

**News from the  
Gardens  
Typed by  
Shane C'Erién**



Hi from the gang in Brendan Corish Gardens.

Mary became an auntie for the 10th time with the birth of her new niece Verity. She will be travelling to London before Christmas to visit the new addition.

Claire enjoyed a mini break in Dublin with her parents recently. She stayed in a fancy hotel and shopped in style.

Sharon had a visit from her sister Maeve who flew in from California. She was thrilled with the visit as well as the goodies Maeve brought for her.

Mamie spent three weeks of the Summer holidays in Blanchardstown with her brother Sean and family. She had a great time and is looking forward to her next visit in December.

John has been his usual busy self going to various family functions and following Man Utd. He is very excited about going on respite in November.

All in B.C.G. returned to the newly refurbished Able Disabled Club, which takes place every Monday night.

Everybody attended the 30th Birthday party for Ann Kennedy in Gorey. A great night was had by all.

We all went to Margaret Holman's surprise 60th birthday party in Glynn and had great fun.

Everyone was very sad to see Johnny Dempsey retiring and we wish him the very best in the future.

**DUN RI NEWS  
TYPED BY Paul Houlihan**



Domnick celebrated the big 50 in August with a party in Piercestown. A great night was had by all especially the birthday boy.

We won first prize with our marvellous masks at the Bannow and Rathangan show.

We wish Bernie the very best of luck with her studies.

Congratulations to Fiona on the birth of her new baby boy from all in Dun Ri.

Billy, Jim, Pam and Delores had a great day out with the farmers at the ploughing championships. They had lovely weather so didn't need the wellies.

We would like to welcome our voluntary worker Daragh, who is with us on Monday mornings. Everyone at Dun Ri would like to wish him the best of luck in his studies.

Best of luck to Pamela in her new jeep. Beep Beep!

**In Other News:**

An Bord Altranais carried out a Site visit in Ard Aoibhinn on 7<sup>th</sup> of May 09. An audit was carried out in specific areas of the service. This audit was very successful. A big thank you to ALL service users and staff for their support and corporation in preparing for this event

An Educational Audit was carried out in the service by Waterford institute of technology in June 09. This Audit was very successful. Feedback was positive and the key aspects highlighted that the service was a good learning environment for students and very much focused on a social model of care promoting social integration and inclusion,

Congrats to Joe and Jackie on completion of CPI train the trainer course.

In July we were able to open for an extra week. 16 service users took advantage of this and it was highly successful. We would hope to continue this trend in 2010 but this is dependent on funding for 2010

Ard Aoibhinn along with the psychology section (HSE) piloted a model of consultancy during 2008 and 2009. This has proved very successful and added much needed expert clinical input to the services offered through Ard Aoibhinn. As a result of this process we also introduced P.C.A.D. (a methodology for providing base line assessments for people with an intellectual disability).

The Golf classic took place in July and despite a slow start proved to be as successful as ever. Our thanks to all sponsors and helpers for this event in particular Wallie Walsh who sadly passed away in October 2009. Wallie was a great help over the years with the Classic.



**ARD AOIBHINN  
OBSERVER**



**Summer / Autumn 2009**

**OPERA FESTIVAL ART EXHIBITION  
TYPED BY ELEANOR O'DOWD**



To coincide with the Opera Festival this year, we here in Activation are preparing a very special art exhibition to be held here in the centre from Thursday 22nd of October to Friday 30th of October.

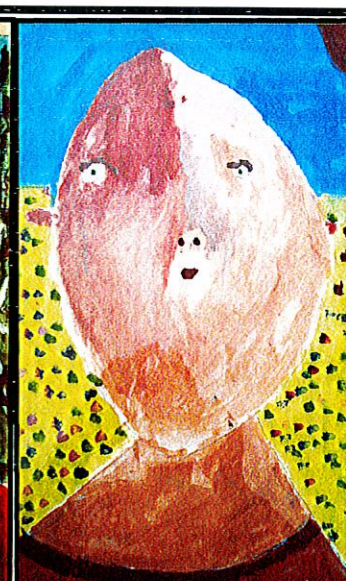
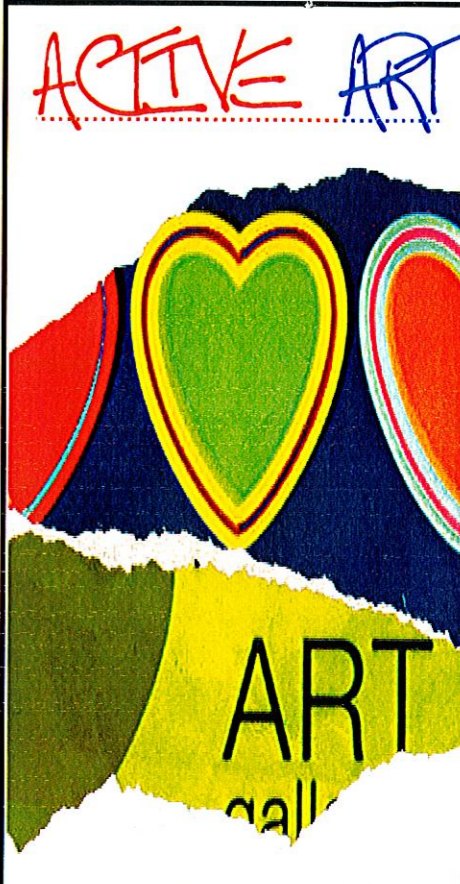
"Active Art" an exhibition of art work by the service users of Ard Aoibhinn Services will be launched on Thursday 22nd of October at 11am in the Ard Aoibhinn canteen. The exhibition will be launched by The Mayor of Wexford Philomena Roche and everyone is invited to this special occasion, tea and coffee will be served afterwards. The exhibition will then be open to the public from 2.30pm to 4.30 pm daily for the remainder of the festival (excluding weekends)

All the pieces on display will be for sale with money from each sale going towards new art materials for future arts works and exhibitions.

The service users in activation have been preparing for this exhibition for a number of months and are really looking forward to displaying their work to the public. Each individual in Activation was encouraged to participate in some way in the exhibition if they weren't artists then they helped with the framing or organisation of the exhibition.

We have some very gifted artists here who have completed a number of pieces and others who were have just worked on one piece. We are also delighted to welcome art pieces from the other units of Ard Aoibhinn Services, which will also be displayed in the exhibition.

Overall this project has been very successful creating great excitement in the unit and giving the artists in the unit a chance to express themselves and have something to work towards. We hope everyone will come along now and support our first art exhibition.



### Thanks to all our Fundraisers:

ABS Pumps—Collection

Hotel Curracloe—Collection

Chris and Theresa Welsh—Sahara Walk

Majella Finnegan—Table Quiz

Jason O'Connor—Table Quiz

John Foley—Coffee Morning

Danka Murphy—Fundraiser in America

The Mini—Marathon raised €3,667 this year and the Golf Classic raised €4,500.

Well Done to all involved!



## NEWS FROM THE DAY-ROOMS TYPED BY LESLEY O'LEARY



Congratulations to Suzanne on her 21st birthday a large crowd attended a mass celebrated by Suzanne's uncle Fr. Mc Grath and then a great party followed.

Thanks for a great time and we hope Suzanne enjoyed herself. Also birthday wishes go out to Maeve, Claire, James, Jolene, Jimmy, Liz, Vera, John and Hazel who all have had or have birthdays coming up soon.

We would like to welcome Joe to the day rooms and hope he enjoys his time here.

Thanks to Michelle's husband James and Patsy Clancy who did a sponsored cycle and raised €660 for Ard Aoibhinn and the women's refuge. Thank you both very

Our thoughts are with Jason and his family on the recent passing of his grandmother and with the husband and family of Nena, who used to work with us, on her untimely death RIP. Also we remember Chrissie and Andy who's anniversaries occur around this time.

We would like to welcome Justyna back to Ard Aoibhinn after her maternity leave we hope you settle back in well. Also congratulations to Fiona on the birth of her son John.

Finally we would like to welcome Fiona M. to Ard Aoibhinn and hope she enjoys working here.

## WHAT'S NEW IN ALANA HOUSE? TYPED BY CAROL BROWNE



Aleana House has been a hive of activity in 2009 and continues to offer day and residential respite.

Aleana house welcomed the introduction of new fully accessible transport in January 09 purchased with assistances from the HSE. This has proved to be of great benefit to service users.

The purpose built playground with soft play area has been completed in the back garden and is great favourite with the children that attend.

A second open evening was held for Parents in Aleana house in February 09.

This gave parents and service users an opportunity to view the house, talk to staff and gather information in relation to the respite service.

The summer months were a busy time in Aleana house. An after school respite service commenced in July 09 to meet the identified needs of one individual service user.

The service opened for 3 full weeks during the summer. This provided longer breaks for families and their children. During those weeks the children were brought on many outings. Visits were paid to the newly opened Blackwater pet farm, the play zone in New Ross where the bouncy castle was a great hit, we also visited Johnstown Castle and Curracloe beach. A great summer was had by all and we look forward to continuing this service into 2010.

and John Brendan. Our best wishes also go out to Ethel.

A warm welcome to Emer who recently moved from Activation, her painting skills are improving. Maura also joined the pre school and we are delighted to have both of them on board. We also Welcome back Susan our SLT and Justyna who came back from Maternity leave.



## PRE—SCHOOL NEWS TYPED BY JOHN POWER



Hi from the pre-school wow we've had a busy time. In May we had our very first graduation and that was a great success thanks to all who helped, we had seven graduates who are all doing very well in their new schools

Since September we have four new children and all four are settling in and becoming great friends.

A big congratulations to Fiona on the birth of her son we were delighted to hear the news. Hope to see her soon

## ALL THE NEWS FROM BELFORD TYPED BY JIMMY KELLY



Best wishes to our great friend and colleague Johnny Dempsey who retired in August '09. He is greatly missed in Belford House whose residents and staff had a wonderful surprise meal for him on his last day in the Horse and Hound Restaurant in Ballinaboola. Johnny gave a very touching speech at the meal.

After the meal we all returned to Ard Aoibhinn where there was another surprise party organised for him. Johnny was presented with gifts from the service users, staff and the Board of management. Johnny was overwhelmed and very grateful for all the celebrations. A few weeks later we had another knees up for Johnny in Springsteen's Restaurant where staff old and new attended and many more speeches were made the most unforgettable and humorous speech of all coming from Kathleen. Good luck Johnny from all your friends in Belford.

We would like to congratulate Oonagh and her partner Paddy as they are awaiting the pitter patter of tiny feet very soon.

We would like to say a big welcome back to Christine we are delighted to have her back to the Belford team.

Plenty of celebrations were had in Belford these last months with Birthday parties galore for numerous residents.

A great night was had by all who attended the table quiz for Ard Aoibhinn Service in the Thirsty Monk even though the Belford teams "Doreen the Exploreens" and "Dickies" really should have won on the night....or so they thought!

Congratulations to David on completing his training as a staff nurse we are all very proud of you.

## ACTION FROM ACTIVATION BY JOSEPH AND GLENN



Our motto here in Activation for most of the summer was "Rain rain go away!" The weather has really limited our usual summer activities again this year. Although the last number of weeks have been lovely.

We did manage to get a number of day trips around the south east and these were all very enjoyable. Especially the Bannow Rathangan Show, at which some of us exhibited craft and won prizes.

We also had our annual Day Trip that everyone came on and enjoyed greatly. We went to JFK Park and Tramore and stopped in the Horse and Hound on the way home.

Some people were involved with another great summer dance workshop that was great fun. Some people have also been going to the cinema now and again.

Seven service users availed of the extra week this summer and enjoyed their summer camp with us.

Mick reached the big 50 and had a huge party to celebrate which some of us attended.

We are all very busy at the moment preparing for the Active Art Exhibition later this month.



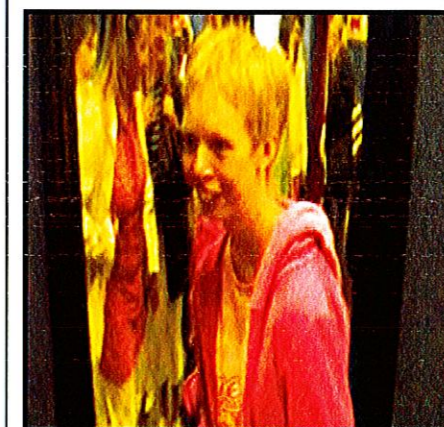
Above- Would the real Paddy say hello?  
Below - X factor look out ,here come The Coleman's!



We said bye for now to Margaret Holman and were sad to see her go after so many years. But she still pops in to see us.

We welcome Mary and Malgorzata and Iragh who have started working with us.

We are also looking forward to our respite break in November. This year marks our tenth respite with the current team and we're off to Galway.



Who's that pretty girl in that mirror there?



The Artist at work.