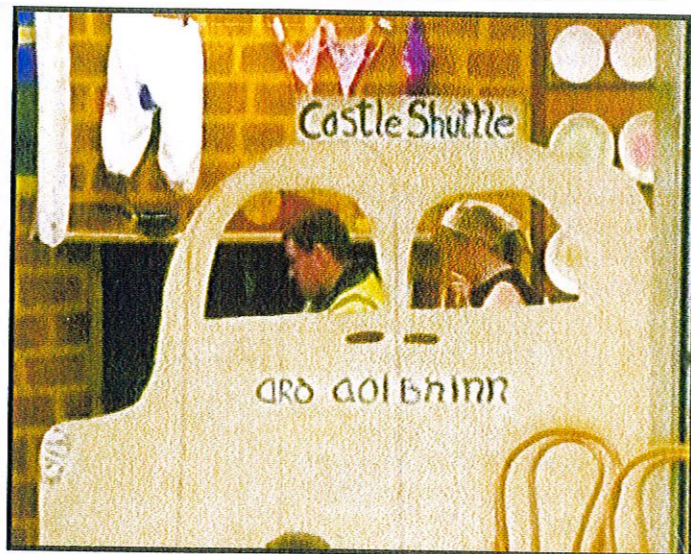




Ard Aoibhinn Panto 2008, Cinderella



PANTO CREATES A GREAT CHRISTMAS ATMOSPHERE

The first ever Christmas Panto last December really created a great Christmas atmosphere throughout the service and was greatly enjoyed by all that saw it and participated.

Work began in October and everyone in Activation had a job to do to help make the Panto the success it was.

There was a team of carpenters under the leadership of Brendan working on the set they bought the wood, put it all together and then painted the two wonderful scenes on either side that made the transition from Cinderella's kitchen to the Prince's palace truly magical.

Meanwhile the seamstresses were busy at work on the costumes under the guiding eye of Margaret and they came through with flying colours. The costumes were brilliant and colourful especially the Ugly Sisters who were like models in their ball gowns completed by their beautiful wigs (when they stayed on their heads).

The props were also all made here in activation and overall the production looked every bit as nice as one of the operas!

On the day a great crowd of family and friends turned up for the performance and they weren't disappointed all the rehearsing under the watchful eye of director Tom paid off and all the performers were brilliant.

The show brought the house down and finished up with a big Christmas sing song that left everyone on a high. After the performance there was a cake sale and coffee morning and everyone had a ball. Thanks to everyone for their hard work and to all who supported us. Also thanks to everyone who bought the DVD afterwards.



ARD AOIBHINN OBSERVER



Winter / Spring 2009

NEW SERVICE IN OULART "ALEANA HOUSE" TYPED BY CAROL BROWNE



Ard Aoibhinn is proud to announce the opening of a new service based in Oulart. 'Aleana House' is a newly opened respite house for children. It is located on the outskirts of Oulart village. It caters for children up to 18 yrs of age.

Recently a group of our roving reporters from Activation took a trip up to see this new addition to the Ard Aoibhinn family and to talk to house manager Jackie Gannon. We got a great welcome and found out lots about the purpose of this new house.

The aim of Aleana House is to provide families with a much needed break from their role as carers while providing the service users with an enjoyable experience away from home with their peers. Currently it provides weekend respite breaks for four children at a time. Weekends start on Friday afternoon and run until Sunday afternoon.

Aleana House is a recently converted house and has four large single bedrooms each with television and DVD player, two bathrooms, one with Jacuzzi bath and a kitchen. There is also a large sitting room come activation room with a large variety of play and educational equipment and a television.

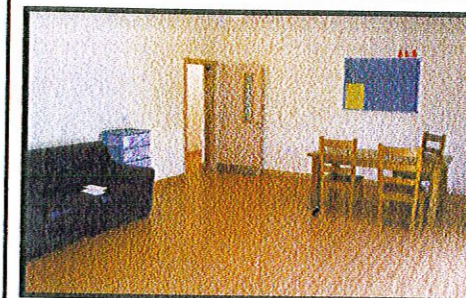
Outside there is a large enclosed garden with state of the art play ground which is proving very popular with all visitors.

There are two nursing staff and a care assistant working on each weekend with a nurse and care assistant providing night cover.

A wide range of activities are offered to each service user during their weekend break. Also a bus is available for use during the weekend. This is available for trips to places like the Play Zone in Wexford the beach or local gardens or parks.

During the week Aleana House provides a day respite service for one adult.

We really enjoyed our visit to Aleana House and would like to wish everyone there the very best of luck for the future.



Above the sitting room in Aleana House

Left Jackie Gannon

Below is Aleana House from the outside and our gang of reporters in front of the outdoor play area.



Thanks to all our Fundraisers:

Special thanks must go to Christopher Walsh from Barntown who ran a 250km race in the Sahara Desert on October 26th last. He raised an amazing €8,060 on sponsorship, thanks to everyone who sold cards and supported him in his wonderful achievement.

Also thanks to everyone who supported the Christmas Raffle this year which brought in €3,645.

Upcoming Events:

The Wexford Half Marathon is on Sunday 19th of April and Ard Aoibhinn is one of six charities that will benefit from this. Peadar Maxwell, Emer Grey, Deneise Donovan and Pat Morrissey are the team running for Ard Aoibhinn. Sponsorship cards are available from Attracta at the centre.

The Annual Golf Classic is on 24th of July. Anyone who would like to enter a team should contact Attracta at the centre for more info.

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



We welcome Anne Marie Wilson to the Adult Day Room. We hope she feels very at home .

Happy birthday to Margot and Siobhan which were in February .

We would like to thank David Reck for his contribution to the room over the past 6 weeks.

Best of luck to Lizzy on her new car... Vroom... Vroom...!

Congratulations to Justyna on the birth of her daughter Lily.

Thank you to Tracy's Mother who helped us get on a great deal on some picture frames for the room.

All in the ADR would like to say thanks for the new touch screen Computer

Remembering Chrissie

Miss me—but let me go
When I come to the end of the road
And the sun has set for me
I want no tears in a gloom filled room
why cry for a soul set free.

When you are lonely and sick of heart
Go to the friends that we know
And bury your sorrows
In doing good works
Miss me—but let me go.



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



Big hello from everyone in C.D.R. Christmas now seems a distant memory and we are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the Easter Bunny Yippee !!! for a good excuse to eat chocolate...yum yum.

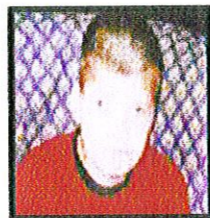
Deirdre is working very well in the activation unit and the pupils love her. Jason, Suzanne and Peter attend weekly.

In February 2009 we celebrated Peter's Birthday and we have Anne's Birthday in May. A big party is planned.

Congratulations to Justyna on the birth of her beautiful baby girl.

Remembering Andy

In November 2008 we lost Andy very suddenly, his untimely death has left a void in the room, but we know he is watching us from afar. We remember and miss him very much. We wish to thank all who supported us here in the C.D.R.



PRE-SCHOOL NEWS TYPED BY JOHN POWER



We have been busy in the pre-school since returning from our Christmas break.

We have welcomed new children to our group.

We are all looking forward to the fine weather returning so we can get out in the garden and start sowing our flowers as well as getting out to play in our lovely playground.

We would like to congratulate Justyna and her husband Martin on the birth of their baby daughter Lilly.

We in the pre-school have been enjoying group sessions on Wednesdays with the occupation therapist Denise.

We would like to wish our student Michelle who is studying early childhood education all the best in her future as her time in the pre-school is coming to an end ,we would like to say thanks and hope our paths meet again in the future.



ALL THE NEWS FROM BELFORD & B.C.G. TYPED BY PAUL HOULIHAN



Since we returned from the Christmas holidays we have celebrated Keara's and Jims birthdays.

We welcome back David Reck and congratulated him on passing his exams.

There has been a busy social calendar in Belford House with the Able Disabled Cabaret in the Riverbank, High School Musical in the Presentation School and even some were celebrating in the St Patrick's day parade.

Paddy Meyler was the lucky winner of a four course meal cooked in your home by chef Jimmy Barry at the Cabaret and everyone enjoyed the meal and would like to thank him for his attention to detail.

In B.C.G. Mamie celebrated her birthday recently. And we have had a few great nights out at the "Tops" in Taghmon.

HAPPY EASTER

DUN RI NEWS TYPED BY JIMMY KELLY



First of all we would like to welcome our three new service users who have all settled in well to Dun Ri over the past few months Jim, Geraldine and William. We now have ten service users attending Dun Ri.

We are now in the 3rd week of our Exercise programme at Dun Ri.

ACTION FROM ACTIVATION BY JOSEPH AND GLENN



Since Christmas and the success of the Panto, our Christmas dinner and our party in the Gaelic Bar we have been settling into the new year well.

Since the last issue we had a very successful respite break in Meath everyone who travelled had a ball. As usual we saw all the sights and danced the nights away.

We welcomed Yvonne back at the beginning of the new year by now she is well settled back in.

So far this year we have been working hard on our art projects for Valentines day, Paddy's day and Easter. We also had a very successful parade around the centre to mark the feast day of our patron saint.



Snow Day In Belford House

We all enjoyed Ireland's recent success in the Six Nations rugby tournament and did a computer project to coincide with the tournament.

We have been working very hard at our art lately too, and our works can be seen throughout the centre.

We have been enjoying our weekly exercise classes in Dun Ri and thank Mary and the gang for their hospitality.

We are looking forward to the summer months now so we can get out on lots of day trips.

Happy Easter to all.



The lovely new Mural at Dun Ri

We have a class every Wednesday morning which is also attended by members of the Activation Unit. Patrick Dobbs is our fitness instructor for these classes and he has proven to be a big hit with all who attend the class especially the ladies.

We would like to thank Samantha our social care student who has been with us on placement for past few weeks, she will be with us until the end of April, she has done great work while she has been here including a mural for our multi sensory room.

We had two birthdays this month in Dun Ri. Mamie and Mary Hunt celebrated birthdays within days of each other.

Well done to Mary, Bernie, John Foley and everyone else who helped make the recent Coffee Morning and Cake Sale in the Forge Crossabeg such a great success.

