

Scariff Library To Open Its Doors Next Week

5th November 2007

A new branch of the Clare County Library service will open its doors to the public in Scariff on Tuesday November 13th 2007.

Situated on the Mountshannon Road in the town, the modern and spacious building forms part of Clare County Library's long-standing target of providing a full-time branch library in every town with a population of over 1,000. Based on the 2006 Census records, the branch library will serve a population of over 6,000 in Scariff and its hinterland.

Mayor of Clare Councillor Patricia McCarthy will official open the new facility on Monday 19th November at 11.30am.

According to Mr. Noel Crowley, Clare County Librarian, *"We hope the new library will be central to the life of the local community and will become a cherished facility for the people of East Clare. It replaces the part-time service point, which previously served residents of the Scariff area. The branch library will share the new premises with offices of Clare County Council, which means that the building will be a 'one-stop-shop' for the people of the Scariff area."*

In addition to a stock of over 19,000 books, the new Scariff library will hold CDs and DVDs, daily newspapers, magazines, foreign language fiction, audio books and large print books. Facilities on offer will include free Internet and e-mail, a community notice board, photocopying, an Online Public Access Catalogue, and a Local Studies Reference and Research section.

Mr. Crowley explained, *"Games for children, such as chess, draughts and jigsaws are available, while children's storytime and craft sessions will run throughout the year - all creating an atmosphere of fun and learning for the children of the area and ensuring that this library will be a great place to visit. It is envisaged that book clubs for adults and children will be set up in the near future. The building also houses an exhibition area and a community meeting room. It is certainly a library that has something for everyone!"*

Meanwhile, the building has been designed and constructed with accessibility in mind.

"A variety of practical measures to facilitate this have been put in place. This includes provision of a platform lift and automated openers on sensors to entrance doors, as well as ramped external access and level access from the rear of the building. Contrasting colours in floor finishes and pedestrian routes make it easier for those with colour-blindness or other sight problems. Internal and external signage has been provided in accordance with the National Disability Authority guidelines", added Mr. Crowley.

Caroline Aherne, recently appointed Assistant Librarian at Scariff Library, remarked, *"Remember - this is your library. Come and check it out. If you need further information please make contact by phoning 061-922893 or by emailing: mailbox@clarelibrary.ie Whether you want to borrow a book, read a newspaper, find information, use the internet...library staff will be glad to help."*

The Scariff Library opening hours are

**Monday 10.00 - 1.00 and 2.00 to 5.30;
Tuesday and Thursday 10.00 - 8.00;
Wednesday and Friday 10.00 - 5.30;
Saturday 10.00 - 2.00.**

The story of library construction began in County Clare when the first custom-built library was opened in Ennis in 1975. It has had a remarkable effect on most of the libraries built in provincial towns since, and was a landmark in branch library development in Ireland.

The provision of purpose built service points continued apace:

Ennistymon and **Kilrush** in 1981;

Newmarket-on-Fergus and **Shannon** in 1983;

Kilkee (*Sweeney Memorial*) was taken over in 1985;

Tulla Market House opened as a library in 1986;

the **Local Studies Centre** in 1988;

Corofin in 1992; **Killaloe** in 1994;

the **library Headquarters** was renovated in 1994;

Miltown Malbay opened in 1995;

Lisdoonvarna in 1999 and **Sixmilebridge** in 2000.

During this period also, part-time libraries were set up in **Scariff** in 1975, **Sixmilebridge** in 1981 and **Kilmihil** in 1990.

Cranny Virtual Public Library opened in 2003 as a pilot project for service delivery to rural communities.

Kildysart Public Library at St. John Bosco's Community College, Kildysart, also opened in 2003.

For more on the Clare County Library service log on to www.clarelibrary.ie