

Bulletin Board



'The Eagle' nerve-centre - Kenneth Jackson, editor of 'The Eagle' pictured with John Costello, Business Administration instructor, NTDI Tallaght. Below: The Eagle, NTDI Tallaght's own newsletter.

The Eagle has landed

The Eagle has most certainly landed, and it looks like **Rehab News** has some serious competition on its hands!

The Eagle, NTDI Tallaght's very own newsletter, was launched last February and has already proven very popular with staff and trainees at the centre. The full colour newsletter includes interesting articles on everything from current affairs and local NTDI Tallaght news, to music, film and sporting reviews. The magazine is edited and designed by Kenneth Jackson, a trainee with the centre's Business Administration programme, and includes contributions from many NTDI Tallaght trainees. Well done to everyone involved!

Volunteers for Respite

Following the success of last summer's respite holiday in Monaghan, the Rehab Foundation are again looking for volunteers to help out at this year's respite holiday which will take place in Cavan town from the 29th of July to the 8th of August.

The Cavan holiday will cater for 40 adults with a disability and promises to be a memorable and fun experience for holiday makers and volunteers alike. A packed programme of events and activities is already being planned.

"If you have a few days, or even a few hours to spare and are willing to get into the spirit of the holiday, we would love to hear from you," says Peter

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NTDI trainees Claire Long and James Coffey help to hang photographs for the Expressions 1 & 2 art exhibitions at the Town Hall, Galway.

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Above: Paula King, Access Ability project manager; Ashley Balbirnie, chief executive, Gandon Enterprises, and Caroline Casey, founder of the Aisling Foundation, at the Ability '03 conference.

Picture right: Terry Fahy, Gandon Enterprises and Tanaiste Mary Harney at the launch of the Access Ability programme in Dublin Castle.



Stokes, Rehab Foundation. "We need volunteers to help organise the holiday, to chat to the holiday makers, escort them on outings and help out at dinnertime. We would also love to hear from people who would be willing to give demonstrations and classes, and from local singers, dancers, musicians and storytellers."

If you would like further information on the holiday, please phone Peter Stokes on (087) 839 8155.

Access Ability Launched

A ground-breaking initiative to make it more convenient for employers to hire people with disabilities has been launched by the Tanaiste, Mary Harney.

Access Ability aims to create at least 300 jobs for people with disabilities over the next four years by providing employers with a 'one-stop shop' for advice and guidance on disability employment issues.

This involves everything from sourcing suitable employees to assistance in making working stations accessible and providing post-appointment supports to



At the launch of the Waterford Employment Support Agency (WESA) were the Mayor of Waterford, Cllr. Oliver Clery; Tony power, regional director South East, FÁS; Kitty Galvin, area manager, NTDI Waterford, and members of the WESA staff.

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Tracey Hayes, Rosaleen O'Connell and Alice Mulcahy in good form at the NTDI Limerick graduation ceremony. The catering trainees had prepared a wonderful array of food for the guests at the ceremony.



Students from Roslyn Park College were among those who promoted the European Year of People with Disabilities in this year's St Patrick's Day festival.



At the NTDI Limerick graduation ceremony were Emily Clery, catering instructor; Tim O'Malley, Minister of State for Health and Children; Jonathan Flanagan, NTDI trainee; Bridget Teefy, chairperson, Limerick County Council and Val Real, NTDI area manager.

help workers with disabilities settle successfully into their jobs.

The project, which was developed and is led by Gandon Enterprises and supported by many partners from the public and private sectors, as well as the trade union SIPTU, was unveiled at the *Ability '03* conference, organised by the Aisling Foundation.

A partnership between the Aisling Foundation and Access Ability was also announced at the conference which took place last April in Dublin Castle.

Chaseley's Special Guest

The Chaseley Trust, Rehab Group's newest member, recently welcomed a very important guest to the specialist residential home which is located in Eastbourne, on England's south coast.

Lord Morris of Manchester, visited Chaseley at the end of last year, almost 27 years to the day since his last visit. As a Member of Parliament, Lord Morris, was the world's first Minister for Disabled People. He changed the lives of literal millions of people through his pioneering Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act. The Act became the model for disability legislation in countries throughout the world. His most recent efforts have resulted in a proposal for a United Nations Convention on the rights of people with disabilities.

During his visit, Lord Morris took the opportunity to speak out about social services and employment services' refusal to play their full part in funding the highly cost-effective help provided by brain injury vocation centres, such as those run by Rehab UK. Lord Morris was accompanied on his visit by his wife, Lady Morris, and

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Graduates from TBG Learning Derbyshire receive their certificates from Bob Paxton MP.



Above: Members of the Performing Arts Class do a special performance for graduates and guests at the Roslyn Park graduation ceremony.

Picture right: Orla Nolan with graduate Martina Mooney, former president of the Roslyn Park Student Union.



was welcomed to Chaseley by George Wilson, chairman, and Sue Wyatt, chief executive.

EIDD Conference

Rehab Foundation has sponsored a special international conference of the European Institute for Design and Disability (EIDD). The one-day conference, which took place at the beginning of April in Dublin Castle, marked the tenth anniversary of the European Institute and attracted speakers from throughout Europe.

Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform Michael McDowell, officially opened the conference.

Other keynote speakers included Niall Crowley of the Equality Authority and Joan Harbison, chief commissioner with the Equality Commission of Northern Ireland.

Bulletin Board - Expressions

Galway Town Hall Theatre was recently the venue for two exciting and innovative art exhibitions organised by trainees at NTDI Galway. Entitled *Expressions One* and *Expressions Two*, the exhibitions showcased the considerable creative talent of trainees at the centre.

Under NTDI's Art Reach programme, Jim Kavanagh, a professional artist and art lecturer had been invited to hold art workshops at NTDI Galway, and chose to base the project on the trainees' interpretation of their favourite paintings from art history.

Trainees on the programme were involved in everything from choosing an artist and picture, to painting their interpretation of the picture, to building their own

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Service users from RehabCare Wexford and CE workers sitting in front of their mural depicting the four seasons.

Michael Smyth, Rehab Foundation county committee chairman, presenting first prize in the January Super Draw of a cruise for two on the QE2 to Gerard Doggett from Slane. Also pictured is Ciaran Macken, Rehab Foundation area organiser.



Trainees from NTDI Limerick getting ready to perform at the National Futuristic Fashionvision Competition - from left to right: Barry Murphy, Gearoid Murphy, Aidan Casey and Patrick Naughton.

frame. According to Richard Casburn, area manager at NTDI Galway, the Art Reach programme not only nurtured and developed creative talent, it also boosted confidence levels among all of the participating students and acted as a valuable means of personal expression.

It is obvious that the students really enjoyed their experience with the Art Reach programme. As one student remarked, "I used to hate painting classes at school, but here Jim made the atmosphere fun and he taught me properly about lots of artists and how to mix colours and make frames."

What is more, all of the 'for sale' paintings were sold! One painting was bought by Mary McEvoy (better known as Biddy from Glenroe) and another by a doctor from Canada and now hangs in his home in Edmonton, lost to the Irish nation!

National Futuristic Fashionvision Competition

Trainees from NTDI Limerick and Jutland Hall proved they were real show-stoppers when they performed to a packed audience at the National Futuristic Fashionvision Competition, which was held in the Greenhills Hotel, Limerick last January.

The annual fashion show was organised by Limerick Macra, and attracted a large audience, with people travelling from all over the country to attend. Fifteen teams participated in the event, with each team having to create and model outfits made entirely from recycled materials.

In order to mark the

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At a House of Commons reception to celebrate TBG Learning's success in a recent inspection by the Adult Learning Inspectorate were l-r: Frank Flannery, chief executive, Rehab Group; Martin Dunford, chief executive, TGB Learning and Adrian Perry, former Lambeth College principal.



Michael J O'Flynn, member of Rehab Group south west regional committee, receiving a certificate from Mary Bennett, newly elected world president of Skal international, an organisation of tourism leaders. Michael was elected honorary world president of Skal International.



Liberal Democrat MP Simon Hughes being shown around Rehab UK's London Brain Injury Centre by Alex Page who is currently on a work placement at Mr Hughes' constituency offices.

European Year of People with Disabilities, Macra invited trainees from NTDI Limerick and Jutland Hall to perform at the event. According to event organiser, Trina Fitzgerald, "the trainees put on a spectacular play which depicted the earth being in danger and then being saved. They really got the message across that, when it comes to the environment, we must look after what we've got. The audience reaction was wonderful. The trainees really stole the show, and you could tell that they enjoyed every second of it."

TBG Inspection Success

Staff at TBG Learning have been celebrating a successful recent inspection by the Adult Learning Inspectorate, an independent body which reports to the Secretary of State.

At the end of the inspection process, amounting to 85 days, the Lead Inspector congratulated TBG Learning on a successful result. With grades ranging from satisfactory to outstanding, with no requirements for re-inspection, this puts TBG in the top 35% of providers nationally.

The inspectors highlighted the excellent relationship that exists between trainers and assessors and between learners and employers. According to the inspectors, learners at TBG "are motivated and supported by assessors who are enthusiastic and highly committed." The dedicated staff "create attractive and well-organised environments which have a positive impact on learners."

The personal development of individual learners was also recognised as a particu-

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Jockey David Casey, Carlow rugby captain Andrew Melville and jockey Ruby Walsh, were the celebrity chefs at the 'Ready, Steady, Cook' fundraiser in the Carlow Rugby Club in aid of the Special Olympics.



Jimmy O'Neill (left) captain of Killerig Golf Club, presents the proceeds of the Club's Open Singles competition to Anne Hickey (Regional Messenger Europe/Euro Asia Special Olympics) during the "Ready, Steady Cook" fundraiser in the Carlow Rugby Club in aid of the Special Olympics. Also pictured are John Holland (Merlin Catering), Marie Byrne (Lady Captain Killerig Golf Club), Eamon and Fiona Dillon, (Killerig Golf Club), Amanda Horan (area manager, NTDI) and Eamon McSteen (manager, RehabCare).

lar strength of TBG Learning. According to the inspectors, "learners' confidence increases significantly while they are working towards their qualification and many are promoted towards more responsible jobs."

Chief executive of TBG Learning, Martin Dunford, expressed his thanks to all staff for their hard work and dedication in helping learners achieve their goals.

Top jockeys make a meal of it

They may have confidence and talent on the racecourse but when it comes to the kitchen, two of Ireland's top jockeys' Ruby Walsh and David Casey, were looking just a little out of their depth.

The national hunt jockeys were in Carlow Rugby Club on the 4th of May to compete in a special 'Ready, Steady, Cook' event to raise funds for the Special Olympics Support an Athlete Programme.

Ruby and David were joined in the kitchen by Carlow rugby captain Andy Melville and by Fiona Dillon of Killerig Golf Club. A large crowd gathered to watch the fun as the local sporting celebrities, partnered by four professional chefs, slaved away in the kitchen to produce four delicious meals, after much blood, sweat and tears!

The fundraiser, which was organised by RehabCare and NTDI Carlow in conjunction with Merlin Catering and Carlow Rugby Club, raised over €8,000 for the Special Olympics.

John Staunton - 'Crabtree's Last Stand'

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Pictured at the Long Service Awards dinner in the Burlington Hotel last April (from l to r): Angela Kerins, director of Group Development and Public Affairs; Martin Mansfield, general manager, Rehab Foundation; Bridie Mansfield; Frank Flannery, chief executive, Rehab Group; Ann O'Sullivan, NTDI Bray, Rita Kelly, Rehab Foundation and Ken O'Brien, Rehab Group personnel manager. Both Martin and Ann celebrated 25 years with the Rehab Group.



At the final of this year's Admiral of the Boyne fundraising campaign in aid of Meath Rehab Foundation were l-r: Michael Regan, Paddy Pryle, Phillip Dunne, Bridgid O'Sullivan, Ciaran Macken and Michael Smyth.



Michael Noone from head office pictured with An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, at the official launch of the European Year of People with Disabilities, which took place at the end of January in the Mansion House, Dublin.

It's amazing what hidden talents lie awaiting to be discovered within the Rehab Group. Take John Staunton, for instance. Some of you may know him as the chef in the canteen at Roslyn Park College. What you probably don't know, however, is that outside of the college, John is a very talented writer, whose latest play, 'Crabtree's Last Stand', has just completed a successful twelve-night run at Dublin's Andrew's Lane Studio.

Performed by the Third Dimension Theatre Group, 'Crabtree's Last Stand', introduces us to the character of Ronnie Crabtree and his small, dysfunctional family. Although quite a serious drama, the play also included many moments of black humour.

In addition to writing the play, 'Crabtree's Last Stand' also marked John's directorial debut. "I spent over a year writing this play, it is something which is very personal to me. As I knew the play so well, it seemed appropriate that I direct it," says John.

"It was really a great experience. The cast members were fantastic. We all listened to each other and helped each other out."

Despite John's experience in the director's chair, it's obvious that writing remains his passion. A member of the Rathmines Writers Group, John has not only just completed a book of short stories, but he is also currently writing a novel, as well as finishing his third play, 'Eccentricities'.

Perhaps staff and trainees at Roslyn Park College should enjoy John's cookery skills sooner rather than later, because if his writing success continues, he may just decide to permanently swap the hot stove for the word processor.

