

Nenagh native pens book on dyslexia



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NENAGH born speech & language therapist Rita Treacy has just produced a book documenting her groundbreaking work in helping people with dyslexia.

A book of particular benefit to teachers and parents of children with dyslexia, 'Dyslexia Unravalled: An Irish Guide to a Global Problem' offers unique insight on a common condition that Rita herself was diagnosed with as a university student.

Born and bred in Nenagh, Rita is one of five children of Pat (former State Solicitor) and Eileen Treacy. She went to the Convent Primary School in town and from there to Laurel Hill in Limerick for her secondary education.

It wasn't until she began studying speech & language therapy at Trinity College Dublin in the 1980s that Rita was diagnosed with classic dyslexia. But she believes that one of her Nenagh teachers, a Sr Malachy, identified the condition when Rita was in primary school. She recalls being given extra tuition during lunch breaks to help her improve in certain academic areas.

Shortly after graduating from TCD, Rita went to Australia and spent four years working with a speech & language therapy team. There she found both a personal and professional resonance with dyslexia as something that she could work on helping people to cope with.

On returning to Ireland, she spent



Speech & language therapist Rita Treacy from Nenagh has had groundbreaking success in helping people with dyslexia.

a short spell doing locum work in Nenagh before moving to Dublin to work in the area of child psychology. Going on to set up her own private practice, she was always taken with how much of the conventional material used to help people with dyslexia, which although relevant, kept missing its intended target.

Seeking to bridge the gap as it were, Rita found herself developing a programme that she named 'WordsWorth Learning' (WWL), a now widely-acclaimed system for helping children and adults overcome dyslexia, as well as reading and spelling disorders.

Originally a paper-based system, Rita subsequently redeveloped WWL as an online programme, one with the potential of enhancing reading and spelling skills for all children, not just those with a specific learning difficulty. She is currently redeveloping

the programme again and about to start an EU-funded project in that regard. Appreciative of how tech-savvy and keen young kids are to embrace modern technology, Rita says the new WWL will be even more interactive and focussed on adapted learning.

The story of WWL and the results it has yielded can be pursued through the pages of 'Dyslexia Unravalled'. Rita was asked to write the book by Dr Marie Murray, clinical psychologist, author, broadcaster and editor of the book. With an estimated one third of the school-age population of Ireland (300,000 children) below or well below expectations in reading skills and 100,000 of them classically dyslexic, Rita offers the truly different perspective of a professional speech & language therapist living with dyslexia herself.

In the book, the Nenagh native cov-



'Dyslexia Unravalled: An Irish Guide to a Global Problem' by Rita Treacy is out now.

ers a wide spectrum of issues, including what it's like to be dyslexic, how to identify dyslexia, and how to deal with it. The ten chapters contain a mine of information concluding with direction to the services and supports that are out there.

The book is aimed primarily at parents and also teachers, Rita saying she has huge regard for teachers and the work they do for children with learning difficulties. 'Dyslexia Unravalled' will also be of interest to psychologists, educationalists, speech & language therapists, and anyone else with an interest in understanding the complex-

of describes the feedback thus far as "terrific", people telling her that they now understand issues that seemed alien to them before.

Based in Dublin, Rita still enjoys getting home to Nenagh as often as she can. Next up on her busy agenda is a project focussing on prisons, where an estimated 70% of inmates are dyslexic. Indeed, there remains a large number of undiagnosed cases of dyslexia in Ireland, and the pioneering work of Rita Treacy of Nenagh will be very much to the fore in this area for years to come.

Published by Orpen Press, 'Dyslexia Unravalled: An Irish Guide to a Global Problem', is out now.

ities of dyslexia.

Rita hopes that as well as assisting people living with the condition, her book will help dispel the "shame" dyslexia. She

IN BRIEF...

Consultation on Hen Harrier Project

THE Hen Harrier Project are running several Farmer Consultation Meetings in Tipperary, Laois and Offaly during August to get opinion and ideas on the new results-based agri-environment programme open to participants in 2018. This project is specifically targeted at farmers with land in Special Protection Areas designated for the protection of breeding Hen Harrier.

In Tipperary, Laois and Offaly, eligible areas include Slievefelim to Silvermines Special Protection Area and Slieve Blooms Special Protection Area.

The dates and venues of consultation meetings are: Racket Hotel, Roscrea - Tuesday, August 15th from 8 - 9.30pm; Ballyfin Community Hall - Monday, August 21st from 8 - 9.30pm; Templederry Hall GAA - Tuesday, August 22nd from 8 - 9.30pm; Rearcross Hall - Wednesday, August 23rd from 8 - 9.30pm; Clonaslee Heritage Centre -

Thursday, August 24th from 8 - 9.30pm; Camross Community Hall - Monday, August 28th from 8 - 9.30pm; Kinnity Hall - Tuesday, August 29th from 8 - 9.30pm; Newport Community Hall - Wednesday, August 30th from 8 - 9.30pm and Killoscully Hall - Thursday, August 31st from 8 - 9.30pm.

Heritage week in Tipperary Studies

DO you want to see an original Military Cross medal or hear about the lore of Irish trees?

On Monday, August 21st, Heritage Week is marked by Tipperary Studies with a dual event in The Source, Thurles. The Military Cross medal awarded to Fr Edmond Kelly, native of New Inn, Cashel is going on display at 6.30pm. Fr Kelly volunteered for service as an army chaplain during WWI.

He was awarded the Military Cross for 'conspicuous gallantry and devotion to

duty' on 16 August 1917 at East of Ypres. He continued as army chaplain until 1920 before returning to pastoral duties. He became PP in Killenale in 1937 and was buried there in 1955.

At 7.30pm, in his talk 'Trees at home and abroad' George Cunningham will take his audience to visit the many tree treasures of home and discuss the lore of the tree in Irish history. He will also travel to far flung places to introduce trees such as the redwoods and bristlecone pines of California.

So come, join us in The Source Theatre in Thurles for a most entertaining evening which includes the usual cup of tea.

Kelly welcomes courthouse update

LOCAL Labour TD Alan Kelly has welcomed the news that work on the Courthouse in Nenagh will get underway to expand the

services.

Deputy Kelly said "I am delighted that work will take place on the Courthouse in Nenagh. The works will see the provision of a full time office for the Circuit Court. The contract has been awarded to Roscrea building firm, Frank Murray Builders. The works will start this month and are due to be completed in September.

This is good news for the area, as prior to this Circuit Court business was carried out through the Courthouse in Clonmel or Limerick."

Off licence for Nenagh

TIPPERARY Co Council has granted conditional planning permission for an off licence in Nenagh.

Cleary's Garage Ltd has received the permission for a change of use of existing retail unit to off license on the Limerick Road. Ancillary signage is also included in the plan.