

1988 - 2003

RECREATION & AMENITY

A TIME TO REFLECT



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59) Louth County
Library

60) Official Opening
Dundalk
Library/Museum
Complex

61) Gardening Staff
- Dundalk

62) County Archives
Centre
- Dundalk

63) Launch of Mobile
Library service

Library Service

Dundalk Library is another fine example of social and cultural renewal. Converting and fitting out of the library and museum buildings cost in the region of €6 million with funding from Dundalk U.D.C., Louth County Council, the Department of the Environment, Bord Fáilte, the International Fund for Ireland and private sector sources. The total floor area is in the region of 12,000 square feet with the total lending stock having been estimated at 45,000 items, approximately double that of the old library. Systems are now fully automated. Indeed, the library facilities were also to receive a further impetus through the refurbishment of the Ardee, Drogheda, Dunleer and Carlingford branches.

The new branch at Stockwell Street, Drogheda was officially opened on 17th May 1994. With a floor area of some 7,000 square feet, this new facility initially had a lending stock of some 45,000 items, approximately treble that of the former branch. As the years progressed, the library service continued its commitment to maintaining high levels of stock and customer service in addition to increasing participation and interest in its facilities. The

Community Awareness and Outreach Programme was developed to further these aims. Another highlight was the launch of the "Books Across the Border" project in 1998. Also of note was a major addition to its genealogy collection in the form of a presentation by the Archdiocese of Armagh of the County Louth Catholic Parish records up to 1900.

The library service continued to implement the "branching out" policy of extending its services to all sections of the community. A major development was the introduction of the new mobile library in November 2000 serving rural areas and town housing estates on a fortnightly basis. A new service was also made available to elderly people in long-stay hospitals and day care centres. It also continued to strengthen its stock in certain key areas, namely large print and talking books, language learning kits and children's literature.

The 'Internet Access for All' facility has proved to be particularly popular among customers.

Mobile Library Service

This service to rural communities, which supplements the school's service, will also facilitate sections



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- 64) County Hall
- Dundalk
- 65) Council Chamber
County Hall

of the community who would not have an opportunity to visit one of the existing branch libraries. The service is wheelchair friendly. A new state-of-the-art vehicle was purchased in 2000.

Louth Archival Headquarters

Housed in the beautifully restored Old Gaol, The Crescent, this project married the conservation of the old building with the preservation of an important part of the county's heritage.

Phase II of this project encompassing further storage facilities is currently underway.

Education Bursary

This new initiative is being administered by the Community and Enterprise Section.

Christmas Food Parcels

The delivery of food items to the needy at Christmas time by the Civil Defence Service proved to be a particular success. This initiative was co-ordinated with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.