



News & Events

MAY – AUGUST 2012

*Leabharlann
Náisiúnta
na hÉireann*

National Library
of Ireland

World War One Family History Roadshow

Europeana, the European digital library, archive and museum, which features over 10 million items from libraries, museums and archives around Europe, is building the first ever online European archive of private memorabilia from World War One in time for the 100th anniversary of the war.

In 2011, Europeana launched its 1914-1918 family history project in Germany to collect memorabilia and family stories from combat and the home front. Nine roadshows later, Europeana had made 25,000 digital images of unpublished diaries, maps, sketches and photographs available on the project website, www.europeana1914-1918.eu.



Jack Jenkinson as a child.



Jack Jenkinson shortly before he died of gunshot wounds aged just 19.



Poster encouraging men to join an Irish regiment.

You can add your story to Europeana 1914-1918 by using the online collection form found at www.europeana1914-1918.eu. Simply type in some information about your contribution, saying what it is (a postcard sent from XX, a diary, etc) and add any story that you want to share (for example, details about the person in the photograph, how you obtained it, what you know about the object). You can then attach a digital version of the object, for example a scanned or photographed copy of the picture, diary, uniform or whatever it is you are sharing. Once your contribution has been submitted, it will be reviewed by an expert and become available to researchers and others.

Here at the NLI we're contributing to this extraordinary source of previously unknown material for historians, schools, genealogists and cultural organisations – with the public's help.

Wednesday, 21 March saw our first World War One Family History Roadshow, an event in the style of the BBC *Antiques Roadshow*. On that day, visitors brought us photographs, letters, postcards, medals, sketches, keepsakes, army discharge papers, coins, maps, army recruitment posters, diaries, sketches, army sketch papers and other memorabilia belonging to family and friends who took part in World War One, and we recorded their stories.

The items were scanned or digitally photographed on the spot, quickly catalogued and put online. And for those who couldn't make it on the day, it's still very easy to get your material into the archive. Just scan or digitally photograph your items, and upload them to www.europeana1914-1918.eu, where you'll also find a step-by-step guide to the process.

One of our own staff, Avice-Claire McGovern, brought us exactly the kind of story the project is looking for. Her family have always treasured a photograph of young Jack Jenkinson, who joined the Cavalry at the Curragh at the age of 14, was in reluctant action against the insurgents in the 1916 Rising, subsequently volunteered to go to France in 1917 and died of gunshot wounds during the British advance at Cambrai in November of that year. He was just 19 years old. Avice-Claire's sharing of her family history ensures that his memory will never be forgotten.

The 21 March event was the first of a series of roadshows which we are organising this year. Future events are planned in locations around the country; join our mailing list for updates at mailinglist@nli.ie.

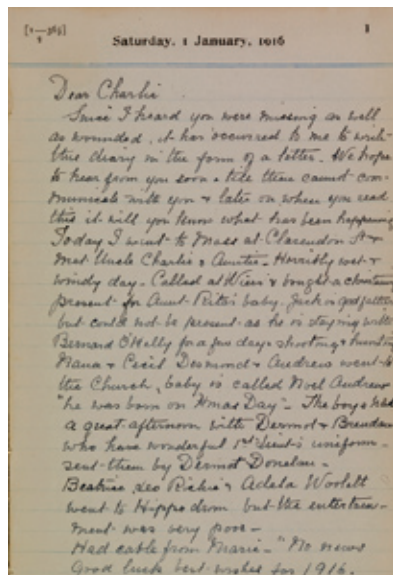
Taispeántas Taistil maidir le Stair Teaghlaigh ón gCéad Chogadh Domhanda



Tá cartlann Eorpach ar líne maidir le cuimhneacháin phríobháideach ón gCéad Chogadh Domhanda don chéad uair riamh á chruthú ag Europeana, in am do chomóradh chéad bhliain an chogaidh. Is é Europeana leabharlann, cartlann agus músaem digiteach na hEorpa, ina gcuimsítear níos mó ná 10 milliún mír ó leabharlanna, iarsmalanna agus cartlanna ar fud na hEorpa.

In 2011, sheol Europeana a tionscadal stair teaghlaigh 1914-1918 sa Ghearmáin chun cuimhneacháin agus scéalta teaghlaigh ó chomhrac agus ón mbaile a bhailiú. Agus naoi dtaispeántas taistil ina dhiaidh sin, chuir Europeana 25,000 íomhá dhigiteach de dhialanna, léarscáileanna neamhfhoilsithe, sceitsí agus grianghraif ar fáil ar láithreán gréasáin an tionscadail, www.europeana1914-1918.eu.

Anseo ag Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann, táimid ag cuidiú leis an bhfoinse urghnách seo a chruthú d'ábhar nach fhaca staraithe, scoileanna, ginealeolaithe agus eagraíochtaí cultúrtha - le cabhair an phobail.



Choinnigh an Bhean Uasail Mary Martin de Bhaile na Manach, Co Bhaile Átha Cliath, an dialann seo mar litir chuig a mhac Charlie, 20 bliain d'aois, a tuairiscíodh go raibh sé ar iarraidh agus gur créachtaíodh é i mí na Nollag 1915. Ba mhionna lán d'inní a tháinig i ndiaidh do Charlie dul ar iarraidh go dtí gur dhearbhaigh sé ag deireadh mhí an Mheithimh 1916 go raibh sé pairiliseach mar gheall ar chréachtaí ar 8 Nollag agus go bhfuair sé bás dhá lá ina dhiaidh sin. Ní raibh sé ach seachtain roimh a 21ú lá breithe.



Póstaer ag spreagadh fear chun páirt a ghlacadh i Reisimint na hÉireann.



Bróidnéireacht a chruthaigh príosúnach a bhí coinnithe sa champa POW le linn an Chéad Chogadh Domhanda.

Is féidir leat do scéal a chur le Europeana 1914-1918 ag baint úsáide as an bhfoirm bhailiúcháin ar líne atá ar fáil ag www.europeana1914-1918.eu. Níl ort ach roinnt eolais faoi do rannpháirtíocht a chur isteach, ag rá cad atá ann (cárta poist a sheol XX, dialann, srl) agus aon scéal ar mian leat a roinnt (mar shampla, sonraí maidir leis an duine sa ghrianghraif, conas a fuair tú é, méid a bhfuil ar eolas agat faoin ábhar. Ansin, is féidir leat a chur ag gabháil ansin leagan digiteach den ábhar a cheangal, mar shampla scanadh nó cóip ghrianghraif den phictiúr, dialann, éide nó cibé ábhar atá á roinnt agat. Chomh luath agus atá do rannpháirtíocht curtha isteach agat, déanfar é a athbhreithniú ag saineolaí agus cuirfear ar fáil é do dhaoine eile.

Ar an gCéadaoin, 21 Márta chonacthas ár gcéad Taispeántas Taistil maidir le Stair Teaghlaigh ón gCéad Chogadh Domhanda, imeacht atá cosúil leis an *Antiques Roadshow* de BBC. Ar an lá sin, thug daoine cosúil leat féin grianghraif, litreacha, cártaí poist, boinn, sceitsí, féiríní, páipéir urscaoilte airm, boinn airgid, léarscáileanna, póstaer earcaíochta airm, dialanna, sceitsí, páipéir sceitse airm agus cuimhneacháin eile a bhaineann leis an teaghlach agus cairde a ghlac páirt sa Chéad Chogadh Domhanda, agus rinneamar a gcuid scéalta a thaifeadadh.

Rinneadh scanadh de na nithe nó glacadh grianghraif digiteach dóibh ar an láthair, agus rinneadh iad a chatalógú go tapa agus iad a chur ar líne. Agus dóibh siúd nach raibh ábalta teacht an lá sin, tá sé fós an-éasca d'ábhar a chur isteach sa chartlann. Níl ort ach iad a scanadh nó grianghraif digiteach a ghlacadh do nithe, agus iad a uaslódáil ar www.europeana1914-1918.eu, áit ina bhfaighidh tú treoir céim-ar-chéim faoin bpróiseas.

Thug ceann dár bhfoireann féin, Avice-Claire McGovern, an cineál scéil a bhfuil díreach á lorg don tionscadal dúinn. Bhí grianghraif den Jack Jenkinson óg coinnithe i gcónaí go luachmhar ag a teaghlach, chuaigh Jack isteach sa Mharca ag an gCurrach nuair a bhí sé 14 bhliain d'aois, bhí drogall ar ghníomh a dhéanamh i gcoinne na gceannairceach san Éirí Amach 1916, ina dhiaidh sin chuaigh sé go dtí an Fhrainc i 1917 mar shaorálaí agus fuair sé bás de chréachtaí ghrán gunna le linn ascnamh na Breataine ag Cambrai i mí na Samhna na bliana sin. Ní raibh sé ach 19 bliain d'aois. Nuair a roinneann Avice-Claire a stair teaghlaigh linn, cinntíonn sí nach ndéantar dearmad riamh ar a chuimhne.

Ba í imeacht an 21 Márta an chéad cheann de shraith taispeántas taistil a bhfuilimid ag eagrú i mbliana. Tá imeachtaí sa toadhchá beartaithe d'áiteanna ar fud na tíre; cuir d'ainm isteach inár liosta seachadta do nuashonruithe ag mailinglist@nli.ie.

Digital repository

What do you do with your thousands of digital photographs, or when the memory card on your digital camera is full?

Doing nothing makes it likely that you're familiar with losing photographs, finding random, unidentifiable images or, worse still, just having corrupted, useless files.

On the other hand, are you a secret librarian or archivist? Do you transfer the images to your laptop or memory stick? Label, date and tag the photographs? Back them up on an external drive? Print or re-use the images for greeting cards or mugs? Upload them to a site where they can be seen by others?

If so, then you're on the road to following the good example that we're setting here at the NLI, where we're about to add a digital repository to our information infrastructure. This means that all our digital objects – whether they are photographs, maps, manuscripts, books or pamphlets – can be managed, stored and re-used for publication, exhibition, sharing on the web, or for anything else you can imagine. This is an important development for the NLI: it will protect our physical material, preserve our virtual objects and also make more collections available to more people.

You won't even need to search specifically for items in the repository; it will be business as usual. When you find what you are looking for on the catalogue <http://catalogue.nli.ie/> if the item has been digitised you will be able to click on the image and view the item; this will often be in more detail than the naked eye would allow. The repository will go live in June and is part of our continuing effort to improve service delivery in the NLI.



Recently digitised: An order from Lieutenant General Lake, Commander of the British Forces in Ireland, to inhabitants to place lights in the windows of the middle floors of their houses, in case of any alarm during the dark nights. Dublin, 4 June 1798



Recently digitised: Ship anchored alongside Union Quay, Cork (1900-1920). From the Fergus O'Connor collection (digitised 2012). Fergus O'Connor was a Dublin publisher, who published Sean O'Casey's early writings and produced nationalist postcards and related material. Following the Easter Rising, he was imprisoned in Lewes prison.

'This means that all our digital objects can be managed, stored and re-used for publication.'

NLI Event Archive

We've played host to many wonderful interviews and debates here at the NLI over the years. Now you can watch them online!



Summer's Wreath Festival 2009: Yeats scholar Professor Roy Foster in conversation with actress Fiona Shaw.



Ryan Tubridy interviewing Artemis Fowl author Eoin Colfer as part of the 2007 Library Late series.

'The podcasts feature discussions and events held in conjunction with organisations such as Childrens Books Ireland, the Ireland Literature Exchange and History Ireland magazine.'

The NLI Event Archive is a collection of podcasts featuring interviews with some of Ireland's finest writers and academics on topics ranging from Irish literature, poetry and the writing process to the media, history, religion and more.

Edna O'Brien, Colm Tóibín, Hugo Hamilton, John Banville and Anne Enright are just a few of the many internationally acclaimed writers you can expect to watch and listen to. In addition, the podcasts feature discussions and events held in conjunction with organisations such as Childrens Books Ireland, the Ireland Literature Exchange and *History Ireland* magazine.

There are also some wonderful panel discussions to choose from, such as the *History Ireland* hedge school 'No God and Two St Patricks – the National Saint and the National Holiday', and other discussions posing questions such as 'Can newspapers survive?' and 'Foreign correspondents – an endangered species?'

If you missed out on any of our events over the years or would like to re-experience one of your favourites, the NLI Event Archive is the answer to your prayers. All you have to do is pull up a comfortable chair in front of your computer screen and click 'play'.

To access the NLI Event Archive, go to:
<http://bit.ly/wOWLzb>

Visit James Joyce's NLI

In the early 1900s, an aspiring writer named James Joyce, with piercing blue eyes and shabby shoes, was a familiar figure in the NLI Reading Room. It should come as no surprise, therefore, that he chose to set one of the central chapters in *Ulysses* there, reflecting and refracting the experiences of the young man who had gone on to become a giant of European modernist art.

The central characters of that novel, Stephen Dedalus and Leopold Bloom, both appear in this 'Scylla and Charybdis' episode. While Stephen engages in literary debate with the librarians, Bloom researches an issue of a newspaper, reflecting the significant role the NLI has always played in Dublin's, and Ireland's, cultural and intellectual life. This Bloomsday (the day in 1904 on which the action of *Ulysses* is set), we invite you to a celebration of the NLI's long relationship with Joyce, and our tradition of welcoming researchers and visitors of all interests.

From 2.00pm to 8.00pm on Saturday, 16 June, we will be throwing open our doors to everyone who would like to visit Joyce's beloved library. Join us to learn more about the man himself, to hear his words read aloud, to listen to the music that surrounded him as he grew up and to explore multimedia presentations of his works – and to enjoy delicious treats in Café Joly (the inner organs of beasts and fowls optional).



The NLI Reading Room where James Joyce chose to set a central chapter of *Ulysses*.



First editions of the much-loved and hugely influential novel which was first published in Paris on 2 February 1922.

For more details on the programme for the day, join our mailing list at mailinglist@nli.ie or check out www.nli.ie from the beginning of June.

How do I search newspapers online?

A court case that captures the public imagination, an advertisement for a missing cat, a scoop on the latest politician to fall from grace, an obituary on a close friend – newspapers cover the spectrum of human experience from the mundane to the sensational. Alongside the lines of tiny print chronicling historical events – political, sporting, religious and cultural – are accounts of the daily lives of ordinary and not so ordinary people; such accounts provide us with priceless insights into the social history of local or regional areas, or indeed the nation as a whole, at a given point in time.

No small wonder then that our newspaper collection is one of the NLI's most frequently accessed resources. The collection contains a vast array of publications dating from the mid-17th century to the present day. It includes all national, regional and free Irish newspapers, as well as selected titles from other countries.



Irish Press - January 1, 1973



Our newspaper database is very user-friendly and also contains information on the most recent newspaper titles available in our system.

Would you like to buy a copy of the front page of a particular newspaper? Perhaps a newspaper with a date that has a special significance, such as an anniversary or a birthday? We can photograph items for you at a cost of just €20 per newspaper page.

Searching our newspaper catalogue is very easy. It can be accessed using the Catalogues and Databases tab on our website www.nli.ie. Simply type in the title of the publication you're looking for and click 'search'. Alternatively, you can search by county, or even by town if you prefer. Our newspaper records highlight the dates of each newspaper held in the NLI's collections; they also highlight what format the newspaper is available in – hardcopy (the original newspaper), microfilm (film containing a photograph of the newspaper), digital (online copy), or all three.

Most of the newspapers in our collection are accessed either on microfilm or digital format, while some titles are available in hardcopy only. We are currently working on making our digital archive accessible remotely to NLI website visitors. This will make it even easier to find the information you're looking for.

Exhibitions

Yeats: the Life and Works of William Butler Yeats

This exhibition has been described in *The Irish Times* as “one of the most important literary exhibitions yet staged internationally”. As well as providing a unique opportunity to view manuscripts and memorabilia generously donated to the NLI by the poet’s family, the exhibition gives visitors an insight into Irish social, cultural and political life from the late 1800s to the 1930s.

Small Lives

Richly dressed 19th century children gaze out of studio portraits, while images of children making fishing nets in West Cork industrial schools, or learning lace-making in Donegal hang side by side with 20th century boys and girls praying, acting out war games or getting ready for a day at the beach. These are just some of the many photographs in the **Small Lives** exhibition at the National Photographic Archive in Temple Bar where captivating views of Irish childhood between 1880 and 1970 juxtapose children’s lives with the broad sweep of Irish social and political history.

Discover your National Library: Particles of the Past

Our multimedia exhibition **Discover your National Library** invites you behind the scenes to view amazing never-before-seen treasures from our collections, and hear from the staff who look after them.

To celebrate **Dublin City of Science 2012**, Phase Four of the exhibition **Particles of the Past** showcases a fascinating selection of science-related gems. From 17th century home remedies to early archaeological drawings, to how to make ice-cream in a bucket, the exhibition has something for everyone.



Georgina (Georgie) Hyde-Lees who married William Butler Yeats on 20 October 1917. It was Georgie who kindled the poet’s fascination with automatic writing.



First Holy Communicants taking part in a Corpus Christi procession, Cahir, Co Tipperary, 1963.



This colourful poster, one of a series of Irish Heart Foundation posters, used eye-catching colours and humorous characters to communicate a health message.

Library Lab

“Can we have some more please?” was the positive response to last year’s NLI preservation workshops, conservation blog posts and ‘The Clean Sweep’ rare book cleaning project.



Ortelius Map before treatment



Ortelius Map after treatment

We hope that your appetite will be satisfied by ‘Library Lab’, the conservation and preservation element of our recently opened exhibition *Particles of the Past*. Here, films and interactive touchscreens allow visitors to see the conservation team at work: cleaning, repairing and washing (yes washing) treasures from the NLI’s collections.

Central to ‘Library Lab’ is the first opportunity to view *Europae*, a stunning map by Abraham Ortelius dating from 1592 which is also known as the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* or *Theatre of the World*. Pre-treatment images of the map clearly show the positive impact that conservation has had on this rare and precious item; in that regard, you may be surprised to learn about the role played by the State Laboratory, which provides analytical support and advice to the NLI’s conservators.

For those who are keen to protect their own collections of letters, diaries and photographs, ‘Library Lab’ also details top tips on how to care for such materials. Tips, films and the exhibition leaflet are all available for online reference at <http://bit.ly/HGBXyD>. And, if you’re still hungry for more information, look out for our forthcoming preservation workshop on Thursday, 17 May. You’ll have to be quick off the mark though, as the number of available places is limited!

Three cheers for volunteers

A fascinating project is currently underway in the NLI Manuscripts Reading Room. It involves a group of volunteers from the Federation of Local History Societies (FLHS) and the Federation for Ulster Local Studies (FULS); they are working with two photographic collections which were jointly created by the two federations and donated to the NLI in the 1990s.



The dedicated team of volunteers work on the project here in the Manuscripts Reading Room at 2 Kildare St

The photographs in the collections are now being added to the NLI's online catalogue and will be re-housed in appropriate archival storage, thereby improving accessibility to the collections and ensuring their future preservation. Since they began working on the project in mid-February, the volunteer group have made great progress and have completed cataloguing and re-housing the first of these collections, 'Our Own Place'.

The 'Our Own Place' collection was created between 1993 and 1996 and comprises almost 800 photographs, mounted on cards with accompanying explanatory texts. It provides an accurate reflection of life in Ireland at the time. In all, some 45 local history societies were involved

'A total of 57 photographers and 112 researchers took part, backed up by a small central committee and support team.'



Volunteers Paddy Daly, Mary Holian, Leeann Quinn and Betty Quinn

'On completion of the project in April, the collections will be returned to the National Photographic Archive (NPA) in Temple Bar, where they will be made available to researchers.'

To access the images, go to the catalogue records for these collections in the online catalogue <http://catalogue.nli.ie/>. A search for either of the collection titles will produce the individual photographic records.

in selecting, researching and photographing what they considered were the most significant representations of their communities. A total of 57 photographers and 112 researchers took part, backed up by a small central committee and support team.

The second collection being catalogued and re-housed as part of this initiative is the Lawrence Photographic Project 1990/1991. As part of this nationwide enterprise, a thousand scenes from the NLI's Lawrence Collection (which consists of glass plate negatives dating from 1874 to 1914) were replicated by a team of volunteer photographers 100 years after the images were first created. The result of their efforts is a new archive for both the NLI and the Ulster Museum.

The objective of the Lawrence Photographic Project was to facilitate the study of the evolving topography of cities, towns and rural areas throughout Ireland by recording on film the changes in the physical environment in the intervening period. All 32 counties are represented, including the larger towns. The undertaking involved photographers, 14 local organisers and a small central committee – all volunteers. The two collections were sponsored by RTÉ and Fuji Ireland Ltd.

The team of volunteers provided by FLHS and FULS to catalogue and re-house the photographs is being coordinated by Padraig Laffan, with additional support provided by Liam Clare (both of the FLHS). It is being guided through the NLI's Library Management System, Virtua, by Aoife O'Connell, holder of the Catalogue Development Studentship. A group of five volunteers (drawn from a total pool of 25 volunteers) is currently working in the Manuscripts Reading Room each weekday.

On completion of the project in early May, the collections will be returned to the National Photographic Archive (NPA) in Temple Bar, where they will be made available to researchers.

POETRY ALoud 2012

Since it was launched six years ago, POETRY ALoud, the all-island spoken poetry competition for post-primary school pupils organised by the National Library of Ireland in association with Poetry Ireland, has gone from strength to strength.

Each year has seen a steady increase in the number of students entering the competition, which is designed to celebrate the joy of speaking and listening to poetry, and requires participants to recite poems from memory.

Last year's overall winner, Corey Duffy from the Christian Brothers Grammar School in Omagh, Co Tyrone, impressed the judging panel with his performances of *His i's Were Empty* by Rita Ann Higgins and *Timothy Winters* by Charles Causley. Speaking recently, Corey said: "I was delighted when I won the Intermediate category and I was shocked when I was named the Overall Winner. I am the first winner from Northern Ireland and, hopefully, I won't be the last. Taking part in the competition hugely improved my confidence. Later, I was extremely honoured to be invited to read Seamus Heaney's poem *The Conway Stewart* at the reception to mark the hand-over of Dr Heaney's literary papers to the National Library of Ireland. It was an experience I will never forget."

Over 1,000 students took part in POETRY ALoud in 2011, and we hope that entries for the 2012 competition will exceed that figure. The application form will be available on www.nli.ie and www.poetryireland.ie in late August/early September.

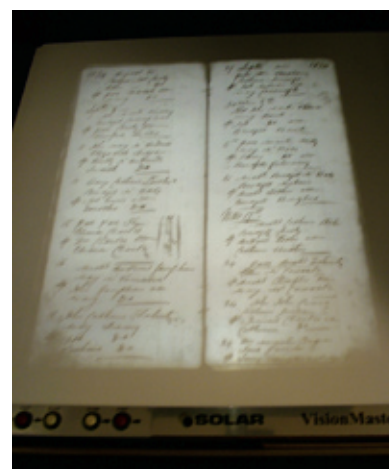


Corey Duffy, POETRY ALoud 2011 winner is pictured here with his parents Eamonn and Jacqueline.

**"I was delighted
when I won the
Intermediate category
and I was shocked
when I was named the
Overall Winner."**

Trace your family history

Untangling the roots of your family history can be a fascinating process. Sometimes it's slow and painstaking; other times, it's revelatory, as skeletons fall out of dusty closets and the forgotten journeys of ordinary people who lived through extraordinary times are experienced once more.



We have a wide variety of material available to family history researchers including microfilm copies of Catholic parish registers.

At the NLI, we offer a range of services to people who are curious about their family history. Among our key resources are **Roman Catholic parish registers**. We hold microfilm copies of the records of most Roman Catholic parishes in Ireland up to 1880 and, in the case of some parishes, up to 1900.

We also provide a **Genealogy Service** which is available free of charge to all visitors. You don't need to make an appointment; just turn up! For first-time researchers, this service is the ideal starting point. Our experienced staff will discuss your research needs and help you to access the right resources, including estate papers, published family histories, trade and social directories and subscription-only websites.

As Christina McDonnell, who works in the Genealogy Service observes: "Some people come in with lots of information gathered over twenty or thirty years; others come in with just a single name. Some might have no names at all; they just want to find out the origin of their surname."

"To anyone who is thinking about visiting the NLI Genealogy Service to trace their family history, my advice is: gather as much information as possible before you come in. Talk to your family; find out as much detail as you can. Every family has a story to tell."

For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/8xz14l>.

Genealogy Service Opening Hours

Monday – Wednesday
9.30am to 5.00pm

Thursday – Friday
9.30am to 4.45pm

Irish army deserters and the morality of neutrality

A vigorous public debate has been taking place in recent months on the issue of the thousands of people who deserted the Irish Army to join the British Army during World War Two, and who were subsequently blacklisted on their return to Ireland. Under the Emergency Powers (No 362) Order, 1954, they were denied public employment for a period of seven years.

On one side of the current debate are those who argue for a pardon; on the other are those who argue that the Irish State was justified in applying sanctions against desertion, a criminal offence. This in turn has opened up a broader discussion on the Irish State's wartime neutrality. Was the crime of desertion trumped by the greater good of fighting the evils of fascism?

On Wednesday, 16 May Hedge School master and Editor of *History Ireland*, Tommy Graham will chair a discussion entitled 'Irish army deserters and the morality of neutrality'. Panelists will include Professor Brian Girvin (University of Glasgow); Dr Michael Kennedy (Royal Irish Academy); Professor Geoffrey Roberts (University College Cork) and Professor Eunan O'Hallpin (Trinity College Dublin). The Hedge School will take place in the NLI Seminar Room at 7.00pm.

About the *History Ireland* Hedge School series

Like their 18th century predecessors, the hedge schools run by *History Ireland* are slightly subversive in nature – a unique combination of serious and playful round-table discussions conducted by expert contributors, coupled with active participation by, and engagement with, a general audience. The idea behind the 21st century version is that it too can be run 'anywhere, any time and on any topic'. While not like an academic seminar in terms of its presentation style, it is like an academic seminar in terms of the discussion that takes place. All events are deliberately designed to be provocative, interactive and primarily driven by content.



Bealtaine at the NLI

bealtainefestival 1-31 may 2012
celebrating creativity as we age

The aim of the Bealtaine Festival, Ireland's biggest collaborative arts festival, is to celebrate creativity in older age. The NLI is pleased to mark 2012, the European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations, by hosting a number of events throughout the month of May.

For details on all of the events mentioned, please see the Calendar of Events on pages 21-23.

The programme for this unique celebration will include a free workshop at which we will show you how to get the most out of the NLI. At this workshop, which takes place on Monday, 14 May, you will learn how to apply for a Reader's Ticket, how to search our catalogues, how to order manuscript items and materials such as books, journals, photographs, manuscript items and microfilm reels. And much more.

Tuesday, 8 May will see author Irene Graham hosting an interactive lecture and discussion where participants will discover how to creatively translate life experience into memoir.

On Thursday, 17 May our conservation team will be holding a special workshop at which participants will pick up some tips on how to look after their family papers.

Monday, 21 May will see a reading by Australian poets Paul Hetherington and Petra White. On Wednesday, 23 May we will be joined by Damian Corless, author of *You'll Ruin Your Dinner: Sweet Memories from Irish Childhood*, as he takes us from the heyday of Cleeve's toffee to the arrival on the Irish market of Tayto's iconic cheese and onion potato crisps.

The month will end with a special concert of new songs on the theme of travelling and emigration.

It will feature performances by a group of traditional singers who have been working on a research project in the NLI and the Irish Traditional Music Archive with artists Michael Fortune and Aileen Lambert.

The project is run in conjunction with the Bealtaine Festival, and is supported by the Arts Council. Singers involved in the project include Jerry O'Reilly, John Tunney, Brigid Tunney, Cliona Ní Shuilleabháin, Brendan Kennedy, Larry Joy, Roisín Gaffney and Dick Hogan.

Recent Events

Particles of the Past exhibition launch

The launch of *Particles of the Past*, Phase Four of the *Discover your National Library* interactive multimedia exhibition, took place on 28 February. The exhibition celebrates Dublin City of Science 2012 and is part of an innovative programme of science-themed events across Ireland designed to ignite the public's curiosity about science and science-related issues. Drawn from across the NLI's eight million-strong collection, the items featured in *Particles of the Past* provide an insight into Ireland's scientific landscape over several centuries and reflect what was happening in the scientific world at the time. The exhibition was officially opened by Mr Jimmy Deenihan TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and will remain on view until the end of 2012.



Exhibition Co-Curators Riona McMorow and Aoife O'Connor are pictured here with Minister Deenihan, who is holding a book of 17th century home remedies described by the 'father of modern chemistry' Robert Boyle.

The War of Independence in the South: 'Four glorious years or squalid sectarian conflict?'

On 11 January we were delighted to host another hugely successful hedge school event in association with *History Ireland*. We were joined by a panel comprising Professor David Fitzpatrick (Trinity College Dublin), Dr John Regan (University of Dundee), Dr Eve Morrison (Trinity College Dublin) and Dr John Borgonovo (University College Cork). The panel participated in a rousing debate about the War of Independence. The broad range of opinions represented during the discussions made for a lively evening indeed!



Pictured from left: Dr Eve Morrison (Trinity College Dublin), Dr John Regan (University of Dundee), Tommy Graham, Editor, *History Ireland*, Professor David Fitzpatrick (Trinity College Dublin) and Dr John Borgonovo (University College Cork).



Historical re-enactors dressed as World War One soldiers entertained visitors on the day.

World War One Family History Roadshow

The National Library World War One Family History Roadshow, an event in the style of the BBC *Antiques Roadshow*, took place in the NLI Main Hall on Wednesday, 21 March. It was organised in association with Europeana, the European digital library, archive and museum, which is building the first ever online European archive of private memorabilia from World War One in time for the 100th anniversary of the war, at www.europeana1914-1918.eu. On the day, private memorabilia was brought to the NLI by members of the public. Historians and other experts were on hand to talk to visitors about the significance of their memorabilia. The material was scanned on the spot by NLI staff and is now preserved in digital format. To read more about the Roadshow, see pages 2-5.

Dr Seamus Heaney literary papers donation

The Taoiseach, Mr Enda Kenny TD, accompanied by Mr Jimmy Deenihan, TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, attended a reception on 21 December to mark the hand-over of the literary papers of Irish Nobel laureate Dr Seamus Heaney to the NLI. Minister Deenihan described the donation as 'a thread of continuity between writers and the National Library of Ireland, where Dr Heaney himself, like many great Irish writers before him, has researched, worked and written.'



The Taoiseach, Mr Enda Kenny, TD and Irish Nobel laureate Dr Seamus Heaney photographed at the reception held in the Library's Reading Room.

Supporting the NLI

Since its foundation in 1877, the NLI has enjoyed great support in the form of financial and material donations which have enabled us to become the world's leading repository for Ireland's history and heritage.

Today, we need our readers and visitors to support the NLI so that we may continue this work.

If you are interested in donating items to the NLI, please contact the Keeper of Collections, Colette O'Flaherty, by telephone at 01 603 0230 or by email coflaherty@nli.ie.

If you would like to make a financial contribution, donation boxes are available in the NLI's main building, at the **Discover** exhibition in 2 Kildare Street, and in the National Photographic Archive in Temple Bar. Also watch out for an online donation facility at www.nli.ie – coming soon.

Thank you for your support.



Calendar of Events

May – August 2012

Guided tours

All welcome. No booking required.

Wednesdays at 1.00pm
Saturdays at 3.00pm

Yeats: the life and works of William Butler Yeats
Learn about one of the greatest poets of the 20th century.

Saturdays at 2.30pm

National Library of Ireland
Learn about the NLI's history and architecture.

Occasional evenings 7.00pm to 10.00pm

Café Joly hosts occasional evenings of informal talks, new writers showcasing excerpts of their work, music and poetry readings, complemented with good food and wine. All welcome. No booking required - join our mailing list to get regular updates.

Tuesday, 8 May 2.00pm to 3.30pm
(Registration at 1.45pm)

Bealtaine Festival 2012
Memories into memoir
An interactive lecture and discussion on memoir writing with Irene Graham, founder and Director of The Memoir Writing Club and The Creative Writer's Workshop. Bring your ideas and experience to this afternoon session with Irene and discover how to creatively translate life experience into memoir. Book a place at: learning@nli.ie

Monday, 14 May at 11.00am

Bealtaine Festival 2012
Learn how to use the NLI
Ever wondered how to use the NLI? Join us at this free workshop where we will show you how to get a Reader's Ticket, how to search the catalogues, how to order materials and much more. All welcome. No booking required.

Wednesday, 16 May at 7.00pm

History Ireland Hedge School
Irish army deserters and the morality of neutrality
Panel discussion with Professor Brian Girvin (University of Glasgow), Dr Michael Kennedy (Royal Irish Academy documents on Irish foreign policy), Professor Geoffrey Roberts (UCC) and Professor Eunan O'Hallpin (TCD). All welcome. No booking required.

Thursday, 17 May 11.00am to 12.30pm	Bealtaine Festival 2012 <i>Taking care of your collection</i> Join a member of the NLI Conservation staff for this workshop where you will learn how we care for our collections, and pick up some tips on looking after your own family papers. To book a place on this workshop, contact us at: learning@nli.ie or 01 603 0259.
Monday, 21 May at 1.10pm	Bealtaine Festival 2012 <i>Poetry Reading with Paul Hetherington and Petra White</i> Australian Poetry Ltd, Bealtaine Festival and the NLI invite you to a reading by poets Paul Hetherington, Assistant Professor of Writing at the University of Canberra and Petra White, winner of the Grace Levin Prize for Poetry. All welcome. No booking required.
Wednesday, 23 May at 7.00pm	Bealtaine Festival 2012 <i>Sweet Memories from Irish Childhood</i> Join Damian Corless, author of 'You'll Ruin Your Dinner: Sweet Memories from Irish Childhood' as he transports us back to the days when sweetshop windows across the country boasted tempting confectionery displays, and when Grafton Street was the sweetshop capital of Ireland.
Friday, 25 May to Saturday 26 May Free admission but booking essential	<i>The third Home Rule crisis: centenary perspectives</i> The NLI presents this two-day conference to mark the 100th anniversary of the Home Rule crisis of 1912. Free admission. Places are limited so booking is essential. View the full programme and register for free at www.nli.ie .
Wednesday, 30 May at 8.00pm	Bealtaine Festival 2012 <i>'As I roved out': A performance of new traditional songs</i> A concert of new songs on the theme of travelling, emigration performed by group of traditional singers who have been working on a research project with artists Michael Fortune and Aileen Lambert in the NLI and the Irish Traditional Music Archive (ITMA). To book a place, call 01 603 0259 or email learning@nli.ie
Saturday, 2 June to Tuesday, 26 June	<i>DIT graduate students exhibition</i> Throughout June, we continue our tradition of hosting the annual DIT BA Photography Exhibition at the National Photographic Archive in Temple Bar in association with the Gallery of Photography. This exhibition showcases the exciting work of DIT students of art, design, media and innovation.
Thursday, 7 June 9.15am to 5.30pm	<i>One-day immersion course</i> <i>Joyce for the non-Joycean: Introducing James Joyce</i> Want to prepare for Bloomsday 2012? This one-day immersion course in the library where Joyce loved to learn will introduce you to the man and his work. The course will be delivered by means of an extended lecture by Dr Gerard Dineen. Cost €30. Places are limited so booking is essential. To book a place, call 01 603 0346 or email learning@nli.ie

Saturday, 16 June 2.00pm to 8.00pm	<i>James Joyce Open Day</i> Join us to learn more about the man himself, to hear his words read aloud, to listen to the music that surrounded him as he grew up and to explore multimedia presentations of his works. Keep an eye on www.nli.ie for more details, or join our mailing list.
Thursday, 5/12/26 July 2.30 pm to 4.00pm	<i>Thursday Tales - Children's Workshops</i> Come along on Thursday afternoons for some story-based fun. Reading stories, writing stories and drawing stories. All you need is a good imagination! All ages welcome. No booking required.
David Monahan and Maurice Gunning Thursday, 5 July to Sunday, 22 July	<i>Photoreland Festival 2012</i> <i>'Migrations: diaspora and cultural identity'</i> Within this year's theme, 'Migrations: diaspora and cultural identity', we're proud to present David Monahan's, Leaving Dublin and Maurice Gunning's project on the Argentine Irish diaspora at the National Photographic Archive in Temple Bar. Following on, we present the works of Seán Hillen on aspects of the 1970s in Northern Ireland and cultural identity.
Seán Hillen Thursday, 26 July to Wednesday, 29 August	
Saturday, 7 July at 2.00pm	<i>Bram Stoker Centenary Conference 2012</i> <i>Bram Stoker's Dublin Journal</i> Join Elizabeth Miller, author of <i>Dracula: Sense and Nonsense</i> and Dacre Stoker, great-grandnephew of Bram Stoker for a lecture on the man who gave us the scariest vampire of them all. All welcome. No booking required.
Thursday, 19 July 2.30pm to 4.00pm	<i>Design your world of tomorrow: futuristic storytelling</i> Join us for this futuristic storytelling workshop which will take place in the <i>Particles to the Past</i> exhibition space at 2 Kildare Street. Suitable for children aged eight and above. To book a place, call 01 603 0346 or email learning@nli.ie
Wednesday, 25 July 11.30am to 1.00pm	<i>Children's 'coat of arms' workshop</i> Learn about the ancient art of heraldry and then design your own imagined coat of arms at this fun, family workshop! Suitable for children aged 7 to 14. Booking essential as places are limited. To book a place, call 01 603 0346 or email learning@nli.ie
Tuesday, 21 August at 7.00pm	<i>Finding science in the NLI: the making of the Particles of the Past exhibition</i> <i>In association with National Heritage Week 18-26 August</i> Join Aoife O'Connor, Co-curator of the <i>Particles of the Past</i> exhibition as she takes us through the fascinating selection of science-related gems that are included in the exhibition. All welcome. No booking required.
Thursday, 23 August at 11.00am	<i>Learn how to use the NLI</i> Ever wondered how to use the NLI? Join us at this free workshop where we will show you how to get a Reader's Ticket, how to search the catalogues, how to order materials and much more. All welcome. No booking required.

National Library of Ireland

Kildare Street, Dublin 2

T +353 1 603 0200

info@nli.ie

www.nli.ie

Opening hours:

Monday - Wednesday 9.30am to 7.45pm

Thursday - Friday 9.30am to 4.45pm

Saturday 9.30am to 4.30pm (Reading Room closes at 12.45pm)

Sunday 1.00pm to 5.00pm (exhibitions only)

Open bank holidays 12.00pm to 5.00pm

National Photographic Archive

Meeting House Square, Temple Bar, Dublin 2

T +353 1 603 0200

info@nli.ie

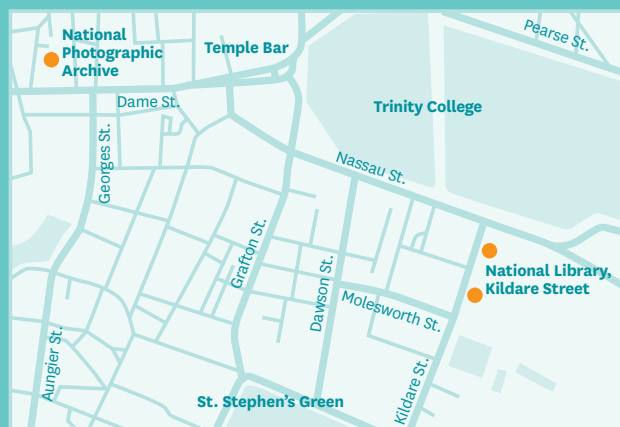
www.nli.ie

Opening hours

Monday - Saturday 10.00am to 5.00pm

Sunday 12.00pm to 5.00pm

Free Admission



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