**Library highlights over the next few months**

**Season of Science:**

South Dublin Libraries’ very own festival of science runs this year from 2nd – 30th November.

This year we have 63 events primarily aimed at the primary schools of South Dublin County. We are delighted that this year’s events will be in person and live in libraries around the county.

**Highlights include; Dave’s Jungle reptile shows, Strong Women Science from Circus 250, how to make an astronaut’s dinner with Anyone4Science, Space workshops with the Rediscovery Centre and the Really Rubbish Litter Show from Science 2 Life.**

Season of Science also received funding from Science Foundation Ireland this year to bring science to more marginalised communities and groups in South Dublin. To this end Anyone4Science will be doing an autism friendly science show for children in Lucan Library, Techcreate will be doing an introduction to science session with a men’s shed in North Clondalkin Library, Academy of Code will be running a coding course for unemployed adults in North Clondalkin Library and the ICA will be creating personalised signs in Castletymon Library.

**Social Inclusion week:**

Social Inclusion weektakes place from 15th November and this year we have a range of events both in our branches and online. These include a mindfulness and meditation workshop, story time sessions, knitting sessions, demonstrations of library resources, sensory mornings, a care for the carer event and an art competition.

Ballyroan library is hosting a Tai Chi class which is a gentle form of exercise that can help maintain strength, flexibility, and balance for people of all ages and abilities. They also have a winter crafts workshop to create a winter themed collage on canvas squares.

**Family Day at Your Library** is an annual national initiative across the library service. In 2020 most events were online, however every library in south Dublin worked with parks to deliver Christmas scavenger hunts in the parks. This year we are planning a broad spectrum of activities including Christmas Crooners jazz sessions and the return of the Christmas markets.

**Decade of Centenaries Historian in Residence Events:**

Decade of Centenaries Historian in Residence Liz Gillis is continuing her research into the revolutionary period in South Dublin and will deliver a series of talks in library branches in November and December 2021.

* Tuesday 2nd November – North Clondalkin Library – What did the Women do anyway? Women and the Irish Revolution
* Thursday 11th November – online - Margaret Pearse and Revolutionary Women
* Thursday 18th November – Castletymon Library – The Irish War of Independence in Tallaght and Greenhills 1919-21
* Thursday 25th November – County Library, Tallaght – Love and Loss in the Irish Revolution
* Thursday 2nd December – Lucan Library - When will it ever end? 1921 a Year in Review (focus on Lucan area)
* Tuesday 7th December – Clondalkin Library – The Revolution and Civil War in Clondalkin
* Thursday 9th December – Ballyroan Library – WT Cosgrave

She is also working with schools, delivering talks and workshops on the revolution in South Dublin, and her work as a historian. On 21st October she delivered a webinar to primary schools across the county, with over 1200 children attending. She will present a similar webinar for secondary schools on 4th November.

**Decade of Centenaries Artist in Residence:**

Eva Kelly has been appointed as the Decade of Centenaries Artist in Residence for South Dublin County. Eva is a Dublin based artist and illustrator represented by Lemonade Illustration Agency and a member of Illustrators Guild of Ireland.

The idea of illustration as a visual essay is the focus of Eva’s work and through the residency she will document aspects of South Dublin life and culture, revealing aspects of and offering a new perspective in a visual form. In particular, her focus will be on the following themes.

* The Foundation of the State (1922)
* The experiences of women from South Dublin County during the revolutionary period and their changing role in society.
* An examination of specific personalities, (including local civic leaders), events and themes from this period of significance to the history and culture of South Dublin County.

Taking inspiration from the above themes she will showcase the unique story of the history and characters of South Dublin County. Her work will be exhibited across the South Dublin Libraries branch network in early 2022, and she is currently delivering schools workshops. Eva’s work can be followed on her website www.evakellyillustration.com and on Instagram @evakellyillustrations