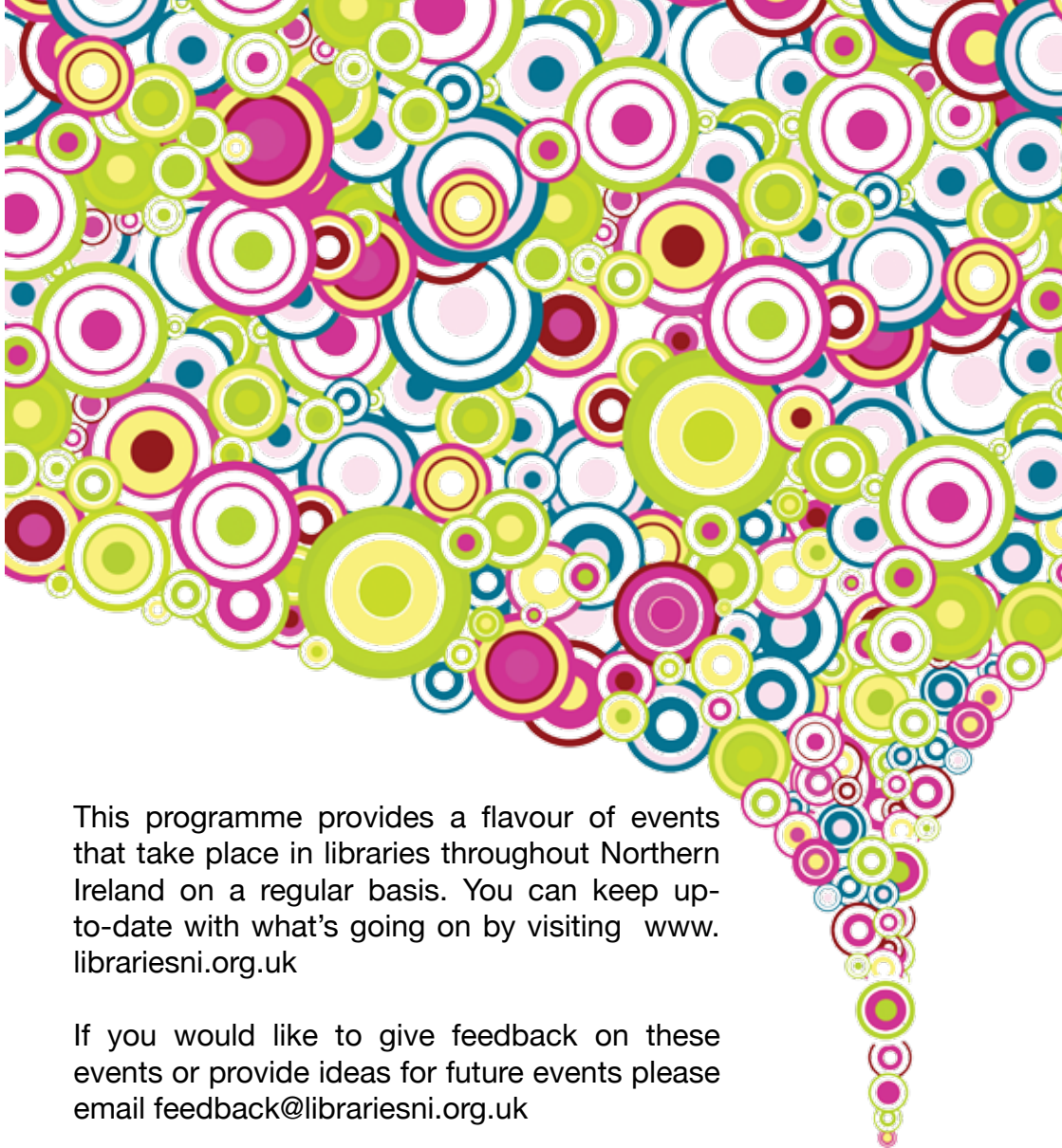


**Terence Blacker**



# At a glance...

<b>LIBRARY</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>START TIME</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>Armagh City</b>	On Home Ground	<b>Tues 25 March</b>	7:00pm	page 8
<b>Armagh ILS</b>	Ancestor talk	<b>Wed 19 March</b>	12:30pm	page 18
<b>Ballymena Central</b>	Irish Census talk	<b>Fri 14 March</b>	1:30pm	page 19
<b>Ballymena Central</b>	The Next Chapter	<b>Tues 18 March</b>	11:00am	page 9
<b>Banbridge</b>	The Next Chapter	<b>Sat 8 March</b>	11:00am	page 9
<b>Bangor Carnegie</b>	Creative Cup Cakes	<b>Sat 1 March</b>	10:30am	page 21
<b>Bangor Carnegie</b>	Creating a Stir talk	<b>Sat 1 March</b>	2:00pm	page 23
<b>Bangor Carnegie</b>	Lacemaking talk	<b>Sat 1 March</b>	12:00pm	page 22
<b>Belfast Central</b>	Writer in residence intro	<b>Sat 1 March</b>	2:00pm	page 7
<b>Belfast Central</b>	Ancestor talk	<b>Wed 12 March</b>	12:30pm	page 18
<b>Belfast Central</b>	Creative Writing Clinic	<b>Thurs 13 March</b>	12:30am	page 8
<b>Belfast Central</b>	Recording session	<b>Sat 22 March</b>	11:00am	page 16
<b>Coleraine</b>	Samuel Beckett talk	<b>Sun 9 March</b>	2:30pm	page 11
<b>Cookstown</b>	Creative Writing Clinic	<b>Wed 26 March</b>	4:00pm	page 8
<b>Cregagh</b>	Brian McGilloway	<b>Tues 4 March</b>	11:30am	page 7
<b>Derry Central</b>	Recording session	<b>Sat 15 March</b>	11:00am	page 16
<b>Derry Central</b>	The Next Chapter	<b>Sat 22 March</b>	11:00am	page 9
<b>Dungannon</b>	Sharing Books talk	<b>Wed 12 March</b>	10:00am	page 24
<b>Dungannon</b>	Smartphone Photography	<b>Wed 19 March</b>	3:30pm	page 5
<b>Enniskillen</b>	Creative Writing Workshop	<b>Thurs 20 March</b>	7:00pm	page 7
<b>Enniskillen</b>	Mary O'Brien art class	<b>Sat 22 March</b>	11:00am	page 14
<b>Enniskillen</b>	Mary O'Brien talk	<b>Sat 22 March</b>	2:00pm	page 15
<b>Enniskillen</b>	Ancestor talk	<b>Fri 28 March</b>	12:30pm	page 18
<b>Holywood</b>	Smartphone Photography	<b>Wed 5 March</b>	12:30pm	page 5
<b>Holywood Arches</b>	Brian McGilloway	<b>Thurs 13 March</b>	6:45pm	page 7
<b>Kilkeel</b>	On Home Ground	<b>Tues 4 March</b>	7:00pm	page 8
<b>Larne</b>	Movies - Go Mobile	<b>Sat 1 March</b>	10:30am	page 4
<b>Limavady</b>	Poetry workshop	<b>Wed 12 March</b>	6:00pm	page 10
<b>Limavady</b>	Painting workshop	<b>Sat 8 March</b>	11:00am	page 12
<b>Limavady</b>	Julian Friers talk	<b>Sat 8 March</b>	2:00pm	page 13
<b>Limavady</b>	Great Parchment Book	<b>Wed 26 March</b>	12:30pm	page 20
<b>Lurgan</b>	Brian McGilloway	<b>Tues 11 March</b>	7:00pm	page 7
<b>Magherafelt</b>	Movies - Go Mobile	<b>Sat 8 March</b>	10:30am	page 4
<b>Newcastle</b>	Poetry workshop	<b>Tues 4 March</b>	6:00pm	page 10
<b>Newry City</b>	On Home Ground	<b>Mon 3 March</b>	7:00pm	page 8
<b>Newry City</b>	Irish Census talk	<b>Fri 21 March</b>	12:45pm	page 19
<b>Newry City</b>	Recording session	<b>Sat 29 March</b>	11:00am	page 16
<b>Omagh</b>	Flamenco	<b>Thurs 13 March</b>	7:00pm	page 17
<b>Omagh</b>	The Next Chapter	<b>Sat 29 March</b>	11:00am	page 9
<b>Ormeau Road</b>	Painting workshop	<b>Sat 22 March</b>	11:00am	page 12
<b>Ormeau Road</b>	Julian Friers talk	<b>Sat 22 March</b>	2:00pm	page 13
<b>Strabane</b>	Creative Writing Workshop	<b>Thurs 6 March</b>	6:00pm	page 7



This programme provides a flavour of events that take place in libraries throughout Northern Ireland on a regular basis. You can keep up-to-date with what's going on by visiting [www.librariesni.org.uk](http://www.librariesni.org.uk)

If you would like to give feedback on these events or provide ideas for future events please email [feedback@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:feedback@librariesni.org.uk)

There are 96 public libraries in Northern Ireland and you can use your library card in any of them. Check our website to find out how you can join. Library membership is free - this entitles you to borrow a range of books, eBooks and audio books and gives you access to an exciting programme of events and activities.



Libraries NI

**Creativity Month**

**March 2014**

find out more

[www.librariesni.org.uk/creativity-month](http://www.librariesni.org.uk/creativity-month)

