

# Emma

*Blessed by your presence,  
 Deeply saddened by your parting,  
 Sunbeams danced with your smile,  
 Your brief stay a fresh breeze  
 To console us with memories  
 Haunting and happy in the same breath.  
 Friendships' soul emptied,  
 Fills slowly as memories lose their pain,  
 And we, changed forever by you  
 Become whole again.      Joe.*



**THE CENTRE CLOSSES ON THURSDAY 20TH OF DECEMBER FOR CHRISTMAS AND RE-OPENS ON WEDNESDAY 2ND OF JANUARY 2002.**



*May you all have a very happy and holy Christmas and a peaceful new year.*

## ARD AOIBHINN OBSERVER CHRISTMAS 2001



Thanks to all our Fund-raisers;

Donations from parents and friends £368.26

Bank of Ireland client £155.14

Kelly's Hotel – Down Syndrome Association £135.

Roadstone £50.

Edermine Regatta and Cabaret £6,552.

Table Quiz in the Wrens Nest £200

ABS Pumps voluntary staff deductions over £3,000.

Senator Windows are planning a Pro-am golf classic in May in aid of Ard Aoibhinn.

Adult Education Grant from Wexford VEC £2,260.

Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme staffing grant of £25,000 revenue a year for 3 years to fund the pre-school Unit and £50,000 towards the development of the pre-school yard.

## RESPIRE SURVEY SUMMARY

BY ELEANOR O'DOWD

A recent respite survey sent to the homes of all clients attending Ard Aoibhinn came up with the following facts. To date out of all the surveys sent out 33 have been returned 23 of these have said yes they will need residential care at some stage over the next ten years. 15 adults and 8 children. Due to the results of this survey a closer look is needed at this section of our service. The development of further residential places and a respite service are part of the service Development plan for an Breacdh Nua with these statistics a submission will be brought to the Local Consultative Committee in early 2002 for consideration. In regards to respite the situation is similar 33 questionnaires have been returned 12 indicated they wouldn't need respite services at the moment with a further 23 indicating "yes" they would like to be offered more respite opportunities.



*Christmas memories, above is a picture of the gang from St. Michael's at their Christmas party 1991. How many do you recognise?*

	2001	2002	5yrs	10yrs	In future
5 Days		1	1	4	1
7 Days	2	1	3	3	3

Details of numbers seeking residential care.

**MERRY  
 CHRISTMAS  
 ONE AND ALL**



## PRE-SCHOOL NEWS BY CAROL BROWNE



- We welcome a new child Siobhain O'Grady who has settled in and is enjoying the pre-school.
- The fine weather since September has been great! We enjoyed going out for walks which took us to the Pet Shop and Redmond Park to try out the new equipment the children and adults had a great time.
- Dressing up for Halloween was great fun as you can see from the picture. Thanks to Siobhain O'Grady for the pumpkin.
- On Friday 16th of November the children were delighted to welcome the Faythe Harriers.
- Ethel, Pearlie and Fiona enjoyed a one day seminar on "self-esteem and Children's Behaviour" on the 17th of November.
- The pre-school would like to congratulate Edel on her engagement and welcome Lisa to the Children's day room. Also good luck to David in Belford House.

## NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN'S DAY -ROOM



Birthday wishes go out to Andy whose Birthday was on 6th of December.

The room is all decorated and we are looking forward to the visit of Santa Claus soon.

A lot of the children have been enjoying respite breaks in Gorey .

Congratulations to our Eithne who had a great win in the Faythe Harriers draw recently.

## THE CHRISTMAS DINNER AND THE CHRISTMAS PARTY



This years Christmas Dinner is on Wednesday 12th of December in the centre. The Christmas dinner is one of the nicest events in the year here in Ard Aoibhinn as the whole Centre sits down as a family and enjoys a Christmas banquet together . It is a lovely occasion and personifies the true meaning of Christmas. A Special thank you to Nuala and Ann who make this special meal possible with all their hard work.

The Activation Christmas Party is on Wednesday the 19th of December Between 4.30pm and 8.00pm in the Distillery Bar in Bishopswater . **All are welcome** to attend this party where we will have a band plenty of dancing and lashings of Christmas spirit.

## ACTIVATION NEWS BY JIMMY KELLY

*Merry Christmas*

Birthday wishes go out to Nuala, Billy, Jennifer and Tom this month.

A recent trip to the Cinema to see "Harry Potter" was enjoyed by all.

Dancing has resumed with Bride Malone and Deridre Grant and is going well.

Don't forget the Christmas Party on The 19th of December in "The Distillery Bar". All are welcome.



*Remembering the long hot days of Summer when we could sit outside in the sun like Carol, Mamie, Eileen, Jennifer and Keara are here.*

## NEWS FROM THE ADULT DAY-ROOM BY JOHN POWER

Congratulations to Edel on her recent engagement we are all looking forward to the big day out. Is there a date set yet?

Good luck to David who has got a full time job in Belford House. You will be sorely missed by all.

A big welcome to Lisa to the Adult Day Room we look forward to working with you.

Birthday wishes to Liam on Dec 17th And Chrissie on Dec 24th.



## THE CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR



The Christmas Craft Fair is on the Thursday 13th of December this year and it is hoped that this years fair will be bigger and better than ever. The Christmas Craft Fair is one of the main annual events here in Activation and as well as serving as an essential fund raising exercise it is also a lovely way to show all the talent and skills of the team working in the activation section. This year on sale will be all the usual stuff Wreaths, Candles , Gift tags, Pottery and Crib Figures and much much more as well as the Cake Stall and the Bric or Brac Stall add in the Teas and Coffees and the Raffle and you have one very busy and exciting day. We look forward to seeing you there.