

# Plan C for Christmas at Cork City Libraries

December 2020

## ADVENT

After the long bleak journey that seems so like the journey we've just made through this Covid disease, they come upon an infant King. And what must strike their world as odd is that lack of silk and ease in the infancy of a Royal person. Unregistered and not entitled to PUP payments, poor Joseph must lay his new prince where cows slept and stirred, while exhausted Mary can only be a good enough mother in the circumstances. And so it is, so be it: this astonishing God who slept in the rough at His birth, who made of charity a golden amulet.

*Thomas McCarthy  
Poet and retired staff member  
of Cork City Libraries*



## Christmas at the Library

This year, we are celebrating Christmas online at Cork City Libraries! We have a jam-packed Christmas programme of online events and activities for you at <https://www.corkcitylibraries.ie/en/what-s-on/christmas-at-the-library/>

Take a look at our exhibitions, recommended reads, enjoy some Christmas music and storytelling, enter a competition or take part in an arts and crafts workshop with all the family. More events and activities will be added throughout December so follow us on Facebook: [Cork City Libraries - Home | Facebook](#) and Twitter: <https://twitter.com/corkcitylibrary> to keep up to date.

**Happy Christmas from all at Cork City Libraries!**

In these uncertain times, the government has recently launched a new campaign called the 'Keep Well' Campaign. One of the core ideas of this campaign is to 'Switch Off and Be Creative'. The idea behind this is to help people to develop their creativity. Cork City Libraries, as part of the national library service, offers patrons the resources to discover a wide range of crafts and hobbies from learning to play the guitar to drawing and from flower arranging to knitting. Now might be the time to discover a new skill or re-kindle an old one.

The craft of knitting has seen a resurgence in popularity in recent years. It can be therapeutic and calm the mind. Knitting projects can be as simple or as ambitious as an individual might wish. One of the benefits of the craft is that results can be seen quickly. However, knitting isn't all about sweaters and scarves. There is a fun side to knitting. The range of toys and gifts that can be made is inspiring. The



snowmen featured here are designed by Jean Greenhowe. All these figures consist of making a number of small pieces and sewing them together. There are no complicated stitches and the

figures can be completed in a reasonable time frame. An alternative creative craft is cross stitch. This is a simple craft that can produce spectacular results. It does not require any training or tuition. A beginner can buy a simple kit that provides all the materials needed and which also provides diagrams demonstrating how to complete the work. There are knitting and cross stitch books available from your library, both locally and through the national library service. You can also download craft magazines from RB Digital for free using your library card. With a little bit of practice you can create your own individual designs and develop a hobby that might just end up bordering on an obsession. Happy Crafting!

*by Nora Harrington,  
Grand Parade Lending Librarian*



### Treacle Oat Brown Soda Bread

This is an indulgent but easy oat brown bread recipe that uses a 500g yoghurt tub for measuring the main dry ingredients

#### Ingredients:

500g tub of natural yoghurt\*

\*Using the same tub to measure the 2 following ingredients:

500g whole wheat flour

500g porridge oats

2tsp bread soda

3 tbsp treacle

1 free-range egg

Pinch of salt

Handful each of pumpkin and sunflower seeds

Preheat oven to 180°C. Line a 2lb loaf tin.



#### Method:

- Put yoghurt, egg and treacle into a bowl and mix well.
- Using empty yoghurt pot, fill with oats and then the whole wheat flour
- Add these to the yoghurt mix along with the bread soda, salt and the seeds.
- Put the mixture into the tin and sprinkle the top with some oats or sunflower seeds
- Place in the middle shelf of the oven
- Bake for 50 minutes, remove loaf from the tin and then return it to the oven for a further 10 minutes.

Remove loaf from the oven and place on a wire rack and cover with a damp tea-towel

*from 'A Sense of Home' by Helen James available to borrow from Cork City Libraries - and a favourite of Fionuala Ronan in our Bishopstown Library.*

### Scarlet Evergreen

a smartwatch glance for the stepcount but see!

globes of scarlet,  
berry clusters on the holly tree.

a smartphone pic to share  
these scarlet greetings  
(before they vanish  
in the beak of the mistle thrush)

on this November of the islanded,  
missing the nearness of you.

*By Ed Cashman,  
a staff member in our Reference Library*

### A Christmas Carol In Popular Culture

When 'A Christmas Carol' was published in 1843, its immediate commercial success came as a surprise, not least of all to Dickens' then publishers Chapman and Hall (he would change publishers the following year), who were unsure the premise would be a winner.



Looking back, it is hard to think that a story, known to readers and non-readers alike, which is so synonymous with the Christmas season,

was published so reluctantly. While the novella itself will no doubt live through the ages, it is the constant renewing and re-imagining of Dickens' classic that ensures near immortality.

While I read the book itself, only in my adult years, I can scarcely remember what age I was when I first encountered 'A Christmas Carol' in popular culture. From an early age I was transfixed to this story anytime it came on a screen at Christmas time, from the 1951 Alastair Simms classic, to George C. Scott's epic 1984 portrayal.

The 1971 animated short, with Simms reprising the role of Scrooge, was an Oscar winner, while in 1992, we learned there is nothing that can't be made better with Muppets. Patrick Stewart excelled as Scrooge in 1999, while Kelsey Grammer and Albert Finney sang and danced their way to redemption in two Musical versions. The 2001 animated 'Christmas Carol: The Movie' was where we first discovered Kate Winslett could sing and the Den and Killinascully even gave the classic story their treatment. Who could forget the 1988 classic 'Scrooged' which starred Bill Murray as the skinflint Network TV Frank Cross, in a twist on the original?

Regardless what version of the story, this classic Christmas tale of second chances and the resilience of the human spirit is a seasonal winner in my book.

*By Donal O'Driscoll  
a staff member in our Blackpool Library*

### Caring for your Wellbeing – Women's Group

In early 2020, Cork City Partnership held a Caring For Your Wellbeing course. Eight women attended this course which was held on Wednesday mornings in Blackpool Library, everyone loved coming to the bright community room in the library. The women enjoyed discussing together the issues that were important to them. During class there was also time to relax by using mindfulness and meditation techniques. Everyone was disappointed when the course had to be suspended due to Covid-19, however we are now looking forward to the course resuming in 2021.

For further information on this and other courses in Blackpool contact **Patricia Cotter**, Cork City Partnership **087 1902848**.

### Cork City COVID-19 Community Call Helpline



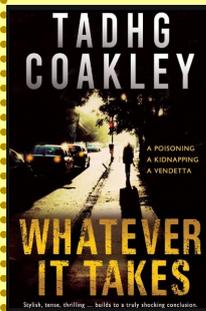
**1800-222-226**

**Monday to Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm**



**covidsupport@corkcity.ie**





**Whatever It Takes** by Tadhg Coakley was published by Mercier Press and has been chosen as Cork City Library's 2020 *One City, One Book* in conjunction with Waterstones Cork and Creative Ireland.

I was given a review copy of *Whatever It Takes* by Cork City Library and was completely taken aback at how much I absolutely devoured and loved this book. A crime fiction novel set in your home city can go either of two ways and for me, THIS is EXACTLY how I love my crime fiction. So authentic. Nothing far-fetched. The sense of place was unreal and, to be honest, I am rather in awe of Tadhg Coakley. This is the first book in a new series and is Tadhg Coakley's second novel. If you loved Lisa McInerney's *The Glorious Heresies* and *The Blood Miracles*, *Whatever It Takes* is the book for you.

Exploring the underbelly of Cork, Tadhg Coakley paints a very realistic image of the drugs, the violence and the trafficking that is present in almost every city. Hidden away from most of us, this dark world is a frightening and shocking place. A local drug-lord and a maverick policeman make for an action-packed and heart-thumping read to the finish.

**Whatever It Takes** is well deserving of all its accolades and, in particular, of its being chosen as Cork City Library's *One City One Book*. This is a book that deserves a very wide audience well beyond the borders of The Rebel County. The tenacious Detective Garda Collins has been justifiably compared to Ian Rankin's *Inspector Rebus* series and Michael Connelly's *Detective Harry Bosch* series, and for good reason. If you are looking for a thrilling and fast-paced crime-read, look no further than *Whatever It Takes*. I highly recommend and am certainly looking forward to the second book in this very impressive and highly enjoyable series.

Gritty. Atmospheric.  
Authentic.

*Review by Mairéad O'Driscoll Hearne  
Book Blogger & Glanmire Library patron*

## Winter Gardening

Well it's the middle of winter and nearly everything looks dormant in the garden. If you are itching to get out and about, it's the perfect time for pruning fruit trees.

### Some Tips:

- Use secateurs and loppers that are clean (you don't want to transfer any diseases from other plants to your trees) and sharp (a smooth clean cut will reduce the risk of branches becoming diseased and possibly dying back).
- The dormant season when the sap is low is the best time to prune apple trees.
- The main aim of pruning is to create a healthy tree. The desired tree shape for a standard tree is what is called the goblet shape. This allows for as much circulation of air to pass through the branches thus reducing risk of disease in both the tree and fruit.
- Always cut a diseased or damaged branch back to healthy wood.
- When cutting back always cut just above a bud that is facing outwards. This avoids the new growth growing towards the centre and causing congestion. Also cut as close to the bud as possible without damaging the bud. New growth will come from the bud and if excess stem is left above the bud then this will die back when the new branch is forming. Any dying back or dead wood on a tree will give the opportunity for disease which we want to avoid.
- Cut back water shoots (vigorous new growth) back to the trunk.
- Action needs to be taken if branches are crossing, cut back to a healthy outward facing bud. This prevents future damage to the branches. As where they are rubbing together the bark will become damaged and at risk of disease setting in.

If your tree is very overgrown and hasn't been pruned for years it is advised to spread the pruning over a few years. If you prune radically in one year, it can shock the tree. It will also encourage lots of water shoots the following growing season. Pruning can be a great pleasure and meditative process so it's not just good for your tree but for you as well.

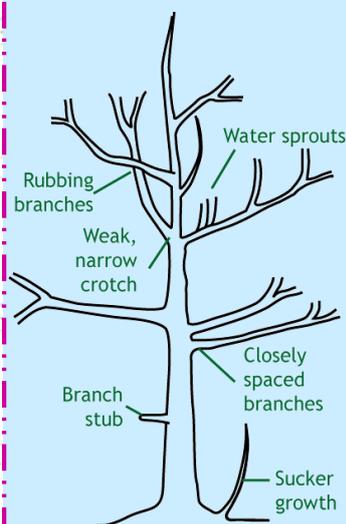
If you would like to read more about pruning fruit trees, ornamentals, roses etc., here's a few titles that are available from the library:

*RHS Pruning Plant by Plant*  
by Andrew Mikolajski

*The Complete Book of Pruning*  
by Duncan Coombs

*Pruning, Training and Tidying*  
by Bob Flowerdew

By Eleanor Twomey,  
a staff member in our  
Grand Parade Library



## CHRISTMAS WORD SCRAMBLE



*With Sorcha Fogarty,  
a staff member in our  
Bishopstown Library*

|             |           |           |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| TMARIHSSC   | IMCUS     | OGSSN     |
| GANEL       | INETLS    | TERE      |
| ETMANSONR   | PERNSETS  | ILFAMY    |
| OEHRGTTE    | MALE      | ARCETBELE |
| NVIGGI      | ORBBNI    | GFTI GAT  |
| DLMLUE ENIW | TLOESEMIE |           |
| NOSANMW     | OPHLDUR   |           |



We are Cork.



Capt. Alfred Hutson

### Alfred Hutson Saviour of the English Market.

One can only envisage that prior to the night of 11 Dec 1920, the City's shop keepers, traders and department stores were in full preparation for Christmas. Festive advertisements abound in the three Cork city newspapers of the day the Cork Examiner, Evening Echo and the Cork Constitution.

Shops were bedecked with every variety of Christmas decoration and lighting. Little did Alfred Hutson Cork city's fire chief and his 30 fire brigade crew realize that their worst nightmare was about to unfold. Alfred Hutson was Cork's fire superintendent from 1891 to 1928. He was an incredible 71 years of age when he was to confront the deadly arson attack on Cork city centre. This London born gentleman might have been mature, but he had experience in spades. He had been instrumental in pioneering and developing preventative fire regulations and inspections in the city. A new fire station and sub stations were built and auxiliary firemen employed under his watch. He had unprecedented experience in incendiary attacks, due to the frequent number of attempts by the Crown forces to burn down the City Hall, Sinn Fein Clubs and other Republican organizations prior to the 11 December 1920.

Alfred Hutson presented his official report on the burning of Cork city to the Lord Mayor Donal O' Callaghan and members of the Cork Corporation on 15 December 1920. This official report just 4 days after the burning of the city reveals how incendiary fires were started, explosives were used and hoses were cut in several places rendering them useless. The fire appliances at Victoria Barracks normally available to Cork City Fire brigade during any major outbreak were not made available. The sworn statements of other fire brigade personnel, one an ex soldier familiar with military operations testified, as to what he had witnessed that night. The first fire began at Alexander Grant's department store on Patrick Street at 10.30p.m. Later forty or fifty men were observed marching down Patrick Street. These men had revolvers in their hands and with them were five men in Glengarry caps and khaki uniforms. The fire men on duty were told "Take your time; we will have a few more in a minute". This is exactly what happened as the Munster Arcade was seen ablaze just 15 minutes later, rapidly followed by Cash's department store.

The aforementioned groups were observed firing their revolvers outside both shops. Another fireman observed the uniformed incendiarys open fire on 2 fellow firemen using a hose near Winthrop Street. But worse was to follow when an ambulance was fired on and a member of the fire brigade was wounded after being hit by bullets in the right hand and left ear. A young drunken officer also took aim at another fireman. Several



Dublin Fire Engine

statements were given relating to the deliberate setting fire of the City Hall. Men were seen coming from The Union Quay Police Station carrying tins of petrol.

Between 4.30a.m and 5a.m. several loud explosions were heard during this attack. The next target was the Carnegie Library. 30 Police including the Chief Constable and three sergeants came along Union Quay and the fire hydrants were turned off several times. The Head Constable said that he had no control of his men. An R.I.C. cap with the constables initials was later found at the scene. Much of the evidence is strikingly similar and it all refers to shooting, drunkenness, looting, deliberate explosions depicting incendiarys at work.

Alfred Hutson and his brave firemen prevented many of the fires from spreading saving many buildings from destruction. Hutson had incredibly managed to prevent the spread of fire to the English market and other buildings at the end of Patrick Street. He describes the event as follows "I got three lines of hose to work- one in Mutton Lane and two in Market Lane, intersecting passages on either side of these premises. With a good supply of water we were successful in confining the fire to Messrs. Grant's premises, and prevented its spread to that portion running to the Grand Parade from Mutton Lane, which we saved, except with slight damage, the adjacent premises of Messrs/ Hackett and Haynes both jewelers. The Market - a building mostly of timber- to the rear of Messrs. Grant's was found to be in great danger. If this building became involved a conflagration would ensue with which it would be almost impossible to cope. Except for only a few minor outbreaks in the roof we were successful in saving the Market and other valuable premises in Mutton Lane."

There is no doubt that Capt Alfred Hutson with his limited resources of 30 men, antiquated equipment which consisted of 2



Postcard photo—Burning of Cork 1920

horse drawn Merryweather steam pumps and horse drawn hose reels, had prevented the raging fires from spreading further into the heart of the city. The main building that he unquestionably saved from utter destruction was the English Market which existed since 1788. It's sheer size and volume of stalls was providing a remarkable amount of trade, revenue and most importantly employment in the heart of the city during the tumultuous year that was 1920.

It is incredible to believe that a 71 year old Brigade Superintendent and his brave firemen worked 27 hours nonstop. They were harassed, intimidated and in fear of their lives amidst burning, collapsing buildings, and were seen as targets by the Crown forces. Dublin's Fire Brigade Captain Myers on his arrival has stated "he did not think that Cork could be saved as when they arrived they were in a sea of darkness and they suddenly emerged in a sea of flame". Yet in the cold light of the following day amidst the smouldering embers, these heroes must have reflected on what they had accomplished. Hutson continued as Fire Superintendent until he resigned from his position at the age of 78. He died on 3 March 1933 and is buried in St. Luke's churchyard Douglas.

By Michael Lenihan - a staff member in our Glanmire Library



We are Cork.



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