



## News Details

## Member's Login...

[Home](#)[About Us](#)[Schools](#)[Parents](#)[Library Users](#)[Young People](#)[Tenders](#)[Student Support](#)[Freedom of  
Information](#)[News](#)[Jobs](#)[Publications](#)[A to Z](#)[Links](#)[Contact Us](#)[Minutes](#)**Humanitarian Leader and Agent of Peace  
Launches Omagh Bomb Digital Archive**

16 November 2006



Pictured at the launch of the Omagh Bomb Digital Archive in Omagh Library from LtR: Michael Gallagher (Omagh Self Help & Support Group), Terry Waite and Dominic McElholm (Western Education and Library Board Chairman)

Terry Waite, diplomat, humanitarian and a world-renowned agent of peace was in Omagh today, 16 November 2006, to officially launch the Omagh Bomb Digital Archive. The website ([www.omagharchive.co.uk](http://www.omagharchive.co.uk)) has been developed by the Western Education and Library Board's (WELB) Library Service in partnership with Omagh Support and Self Help Group (OSSHG) with funding from the Victims Strategy Implementation Fund.

Speaking at the launch, Terry Waite, said: "It is important for any community to have a collection of events that may be happy or sad. These events enable us not only to remember the past but to have a more creative future for all. The Omagh archive will help people who have suffered much to do just that."

The website is based on the archive of material housed in the WELB Omagh Branch Library. It contains over 10,500 newspaper articles, 15,000 emails, 818 books of condolences and 3,000 floral tribute cards relating to the terrible atrocity that occurred in Omagh on the 15 August 1998.

In presenting the new website, Helen Osborn, Head of Libraries and Corporate Services with the WELB, commented: "This has been an enormous project. The archival resources digitised by the WELB Library Service is not only an historical record for the community but also will be a living memory for victims and their families."

What's  
New...07 December  
2006

- **St Eugene's Band launch Book and CD**
- **Stay Safe at Christmas**
- **Outstanding Summer Programme**
- **Money available for Community Relations Youth Projects**
- **Pupils Sample Health Careers**
- **Launch of Chatter Packs in Strabane Library**
- **It's 'Somme' Day**



She continued: "The purpose of the archive is to ensure that all relevant material is properly and respectfully collected, preserved and organised for future use by victims and their families, the local community, academics, researchers and historians."

Speaking at the launch, Michael Gallagher, from the OSSHG said: "We believe that this is a very significant archive because it is the first collaborative venture between a victims group and a statutory body that we have got involved in. We hope that it will not only be beneficial to people in Omagh but also nationally and internationally".

Permanent Secretary of the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL), Paul Sweeny, said: ""This archive marks and honours the past. It demonstrates the sometimes awful power of the events, which shape our communities. In making that material more widely available through the online archive, the people of Omagh are not only honouring the past, but also creating the future, in what is a changing Northern Ireland. The online archive means that these records and the emotional force they convey can be accessed by anyone, anywhere in the world."

"In 'Delivering Tomorrow's Libraries', my Department set out the objective of a library service that provides a dynamic focal point in the community, and reflects that community back to itself. I cannot think of a better example of that objective being met than this one."

Caption: Pictured at the launch of the Omagh Bomb Digital Archive in OMagh Library from LtR: Helen Osborn (WELB Head of Libraries and Corporate Services), Paul Sweeny (DCAL Permanent Secretary), Dominic McElholm (WELB Chairman), Terry Waite, Sean Coll (Victims Support Officer with Sperrin Lakeland Trust) and Michael Gallagher (Omagh Self Help & Support Group)



For more details :

[print this page](#)

<b>Contact ::</b>	<b>Oliver Kelly Communications Officer CORPORATE SERVICES UNIT WELB HQ, 1 Hospital Rd, Omagh</b>
<b>Telephone ::</b>	<b>028 8241 1412</b>
<b>Fax ::</b>	<b>028 8241 1273</b>
<b>Email ::</b>	<b>oliver_kelly@welbni.org</b>

➤ **WELB gives you the chance to improve Central Library!**

➤ **Learning Outside the Classroom**

➤ **'Lazy Jack' Book Launch in Cranagh**