

## BIGHEARTED BUNCH

This October marked the tenth anniversary of the Bighearted Scotland Awards at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Glasgow and what an action-packed night it was! Bighearted Scotland is a consortium of six charities that work together to raise much-needed funds for each of their causes. The six charities include Momentum, CLIC Sargent, Penumbra, Epilepsy Scotland, Scottish Native Woods and Alcohol Focus Scotland.

There were tears and cheers as the winners were announced by TV presenters Kaye Adams and Stephen Jardine. Unsung heroes from across the country were presented with their awards by Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon MSP. The Awards, sponsored by *The Scottish Sun*, recognised people from eight categories: Carer of the Year, Charity Volunteer of the Year, Child of the Year, Sports Hero of the Year, Business Person of the Year, Social Entrepreneur of the Year, Entertainer of the Year and a Lifetime Award. Guests including Miss Scotland and Scottish comedian Fred MacAulay were entertained by burlesque dancers The Kennedy Cupcakes and jazz singer Mary Gaze.

Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon MSP told the audience, "It is, as always, an honour to be here and meet everyone. Everyone who has been nominated for an award is a winner and it's been a great night."

David Dinsmore, General Manager of News International in Scotland, said, "Scotland is famous for its caring attitude and community spirit. News International and *The Scottish Sun* are proud to be associated with these awards and the ethos that lies behind them. We salute everyone who has entered and who has helped keep Scotland's big heart beating."



**Pictured: Bighearted Scotland Award winners with (back row, far left) Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon MSP and (back row, third from left) TV presenters Kaye Adams and (back row, third from right) Stephen Jardine.**



**(Left to right): Mary Byrne being presented with a gift by Alice Jackman of RehabCare.**

## RehabCare Gets the X Factor

There was a lot of excitement in RehabCare in Bray recently when *X Factor* Irish sensation Mary Byrne dropped in for a cuppa and a song during their recent fundraising coffee morning and open day for 1 Day for Rehab. It was standing room only in the resource centre as everyone queued to meet the singing star. Mary, who is the new face of RehabBingo.com across Ireland and the UK, was a great hit with everyone, signing autographs, posing for pictures and even leading the singsong of a few old-time classics! Mary was treated to a very special performance of "Edelweiss" through sign-language, which had the *X Factor* star close to tears. Mary said she was delighted to meet "the wonderful people who attend the centre, their families and the staff members and to play a small part in helping to raise funds for local services".

The new RehabBingo.com campaign will see Mary feature on all their promotional material, with a particular focus on the UK where a new site has just been launched, so participants can now play in British sterling. John McGuire, Rehab's Director of Fundraising, is delighted that Mary Byrne is the new face of RehabBingo.com as he believes that "Mary represents a great fit with our customers, who see in her how ordinary people can become winners overnight."

## The Friends of Rehab Society

The AGM of the Friends of Rehab Society will be held on Wednesday, 22 February 2012, at 12.30pm in Rehab's offices at Roslyn Park, Sandymount, Dublin 4 and is open to all members of the society. The Friends of Rehab Society was

established to support the achievement of the objectives of the Rehab Group through volunteering and fundraising.

**For further information, contact Kate Ryan on 00 353 1 210 0520 or by email at [kate.ryan@rehab.ie](mailto:kate.ryan@rehab.ie)**



## Winners

October 2011

### €5,000 HOLIDAY VOUCHER

D. Morrisey M. Roche, Co. Cork

### 10 X €250 CASH

Ivan Barlow, Co. Tipperary  
 Patricia Hynes, Co. Carlow  
 John Brazil, Co. Kildare  
 Mark Meehan, Dublin 7  
 Anthony Walsh, Co. Waterford  
 Brenda O'Callaghan, Co. Cork  
 Liz Jevens, Co. Wexford  
 Aileen Kiely, Co. Cork  
 Deirdre Moore, Co. Kerry  
 Lorcan Bergin, Co. Kilkenny

September 2011

### MITSUBISHI COLT

Marie Tiernan, Castlebar, Co. Mayo

### 10 X €250 CASH

Margaret Mary Reddington, Co. Mayo  
 Seamus McIntyre, Co. Donegal  
 Vincent Glynn, Co. Mayo  
 Kieth Boyle, Dublin 8  
 TJ Cleary, Co. Galway  
 Barry McElhone, Dublin 7  
 Patrick O'Brian, Co. Cork  
 Brian Delaney, Co. Laois  
 Annie Harten, Co. Cavan  
 Gabrielle Macken, Co. Laois

August 2011

### €5,000 SHOPPING SPREE

Frank Dermody, Co. Mayo

### 10 X €250 CASH

Dorothy Dalington, Co. Mayo  
 Michael Halpin, Co. Kerry  
 Keith Kelly, Co. Cork  
 Owen Kavanagh, Co. Donegal  
 Matt Browne, Co. Kildare  
 Jim Crowley, Co. Cork  
 Mary Walton, Co. Kilkenny  
 Michael McNamara, Co. Mayo  
 Sheila Curran, Co. Waterford  
 Bernadette Curran, Co. Waterford  
 Mike Cairney, Co. Cork

July 2011

### MITSUBISHI COLT

Mary Kelly, Co. Galway

### 10 X €200 CASH

Mary McHugh, Co. Mayo  
 Michael Halpin, Co. Kerry  
 Bernadette Mahony, Co. Laois  
 Pat Carolan, Co. Cork  
 Eileen Curley, Co. Kildare  
 Michael & Michelle Buckley,  
 Co. Tipperary  
 Sandra Gardniner, Co. Galway  
 Thomas Lawton, Co. Offaly  
 John Mooney, Co. Clare  
 Anne Bambrick, Co. Kilkenny

## Bosco a Big Hit at Waterways Adventure!



Holly Cahill gives Bosco a kiss at "Unlock the Adventure at Lough Boora".

Bosco stole the show for young and old at the "Unlock the Adventure at Lough Boora" event in June this year. The Rehab Waterways Adventure, in association with Bord na Móna, held at Lough Boora Parklands in Co. Offaly, had two live performances from everyone's favourite puppet. His show was the highlight of the day. Young children were enthralled while the adults relived fond childhood memories of the magic door. Bosco, the cheeky red-haired puppet, rose to fame in the 1970s and 1980s with his pre-school educational children's programme on RTÉ television.

Bosco was only one of many attractions with guided bike tours, face painting, treasure hunts, arts and crafts, colouring competitions, zorbing, kite flying and live music. The Great Dragonfly Hunt, which was specially created for the event, attracted lots of attention as children were invited to help rescue the (pretend) baby dragonflies before the evil hunters caught them!

Now in its second year, the Rehab Waterways Adventure saw the heritage boat *Nieuwe Zorgen*, under

the guidance of captain Eric Kemp, set sail for four weeks visiting towns and villages throughout the midlands of Ireland – including Kilcock, Mullingar and Athlone town – on an awareness-raising and fundraising adventure for Rehab. Those who attended "Unlock the Adventure at Lough Boora" were lucky enough to be able to go on board and explore the boat. With dragonflies, famous puppets, heritage boats and lots of entertainment, the Rehab Waterways Adventure was a great success!



Brooke Carr and Naoise Byrne (both aged six), from senior infants class at St Patrick's Girls National School in Ringsend, pictured with Bluebell Dragonfly at the launch of the 2011 Waterways Adventure.



RTÉ presenters Sinead Kennedy and Paul Walsh, pictured at the launch of the inaugural HeadsUp Movie Awards.

## And the HeadsUp Movie Award Goes to...



HeadsUp, Rehab's mental health promotion project, has been scouring the length and breadth of the country seeking budding Martin Scorseses, Steven Spielbergs, Walt Disneys and Quentin Tarantinos, in an exciting new initiative to focus people's attention on mental health issues by the making of mini-movies for the HeadsUp Movie Awards.

The HeadsUp Movie Awards, which are supported by RTÉ Two's *Two Tube* and the National Office for Suicide Prevention, will provide some lucky up-and-coming film-makers/animators with the chance to showcase their talents on television as well as offer a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to shadow a leading film-maker or animator for a day. And that's not to forget a whopping cash prize of €2,500 for the winners of each of the two categories of under 18 and over 18 years.

Among the judging panel for the Awards are Kirsten Sheridan, film-maker with *The Factory*, Nicky Phelan of Oscar-nominated *Brown Bag Films* and Sheila de Courcy, Commissioning Editor, RTÉ Young People's Programmes. Kirsten said, "Mental health is one of the taboo subjects in Ireland, and the more that we can create a dialogue about it, the less people will feel alone, and that's paramount. Being as loud as

possible about these things is the only way forward. What I will be looking for from entries is honesty, as I feel this is at the heart of storytelling. For me, the more human and personal the story is, the more likely it is to connect with people, and honesty is what always connects. I want people to stamp their own personality and their own uniqueness on the entries."

One in four people in Ireland will experience a mental health problem at some point in their life. Collette Ryan, HeadsUp Project Manager, added, "There can be significant stigma associated with discussing mental health issues and all too often this can impact on a person's willingness to seek help. The aim of these Awards is to get our creative juices flowing in challenging stigma and negative attitudes and in developing more open and receptive attitudes and a better understanding of the issues surrounding mental health and well-being."

Who knows but the next stop for the winners of the HeadsUp Movie Awards could be Hollywood! For the latest updates on the Awards, log onto [www.headsup.ie/movieawards](http://www.headsup.ie/movieawards). Winners will be revealed on [www.headsup.ie](http://www.headsup.ie) and on RTÉ Two's *Two Tube* in late December.



Pictured (left to right): Brian McCracken, Letterkenny Shopping Centre; Daniel O'Donnell; Aidan Campbell, Finn Harps; Michael Carty, Rehab; Dessie Tinney, Letterkenny Shopping Centre.

## DANIEL SUPPORTS DONEGAL CD

Donegal's favourite son, Daniel O'Donnell, has lent his support to the *Harps of Donegal* CD, a joint fundraising initiative between Rehab services in Donegal and Finn Harps FC. Daniel said he was delighted to support both groups and praised organisers of the "home-grown" CD. A fantastic night of music and entertainment was had by all at the official launch of the 13-track CD in Balor Theatre, Ballybofey in early August. Many of the artists on the album performed live on the night and were interviewed on stage by the always-entertaining Noel Cunningham of TV3 fame. In fact, with all the local stars on show, it really was like "Las Vegas in the Hills of Donegal", for one night only!

The new Finn Harps Anthem — the album's feature track — was released for the first time at the launch. The song, which received the biggest cheer of the night, was produced by Terry McGinty of Valley Studios and is a cover of the famous Blue Glows number. The newly-released song features Pat Gallagher on vocals with contributions from Moya Brennan and GAA commentator Jimmy McGee, amongst others. Other artists on the CD include Altan, Goats Don't Shave, Clannad, Mickey Harte and The Henry Girls. The *Harps of Donegal* CD can be purchased online on [www.finnharps.com](http://www.finnharps.com) or by phone on 00 353 1 2100 520 (€10 + €2.95 P&P worldwide).

## DOG HERO VISITS CHASELEY

A stray dog which saved the lives of British troops in Afghanistan made a special visit to The Chaseley Trust in Eastbourne in August. Brin, a brave Afghan hound, alerted soldiers who were working on a road in Helmand to a bomb device when he started barking at a mound of stones. The soldiers brought Brin back to their base, where he started to accompany them on patrols throughout the area, barking at anything suspicious.

With Brin's help, soldiers were able to avoid explosive devices and, in some instances, destroy them. One day during an attack by the

Taliban, soldiers had to be airlifted by helicopter to safety, but Brin was left behind. The Taliban took Brin hostage, thinking he was trained by the army.

Thankfully, Brin was rescued by Afghan soldiers and handed over to Captain Mark Townsend of the Gurkha Rifles. But Brin's new regiment was due to leave Afghanistan and they didn't want to go home without him.

Luckily, Sally Baldwin, a schoolteacher from Hailsham, England, who read Brin's story on the internet, launched a campaign to bring Brin back to the UK. Eventually he made it to the UK where he was adopted by Sally. But Brin's days of

helping people are not over. He now works for Canine Concern, a charity that undertakes therapeutic visits to nursing homes, hospices and hospitals. Brin's first visit with the charity was to The Chaseley Trust.



Pictured (left to right): Chaseley resident Bill Dempsey, Barbara Gasson from Canine Concern, Brin's new owner Sally Baldwin and Chaseley resident Katrina Davis.

## Fabulous New Facilities For Red Hill School

This school year has already been a historic one for the staff and pupils of the Red Hill School in Limerick. Having spent the last three years in prefabricated buildings, they took the significant step of moving from those temporary facilities into a purpose-built, temporary state-of-the-art school.

The school's principal, Bernie O'Connor, outlines how the move has allowed a number of new children to enrol and take advantage of the school's impressive new facilities. "We went from 14 pupils to 42. Since then our numbers have increased to 45. We presently have five pre-school children waiting for placement. We had three teachers and eight and a half SNA's before we moved into the new school in September and we now have eight teaching staff and 16 classroom assistants."

Initially the school was located in Red House on Rehab's Red Hill site in Limerick. The school then moved into temporary prefabricated accommodation in 2008, and on 15 September this year completed its transition to its new and impressively-

furnished, temporary building.

These new pupils will experience the benefits of the school's modern facilities: "The building has ten classrooms. We have a big PE hall, a resource room, which incorporates a boardroom and a teacher's planning room. We also have a library, a staff room, offices and a reception, which we didn't have before. The outdoor play area is extensive and it's all soft play."

Thankfully the move from one school to another was not too much for the pupils who experienced the transfer. "The 14 children we had in the prefabs transferred over to the new school and the transition, which was done on a phased basis over a week, went well. Most of the children over the age of seven who enrolled on the first day of term this year would have been in mainstream school but wouldn't have been able to cope there and all of them have settled in very well too."

The facilities allow the school to fully provide for pupils with various disabilities. "For the children to become enrolled in the school they have to have a confirmed diagnosis of ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder). They may have a

learning disability, which can range from severe or profound to moderate or mild. We have children with above average ability who would be classed as gifted. We also have children enrolled with ODD (Obsessive Defiance Disorder), and ADHD (Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder)."

Red Hill School has now completed the transition from its temporary facility to its plush new home but the work for Bernie O'Connor and the rest of the staff is not yet done: "We are in the process of setting up three sensory rooms. It has been hectic - we are still getting funding for different areas in the school but we'll keep trying."

It seems the promise of the present will continue into the future at the Red Hill School.

Elaine Benson Ryan, Deputy Principal, with pupil Tadhg McLoughlin.



# Photo Journey

Access2 learners from National Learning Network in Bray, Co. Wicklow recently organised a photography exhibition, which received exceptionally high praise from local residents and town officials. The group sourced a number of old photographs of Bray town from various photographic collections, including the Lawrence Collection from the 1890s and old postcards from the 1950s and 60s. Working with advice from local photographer David Drysdale and instructors John McCarthy and Shay Hiney, the learners returned to the place where the original photographs were taken and recreated the shots as they look today.

Having developed the new images, the old and new photographs were mounted side by side and framed. A total of 18 pieces formed the exhibition, which the learners called "Bray Then and Now".

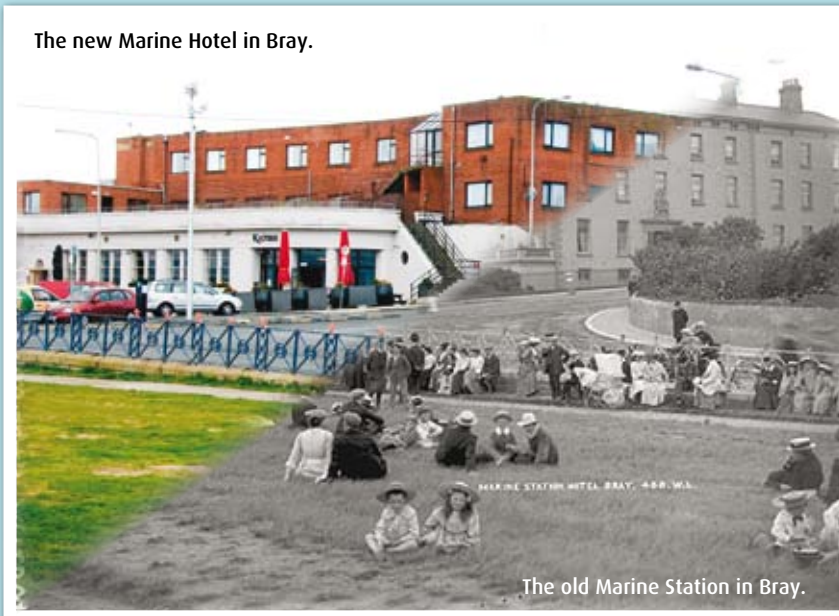
The photographs were first displayed at the Community Art Exhibition in July as part of Bray Summerfest. The exhibition also

featured in a double-page spread in the local *Bray People* newspaper. The learners were also invited to exhibit their photographs in the local library for six weeks.

The exhibition received great feedback as locals reminisced about Bray as it looked in the past and the changes that had occurred in the architecture, dress, traffic and

atmosphere of the town. The photographs by Cillian Boushel, Patrick McDonagh, Yvonne Watchorn, Paul Condron, Amie Finnegan, Stefan Bourke, Suzanne Barrett, Alice Connolly, Laura Bradshaw, Dean McKeever and Ben Moran are now on display in National Learning Network in Bray.

The new Marine Hotel in Bray.



The old Marine Station in Bray.

## New Life for Old Shoes!

Rehab Recycle is giving new life to old shoes with its new shoe-recycling programme. Have you ever wondered what to do with your beloved old shoes, lying neglected under the bed, never to be worn again? Well, now they can have a new lease of life, as Rehab Recycle has teamed up with Navan-based company Sean Bróga to provide a shoe-recycling service. What began as a pilot programme in three Meath towns has now spread to 18 counties across the country, with the general public being invited to bring their old shoes to shoe shops and shoe banks for recycling.

Richard Jordan, Manager, Rehab Recycle, said, "Shoe recycling is

an innovative new venture for us at Rehab Recycle. Shoes can often be thrown away, as people may not realise their potential for reuse or recycling. Now they do and we can give new life to their old shoes!"

Shoes collected under this new scheme will either be repaired, if necessary, for re-sale and re-use in developing countries, or their component parts will be recycled. This programme is the brainchild of Brendan Kiernan, a well-known local shoe retailer in Co. Meath and Managing Director of Sean Bróga. He is enthusiastic about the partnership. "This is a really exciting development for the Irish shoe sector, and the chance to offer people an alternative to

sending their old shoes to landfill is good for the environment and good for the shoe industry."

Check out [www.seanbroga.ie](http://www.seanbroga.ie) for a list of collection points, with more opening up every month.





## STRADAVOHER SOD-TURNING

Bright and early on a damp Monday morning in July, Declan Ryan stood with shovel in hand and, with the help of Cllr Micheál Lowry, Mayor of North Tipperary, turned the first sod on the site of the new RehabCare development in Thurles, Co. Tipperary. Declan has used the RehabCare services in Thurles for many years and he was very proud to be part of the sod-turning ceremony. He spoke of how much he was looking forward to seeing the new facilities, which will include a variety of supported and independent living housing units and apartments, as well as a day service for up to 20 adults with autism and intellectual disabilities from the North Tipperary region.

Resplendent in hard hats and high-vis jackets, those who attended all strove to imagine how the field, in just a year's time, would be transformed into a state-of-the-art facility with homes and services for so many people. The development will be constructed in association with Newgrove Housing Association with support from North Tipperary County Council, HSE MidWest and the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. Declan, for one, can't wait for it to open. Don't forget to invite *Rehab News* to the opening!



Pictured at the turning of the sod of the new RehabCare development in Stradavoher, Thurles, Co. Tipperary in association with Newgrove Housing Association are Cllr Micheál Lowry, Mayor of North Tipperary and Declan Ryan, service user, RehabCare Thurles (centre, holding shovels), along with staff of RehabCare and other stakeholders involved in the project.

## Rehab's Training Services Win Major Accolade

Rehab's training services, delivered by National Learning Network, have become the first in Ireland to be awarded the prestigious EQUASS Excellence Award, and the first in Europe to receive it for 100 per cent of services.

EQUASS, or the European Quality in Social Services Excellence award, is a European quality award for organisations providing social services, and is used as a reference for social services legislation in several European countries.

According to Angela Kerins, Rehab Group's Chief Executive, "A number of European states, such as Norway, Germany, Portugal, Estonia and Slovenia, have adopted EQUASS as one of the approved standards for disability services. The assessments involved external audit and benchmarking with site visits by independent and qualified international assessors. These international assessors also interviewed people who use the services, staff members and managers, and gave immensely positive feedback on the quality of services which they found."

EQUASS sets out a framework for social services that are person-centred with an approach that focuses on quality, excellence and best practice, and organisations receiving EQUASS Excellence can be considered centres of excellence.

Marie Kelly, Director, National Learning Network, heralded the development as an outstanding achievement for all staff and a testament to the quality of service provided. Speaking to *Rehab News*, she said, "We

know that our services are second to none, because over 90 per cent of people who complete training with us progress on to jobs, further education or employment, but this independent acknowledgement of excellence is an immense achievement, of which we are extremely proud."

In a separate development, RehabCare has been awarded the EQUASS Assurance Award. Margaret Gillard, Director, RehabCare, said, "RehabCare is known across Ireland by our clients and their families for the high quality of our services and our commitment to quality. In all of our services, staff are dedicated to building the service around individuals' needs and supporting each person to achieve their full potential."

Commending Rehab on its achievement, Jan Spooren, Manager of EQUASS, added, "Rehab's services are known throughout Europe for their quality and innovation. The standard involved in an EQUASS award is very high, and requires organisations to have extremely well-developed services, processes and a focus on person-centred, quality services and empowerment of both staff and service users. The scale of the assessment undertaken in Rehab's services – across such a large number of sites – is a first in EQUASS history."



# Minister Visits JobFit

Chris Grayling, Minister for Employment at the Department for Work and Pensions, recently visited Rehab Jobfit's delivery of the Work Programme at the Salvation Army Employment Plus premises in Bristol where he met unemployed participants and the staff working to help them to get sustainable employment.



Chris Grayling, Minister of State at the Department for Work and Pensions, on a recent visit to the Salvation Army Employment Plus premises in Bristol, one of Rehab Jobfit's subcontractors for delivery of the Work Programme.

JobFit is a sector-led partnership delivering the Government's Work Programme across Wales and South West England. Delivering employment services on behalf of JobFit, Salvation Army Employment Plus works with long-term unemployed people, providing a tailored package of support, training, qualifications and advice to help people find a job.

Speaking about the Work Programme, Minister Chris Grayling said, "I am really impressed with the positive attitude of jobseekers I met at The Salvation Army. It shows that the new Work Programme is starting to have a positive impact on the employment prospects of thousands across the region. The new Work Programme is revolutionary in the way it tailors support to jobseekers' needs and pays organisations primarily for getting people into sustained

employment. People on out-of-work benefits who have previously been shunted from dole queue to training room to dole queue again will now finally be able to access tailored support."

The Minister met with customers at the centre, including 19-year-old Owen Slaughter who told the Minister of his frustration in finding work. Owen said, "After leaving college I thought getting a job would be easy but it's been so frustrating as I haven't ever had a job and so have no experience - which is what all employers want. At the moment I'd happily work for free just to show I've done something and put it on my CV. It's boring not having a job and I have nothing to do during the day. They [Salvation Army Employment Plus] have been helping me a lot. I've just been to an interview at a call centre and I'm waiting to

hear back."

Local employers were also at the centre and spoke of challenging times, and how they're working with staff at the centre to provide "local work for local people". Lynn Coutts, Salvation Army Employment Plus Contracts and Operations Manager, said, "We've seen around 700 unemployed people come through our doors since June from a variety of backgrounds; some customers are work-ready and others need support to increase their skills, identify ways to overcome their barriers and general help with increasing their confidence, skills base, job search and gaining employment. Sustainment is key to the success of this programme and supporting customers in this way will not only find them jobs, but will ensure sustainability."

## SPOTLIGHT ON B'DWE – JOBFIT subcontractor providing placement opportunities to mandatory work activity participants

B'DWE, a company working with enterprises in the developing world, diverts around 10 tonnes of unwanted goods every week from landfill; items that can't really be resold in the UK but can be reused elsewhere. Anything from toys or clothes to appliances and furniture, B'DWE takes, packs, and sends to developing economies like Zambia, Kenya and Pakistan. The goal is to help fuel the local economy; by providing goods to local businesses in these countries, employment is created, goods are resold at an affordable price and the local community benefits.

B'DWE creates viable and sustainable jobs for the community and long-term unemployed at its headquarters in Bristol, where it sorts, sells and dispatches unwanted goods. Working with its JobFit delivery partner, Pinnacle People, the company has to date provided more than 50 work placement opportunities to Mandatory Work Activity (MWA) participants. Martin Williams was made redundant from his job as an underwriter in 2010 and had been out of work for nearly a year before joining the MWA programme. "I opted into early referral onto the MWA programme

as I hated being unemployed and really wanted to do anything that would help me get back into work. I really enjoyed working at B'DWE, so much so that when my placement time came to an end, I chose to continue volunteering at the centre. A position soon became available. I applied and was successful – I've now been employed for six weeks.

"Being back in work will make a financial difference to my girlfriend and me and our baby, which is due in a few weeks, but the huge difference is mentally having something to get up for in the morning. I've made some great friends and the job's really interesting. MWA is a brilliant scheme for people who really want to get back into work as the support is there for people."

B'DWE Director Alan Cable said, "B'DWE is a brilliant environment for people to come and do something constructive while gaining vital on-the-job experience. We cannot guarantee a job at the end. However we get to see people in action, give them feedback and, if they wish, provide either a reference or speak to prospective employers they have applied to. We certainly gain from the experience, but so do the people on our placements."



Martin Williams, B'DWE employee.



Above: Jean-Paul Essers, EPR Executive Committee member, presents Collette Ryan, Project Manager, HeadsUp, with a cheque for €1,000 as part of the Innovation Prize at the EPR Annual Conference.

## European Award for HeadsUp

HeadsUp, Rehab's mental health promotion project, won the Innovation Prize in the EPR (European Platform for Rehabilitation) annual awards in November. HeadsUp was awarded the prestigious award for its innovative approach and spirit of co-operation and good practice.

The prize, which was launched by the EPR three years ago, aims to stimulate the development of innovation and the dissemination of best practice within the network.

Collette Ryan, Project Manager with HeadsUp was invited to give a presentation on the work of the project to delegates at the EPR Annual Conference 2011, held in Athens, Greece. The conference which brings together EPR members as well as key stakeholders in the sector to discuss and debate new policies, strategies and practices showcasing the role of rehabilitation in an inclusive society, focused on two main issues: the challenges of reintegrating youngsters and the role of human resources in relation to the quality of rehabilitation services.

Collette said, "I was delighted to accept the Innovation Prize on behalf of HeadsUp. It is fantastic that our work has been recognised by such a prestigious organisation. The conference was a great opportunity to spread the word about HeadsUp and to showcase our projects such as [www.headsup.ie](http://www.headsup.ie), our free text support service, HeadsUp Lifeskills training course, ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training), SafeTalk and Raising Boys for Fathers. There was a great response to our innovative use of technology to reach out to those who need our support."

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European platform for rehabilitation

