

BULLETIN board

A whistle-stop tour of what's been happening across the Rehab Group



Reach Award

The Reach group from Balbriggan, part of National Learning Network in Swords, receive a special award from Balbriggan Town Council for their garden refurbishment. Pictured (left to right): Ray Nugent, (Balbriggan Town Council), Michael Lavery, Bernie McDonald, Chris McDonnell, Paul Roche, Margarita Coyle, Ken Byrne, Mary Clare Walsh, Sharon Byrne, Fiona Kavanagh (County Dublin VEC), Grainne Maguire (Cathaoirleach, Balbriggan Town Council).



Fishing Fun

Gerard Denning (standing) and Kenneth Wallace (seated) from RehabCare in Bailieboro, Co. Cavan pictured on a recent fishing trip. Cavan has over 365 lakes, of which some have wheelchair facilities allowing everyone access to fishing by the lake. The group from RehabCare had a great day's fishing and even caught a few fish (which they put back in the water!).



Tea in the ÁRAS

Michael Kelly from National Learning Network in Carrick-on-Shannon has always dreamed of visiting Áras an Uachtaráin. As part of his individual action plan, Michael wrote to President Mary McAleese asking to visit, before the Presidential election. He was delighted to receive a reply with an invitation for him and seven others to attend a garden party. Michael and his friends from the New Voyages group in NLN had a fantastic time in the home of our President. Pictured (left to right): Fiona Mitchell, Colleen Keenan, Michael Kelly, Senator Martin McAleese, President Mary McAleese, Louise Farrelly, Conor McHugh, Emmet Daly and Elayne O'Hara.



All-Ireland Visit

People who attend RehabCare and National Learning Network in Kilkenny pictured with the Liam McCarthy Cup, won by the All-Ireland winning Kilkenny Senior Hurling team. Members of the team Richie Power (*back row, second from left*), Tommy Welsh (*back row, far right*) and Michael Fennelly (*missing from picture*) recently visited the RehabCare centre in Regent House where they met with those who attend Rehab's services locally. They took part in a general knowledge quiz and then answered lots of questions on hurling from the audience!

Facing our fears

Marion O'Mahony was nervous about using public transport and so her instructor at NLN in Model Farm Road, Cork City arranged for a Bus Éireann bus to come to the centre where Marion could practise getting on and off. Pictured is Marion (*centre*) with fellow student Amiee O'Riordan, (*left*) using the ramp to safely board the bus and and Bus Éireann Inspector Derry O'Connor.



Soccer Success

A soccer team from National Learning Network's Roslyn Park College won the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) Football for All League held in Templeogue Football Club, Dublin in June 2011. Pictured (*back row, left to right*): Johnathon Loogan, Troy Tilly and Wayne Carrig; (*front row, left to right*): Sean Collins, Damien O'Toole and Stephen Gannon.



Chaseley Chase

The inaugural Chaseley Chase took place along Eastbourne's seafront on Sunday, 9 September. The event, which raises funds for The Chaseley Trust, started with an initial battery of rain and hail but soon the clouds lifted and the sun came out, allowing everyone to have an enjoyable day. Sponsorship monies donated so far have exceeded £4,000. Pictured: The Blaze 'n' Blisters team – Chaiseley Resident Katrina Davis (*front*) with former staff member Graham Payne, his wife Maureen and Blaze the dog.



Cinderella's Celebrity Garden Party

In July RehabCare in Carlow put on a production of *Cinderella's Celebrity Garden Party*, written and produced by FÁS C.E. supervisor Mary Brennan, with over 200 family members and friends attending over two nights. Among the guests at Cinderella's party were the Gummy Bears, Garth Brooks, Abba, Jedward, Michael Flatley and even Elvis! Pictured: Service users, staff, FÁS careworkers and volunteers who all took part in the drama.

Gym Fun

Gym Instructor David Monaghan (*left*) and Activate Gym user Eddie Kidd (*right*) pictured at a recent open day at Activate Gym, a fully wheelchair accessible gym facility run by The Chaseley Trust at its centre in South Cliff, Eastbourne. Many potential new members took the opportunity to try out the specialised equipment suitable for wheelchair users or those with restricted mobility such as assisted pedals, a cross trainer and a multi gym for upper limb strengthening.



Heineken Cup

People attending RehabCare in Ballyfermot were thrilled to get the opportunity to see an open training session with the Leinster Rugby Team following their 2011 Heineken Cup Final victory. They all got to see the famous Cup up close and even met the team after training. Pictured (*left to right*): Amanda Finnegan, Sean Cleary, Lorraine Windsor, Mark Halpin and Thomas Devlin.

Minister Visits Roslyn Park

Lucinda Creighton TD, Minister of State (*centre*) with Tony Byrne, Catering Instructor (*right*), Cllr Kieran Binchy and Cllr Paddy McCartan (*background*), on a recent visit to National Learning Network's Roslyn Park College in Sandymount, Dublin 4. The Minister was given a tour of the college and had the opportunity to meet with staff and some of the 280 students that attend the facility.



Triathl-ALL

Pictured at National Learning Network Portlaoise's first ever Triathl-ALL in aid of 1 Day for Rehab are Paul John Brennan, Race Co-ordinator; Patrick Scales, Blue Team Captain; Derek McGinn, Green Team Captain; Olivia Maye, Zest Fitness Manager (Killeshin Hotel); Trish Conroy, Yellow Team Captain; Sinead Brophy, Red Team Captain; and Padraic Barret, Race Assistant. Over 70 people took part in a swim, cycle and 3km run to raise money for Rehab.

Tidy Towns 3-in-a-Row

It was 3-in-a-row for RehabCare in Monaghan, which scooped the Community Endeavours Award for the third year running in the Monaghan Tidy Towns for their weekly litter picking as well as floral displays outside the resource centre. Future plans for the group include becoming a Green Community with An Taisce and a member of Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL). Pictured with their award are (*left to right*): Padraig Kelly, Patrick Connolly, Patrick Gilbride and Micheál Hughes.



Rehab Radio Bingo Winner

Congratulations to Pat Fitzpatrick, from Roundwood, Co. Wicklow, who won the Rehab Radio Bingo Jackpot on East Coast FM. He was presented with a cheque for €19,550. Pictured (*left to right*): Paul Bailey, Sales Manager, East Coast FM; Pat Fitzpatrick, Jackpot winner; and Niamh Wade, Rehab Bingo agent.



Rugby World Cup Visit

European Rugby Player of the Year Sean O'Brien was given a rousing send off to the 2011 Rugby World Cup in New Zealand, when he visited the RehabCare resource centre in Graiguecullen in September. Sean took time out of his busy schedule to meet with clients and staff at the centre, posing for photographs, signing autographs and even joining in a game of boccia! Everyone at the centre was delighted to meet their local rugby hero and wished him the best of luck ahead of his trip. Pictured: Sean O'Brien (left) and Eoin Harte.



Gardening Success

The Access Gardening programme in National Learning Network in Tullamore recently won the Environmental Award in their local Tidy Towns Competition. Pictured (back row; left to right): Brian Delaney, Dean Paul Burke, Glen Waters and Martin Carroll. (front row, left to right): Sarah Byrne, Jade O'Brien, Sarah Lonican, Alison Rock, Louise Stone, Kelly Glennon. Missing from photograph: Amber Lee King, Shane Cummins and Jamie Cronin.



Where's Wally?

Joe Fallon, Gabriel Field and Alex Petrie who attend RehabCare's resource

centre in Sligo pictured at the Where's Wally World Record Attempt held in June. Over 3,600 people showed up in Merrion Square in Dublin, wearing striped white and red bobble hats with matching shirts and dark-rimmed glasses. The record attempt, which took place at three locations in Ireland over two weekends, was part of the Street Performance World Championships.



Sligo Ride-out

A group of riders taking part in the inaugural RehabCare fundraising ride-out The Trek, which took place in Union Wood, Co. Sligo in September. The event, which was widely supported by Sligo's equestrian community, was an outstanding success with over 40 riders from different clubs coming together in support of RehabCare. The riders, who all raised money through sponsorship cards, set off from the RehabCare resource centre in Aughamore Far and continued to Union Wood before returning via country lanes and woodland paths to the centre. Following the ride-out, the riders and spectators were treated to a well-earned BBQ hosted by those who attend the centre.