

A Day in the Life of a Librarian

- in the Mayfair Library -



I've worked in the Library Service for over two years, and despite the old clichés, we definitely don't "read books all day and tell people to shush." Some days, I almost wish we did. Today, library staff are event planners, marketers, content creators, researchers, IT support, information professionals, and sometimes the only person someone may talk to that day. We're everything for everyone, all at once, and there are fewer jobs that are more rewarding.

With Ireland Reads Day fast approaching, a national celebration encouraging everyone to "Get Lost in a Good Book" on February 28th, it's the perfect time to share some of what really happens behind the scenes in the Mayfair Library.

We also curate themed displays to inspire readers, recent ones include as "Books to Screen", showcasing titles being adapted for film or TV, and "New Year, New Hobby", filled with inspiring books on crafts, wellness, and other new pursuits. A lot of thought goes into what we highlight and when, making sure the library always feels fresh, relevant, and full of possibilities.



Christmas, the local Phoenix Choir performed, and the Kitchen Sessions bring trad music to the library almost every month.

Behind the scenes, events require coordination with facilitators, room bookings, health and safety considerations, capacities, and insurance. We aim to offer something for everyone: weekly activities like children's Crafters, Age Action computer classes, the knitting group, and Ciocra Comhrá, as well as monthly fixtures like our repair café. One-off workshops, puppet shows, wreath making, bracelet crafting, add even more variety.

For February, we'll be tying our activities into Ireland Reads, joining libraries nationwide in celebrating reading and offering special programmes for all ages.

Book Clubs

The Mayfair supports over fifteen book clubs, with our seven other library branches supporting many more. Some book clubs meet regularly in our library meeting rooms and other book clubs meet elsewhere but have accounts to borrow book sets through us. Our dedicated book-club sets include both fiction and non-fiction chosen with group discussions in mind. To support all clubs, we can request titles from libraries across Ireland weeks in advance, so readers have plenty of time with each book. The Mayfair Library junior book club for ages ten- to twelve-year-olds meets monthly and is open to new members. Image 5

Outreach & Community Work

Outreach is a major part of Kilkenny County Council Library Service. Each branch works closely with partner schools, offering class visits, storytelling sessions, activities, and welcome tours. Schools also visit regularly to borrow books and use the library space.

Mayfair Library recently launched a Books in the Workplace programme, partnering with local organisations and businesses to create mini-libraries in their workplace and offer library memberships and extended-loan collections.

Library Publicity

We regularly post on social media, with branch staff being responsible for creating content. We use Instagram and Facebook and post about our activities to give you an insight into what happens in your local library. More detailed information on events and library initiatives can be found on the library website kilkennylibrary.ie. Each month we issue a physical and online newsletter, a great place to find out what is happening. And sometimes we are asked to write a newspaper article...

This is only a small snippet of what we do in the library service. We haven't even mentioned the maker space with 3D printing, our sensory toy collection, or our extensive online services, with language learning, online courses, access to historical resources, ebooks, eaudio-books, enewspapers and magazines.

Joining the Library

It is free for everyone to join the library and we no longer charge fines for overdue books. Adults can sign up on the library website, www.kilkennylibrary.ie where you will be assigned a temporary number. Bring the temporary number, ID and proof of address to your local library to access full library membership.



'Books in the Workplace'

Would you like a mini library in your workplace?

Contact Mayfair Library for more information.

mayfair@kilkennylibrary.ie



Get lost in a good book

irelandreads.ie

28 February

Cataloguing & Curating

Much of our daily work involves cataloguing new stock: books, DVDs, CDs, videogames, sensory items, and national collections like *Skills for Life*. Every item delivered must be added to our system before it can be borrowed.

Event Planning & Programming

Each month we create a varied programme of events, from children's craft workshops, storytimes to live music sessions and computer classes. Before