

Bulletin Board



'Celebrity You're a Star' winner and 'Fair City' actor, David Mitchell, joined students from Dominican Convent, Griffith Avenue to launch the annual RehabCare Bear Week last October. The fundraising week, which is sponsored by ESB Customer Supply, aims to raise €1.3 million over three years for the development of RehabCare centre based respite and resource centre services in locations throughout Ireland.



Kevin Gardner, Martin Slevin, Austin Gavin, Ann-Marie Crehan and Gina Reynolds enjoying the sights of Venice on National Learning Network Athlone's trip to Northern Italy last September.



Congratulations to National Learning Network Tullamore, as they scooped top prize for Best Business Premises in this year's Tullamore Credit Union Tidy Towns Competition. Pictured at the awards presentation are (Back row, left to right) Adrian Stewart, regional manager, National Learning Network, Tullamore; Michael Davis, chairman, Tullamore Credit Union; and Carthage Larkin, Rosemary White, Mary McNamara, and Majella Dolan, all from National Learning Network, Tullamore. (Front row, left to right) Cllr Tommy McKeigue, chairman, Tullamore Town Council; Pat Mooney, National Learning Network, Tullamore; Minister for Finance, Brian Cowen, T.D., and Peter Ormond, chairman of Offaly County Council.

Launch of In Print Art Exhibition

An exhibition based on a groundbreaking arts programme in the Midlands that has helped people with mental health difficulties to get their lives back on track was launched this summer.

Participants of the innovative Turas Programme at National Learning Network Athlone were among the 23 local artists with disabilities who showcased their many creative talents at the 'In Print' art exhibition, which was officially launched by RTE Correspondent, Ciaran Mullooly at Athlone Castle.

The exhibition, which formed part of National Learning Network's innovative 'Arts Reach' programme, featured the artwork of service users from National Learning Network Athlone and the Springfield Centre in Mullingar.

Trip to Lake Garda

An intrepid group of fifteen adventurers, including service users from National Learning Network Athlone, set off last September to explore the beautiful resort of Riva, nestled on the shore of Lake Garda in Northern Italy. The week-long trip was part of a unique joint venture between the centre's Turas programme and the local Mental Health Services. The action-packed itinerary included visiting Juliet's Balcony in Verona, ascending the Dolomites in a cable car, touring Lake Garda by ferry, taking a gondola through the canals of Venice, and enjoying the spectacular scenery and sunny weather on a bike ride to Torbola.

Tullamore Art Exhibition

Visitors to Tullamore County Library last summer were able to peruse more than just the bookshelves, as the library hosted an

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Maclean Burke, who plays 'Damien' in RTE's Fair City, pictured with Tommy McElwaine; Wexford GAA Football All-Star, Mattie Forde and Hugh Maddock, Rehab Foundation. Tommy's charity marathon run from Ferns to Wexford raised over €19,000 for Rehab Foundation.



RehabCare Tullamore service users, Breda Malone and Caitriona Nicholson, pictured at the launch of the RehabCare Art Exhibition in Tullamore County Library.



To celebrate the centre's fifth anniversary 26 service users and staff from RehabCare Kilkenny travelled to Waterford last August to enjoy two action-packed days of activities that included a trip on a steam train and a visit to the Dunbrody famine ship in New Ross. Staff and service users of RehabCare Kilkenny also marked the occasion by enjoying a very special anniversary dinner.

art exhibition featuring paintings from twelve local RehabCare service users. The exhibition was the culmination of a special ten week educational programme run in conjunction with Offaly VEC Adult Learning Centre. Under the guidance of Sr. Marguerite, the service users were able to use a wide range of mediums to explore a variety of subjects including maps, stain glass, windows and architecture.

According to Maura Dolan, Developmental Worker with the VEC, the course helped participants to learn new skills and inclusiveness had been the key to the success of the programme. According to Marie Keegan, programme supervisor, RehabCare, the course also helped develop participants' independent living skills. But the final word should go to Jenny Monaghan, one of the course participants. "The course was really relaxing and I had great fun with the other students," she said.

Marathon Man McElwaine

Congratulations to marathon man, Tommy McElwaine who raised a staggering €19,000 for Rehab Foundation by running the full marathon distance from Ferns to Wexford earlier this summer. This was the seventh time that super-fit Tommy has undertaken the charity run. Over the past number of years, Tommy has raised over €150,000 for charity, assisting such good causes as the Share a Dream Foundation and St Luke's Cancer Appeal, and Slaney Search and Rescue. It's no wonder he was named as the winner of the Inaugural Voluntary Endeavour Award at the 2003 Rehab Wexford People of the Year Awards. Not a believer in the loneliness of the long distance runner, Tommy gathered a large number of fellow runners and well-wishers on the day to cheer him on including Wexford GAA Football All-Star, Mattie Forde, South East Radio DJ,

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Above: Congratulations to Mark Bergin from Carnglas, Gracedieu, who became the proud winner of a brand new Rover 45 in July's Rehab Foundation Non-Stop Draw. Mark is pictured celebrating his win with Joan Conlon, Rehab Foundation, and with staff and service users from RehabCare Waterford at their new premises in the Tramore Road Business Park. Now even bigger and better, the Rehab Non-Stop Draw has been renamed as the Rehab Bonanza Draw. Full details of the draw and the wonderful array of prizes that can be won are available on the Rehab website, www.rehab.ie, or see the article on page 31.



Left: Momentum's T.J. Mc Dougall proudly displays the bronze and silver medals he won in the cycling events at the Scottish Special Olympics Games which were held in Glasgow earlier this year.



Rehab Foundation walkers from the Carlow/ Kilkenny/ Wexford region pictured enjoying the sunshine outside Ostán na n-Oileán prior to the start of the 12-mile Aran Island fundraising walk. The walkers raised over €5,300 for Rehab Foundation.

Alan Corcoran and Maclean Burke, otherwise known as 'Damien' in RTE's 'Fair City'.

Special Olympics for Momentum

Four Momentum athletes have brought an array of medals and awards back from the 2005 Scottish Special Olympics. The Momentum athletes were among 2,500 disabled sports-people who converged on Glasgow for the week-long games.

Brothers Mark and David Yuill, from Momentum's Workability service in the East End of the city, scored success in the football competition. Tennis player Andrew Dowd, also from Workability, won a bronze medal in the doubles and fourth place in the singles. Workability assists people with learning disabilities to learn skills which will help them move towards employment.

And Thomas John McDougall, who is known as TJ, scooped a silver medal, a bronze medal and a fifth place in the cycling events. Thomas is supported by the Let's Go... service, part of Momentum's care division which provides community based activities and short breaks for adults with learning disability. T.J. will travel to Cuba in early 2006 to take part in Momentum's fundraising challenge.

National Learning Network Ballybrit

Congratulations to the students at National Learning Network Galway who, earlier this year, raised over €2,600 for Special Olympics Ireland. "The fund raising events were great fun," says Robert Carroll, a learner with National Learning Network's Access Rehabilitative Training programme. "Each year the centre's Local Advisory Committee organise a number of fun events to raise as much money as possible for Special Olympics Ireland, our chosen

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RTE Lyric FM Presenter, Eamonn Lenihan explains the intricacies of radio production to Kevin Sheerin, Mark Ryan and Stephen Ryan during a visit by the radio station's Educational Outreach team to the National Learning Network centre at Jutland Hall, Limerick.



At the launch of the exhibition to mark International Women's Day was the Mayor of Wexford, Cllr Davy Hynes, with the 'Newstart Girls' Margaret Joyce, Sheena Moloney, Kathleen Whitmore, Ellie Hartigan, Mary Rossitor, Nancy Dwyer, Karen Lawlor, Colleen Sherry and Carrie Keane-Ryan, as well as friends and well-wishers from National Learning Network Wexford.

Congratulations to Robert Burnside a participant on National Learning Network Sligo's Employer Based Training course. While on work placement with Homebase at The Carraroe Retail Park, the store received a Mystery Shopper visit, and Robert (pictured here second from right, with Garden centre colleagues John, Uwe and Tom) served them. As a result of his excellent customer service, the store achieved a maximum overall score of 100 per cent - the only store in the country to achieve this perfect standard. So well done Robert!



charity. Last year's fundraising activities included sandwich making, a highly competitive darts competition, and a 5km sponsored walk, which took place in glorious weather. Everyone here is delighted to have raised so much money for such a good cause. And we had a great time doing it too!"

Lyric FM visits National Learning Network

RTE Lyric FM's Educational Outreach team visited National Learning Network, Jutland Hall, Limerick earlier this year to deliver its "Making Radio" project. Some 28 budding broadcasters discovered what goes on behind the scenes to produce a radio programme for national broadcaster, RTÉ Lyric FM. Presenters Eoin O'Kelly and Eamonn Lenihan unravelled the mysteries of radio production, writing for radio, music scheduling, presentation skills and communication, and teamwork. A total of four radio shows were produced by the trainees, which included an array of classical music for daytime airplay.

Wexford Women Write

To celebrate International Women's Day earlier this year the female students of 'Newstart', a vocational training programme at the National Learning Network Centre, Wexford, staged an exhibition of their literary and artistic abilities.

The Mayor of Wexford, Davy Hynes, opened the proceedings with fulsome praise for the students' hard work and lots of encouragement for our future endeavours. Mayor Hynes is personally acquainted with the benefits of 'Newstart' as member of his own family completed the course some years ago and went on to take up a position at the

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NRC Representative and Roslyn Park student, Gemma Burke, addresses delegates at the Rehab Group Annual Seminar last September. Michael O'Brien of NRAC and Roddy Robertson from Momentum's Client Council also addressed delegates at the seminar, which this year focused on the importance of service user participation.



The second series of RTE's IFTA nominated television series, Three 60, was back on our television screens for a second series last summer. The nine-part series, jointly sponsored by RehabCare, sought to document and explore people's experiences of disability in Ireland and featured Gandon Enterprises employee Louise Milicevic (pictured above, at a dress fitting) and her husband Steph, as they made final preparations for their wedding day.



The Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Cllr Mike Nangle and the Mayor and Mayoress of Armagh, Cllr Eric and Doreen Speers pictured on a visit to the National Learning Network and RehabCare centres in Castlebar. From left to right: Kevin Bourke, Rehab Foundation, Mayo; Peter Dooley, area manager, National Learning Network, Castlebar; Eric and Doreen Speers, Mayor and Mayoress of Armagh; Lorraine Gibbons, RehabCare Castlebar, and Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Cllr. Mike Nangle.



Gary McIlwaine, Belfast, in action against Cheeverstown player and Gandon Enterprises employee, John Cousins, in the Men's National Cup Final, between Belfast and Cheeverstown. The Cup Final was part of Special Olympics Europe Eurasia Football Week 2005.

Picture: Pat Murphy / SPORTSFILE

People's Resource Centre.

Special Olympics Football Week

Congratulations to Gandon Enterprises employee, John Cousins, who together with his team mates in Cheeverstown won the final of the Special Olympics National Cup, which took place earlier this year as part of the fifth annual Special Olympics Europe Eurasia Football Week. In what was an exciting and competitive match at the AUL Complex in Clonsaugh, Cheeverstown beat main rivals Belfast by a final score of 5-1. In addition to the

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At the launch of the 'In Print' Art Exhibition in Athlone Castle were (back row, left to right) Sheila Buckley Byrne, area manager, National Learning Network, Athlone; Helen Barry, service user; Colm McManus, service user; Janine Davidson, artist-in-residence; Ciaran Mullooly, Midlands correspondent, RTE; Emily Garavan, creative skills instructor; Karen Moran, service user; (front row, left to right) Fionnuala McTernan, National Learning Network; Austin Berry, Athlone town manager, and Nicola Costello, service user.



Congratulations to Gandon employee, Margaret Quinlan, for clocking up over 25 years of service to the Rehab Group. Margaret, who works for Kilkenny Corrugated Cases, is pictured here receiving her certificate from Rehab Group chief executive, Frank Flannery.



Barry Egan, Rehab Foundation, pictured (front row, far right) at the presentation of a holiday for two to the Brazilian Grand Prix which was won by Kilkenny man, Thomas Quinn, in ESB Customer Supply's Win Electric Competition. Rehab Foundation has been associated with the Win Electric draw since 1983. Also pictured is Frank Kennedy, from Honda; Tim Bicknell, manager, Residential Markets, ESB Customer Supply; and Carol Anne Lowe, who plays Francesca, the Brazilian housekeeper in RTE's 'Fair City'.



Eileen Ryan, National Learning Network Hollyhill, receives her certificate from Joe O'Brien, acting chief executive, National Learning Network at the certification day held in Abbeyleix, Co Laois last October for the six staff members who had successfully completed the innovative training module called 'Assessment Practice'. The training programme was developed by National Learning Network's Human Resource Department to offer a formal qualification in assessment practice and to address the specific needs of National Learning Network staff.

Cup Final, the week of football included coaching workshops, matches, demonstrations during League of Ireland matches and exhibition matches.

Rehab UK Weakest Link

UK 400m Record Holder, Iwan Thomas, recently represented Rehab UK in a special celebrity edition of "The Weakest Link", which was broadcast by the BBC last August.

Iwan battled it out with other sports stars and celebrities trying to win money for their chosen charities.

Unfortunately, while Rehab UK's profile benefited, it's bank balance didn't, as for once Iwan's speed worked against him: he was the second in getting voted off!

"I really enjoyed filming The Weakest Link, but was gutted to be voted off early as I didn't do

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UK 400m Record Holder, Iwan Thomas, (pictured back row, third from right) recently represented Rehab UK on BBC's special celebrity edition of the 'Weakest Link' which was presented by Anne Robinson. Unfortunately, Iwan was the second to be voted off the programme, but Rehab UK were still well represented as BBC presenter and Rehab UK vice-president, Clare Balding, (third from left) went on to win the show.



At the recent presentation of the Excellence Through People award to National Learning Network's Human Resource Department were: Sexton Cahill, chairperson, Excellence through People; Ciara O'Neill, Enda Doherty and Mary Kelly, all from National Learning Network, and Roddy Molloy, director general of FAS.



Pictured at the 2005 ESB/Rehab People of the Year Awards was GAA President and People of the Year award winner, Sean Kelly; Peter Stokes, Rehab Foundation, and Nicky Brennan, incoming GAA President.

anything wrong!" said Iwan. "Anne Robinson is a harsh lady but I think I handled her well."

Ironically, Rehab UK vice-president, Clare Balding, emerged victorious from the show, winning over £20,000 for her chosen charity 'Riding for the Disabled'.

Thanks go to Iwan for representing Rehab UK and to Sue Barrett & Linford Christie who, as Iwan's Agents ("nuff-respect"), recommended he represent Rehab UK.

Angela Kerins reappointed

Angela Kerins has been reappointed for a second, four-year term as Chairperson of the National Disability Authority. Angela served as Chairperson of the first ever Authority and was reappointed by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform in August. Angela stated that she is "delighted to be reappointed".

"The Authority has had a very successful first five years, and I look forward to working with the members of the new Authority and its staff to continue, on behalf of the State, to promote and help secure the rights of people with disabilities," she said.

Excellence Through People

The National Learning Network Head Office was presented with the Excellence Through People Award at a ceremony in Dublin Castle during September which was hosted by FAS. Ciara O'Neill from National Learning Network's Finance Department, along with Enda Doherty and Mary Kelly from National Learning Network's Human Resource Departments were there to receive the Award on behalf of head office staff.

Over the past two years National Learning Network has been very successful in achieving the Excellence Through

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You missed a spot! - members of Bunclody Fire Service, Co Wexford get wet for Rehab, at the annual Rehab Bunclody Car wash day. The event raised over €4,400, which is a wonderful return given that the town has a population of just over 2,000 people.

People standard throughout the organisation. At this stage more than 80 per cent of its training centres and all its head office departments have been assessed and have achieved over 90 per cent in every section of the standard.

FÁS has recently revised the Excellence Through People Award and the new standard now contains two additional sections covering Recruitment & Selection and Employee Well-Being. One of National Learning Network's strategic goals for 2006 is to apply the new standard throughout the organisation and to achieve the Award for this before the end of the year.



Above: members of the victorious Hyland Motor Factor team celebrate their win in the O2 six-a-side tournament in aid of Meath Rehab Foundation. Over 24 teams competed to raise €5,000 for Meath Rehab Foundation.



Kildare county footballer, Glen Ryan gets a soaking! Punters in Ireland's first ever Sheep Steeplechase race in aid of the Rehab Foundation and the Conor Leigh Fund, took it in turns to 'dunk' half of the Kildare senior football team by hitting a target with a ball, which dropped the brave footballers into a pool of not-so-warm water.

Right: Members of the Thomastown Fire Brigade, Co Kilkenny, ditch the hoses for sponges, brushes and some good old elbow grease at the annual Rehab/ KCLR FM car wash day.

