

Christmas Thoughts:

A few of people were asked what came to mind when they thought of Christmas - these were their responses:

Bridget Keane: Parties. Christmas dinner and beer and all. Christmas songs. Santa coming with presents. Carols and the crib and Jesus was born on Christmas day.
Hope everyone has a Happy Christmas!

Glen Connick: toys, decorations on the tree, Santa and snow, angels. Santa lands on the roof And comes down the chimney.
Happy Christmas!

Shane O'Brien: Angel Gabriel, Shepherds minding the sheep, donkeys and the little baby Jesus in the stable. Mary and Joseph were there too.
Silent night.



Mamie Mc Cormack: Santa going around, Somebody dressed up as Santa. Gifts, getting gifts and giving gifts both ways like. A snow man in the back yard, you can't leave him out. Putting up the tree, holly and the decorations. And the wren boys collecting money.

Stephen Hayden:
An enjoyable time of year.
Christmas parties, meeting with friends I enjoy this very much. The Christmas day dinner is also very enjoyable. I hope everyone has a happy Christmas.

ACTION FROM ACTIVATION

It has been a very busy term here in Activation and we are up the walls as Christmas comes upon us.

We were very busy rehearsing for most of the term for the Christmas concert in Enniscorthy "A Step into Christmas" was a huge success and thanks to all who supported it. The party in the Riverside on the Wednesday night after the show was also a wonderful night.



Celebration time! During the World Cup last Summer.

We have also had a Pottery teacher Jean Cleary working with us over the past ten weeks and with her guidance we have produced some beautiful items including a lovely mosaic which will be hung in the main hall in the new year, thanks a million Jean.

The Christmas Craft fair and coffee morning is on the 12th of December and we are all very

busy preparing for this we hope to see you all on the day.

We would like to invite everyone to our Christmas party in the Gaelic Bar on the afternoon of

Wednesday the 18th of December.

And finally everyone in Activation would like to wish everyone a very happy and holy Christmas.



ARD AOIBHINN OBSERVER CHRISTMAS 2002



BRAY WANDERERS RETURN

Thanks again to all our fundraisers:

Clonard Girlguides: 600 euro.

ABS Pumps: 1,198 euros

Noelle Cullimore, Marathon: 50 euro

Donations: 900 euro.

And a very special thank you to Damian O'Connell, who donated a whopping 6000 euro to Ard Aoibhinn out of his winnings in the National Lottery, THANK YOU DAMIAN!

Our respite break from Activation was later than usual this year but it was as successful as ever and a great time was had by all. This year we traveled to Bray in County Wicklow where we stayed in The Royal Hotel.

An action packed few days were had in the Garden of Ireland. We traveled up by bus and spent the first day wondering around Bray getting to know the area. That evening some of us went bowling. The next day we went on a coach tour of the



Wicklow hills and visited Avoca and Glendalough. That evening we stumbled across a lovely little pub where there was a great session for the night.

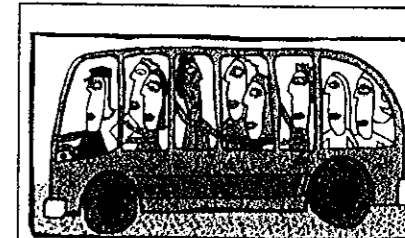
The next day we went into Dublin city where we did all

our shopping and visited the cinema.

The following day we traveled home by train. It was a wonderful trip and we really enjoyed it all especially the hotel and the lovely leisure centre.

TWO NEW BUSES FOR ARD AOIBHINN:

Since our last issue Ard Aoibhinn has been lucky enough to acquire two new buses for the service. One is a Volkswagen LT, 46 long wheel base it was converted by Parfit and funded by the health board, it serves the South run and can hold seven wheelchairs and two people seated as well as the driver and passenger in the front. The second bus is a Peugeot Boxer and was converted by Wilker it is on the Ross-lare run and can hold four wheelchairs and two seated plus the driver and passenger.



"A STEP INTO CHRISTMAS" A HUGE SUCCESS

On Sunday 24th of November a very special Christmas concert took place in the Riverside Park Hotel in Enniscorthy. It was called "A Step into Christmas" and it was a unique event because it brought together five centres for people with special needs from all over the county.

Ard Aoibhinn were the main organizers of this event and it was a remarkable success creating a lovely Christmas atmosphere for all who were lucky enough to have seen it.

The centres involved were Ard Aoibhinn, C.W.C.W. Enniscorthy, C.W.C.W. New Ross, Cam-

phill Community Duffcarrig and St. Aidan's Gorey each centre performed for around ten minutes and in between each group we were lucky to have a very talented children's choir called "The Young Wexford Singers" under the direction of Eanna Mc Kenna. Fr. Aodhann Marken was the compere for the day and he really kept things flowing along.

The following Wednesday we had a big party in Enniscorthy to celebrate the success of the show and a great night was had by all.



NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN'S DAY - ROOM

BY ELEANOR O'DOWD

- A big welcome back to Lorraine Murphy. Its lovely to see her again.
- Jimmy and Andy were both in hospital for few days. They are both well now and looking forward to Santa's visit.
- All the children and staff are looking forward to Santa's visit to the centre on the 17th and of course on the big night of the 24th.
- The new buses are lovely and the children just love traveling on them.
- Finally we would like to wish one and all a very merry Christmas and a prosperous new

ADULT DAY - ROOM NEWS BY JOHN POWER



- Birthday wishes to Chrissie on 24th December and Liam on the 17th December
- A big welcome to Sylvia our new staff member, hope you'll enjoy working here.
- Best wishes to Lisa for her wedding on December 27th. Hope you both have a long and happy life together.
- Finally we would like to wish everybody a great Christmas and lot's of luck in the new year.

CLASSROOM NEWS BY LESLEY O'LEARY

Siobhan Powell in charge of making Christmas decorations in the classroom.



Hi to everyone from the education section.

A big hello to our new special needs assistant Annk-rish Connolly who comes to us from St. Patricks Enniscorthy.

Suzanne and Jason celebrated their birthdays on the same day in September. Jason's was a very special occasion as he was eighteen. Happy Birthday to Andy this month. Congratulations to Lucy Bolger who became a Grandmother recently.

We are all busy getting into the "Christmas spirit" making decorations and singing carols in the Children's Day - room. Patti is heading off to Lapland in search of the man with the white beard - no; her husband! She's taking him with her.

We are delighted to have Susan O'Hare, Speech Therapist, working with us. Some of the children are already starting to use switches.

Wishing everyone a very HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

CHRISTMAS DINNER A REAL TREAT!

The Christmas dinner was on in the Centre on Tuesday 10th and was a wonderful success. A huge thank you goes out to Nuala, Ann and Betty for the wonderful feast.



A special thank you also goes out to Ann for all the beautiful Christmas cakes that she made and raffled to raise funds for Ard Aoibhinn. In all seven cakes were made and raffled.

PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

We have been extremely busy in the playgroup since September. as you all know at this stage we have two playgroup sessions in the afternoons on Monday and Wednesday.

We welcome Dearmaid. Shona. Jake and Brandon to the pre-school.

The new playground has been slow. but as I write this there are swings and slides being erected. We are looking forward to a lovely playground after Christmas.

Everyone is now looking forward to the Christmas break. I hope Santa will come

