We’re Happy!

The Áras has achieved the highest resident satisfaction of any care facility worldwide in 2018 using the HappyOrNot system.

The home came first out of hundreds of healthcare facilities in more than 25 countries using the computerised terminals.

HappyOrNot terminals in hospitals, care homes and other healthcare facilities were used more than seven million times in 2018 to register client satisfaction.

The average satisfaction rating for healthcare facilities using the system was 87%. The Áras score of 99% made it the highest rated healthcare facility in the world using the system.

This is the second year in a row that the Áras has been the highest scoring residential care facility worldwide, after also being the highest rated facility in 2017 and coming joint first in 2016.

Richard Doyle CEO of TellMeNow official partner to HappyOrNot in Ireland congratulated the home on being rated at the very highest level by residents and visitors.

“Áras Chois Fharraige is still achieving a satisfaction rating of 99%. This is unmatched by any other residential healthcare provider using HappyOrNot.

“The service you provide is as close to perfect as possible. We believe when you factor in human nature, 100% is not achievable!”

News from the Áras

Welcome to our newsletter. As we look back over recent months, I would like to take a moment to thank all residents, visitors and members of the care team who help to make the Áras such a truly special place.

What a wonderful time we had here in the Áras last Christmas! I would like to thank all of the wonderful people who helped make last year’s Christmas celebrations one to remember. Cór na nÓg An Spidéal who came to perform for residents of the Áras, Michael who did the ‘warm up act’ before the Christmas party and Ann, Martina, Sean, Trish, Veronica, Michael and Johnny Óg who performed and entertained all of us at our annual Christmas Party. We must not forget Santa and Mrs Claus who joined us to bring smiles to the faces of residents and staff! All of this would not be possible without the wonderful staff who give their ‘all’ at this time of the year. Maith sibh!!

A crafting evening was held in the Áras in the run up to Christmas. A local group from the community was invited to come join residents and their families for an evening of fun, creativity, laughter and treats. This event has been held annually for the past number of years and is proving very popular with all who get involved. Once again, we must thank all those who came to help on the night - the support we receive locally is greatly appreciated, more than words can express. Nár laga Dia sibh.

I would like to say a special thank you to Bridie Canavan from everyone here at the Áras. Fágnann muid slán le Bridie Canavan a d’oibrigh anseo san Áras mar bhanaltra le breis is 17 blian. Le linn an tréimhse seo, d’oibrigh Bridie mar cuid den foireann bainistíochta ag cur cúram d’ard chaighdeán ar fáil do chónaitheoirí an Árais.

Aireoidh muid uainn thú, a Bhридie, agus guíonn muid gach rath ort ‘sna todhchaí.

Katie Folan
Green jacket, red cap,
Trooping all together;
Wee folk, good folk,
We daren’t go a-hunting
Up the airy mountain,
All night awake.
With frogs for their watchdogs,
Of the black mountain-lake,
Some in the reeds
Of yellow tide-foam;
They live on crispy pancakes
Some make their home,
Down along the rocky shore
And white owl’s feather!
Green jacket, red cap,
Trooping all together;
Wee folk, good folk,
For fear of little men;
We daren’t go a-hunting
Down the rushy glen,
Up the airy mountain,

Hup Gaillimh!!!!!!!!!

Year last some very special visitors came to the Áras - The Liam McCarthy Cup, The League Cup, The Leinster Cup and the Minor All Ireland Cup!!!

To celebrate the Galway Races, residents, family, friends and staff came together in the Áras to enjoy ‘An Afternoon at the Races’. All came dressed in their finery to watch the 5.10 p.m. hurdle. All of our residents had a ‘flutter’ on the horses (sponsored by the Áras).

Beautiful food was enjoyed by all, prepared especially by Caitríona.

Guest Judge on the day was the very elegant Derval McCormack who had the arduous task of keeping the peace amongst the competitors in the ‘Style Stakes’!!!!!!

Prizes were presented for:
- ‘The Finest Filly’, ‘The Most Dashing Gentleman’ and ‘The Staff Members Supreme’

A huge thank you to Walsh’s Pharmacy in Spiddal who very kindly sponsored our ‘Style Stakes’, management and our wonderful staff on the day - Matron, Cliona, Brid, Lauren, Grace, Lucy, Sadbh, Darren, Caroline, Marian, Catríona, Eileen, Fiorghuala and Aoife - who took the time, some of whom came in on their day off, to dress up in their finest attire and hats and strut their stuff up and down the catwalk for the amusement and enjoyment of residents.

Now, that’s what memories are made of!!!!!!!!!

Wishing Well
Summer is just around the corner!!!
Well done to Laszlo for building this beautiful wishing well and is responsible for nurturing and tending these lovely spaces in the Áras!!
What a lovely addition to the Áras gardens!! A wonderful space for residents and their families to enjoy

Gold awarded once again to Áras Chois Fhraige!!!

The Áras was awarded a GOLD AWARD for excellence at the Irish Accommodation Awards 2018, held in Trump International Golf Links and Hotel, Doonbeg.

The Irish Accommodation Services Institute (IASI) Awards recognise exceptional standards across a wide range of accommodation services including, servicing of residents’ bedrooms, bathrooms and public areas.

The Áras was also shortlisted, once again, for the Grand Supreme Prize.

This is the third year in a row that the Áras has been short-listed for the Supreme Award to achieve such high standards in these prestigious awards. Other holders of the Gold Award include Ashford Castle and the GH Hotel.

Well done to Marion, Laszlo and all of the Áras team on maintaining these exceptional standards within the Áras.

The fruits of your labour can be seen in the Áras daily! Marth sibh!!!
Féile Bealtaine

We enjoyed some very special events last spring in the Áras as part of our Féile Bealtaine celebrations. Agus nach a’ainn a bhi an chraic!!! :) 

A huge thank you to Martha Williamson and Pat Byrne who encouraged such creativity with residents and to the brilliant staff who supported all of these special events, especially our Let’s Bake session.

We would especially like to thank the RTE Lyric FM Quartet who chose the Áras as a venue for a daytime concert. This was a truly special event and we were so fortunate to have this wonderful group of musicians come to the Áras to entertain residents, guests and staff with their glorious music. Fair plé do gach duine a ghlaic páirt! Tá torthaí buí ag usáid. Nár laga Dia sibh.

Beauty Parlour

The Áras is so blessed to be surrounded by a wonderfully caring and involved community. ‘Locals’ and friends come here weekly to help with so many of our activities, for which we are eternally grateful.

Alanna from Síoda in An Spidéal, was recently asked if she would come to the Áras to surprise one of our residents by doing a full manicure and shellac application. Without hesitation, Alanna said that she would be happy to come visit us and carry out this wish!

In a world where there is much unrest, acts of kindness, such as these, renew our faith in human nature and the kindness of so many people. Mile, mile buíochas to all of our friends and volunteers who are always willing to go that extra mile! Nár laga Día siubh.

Slán le Samantha!

We would like to wish Samantha the very best of luck as she embarks on her nursing training in Aberdeen. Samantha has worked with us as a HCA for the past year and a half. We will be sorry to see her go but know that she will be a wonderful nurse. Go n-eiri leat, Samantha.

Bhí oíche Shamhna iontach againn anseo san Áras!

Tháinig go leor púcaí beaga agus móra ar chuaírtear! Buíochas mór le foireann oibre an Árais a ghlaic páirt san ócáidí agus a thug cúnamh le linn na hócáide. Maith sibh!!

Remembrance

Families, residents, friends and staff gathered together in the Áras in November, to remember and pray for our loved ones who have passed away in the last 12 months in Áras Chois Fharráige. Individual candles were lit for all of the deceased and given to their families to bring home with them for Christmas.

At this very busy time of the year, it is important to take time to reflect and remember our loved ones who have passed on. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.