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Heather Jaynes (right) and Breda Purcell, both from Askeaton, pictured with their horses Bishop and Zero on a three-day sponsored trek from Askeaton to Ballyunion last July. Despite poor weather, the trekkers raised over €3,200 for Rehab Foundation.



Ciaran Cormican, chief fire officer, County Kilkenny Fire Services, presents a cheque for €13,383 to Hugh Maddock, Rehab Foundation. The money was raised by the Kilkenny Fire Service during their annual car-wash campaign. The proceeds will go towards the new Rehab centre in Kilkenny city.

Damien English T.D. with members of the Oireachtas team seeking assistance from the Navan Red Cross at the O2 Six-a-Side Soccer Tournament in aid of Meath Rehab Foundation. The team of TDs and Senators failed to score a single point in the competition which was held in Navan's Leisure Link Complex and was won by the BJ O'Beirne team from Arklow.



of success achieved by the company in the three areas it had identified for improvement. They also commented on the high level of teamwork that exists within the company and the effectiveness of the organisation's internal communications.

Dr McGuire paid tribute to all the Rehab Lotteries staff for the enormous commitment and hard work they put into the Committed to Excellence process. The Committed to Excellence award follows in the footsteps of Rehab Lotteries' success in the Excellence Through People accreditation process last year. The company had earned the distinction of achieving the highest mark for a first-time applicant, an exceptional 91 per cent.

Partners in Policymaking

Twenty-eight people, including nine adults with disabilities and 19 parents of children with disabilities are currently mid-way through the 'Partners in Policymaking' leadership development programme. Organised by RehabCare, the programme takes place in Roslyn Park over eight weekends in an eight month period and is specifically designed to give adults with disabilities and parents of young children with disabilities the skills and knowledge they need to improve services and build more inclusive societies.

"Traditionally people with disabilities and their families have been excluded from the decision-making process that impacts of their everyday lives. However that situation is now changing," said RehabCare's Arlene O'Connor, who helped to organise the course.

"Government bodies and voluntary agencies are now aware of their responsibility to consult with people with disabilities and their families in relation to the decisions that impact on

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Sheila Dalton, Kilkenny Person of the Year 2004, pictured receiving her trophy from Des Fitzgerald, chief executive, First Active Retail. Also pictured are (from left): Ann Doyle, MC; Senan Mullins, chief executive, Rehab Foundation and Joe Hayes, managing director, Kilkenny People Group.



Enda Kenny TD chats to Ciaran Rattigan and Susie Byrne during a visit by the Fine Gael leader to NTDI Navan.



Event organisers and some very glamorous participants at the 'Kilkenny Thorny Rose' competition held last August in aid of Rehab Foundation.

their lives.

"People with disabilities and their families need preparation for this role to ensure that their voices are heard and they can contribute positively to the policymaking process."

The original Partners in Policymaking course was devised in the United States in 1987 and while the specific course content has been adapted and developed to take account of the situation in each country, the general topics covered in each of the weekends is standard to all courses. These include a history of disability, education, communication skills, and policymaking at both a national and local level.

RehabCare Intranet

Final preparations are taking place for the launch of the RehabCare intranet, which will be introduced on a phased basis to all RehabCare staff from January 2005. In addition to providing information on all RehabCare services, the intranet will include all the latest news from RehabCare, department contact details, as well as access to the RehabCare Resource Room library which features a wide range of disability-related journals, books and reports. RehabCare intranet users will be able to view the Resource Room catalogue online and reserve publications. Work is also continuing on the Rehab Group intranet which it is hoped will go live early in 2005.

EPR Summer School

Representatives from disability organisations in Italy, France and Norway were in Roslyn Park last August to take part of the European Platform for Rehabilitation's (EPR) English Summer School. Jointly organised by NTDI's Mary Kelly and Jeremy Ward from RehabCare, the English Summer School was one of a number of events run

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Jeremy Ward, RehabCare and Mary Kelly, NTDI (front row, left) with participants in the EPR Summer School. Representatives from disability organisations in Italy, France and Norway took part in the summer school which was held in Roslyn Park College.



Peter Stokes, Rehab Foundation special projects manager, presenting a cheque for €2,000 to John Tuohy. The Enfield man won first prize in the Rehab Foundation Summer Draw. James Tuohy, second from right, won the seller's prize of €75. Also pictured are Marie Cosgrave, Meath Rehab Voluntary Committee, and Ciaran Macken, Rehab Foundation area organiser.



Walkers from the South East who participated in the annual Rehab fundraising walk in the West of Ireland. The walk, which was co-ordinated by Aidan Roche, raised over €3,400 for Rehab.

by the European Rehabilitation Academy, which forms part of the European Platform.

According to Mary Kelly, the principal objective of the Summer School is to help participants to improve their English language skills in general, and specifically, the use of rehabilitative English. Participants on the two-week course also got to increase their confidence and competence when attending seminars and training events delivered through English.

In addition to lectures, workshops and case studies, which took place at Roslyn Park College, a number of field trips were organised to NTDI and RehabCare centres located around Dublin. However, despite the workload there was plenty of time for the visitors to relax and sample some of the delights of the city including the Dublin Literary Pub Crawl, the James Joyce Literary Walk and Viking Splash Tour.

This is the first time that the Summer School has been jointly organised by NTDI and RehabCare and feedback from all those involved was extremely positive. It is hoped that the event will be held in Dublin again in the near future.

Chernobyl Children at NTDI Centre

Earlier this year, the people of Waterford welcomed 26 visually impaired children from the Vasilivichi Orphanage in Chernobyl for their annual three-week holiday in Ireland. Although the city has been entertaining children from Chernobyl for the past nine years, there was an extra special welcome for the children this year when they visited the NTDI centre in Waterford for the first time.

The visit formed part of a new venture between the organisers of the holiday and NTDI which involved the cen-

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Children from the Vasilivichi Orphanage in Chernobyl during their visit to NTDI Waterford.



Representatives of NTDI Midlands, West and Northwest, receiving its Excellence Through People (ETP) award from Minister of State, Noel Treacy TD. NTDI Midlands, West and Northwest caters for more than 2,500 students in 28 centres.

tre's catering students preparing meals and packed lunches for the children for the duration of their holiday in Waterford. The children also spent a full, fun-packed afternoon making friends with trainees from all the training programmes.

A Certificate of Participation was presented to NTDI Waterford and everyone at the centre is greatly looking forward to welcoming their friends from Chernobyl back again next year.

Abbey visit Encore Productions

The talented cast and crew of Encore Productions welcomed the Abbey Theatre to the RehabCare Resource Centre in Dundalk earlier this year for a very special theatre workshop which formed part of the Abbey Theatre's centenary celebrations.

Joanne Parkes from the Abbey's Outreach Department visited the centre to give members of Encore Productions, the dedicated drama company

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Transition year students from Loreto Colleg, Crumlin, present a cheque to Rita Kelly, Rehab Foundation, for money raised during the school's recent Rehab CareBear campaign.

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Above: RTE newsreader, Anne Doyle, and friends pictured enjoying the sights of Havana on the recent Rehab Foundation fundraising trek to Cuba. (From left) Noreen Gildea, Audrey Doyle, Bridie Murphy, Pat Byrne, Anne Doyle and Michael Hickey.



Left: Frank Flannery, chief executive, Rehab Group, receiving a presentation from An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, at a reception in government buildings in honour of the National Co-ordinating Committee of the European Year of People with Disabilities.



Karen Lang, RehabCare Dundalk rehearsing during the Abbey Theatre's drama workshop with Encore Productions.



Jackie Killorgan, who recently retired as Roslyn Park College nurse after being with the college for over 17 years.



15-month old, Charlotte Murphy from Wicklow, enjoying a teddy bear's picnic to celebrate the launch of the annual RehabCare Bear Campaign.

designed to allow people with learning disabilities immediate access to the world of drama, a special insight into Synge's classic play 'Playboy of the Western World'. There was great excitement as the group acted out scenes from the play, using props, costumes and a certain degree of dramatic licence!

Following the workshop, members of Encore Productions went to see the Abbey actors perform 'The Playboy' in the Town Hall, as well as lunchtime readings in the County Museum. Afterwards, Encore members presented the Abbey cast with a card they had made themselves thanking them for a very special day.

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Dr John McGuire, managing director, Rehab Lotteries and Aileen Masterson, Rehab Lotteries receiving the Excellence Award from Rebecca Loftus, training manager, EIQA, and Paul O'Grady, chief executive, EIQA. Rehab Lotteries are the first company in Ireland to receive this award.



Picture above: Left to right: David Croft, Governor of HMP Edinburgh; Cathy Jamieson, Minister for Justice; Madelaine Traynoy, South Edinburgh Partnership; Ian Welsh, chief executive, Momentum. The Minister for Justice visited Edinburgh Prison recently to find out more about Momentum's innovative Employability service which helps prisoners to gain and keep employment following their release.



Left: Glasgow cyclist Thomas John McDougall, who attends Momentum's Let's Go service, celebrates having secured a place in the Scotland West team for next summer's Special Olympics.

Challenge Italy

It was 'Ciao Italy' for a small group of clients from NTDI's Quest Brain Injury Services in Galway when they spent four weeks last summer living and working in the beautiful Italian city of Ferrara. The Quest clients, Brian Berkholst; Peter Roddy, Gearoid Walsh and JP Lynskey were joined on their Challenge Italy adventure by eight participants from The Cedar Foundation in Northern Ireland.

Funded by the International Fund For Ireland, this innovative Wider Horizons Programme was designed to offer young people with brain injuries, from both sides of the border, an exciting training opportunity in Ireland and Italy to develop skills and experience that will assist their return to the labour market.

The programme also sought to improve understanding of the different traditions in Ireland, and give an insight into cultural differences and diversity in the wider world. So, in addition to the work placements, there was plenty of time for sightseeing and socialising for the group while in Italy.

"It was a wonderful experience," says Brian Berkholst. "I got to meet people from Northern Ireland that I otherwise would have never met, and discovered that we had more in common than I thought. They are a great crowd, and I'm delighted that we still keep in touch. I gained so much confidence and independence working in Italy. Not only was it great fun, but the experience will look great on my CV too."

JP Lynskey is equally enthusiastic about the programme. "After my brain injury I never thought for one second that I'd be able to live and work abroad, but the Challenge Italy programme has shown me that I can do it."