



**OFFICIAL  
OPENING OF  
THE NEW  
EXTENSION**

**BELFORD  
HOUSE ON  
SUNDAY 5TH  
OF OCTOBER**



# ARD AOIBHINN OBSERVER

**Autumn 2008**



## BELFORD'S NEW EXTENSION OPENED



Mr. Brendan Howlin, T.D. Wexford, leas-ceann comhairle of Dail Eireann performed the official opening of a new state of the art extension to Belford House Wexford built to expand the capacity of the house and add much needed additional living facilities for the residents. The opening was on Sunday 5th October.

The new 1400 square feet extension, is the first in a series of phased developments planned by Ard Aoibhinn Services scheduled to take place over the next three to five years, including extension to existing day care facility, opening of respite care for children, and erection of 2 purpose built homes for 12 people with disabilities.

Funding for the new building came from the HSE and from funding raised through the voluntary efforts of people throughout County Wexford. The extension was built by OCM construction, managed by Paul Dempsey and designed by Shay Howell.

Mr Gerard Heaney Chief executive of Ard Aoibhinn said that the new facility represents an imaginative move that further supports the social model of care for people with a disability.

He thanked the disability section of the HSE and the Wexford

General Manager for their support and he thanked especially the people who contributed voluntarily to the development. Without their support, this facility would not have been built. Thanks was also extended to the residents and the staff of Belford House and the residential manager Geraldine Roche, for their commitment and co-operation during the building project.

Looking to the future, Mr. Heaney said that Ard Aoibhinn hoped to further develop their services to provide an even greater quality of life and support not alone for people with a disability but also for their family members.

Geraldine Roche also wished to thank her staff and all the residents who worked so hard to make the opening of the new extension a great day.

In other news Ard Aoibhinn in conjunction with the HSE will soon be opening a respite house for children with high support needs in Oulart. The house will have limited opening due to funding but it is hoped that this funding will be increased in 2009 and the house will open more frequently.



*Brendan Howlin T.D. with Cherie and Pauline Power.*



## ART EXHIBITION AND PANTOMIME ON THE WAY TO ACTIVATION

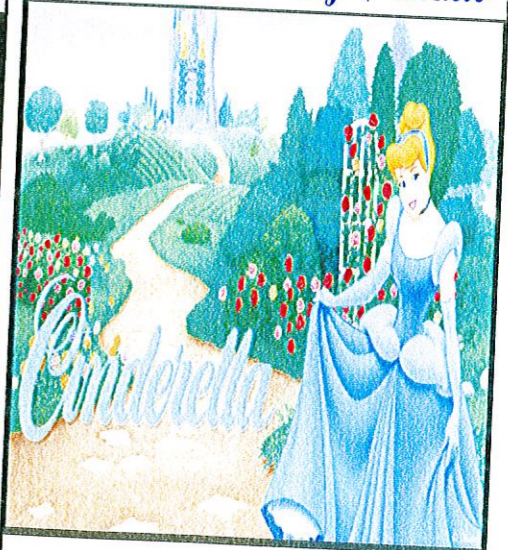
The gang in Activation are very busy at the moment preparing for Halloween and with Halloween comes the Opera Festival with it's fringe events and art exhibitions.

This year the gang of talented artists in Activation are getting in on the act and hope to have an exhibition of their own, displaying all the beautiful art work we

have been working on, in the canteen. The exhibition is planned for Christmas and promises to be something special.

Also plans are under way for the first ever Activation Pantomime. Cinderella has been chosen and the script is in production. More info soon!

### Activation Proudly Presents:



*Coming to a canteen near you this Christmas!*

**Many thanks again to all our fundraisers:**

The Loreto Secondary School €933.

Crossabeg Coffee Morning €660.

Jenny Carroll raised €466 by running the Mini Marathon.

ABS Pumps continue to collect for us and have raised €2,584 in the last half year.

The Easter Raffle raised €1,335.

Hotel Curracloe have donated €929 in the past year.

Other donations amount to €4,342.

The annual Golf Classic was a huge success this year again raising around €6,000, thanks to everyone who helped with it and all who entered teams.

Our own Johnny Quirke and some friends raised €1,259.73 by climbing Croke Patrick. In picture below are John, Sara Ann and Shane Gibbons presenting the cheque to Gerry. Missing from picture is Pdraig Gibbons.



**NEWS FROM THE ADULT DAY-ROOM TYPED BY ELEANOR O'DOWD**



Congratulations to Justyna on the news of her pregnancy we wish her all the best.

We Welcome back Michelle from her wedding and honeymoon. We wish her and James all the best.

Best wishes to Jolene on her 30th birthday which fell on the 14th September and a happy 50th birthday to Vera which was on the 12th October also happy belated birthday to James Cahill.

We would like to welcome John O'Rourke to Ard Aoibhinn.

**PRE-SCHOOL NEWS TYPED BY JOHN POWER**

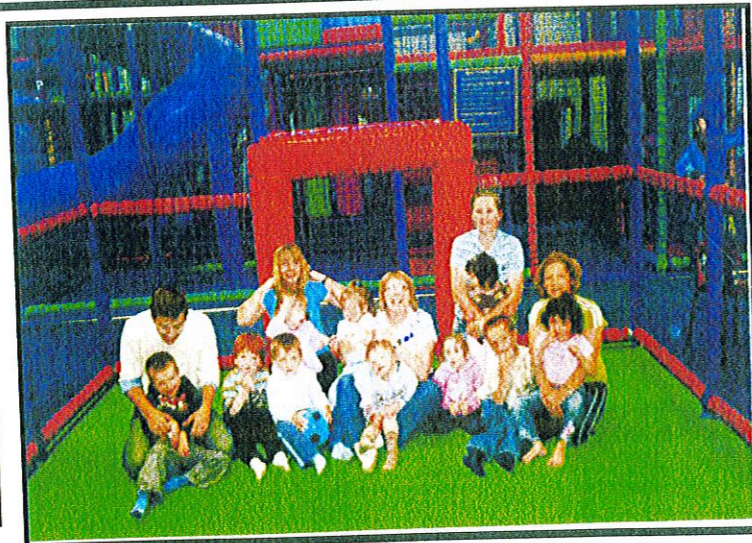


Last term was very busy one in the Pre-School.

Five children were preparing to move to big school, we wish them all well in their new environment.

We all enjoyed a day out in the New Ross Play Barn .It was a very busy day, but enjoyable for children and adults. We had a lovely summer break although the weather wasn't good. Since we returned to pre-school in September we have been very busy settling in new children. We have five new children.

We have been thankful for the good weather it is great for us all to get out .As we draw closer to November 22nd Dolores and I are giving sound advice to Fiona as she is approaching her wedding day We all wish her well on her big day. Good luck Fil



The Pre-School gang having a ball at the New Ross Play Barn.

**CHILDREN'S DAY-ROOM NEWS TYPED BY LESLEY O'LEARY**



Hello from the C.D.R. Every body had a lovely summer holiday.

We celebrated lots of birthdays, Adam's, Jimmy's, Jason's and Suzanne's.

A big welcome back to Hazel after her maternity leave, we're delighted to have her back.

Justyna has started the over 18's activation unit and it is working very

well. At the moment she is unfortunately out sick and we all wish her a speedy recovery. We welcome Philipa our 4th year nursing student and wish her the very best of luck in her studies.

Finally we wish everybody a Spooky Halloween break!

**ALL THE NEWS FROM BELFORD TYPED BY JIMMY KELLY**



Happy birthday to Patrica Keating who celebrated her Birthday on 12th of October.

We recently got our new bus and we've travelled the highways and byways of the south east.

A big welcome back to Tommy who left us for a short while.

Congratulations to Michelle Barry on her recent wedding.

Welcome to our new cook Joan and care assistant Doreen who joined us recently.

A big farewell to Jean Doyle who left us, we miss you Jean.

We've all had great fun re decorating all the bedrooms for the opening...Changing Rooms here we come!

Happy 10th birthday to Belford!



**ACTION FROM ACTIVATION BY JOSEPH AND GLENN**



Happy Halloween from all in Activation!

We are looking forward to going back to dance again this month. We had a very successful dance work shop during the summer.

We are also going to participate in the Arts Alive workshops when they begin in Enniscorthy later in the month.

We are holding our breath that we will get the go ahead for our respite break soon, we hope to go to Meath.

We are very busy preparing for our big art exhibition for Christmas. We hope everyone will come in to see our work when the exhibition is launched.

Our Halloween display is the talk of the centre. Some people are even to scared to come down the right corridor at present!

We participated in a bowling tournament recently in Leisure Max it was great .

We welcome Natalie, Paddy and all new service users here in Activation.

We all wish Yvonne well, and hope be back to us soon.

Our big daytrip took us to Dublin Zoo year. A great time was had by all.

We also visited the new cinema before holidays and are definitely planning trips there.

We will soon be beginning work on Christmas Pantomime.

Cinderella is not to be missed!



Foster or Allen? With Jim and Pat

**DUN RI NEWS TYPED BY PAUL HOULIHAN**



We would like to welcome our new Service User Jim he comes every Monday and has settled in well .

We all took a trip to the River Side Hotel recently to see the great Foster and Allen. We treated ourselves to dinner first to build up our energy so we could dance the night away.

After the show we met with Tony Allen and Mick Foster we had photos taken and autographs signed, a great night was had by all.

Since the last edition of the Observer we have celebrated our first Birthday. Father Tom Dalton said mass to mark the occasion

Mary has just returned from a trip to New York where she shopped till she dropped. She is back to us now in New York style but still suffering from jet lag.

We also held a coffee morning celebrating old age and creativity week in Church. It was attended by staff vice Users of Ard Aoibhinn and all members of the local community.

Mick is in first place for the best man in Dun Ri after his recent short trip to Dublin.