News from the Áras

Welcome to our latest newsletter! Here you’ll find some of the news from the Áras from the past few months. We had lots of great events in recent months which could not have taken place without people giving generously of their time and support.

Thank you to everyone who has helped out with this year’s Féile Bealtaine celebrations particularly Sonnai Choilm Learáí for his wonderful music sessions, Pat Byrne for helping to bring out our creative side and Martha Williamson, Patter extraordinaire!

Thank you to Eddie for your involvement in our heritage week event and all of the wonderful people who brought in their much valued and loved pieces to share with all of us in the Áras.

The Áras came second in this year’s Irish Accommodation Awards in the nursing home category. The Home also achieved the Quality Mark for Nursing Homes again this year. Well done to staff on these great achievements. Well done also to Laszlo on reaching the finals of the NHI Care Awards. Congratulations and best wishes from everyone at the Áras to Marion Geary, who worked with us for the duration of her nursing training and has now commenced her nursing career.

Well done to members of the caring team Bertie Reaney, Cliona Ní Ghriallais, Cathal Gorham, Molly Delaney, Brendan Coyle, Nancy Mullen & Sinéad Murphy who took part in last year’s Kerryman Dingle Full & Half Marathon to raise much needed funds for the Western Alzheimers Association.

A huge thank you to Mary Folan who gave her time and patience to organise a wonderful crafting event for residents, staff and friends from the Spiddal Active Retired Group. A huge thank you also to Norita, Brid, Patricia, Jacintha, Seán, Arianna and Aodán - we could not have done this without your support and help on the night. And finally, a heartfelt thank you to Mr. McGrath, Matron and all the wonderful staff who are always ready to help out and support these events. You truly are a magnificent bunch of people who make the Áras a very happy place!!!!!! Nár laga Dia sibh.

Well done Laszlo, Marion and all of the Áras team on coming second nationally in the Irish Accommodation Institute Services (IASI)

Awards in the nursing home category earlier this year. The awards recognize excellence in hygiene and cleanliness. Other winners included Ashford Castle and the Galway Clinic.

Comhgháirdeas libh ar fad! Cónnigh sua an dea obair! Máth sibh!!!!!!

‘Jack Taylor’ came to the Áras for a day!!!

The latest series of Jack Taylor by Ken Bruen, which was filmed in Galway last Spring, recently aired on Be3 on Saturday nights at 9p.m. We were very fortunate and proud that Áras Chois Pharraighe was chosen as a location for this latest series. Even the goats, Salt and Pepper, had their moment of fame!!!!!
Féile Bealtaine

As part of The Féile Bealtaine celebrations, Sonnai Choilm Leará performed in the Áras in May 2017.

This was a wonderful event enjoyed by all of the residents who attended. Due to popular demand, Sonnai will be returning once again in June and it is hoped that Sonnai will be a regular performer in the Áras thereafter.

An arts and crafts session was carried out by Pat Byrne to celebrate Féile Bealtaine in May. A wonderful session where our residents artistic side was encouraged and revealed!

Thank you, Pat, for a wonderful session which was enjoyed, not only by residents, but also by staff!!

Martha Williamson, Potter extraordinaire, also carried out a number of pottery sessions during the month.

Martha comes to the Áras each year as part of the Féile Bealtaine celebrations to carry out pottery sessions with our residents, creating some wonderful pieces.

IASI award

Laslo and Marion at the Irish Accommodation Services Institute (IASI) Awards. This is the third year in a row that the Home has been recognized at the awards. This year the Áras came second overall in the country in the Nursing Home category. This is a great achievement by all members of the team. Well done!!

Heritage Week


Tá ós cionn €10,000 de sparántacht, i bhfoirm Gradam Áras Choils Fharraige, bronnta ar mhílchúinn altranais ó dheiseart Chonamara ó 2010 chun tacaíocht a thabhairt do mhílchúinn agus iad i mbun staídéar. Tá an sparántacht seo maoinithe i gcomphpháirt le hÚdarás na Gaeltachta.

Gradam Áras Choils Fharraige

Beidh Gradam Áras Choils Fharraige á reachtáil arís in mblíana. Eolas a sheoladh faoi láthair chuir meánscoileanna aithiúla in a bhfuil an Ghaeilge mar phríomh theanga na scoile. Beidh an comórtas seo oscailte do scoilí a éiríonn leathchair chuig mheánscoileanna aithiúla in a bhfuil an Ghaeilge mar phríomh theanga na scoile.

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Cliona and Michelle gain Sonas qualification

Well done to Cliona Ní Ghriallais and Michelle Thornton who have just qualified as SONAS Licensed Practitioners. They join Katie Ui Chuláin and Sally Ann Geoghegan who are also SLPs. Thanks to our SLPs and to the whole Care Team the Aras became an accredited SONAS Registered Centre for dementia activities last year.

Cliona and Katie also deserve special praise for all the work they have put into the wonderful project ‘My Life Story’ initiative which has been a great success so far!! Well done to all the residents and staff who are involved. We commenced this initiative in the Áras in January 2017. All staff were involved in collecting personal relevant information for participating residents. Participating residents have the relevant symbol (Forget Me Not Flower, Butterfly, Sun or Thumbs Up) placed in their individual care plans and also on their wall over the bed next to the heading ‘Scéal Mo Shaoil’ or ‘My Life Story’.

The information gathered on individual participants is placed into a cloud format, printed, laminated and placed on the wall over the bed and under the headings above. This allows for ease of access to important/relevant information to promote a meaningful engagement with a resident during personal care and encourages all staff members to engage in a meaningful way and to chat about topics that have meaning for the resident. These displays have led to lots of great chats and valuable reminiscing sessions!!

Quality Mark for Nursing Homes

Congratulations to all staff on the Home achieving the Quality Mark for Nursing Homes again this year. Last year we reached the finals of the National Q Mark Excellence Awards so fingers crossed this year we will be there again!! The National Q Mark awards are widely recognised as the Oscars of Business Excellence so we are all very proud of this achievement. Maith sibh ar fad agus coinnigí suas an obair iontach! Beir bua!!
Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig oraibh ar fad!

Ghlac an Áras páirt i bparáid An Spidéil ar Lá Fhéile Pádraig agus fiú leis an aimsir uafásach tháinig na sluaite amach chun páirt a ghlaacadh agus chun féachaint ar an bparáid!

We were delighted to win the prize 'An larracht Is Fearn' (Best Effort) at this year's St Patrick's Day parade held in An Spidéal. Well done to the organisers of the Parade - not an easy job on such a terrible day! and well done to all the groups who weathered the storm to take part in some fabulous floats!

And a special thank you to everyone who came out and lined the streets of An Spidéal to watch the parade. You all deserve medals for coming out in such dreadful weather! Maith sibh uilig agus go mbeirimid beo ar an am seo arís!

Career Day

Tionóladh ócáid ‘Ár Saol, Ár Thuras’ i Scoil Chuimsitheach Chiaráin, An Cheathrú ar an 13 Deire Fómhair 2016. B’iontach an deis é seo do dháltaí na scoile labhairt le daoine éagsúla faoi na gairm difríula agus an t-eolas a bhí ag na daoine seo a caitheadh i measc na dáilte.

D’freastal Clíona agus Katie ar an ócáid seo chun eolas a thabhairt faoi ghaírm san Altránais agus Gradam Áras Chois Fharraige, duais bliantúil a bhronnfar ar dhhaltaí Altránais a éirionn leo sa chomórtas seo.

B’iontach an ócáid é seo do dháltaí na scoile agus bhain eamar uilig an-sásadh agus spraoi as castáil le na daoine óga seo. Fair plé don Phríomhoide, Seán Mac Donncha, Múinteoir Gairmtheoir Gráinne Nic Bhaid agus foireann uilig Scoil Chuimsitheach Chiaráin a d’éagraigh an ócáid iontach seo. Beir bua!!