

Santa's Prayer on Christmas Eve

The sleigh was all packed, the reindeer were fed,
 But Santa still knelt by the side of the bed.
 "Dear father," he prayed "Be with me tonight."
 There's much work to do and my schedule is tight.
 I must jump in my sleigh and streak through the sky,
 Knowing full well that a reindeer can't fly.
 I will visit each household before the first light,
 I'll cover the world and all in one night.
 With sleigh bells a-ringing, I'll land on each roof,
 Amid the soft clatter of each little hoof.
 To get in the house is the difficult part.
 So I'll slide down the chimney of each child's heart.
 My sack will hold toys to grant all their wishes.
 The supply will be endless like the loaves and the fishes.
 I will fill all the stockings and not leave a track.
 I'll eat every cookie that is left for my snack.
 I can do all these things Lord, only through you,
 I just need your blessing, then it's easy to do.
 All this to honour the birth of the one,
 That was sent to redeem us, Your most Holy Son.
 So to all of my friends, least your glory I rob,
 Please Lord, remind them who gave me this job.

Typed by - Eleanor O'Dowd.



ACTIVATION NEWS

We have been very busy this term preparing for the Craft Fair and we wish to thank everyone for their continued support of this event.

We were all very saddened at the untimely death of Carol Browne's brother Jim. We extend our sympathy to Carol and all the family.

We wish to say a big thank you to Nuala and all the kitchen staff for the lovely Christmas dinner we all enjoyed last Tuesday.

Big congratulations go out to Lesley, Glen and John Power who came first, second and third in The Credit Union art Competition.

Other great art work has been displayed on the tea-towels that were sent out, these are really beautiful and are still available from the centre.

We also really enjoyed visiting all the art exhibitions around town during the festival. They must be the inspiration for all our artists in the centre!

We wish Joseph Murphy a speedy recovery hope to see you soon.

We want to invite everyone to join us in The Gaelic Bar on Thursday 18th of December at 4.30pm for the Activation Christmas Party. We look forward to seeing you there.

Finally we would like to thank you all for your continued support throughout the past year, and to wish you all a very Merry Christmas. and a happy and holy New Year.



ARD AOIBHINN OBSERVER CHRISTMAS 2003



Thanks again to all our fund-raisers:

Clonard Parish Concert - 2,000 euro.

Table Quiz Westgate - 177 euro.

Cumann Tithiochta - 2,156 euro.

C&D Providers - 5,000 euro.

Xmas cards - 659 euro so far.

St. John of God - 100 euro.

Trax Sound and lighting - 15 euro tin on counter.

Wexford Co. Council cake raffle - 80 euro.

We apologise if we have omitted anyone from the above list and thank everyone who supports Ard Aoibhinn in any way.

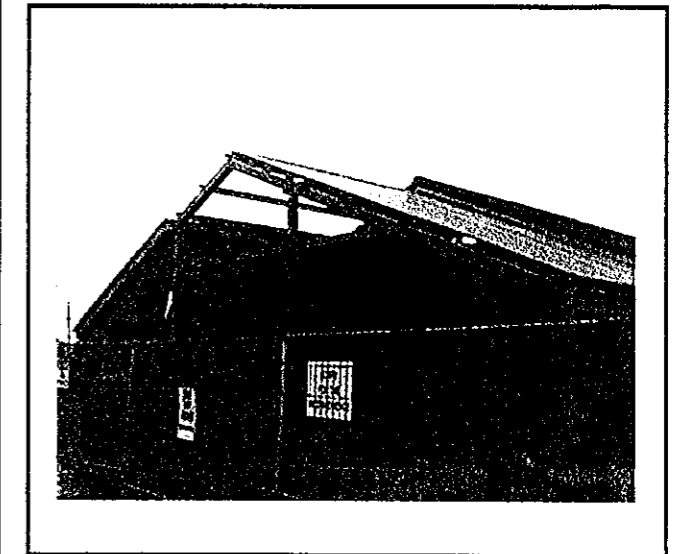


The new structure at the front of the centre is the long awaited rain canopy to protect our service users and staff in inclement weather. This canopy was in the original plan for the centre before it opened in 1995.

The structure to the left of the canopy is to provide space for the management of the services in a manner appropriate to the dignity and respect due to service users, their families and staff.

This project is being funded from the Parents and Friends of Ard Aoibhinn Donations received over the past five years. This fund was given a huge boost and kick-start by the Senator Windows Program Golf Classics held in May 2002 which raised over 36,000 euro and the sponsored handball marathons and cabaret held

FACELIFT TO FRONT OF ARD AOIBHINN



Cover story: The new canopy and office.

in July/August 2002/2003 which brought in 11,231 euro and 11,326 euro towards the whole project.

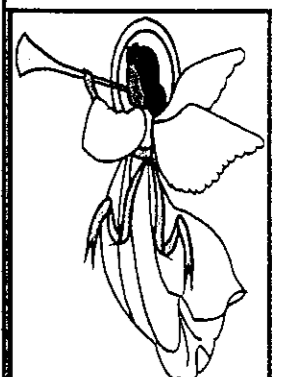
Many thanks to all those who sent contributions and donations and support us in any-

way, we really appreciate it very much.

The future plans include a respite house, more space for Activation and the Adult day-room and a day service at Belford House.



MERRY
CHRISTMAS
ONE AND ALL
FROM ALL AT
ARD AOIBHINN



CLASSROOM NEWS

JIMMY KELLY

Hello again to you all. We hope you all had a good term and that you are looking forward to Christmas. We have had two birthdays since the beginning of term both Jason and Suzanne celebrated their birthday in September and on the same day as well! We made big cards for both of them and had a cake in the day room with everyone present.

Adam and Jimmy celebrated their birthdays during The summer holiday s and Andy will celebrate his birthday this weekend we would like to wish them all a happy birthday .

We have been doing lots of painting this term and we have been looking at Autumn colours in the garden and around

the Centre. We now have three large trees in the dayroom covered with apples, leaves and conkers, and we even had pumpkins around them during Halloween.

We will soon be covering them in Christmas decorations Come in and have a look if you haven't already.

We have been working very hard with our switches and Big Macks and are hoping to combine all our skills to perform in front of everyone in the centre before Christmas an invite will be coming out soon. Watch this space!

As this will be the last Newsletter before Christmas we would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

We would like to send special best wishes to Pamela and Catherine who have been off school recently we hope to have them back real soon.

RESPIRE BREAK IN KILKENNY

Our annual respite break took us to Kilkenny this year. We went in September and had a wonderful time.

We stayed in The Springhill Court Hotel and found this a really nice hotel with lovely rooms and very friendly and helpful staff. We got great use out of the recently built swimming pool and leisure centre. and really enjoyed our evenings in the hotel bar where we danced the nights away. The food was also lovely and overall the hotel was a great choice.

This year we brought the Ard Aoibhinn bus with us. and found this a great assist as during the days we could go out on

day trips all over Kilkenny and Carlow. We visited many tourist attractions including Kilkenny Castle. Nore Valley Open Farm. Dunmore Caves. Tullow Castle and much more. We also went to Carlow one day where we went bowling. And another day went shopping and to the cinema.

A great holiday was had by all who travelled this year. the travelling party was - Shane O'Brien. Paul and Stephen Houlihan. Glen Connick, John Sinnot, Carol Browne, Eleanor O'Dowd. Eileen Roche, Bridget Keane, Therese Cleary, Kathleen Maher, Mary Finnegin, Brendan Mac Aleer and Tom O'Leary.



PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

Firstly we would like to welcome Aaron and Rachel to the Pre - School.



All the children are being very good waiting for Santa.

He visits the centre on Thursday the 18th of December and we look forward to seeing you all that day.

We would like to thank Kay for all the work she has done with us over the last term and we hope to have her with us long into the new year.

We would also like to say thank you again for our lovely play ground. On these cold winter mornings we look forward to the Summer months and getting back out there to play.

Finally we would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas.



The above picture is Eleanor and Paul on an open farm in Kilkenny on respite break this year.

On the opposite page we see John, Stephen and Carol on respite break in Kilkenny last September.

NEWS FROM THE ADULT DAY-ROOM

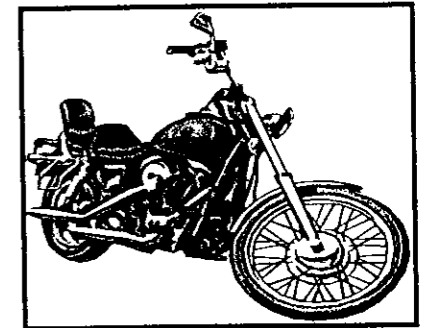
We would like to wish Claire a speedy recovery after a recent illness. Hope she is back with us soon.

Happy Birthday to Chrissie on Christmas eve 24th.

Belated Birthday wishes to Sylvia whose big day was on December 4th.

A big thank you to Nena and Michelle for all their hard work.

And Congratulations to Nena on her new wheels. "Beware of Florence Nightingale on local streets". Hope Santa brings you a Harley Davidson next year!



Finally we want to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Picture is of John and Shane with some of the birdhouses they made.

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

Special congratulations to Johnny and the boys on winning the world cup. Although it should have been Ireland!



Get well wishes to our two mothers to be Catherine and Pamela.

Happy Birthday to Andy who was 17 on the 6th of December.

And Happy Christmas every body.

