the x-change, BA Festival of Science, Dublin
Wednesday 7 September 2005

Panellists:

- **Prof. Dermot Diamond**, Dublin City University
- **Mr Donal O'Kelly**, actor
- **Dr. Jim Al-Khalili**, University of Surrey
- **Dr. Simon Singh**, writer and broadcaster
- **Prof. Richard Wiseman**, University of Hertfordshire
- **Wendy Sadler**, Science Made Simple
- **Prof Chris McManus**, University College London
- **Dr. Malcolm Chapman**, University of Leeds
- **Sue McGrath**, Science 2 Life

Chair: **Quentin Cooper**

Donal O'Kelly read some of Flann O'Brien's works and then Prof. Diamond and the panel discussed the science that permeated Flann O'Brien's work.

Richard Wiseman gave an introduction into his research examining the lives of lucky and unlucky people. He suggested that Skibbereen is the luckiest place in Ireland given that it has had 10 lottery winners. He set out to investigate this by purchasing 50 lotto tickets in Dublin and 50 in Skibbereen. Simon Singh discussed his recent book "Big Bang" and the history behind the accumulation of evidence in favour of the theory. Dr. Jim Al-Khalili told the audience that Einstein's brain had been stolen by the pathologist who had performed the autopsy and only recently donated to Princeton University. Neuroscientists have analysed Einstein's brain and discovered that in overall size it is smaller than average but that certain parts of it are larger than the average brain. Jim Al-Khalili brought a glass replica of Einstein's brain along with him.

Prof Chris McManus introduced his research on the differences between the right and left sides of the brain and also discussed left and right handedness. He suggested that Einstein was right handed given that in all the photographs of him (except one) he appears to be holding chalk/pen with his right hand.

Sue McGrath gave a demonstration of her exploding custard and giant bubbles. Wendy Sadler gave a demonstration on how a laser beam can be used to power a radio. Dr. Malcolm Chapman gave a review of his talk on the science of Irishness.