



Cluny Library News

SUMMER 2018

Literary Festivals are not just for the book lover

Welcome to the summer edition of Cluny Library News. I just love literary festivals. They can be engaging, informative, intellectual and inspiring. Maybe I love them because I adore books, but the truth of it is you don't need to be a book lover to take something from a literary fest. Discussions aren't always about books, they can be about movies or music; they can be comical, political or philosophical. I recently attended the [Festival of Writing and Ideas](#) in Borris House where I attended a talk with Margaret Atwood. She was highly intelligent, articulate and amusing that anyone would have enjoyed the chat. Literary festivals take place around the country and if I'd time and I go to them all. At least I am lucky there are two wonderful festivals just on Cluny's doorstep. [Mountains to Sea Festival Dun Laoghaire](#) offers various events such as talks from Irish and Internationally renowned writers, masterclasses and exhibitions. [The Dalkey Book Festival](#) hosts Irish and internationally renowned writers. Talks can happen in places like pubs, cafes, churches or school halls. This year I attended a very interesting discussion by cognitive psychologist Steven Pinker who believes things aren't as bad as they seem (let's hope he's right). The proliferation of social media and the internet has brought many challenges like fake news and scaremongering, and so it is more important than ever to support these literary festivals. They offer us a chance to challenge ourselves, to think critically, to perhaps see things in a different light and to look beyond the shortened social media posts. I've attended both the Dun Laoghaire and Dalkey festivals in recent years and I'd highly recommend them. The only complaint I'd have is that there's so much to choose from. Ms Dillon

Did you know?

Reading for just 6 minutes a day can reduce stress by 68 %

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With violence, as with so many other concerns, human nature is the problem, but human nature is also the solution. Steven Pinker

Denise Deegan visits Cluny Library

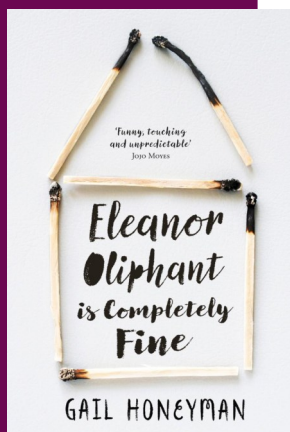


In 2016 Denise Deegan published a historical fiction novel *Through the Barricades*. It's set during the 1913 lockout, through the 1916 rising and World War I. It tells the tale of two young people Daniel and Maggie who fall in love but end up on the opposite sides of the revolution. Thanks to the historical references and

characters throughout the book, the story is a wonderful way for students to grasp what life might have been like back then through teenager's eyes. In April she visited third year History students to discuss the novel. As always, the students quickly warmed to her friendly and engaging manner. I've read this book and thoroughly enjoyed it as I do with a lot of historical fiction. Whether students study history or not, Historical Fiction books can offer a gateway to the past and can be fun to read too.

Staff Summer Reads

Here's a list of books that staff have just read, are reading or are going to read



“LOL could go and take a running jump. I wasn’t made for illiteracy; it simply didn’t come naturally.”

Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine,
Gail Honeyman

- Munich**, Robert Harris — Ms Regan
- Shantaram**, Gregory David Roberts — Ms Gordon
- Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine**, Gail Honeyman — Ms Keenaghan
- The Airbnb Story**, Leigh Gallagher — Ms O’Riordan
- The Better Angels of our Nature**, Steven Pinker — Ms Klyaritskaya
- And Then There were None**, Agatha Christie — Mr White
- Atlas of the Irish Revolution**, Cork University Press — Mr McLaughlin
- American Gods**, Neil Gaiman — Mr O’Reilly
- The Miniaturist**, Jessie Burton — Ms Dillon
- The Spider in the Corner of the Room**, Nikki Owens — Mr Browne
- Eileen Gray, Her Life her Work**, Jennifer Goff — Ms McAleer
- The Tattooist of Auschwitz**, Heather Morris — Iníon Uí Aodhagain
- The Cooked Seed**, Anchee Min — Ms Wolohan
- The Blackwater Lightship**, Colm Toibín — Mr Hartigan
- The Burning Chambers**, Kate Moss — Ms Maughan
- Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine**, Gail Honeyman — Trish Shanley
- From a Low and Quiet Sea**, Donal Ryan — Ms White
- The White Masai**, Corinne Hofmann — Annette Hudson
- Grace**, Paul Lynch — Ms Lambert
- My Name is Leon**, Kit de Waal — Marie Doherty
- The Storm before the Storm: The Beginning of the end of the Roman Empire**, Mike Duncan — Mr Moriarty
- Smile**, Roddy Doyle — Ms Quigley
- The Double**, Fyodor Dostoevsky — Ms McEvoy
- Dissolution**, C.J Sansom — Ms Dullaghan



INSPIRING WOMEN



In the spring newsletter I gave details of a Cluny Library Mock Election I organised with the House Captains to commemorate 100 years of the Women's Vote. 6 authors were the candidates and each house had to canvas for their respective authors. There were campaign posters, a leaders debate and all students got to come to the library on "Election Day" and vote. The whole campaign was a lot of fun and hopefully students got to learn about the importance of exercising their

right to vote. I did this as part of an inspiring women's theme I ran in the library throughout the year. I had Karen Ni Bhroin speak to students about the challenges and rewards of being a female conductor in a predominately male environment. On international women's day Denise Deegan came and spoke to 3rd year history students about her book *Through the Barricades* who had a very strong female lead character. I also created an "Inspiring Women's Wall" where I showcase women who have in some shape or form made an impact on the world. The sad thing is, despite the wonderful things these women had done, I myself hadn't heard of some of them but only discovered them through my research. For instance, there's Margaret Hamilton who led a team that developed a software programme that helped Apollo 11 land on the moon (without it the mission would possibly have failed). Then there's Lillian Bland the first female aviation engineer, Valentina Tereshkova the first women in space, Marie Beasley who improved the life raft and more. Next year I plan to change the profiles again to a different set of inspiring women and I'm sure there'll be lots to choose from. Whatever path Cluny Girls decide to take in life I hope they take inspiration from the quote they see on the wall to "be your own kind of beautiful".



How to use a Third Level Library

Before I started in Cluny I worked in a Third Level library and noticed a pattern of panic among many students (especially first years) who didn't know how to access the resources they needed for a given assignment. So each year I give a talk to 6th year students providing them with some tips on how to use a Third Level library. Most libraries offer tours, classes and fantastic online resources such as tutorials and help sheets that can help students with their transition into Third Level. I would strongly advise any student attending third level to avail of any assistance a library can give. Libraries play a hugely important role and studies* have shown that library use can result in increased academic success. So the more students use a library, the better their grades will be. Layouts and how you access resources can differ but hopefully the Third Level Library: A survival guide which can be found under the research tips section in the Cluny Library website www.clunykillyney.ie/library will be of some help to students. I would like to wish all Cluny students who are commencing Third Level in September the very best of luck.

Some useful Tips

- * Do a Library Tour
- * Explore online resources such as tutorials, helpsheets etc
- * Learn how to access electronic journals
- * Take note of your username and passwords
- * Get books from your reading lists as soon as possible (not the day before assignment is due)

*http://www.ala.org/acrl/sites/ala.org/acrl/files/content/issues/value/findings_y3.pdf

Library Chat with Head Girl, Catriona Duggan and Deputy Head Girl Ally O'Neill

Hi girls, so out of 10 how much do you like read?

Catriona: 8 maybe

Why are you a little unsure?

C: Well, I do enjoy it but this year I don't have as much time. But I still like to read.

And what about you Ally?

Ally: I'm not sure. I've always loved reading. But as I've grown older I've developed other interests like sport, so I don't have the same times as before.

So there was time when you did like reading, so what age would you have been when you started to like reading?

C: I always like it. It was probably about 7. I loved reading the Harry Potter books

A: Mum used to bring me and my brother to the library. My Grandad loved books so we were always surrounded by them. Like Catriona I remember reading Harry Potter and thinking "Oh my god I love these".

Was there any one who encouraged you to read?

C: Definitely my parents and the library

A: My Grandad was one person who encouraged me. If I hadn't been pushed I probably wouldn't have grown to love reading as I did

Do you find it hard to find time to read?

C: I find it more difficult this year with extra school works and hobbies. Before I didn't have a phone I used to read before bed but now I check my phone

So if you could give up your phone you probably would read more?

A: Yes my phone has definitely affected my reading. But there are newspaper articles which are more condensed and easier to read.

Do you think this might affect people's concentration?

A: Yes I'd say so

C: Yes, I think it would

Are you aware that people who read do better with their study?

A + C: Yes

What advice would you give to students who don't like reading?

C: Spend less time on the phone

A: Maybe ask for recommendations so that you find a book that's so good you have to keep reading

C: Like the history project, find a topic that you're interested in. That can help.