

## **Museum Practitioner's Forum Blow Your Own Trumpet 2010**

### **List of Speakers**

#### **Isabel Bennett - Músaem Chorca Dhuibhne**

##### *Putting Músaem Chorca Dhuibhne on Facebook*

Isabel was introduced to the idea of putting her museum on Facebook at an IMA training day in 2009. In her presentation she will detail her experience with Facebook, from her initial introduction to setting up the museum Facebook page. She will speak about how it is developing (112 fans and counting!). She will also talk about the reaction of both the public and other staff to it as well as practical issues such as putting up images and being closed down!

#### **Brina Casey – The National Gallery of Ireland**

##### *A partnership project between the National Gallery to provide art projects for the students of National Institute for Intellectual Disability, TCD.*

As part of its outreach programme, the Education Department of the National Gallery in association with the National Institute for Intellectual Disability, TCD have worked on a series of art workshops with their students for the last three years using the Occupational Therapy room in St James's Hospital.

#### **Etaoin Holahan on behalf of the Butler Gallery, Kilkenny**

##### *National Drawing Day 2010 at the Butler Gallery and Kilkenny Castle Park*

National Drawing Day has gone from strength to strength since 2007 and is now firmly established on the events and education calendar of most Irish museums and galleries. Artist Etaoin Holahan has worked on the event for the past four years for the Butler Gallery. Etaoin will present the innovative, exciting and creative approach taken by the Butler Gallery in mounting their Drawing Day programme this year through photography, film and personal accounts of how this event has developed in Kilkenny over the last four years.

## **Theresa Loftus – Monaghan County Museum**

### *Multicultural educational events at Monaghan County Museum*

For a number of years Monaghan County Museum has been an integral part of multi-cultural / inter-cultural days in primary schools throughout the county. These days celebrate the diversity and similarity of the many nationalities that now reside in Monaghan. Some events are arranged in partnership with the Monaghan Education Centre. Each year the theme changes following liaison with the schools involved. The museum contribution is based on presenting the history of artefacts through handling, questioning and fun. To date this has worked very well as it brings history to life and offers a better understanding of the Monaghan story to newcomers and pupils who were born in the county. These events have been successful not only for the children involved, but have also enabled the museum to broaden and diversify its audience.

## **Catherine McGuinness – National Museum of Ireland, Natural History**

### *Discovery Carts in the Natural History Museum*

This presentation will describe in detail the design and realisation of the Discovery Carts in the Natural History Museum, Dublin which reopened this year after a closure of nearly three years. A great effort was made by all departments within the National Museum of Ireland to renovate the site and bring the Dead Zoo “back to life”. It was decided the best way to introduce a handling element into the Natural History Collection was the use of discovery carts. Such items are in widespread use among science centres, natural history museums and zoos and are usually mediated by staff and/or trained volunteers.

## **Linda McKenna – Down County Museum**

### *The “Sporting Heroes” sports and literacy project at Down County Museum.*

This year Down County Museum embarked upon a sports and literacy project based around their ‘Sporting Heroes’ exhibition which looks at the achievements of Co. Down sportsmen and women. This has involved starting with a large-scale event for all participating schools looking at writing about football. Two well-known children's writers, Helena Pielichaty (who writes the Girls' FC series) and Tom Palmer (who writes the football academy and foul play series) came over to out on a show called “Reads Utd”. This was followed up by a series of workshops with one class in each of the 6 primary schools in Downpatrick, where children worked with Helena to think and talk about sporting heroes and then write up their reasons for choosing people.

## **Marietherese Schulze – Limerick City Art Gallery**

*“Still Life with ...”*: A collaborative project using contemporary art as a teaching resource.

The solo exhibition *Still life with...* of AIB Prize winners 2009 Anne Cleary and Denis Connolly incorporates a pilot educational project in partnership with Limerick City Gallery of Art, The Hunt Museum and Mary Immaculate College, UL, Limerick. For their exhibition *Still life with...* the artists worked with Graduate Diploma in Education (Primary Teaching) students from the Mary Immaculate College in Limerick to build a new installation that was partly inspired by Patrick Hennessy’s *Still life* painting. The students were familiarised with the ideas and practices of contemporary artists and they also developed a module for primary classes as part of their course. Two of the students offered this as a workshop in the museum. Supported by the museums’ educational staff, these students gained valuable experience in transferring theoretical ideas into practice.