Exhibition collaboration between
The John Paul II Library, Maynooth University
Kildare Library and Arts Service and
The Teresa Brayton Heritage Group

New Exhibition area
In August 2014 the John Paul II Library hosted a major exhibition outlining the life and work of Teresa Brayton in the foyer of the new library extension. The Maynooth branch of Kildare Library and Arts Service lent the Teresa Brayton archive to the John Paul II Library in order to mount the exhibition. Staff personnel from both institutions are also members of the Teresa Brayton Heritage Group. This relationship facilitated co-operation and enhanced the success of the exhibition.

Collaborators
- The John Paul II Library provided staff, time and space in a dedicated exhibition area and expertise in mounting an exhibition
- Kildare Library and Arts Service provided the archive and help with funding in order to make the exhibition possible
- The Teresa Brayton Heritage Group through having a member in both institutions who were familiar with her life and work collaborated in order to mount the exhibition

Benefits
- Collaboration between two institutions
- Use of each others resources and facilities
- The Teresa Brayton Heritage Group could avail of the opportunity to promote the memory of Teresa Brayton
- Interested members of the public could view the exhibition

Life and times of Teresa Brayton
Teresa Brayton was born Teresa Boylan in 1868 in Kilbrook, Co. Kildare. She emigrated to America in 1895 and in 1901 she married Richard Brayton. The main themes of her poetry are the exile’s nostalgic loss of homeland, nationalism, nature and religion. She is the author of the Old Bog Road which was later set to music and is her most famous poem. Teresa Brayton was personally acquainted with most of the leaders of the 1916 Rebellion and wrote poems in honour of several Irish patriots including Parnell, Casement and Pearse. Countess Markievicz sent her a chip of the flagstaff which flew over the GPO during the 1916 Rising “as a tribute to your beautiful verses that are an inspiration to lovers of freedom and justice”. Teresa Brayton returned permanently to Ireland in 1932 aged 64. Éamon de Valera who was Taoiseach at the time of her death in 1943 attended her funeral and later as President unveiled a memorial cross over her grave in 1959.

Collaboration also occurred in 1959 when Fr. Sean Corkery was Librarian of St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth. At the time of the unveiling he was a member of Muintir na Tire who organised the erection of the memorial cross and was chosen to respond to the President’s speech.