

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland Newsletter
Issue 1 Spring 2019

THE VOICE



IN THIS ISSUE

Latest from the 'Burns in the Community' project,
DCCN election results plus lots more ASI news.

Pictured above: Advocates & Staff outside the Dáil at our Emergency Dementia Summit.



THE ALZHEIMER
SOCIETY of IRELAND

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Welcome to the spring edition of The Voice.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge our fantastic volunteer Lillian Sullivan who recently celebrated her 90th Birthday Party. Lillian was a previous director of The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, founding member of the Limerick Branch and is still a very active Limerick Branch committee member. It was a pleasure to attend the evening and give thanks to someone who has contributed so richly and for so long to our organisation. Congratulations Lillian.



Pat McLoughlin, CEO ASI

This is the first opportunity that I have had to address my disappointment that dementia did not receive one single mention in Budget 2019. Because of the Government ignoring our plight in the budget, we held our Emergency Dementia Summit in Dublin in November and asked the Minister for Health Simon Harris and Minister for Older People Jim Daly to finally make good on their public statements that 'dementia is a key priority' by directing urgently needed funds to dementia-specific services.

Carers are telling us all of time that they are stressed, they are in crisis and they feel invisible in society because they feel there are very little supports and services out there. We all know this is just not good enough.

The Government simply does not understand the immediacy or the importance of dementia as a major health issue. This year we will be making further strides in asking for significant progress to be made on dealing with the inadequate and glaring gaps in services and supports that have been so widely and so recently identified across the country.

It's very encouraging to see our services continue to perform strongly. In 2018, we provided 811,903 hours of day care, home care, respite and support services that include social clubs, support groups, Alzheimer Cafes, and Cognitive Stimulation Therapy in communities across the country. This is a very impressive total figure.

The Mobile Information Service had an exciting year, we planned 60 outings across the country, difficult weather conditions early in 2018 meant that we completed 49 outings by the end of 2018. We linked very successfully with the Irish library network and their Healthy Ireland initiative, our service was available outside 9 libraries and our Dementia Advisers delivered 21 talks with the local libraries. This builds on our connections with hospitals, community groups, local health offices and organisations such as Men's Sheds.

I was delighted to see our new policy position paper 'Dementia and Loneliness' being published in late January. This excellent paper reflects the experiences of loneliness for people living with dementia, how loneliness can be attributed to a lack of supports and services, and the public awareness and understanding of dementia.

The research clearly showed that people living with dementia who live alone in the community have few social connections or meaningful relationships outside of their own families and that people with dementia attribute reductions in their social interactions to cognitive deficits that accompany their condition.

It also showed something that we probably already knew – that loneliness and dementia are both stigmatised

conditions in Irish society and participants in this study have said that they feel discouraged from talking openly about loneliness and dementia.

Our fundraising is really going from strength to strength with so many events planned for this year – the first was Denim Day for Dementia on Friday, March 8th, we will also be sending a group again on the Camino Adventure later this year, and, of course, the biggest fundraising event in our calendar Tea Day will be taking place on Thursday, May 2nd. Of course, we are marking Tea Day's 25th anniversary this year with a new look and we are all delighted to have RTE's Dáithí Ó Sé as our official ambassador once more.

It's also great to see so many new corporate partnerships being made with Capital Credit Unions recently coming on board. These partnerships are so important to the organisation in terms of raising extra funds, but also in terms of raising public awareness of dementia among members of the public.

Back in September we asked you to take part in a survey run by Great Place to Work®. I'm very grateful to the 41% of employees who completed the survey so a big thank you to all who took the time to take part. The Great Place to Work team came to National Office recently to present the results of the survey to senior management team and we will be getting the findings back to you very soon.

This year we will continue to advocate for the voice of persons with dementia and their carers and family members and I was delighted to see that the first meeting of the Western Dementia Working Group was held in Claremorris, Co Mayo in late January. This western group is part of the regionalisation plan of the Irish Dementia Working Group.

It was also great to see an election was held for the role of chair and vice-chair of the Dementia Carers Campaign Network at a Committee Meeting on Saturday the 2nd of February. Following two successful years as chair, Judy Williams was re-elected to this role. Ray Cregan, a dedicated and hard-working committee member was elected as vice-chair.

It's brilliant to see member of our DCCN and board member Ann Twomey taking up an exciting new challenge as she goes back to study after nearly 40 years as she begins a Patient Education Programme in Health Innovation, run by the Irish Platform for Patient Organisations, Science and Industry (IPPOSI). IPPOSI has many affiliated members including ourselves in The ASI and this programme is aimed at increasing patient empowerment. Well done to you Ann.

It was great to see Davina Smith has recently been appointed as our Branch Development Officer who will be supporting and developing existing branches and assist in development of new branches. Davina has already been in touch with Branch Chairpersons and Secretaries arranging introductions and meetings. I am sure you will join me in wishing Davina all our best wishes in this exciting new role!

I am really looking forward to the year ahead.

Pat McLoughlin

IRISH DEMENTIA WORKING GROUP UPDATE

The West is Awake! The first meeting of the Western Dementia Working Group took place in Claremorris on Wednesday, 29th January.

New member Aidan Buckley (pictured here with Dr Fiona Keogh, CESRD NUIG) was eager to learn about opportunities to be involved in research.



The Vice-Chair of the Irish Dementia Working Group, Kathy Ryan, spoke at the launch of the National Dementia Office Post-Diagnostic Support Guidelines in January. Kathy spoke about how “the light goes out” after diagnosis and how quality information and support has the power to switch that light back on.

Kathy took the opportunity to speak to people present about the Western Dementia Working Group and is pictured here with Tom McCann, Western Alzheimer's and Frances Weir, Occupational Therapist Galway.



Eastern Dementia Working Group member Jacinta Dixon spoke to The Irish Times recently about loneliness and isolation after a dementia diagnosis.

Jacinta said that a lack of understanding can contribute to this loneliness. She welcomed the recent ASI policy paper on Dementia and Loneliness and hopes the recommendations will be taken up.



Hard-working member of the Southern Dementia Working Group Kevin Quaid was on holidays in Australia recently.

While there he met with Sally Lambourne, General Manager, Consumer Engagement at Dementia Australia to learn how that organisation amplifies the voice of the person living with dementia.



DEMENTIA CARERS CAMPAIGN NETWORK UPDATE

An election was held for the role of chair and vice-chair of the Dementia Carers Campaign Network (DCCN) at a Committee Meeting on Saturday, 2nd February. Following two successful years as chair, Judy Williams was re-elected to this role. Ray Cregan, a dedicated and hard-working committee member, was elected as vice-chair.

Last year DCCN members were involved in over 25 events, featured



Pictured above are Judy and Ray, DCCN

on six radio programmes and interviewed for numerous national and local newspapers. Members lobbied at all political levels, collaborated with the Irish Dementia Working Group for the 'Diagnosis Campaign' and participated in over 16 steering or research groups.

The DCCN has exciting plans for 2019. If you are a current or former family care-partner and would like to join the DCCN please email Laura at laura.reid@alzheimer.ie

DCCN MEMBER ANN TWOMEY

– Embracing the Challenge by Judy Williams, Guest Contributor

Ann Twomey likes a challenge and her latest one comes in the form of going back to study after nearly 40 years. The course she is undertaking is the Patient Education Programme in Health Innovation, run by the Irish Platform for Patient Organisations, Science and Industry (IPPOSI).

IPPOSI has many affiliated members including The ASI and this programme is aimed at increasing patient empowerment.

Ann, who lives in Cork, travels to Dublin to attend lectures every few weeks. The rest of the study is done online, including an interactive forum with her classmates. “There are 25 students on the course,” Ann said, “Most of them are patient advocates, and they are a wonderful group of people and are so willing to share their experiences.”

The course runs from January to November, with a break over the summer. It is split into three modules requiring a minimum of 150 hours study, and topics include Clinical Trials and Principles and Practices of Health Technology Assessment.

Ann is a committee member of the Dementia Carers Campaign Network (DCCN) which is supported by The ASI. She is also an ASI Board member and a member of the Advocates Advisory Board of Dementia Neurodegeneration Network Ireland (DNNI).

It is this combined experience that Ann brings to the IPPOSI course, and she feels that her participation in the course will enhance her contribution to these committees.

Most of the other students are patient advocates for other conditions including diabetes, arthritis

and multiple sclerosis and Ann is looking forward to learning from them. “I would envisage gaining immense knowledge from patient participants who are living with neurodegenerative diseases or living with or recovering from cancer or other conditions,” she said.



Ann Twomey

She also hopes that she will be able to share her knowledge of dementia and how it affects the person with the diagnosis and their carer and family. Ann cared for her husband Noel for seven years, after he was diagnosed with Young Onset Vascular Dementia, until he died in 2009. Noel was a purchasing manager in the manufacturing industry but had to give up work after diagnosis. When Ann felt that Noel needed support, she gave up her job as a legal executive to spend more time with him. During this time, she became interested in advocacy, and

she has continued that since Noel died.

Asked about the challenge of taking on this study, Ann said that having no scientific background makes it more difficult, but that she will work hard to understand the jargon and terminology as she finds the subject very interesting. Her motivation for doing the course comes from a variety of reasons including a bad experience her Mum had with a drug trial in 1979. Ann says that trials have improved immensely since then and that patients are better informed nowadays.

Ann enjoys reading and learning about neurodegenerative diseases. “I have a real interest in it,” she said, “It’s important to understand current research, and I’m very hopeful that a cure will be found for dementia.”

ALZTALKS

Our third AlzTalks event took place at the Hawk’s Well Theatre in Sligo last October.

AlzTalks looks to shatter the stigma and misconceptions that often surround dementia by mixing personal testimonies with music and performance.

Speakers on the night included members of our Irish Dementia Working Group (IDWG) Jacinta Dixon (Dublin), Kevin Quaid



L-R – Helena, Kevin, Helen, Jacinta & Rachel



(Limerick) & Dr Helen Rochford-Brennan (Sligo) and members of our Dementia Carers Campaign Network (DCCN) Rachel McMahon (Limerick) & Helena Quaid (Cork).

Legendary musician Tommy Fleming performed on the night as well as other local musicians. All the videos of our speakers are now available to watch on our AlzTalks dedicated YouTube channel.

EMERGENCY DEMENTIA SUMMIT UPDATE

We held an Emergency Dementia Summit in Dublin on Wednesday, November 28th to call on the Minister for Health Simon Harris and Minister for Older People, Jim Daly to make good on their public statements that 'dementia is a key priority' by directing urgently needed funds to dementia specific services in the HSE National Service Plan for 2019.

In Budget 2019, the Irish Government yet again ignored the shameful fact that people living with dementia are being deprived of a basic minimum standard of care, as evidenced by the recent mapping of dementia services undertaken by ourselves in conjunction with the HSE.

People living with dementia and family carers, including members of the Irish Dementia Working Group and Dementia Carers Campaign Network, travelled from all over Ireland to the Summit in central Dublin to have their stories heard and to demand that the Government makes good on their promises to allocate specific funds to the provision of dementia care services.



Pictured outside the Dáil are Carer Declan Cassidy, Carer Rachel McMahon, ASI CEO, Pat McLoughlin and Carer Theresa McMahon.

We wanted to highlight the challenging experiences people are facing with limited or no supports and services in certain areas. We wanted politicians to hear the real impact this has on people's lives and how the issues can be addressed.

We are frustrated and extremely disappointed by the failure of this Government to deliver ring fenced investment in dementia care. We will continue to advocate on behalf of all those impacted by dementia in Ireland.

You can read the report from the Emergency Dementia Summit at www.alzheimer.ie

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Family Carer Training Review – The Learning and Development Department has been delivering our popular Insights into Dementia course for family carers for almost 10 years.

The course consistently receives positive feedback from participants and the online version has won awards for its content, structure and positive impact on participants.

However, in keeping with best practice, we regularly review the course to ensure materials are up to date and to check with our ASI tutors and participants if there are ways to make the course better for all.

We held our review day on 17th January 2019. Ten of our excellent tutors attended and we had an intensive discussion and debate about the course content and structure. A number of recommendations were made, and we will spend some time working on these before launching the latest version of the course later this year.

In attendance at The Ashling Hotel were:

- **Fiona Staunton** – Home Care Coordinator, Clare
- **Angelica Kayode** – Care Worker, The Birches, Dundalk
- **Mary Bolger** – Home Care Coordinator Kildare and Wicklow
- **Marie Gallagher** – Home Care Coordinator, Mallow, Co. Cork
- **Michelle O'Shea** – Home Care Coordinator, West Cork/South Kerry
- **Julie Greene** – Helpline Adviser and ASI Tutor
- **Mary Hickey** – Day Care Manager, The Orchard
- **Olive Joyce** – Day Care Manager, The Birches, Dundalk
- **Therese Shannon** – Relief Day Care Manager, Galway
- **Maeve Quigley** – Day Care Manager, Fingal, Co. Dublin



DEMENTIA: UNDERSTAND TOGETHER UPDATE

dementia
understand together



See the person,
not the dementia



Ask how you
can help



Stay in
touch



Make sure your service
or space is easy to use



Support the person
to keep up hobbies
and interests



Talk about
dementia

Dementia: Understand Together aims to tackle stigma & isolation by raising awareness for dementia and creating a social movement where people all around the country, be it individuals, businesses, service providers or community groups are inspired to take these simple actions to make their communities dementia inclusive.

The campaign is gathering momentum and recently over 80 people from all over Ireland took up the call for action at a Community Champions' event. It was an inspirational day at which Alistair McKinney, Chair of the Donegal branch and local Community Champion, inspired others to join the movement and take actions by sharing stories of the work he does in Donegal. "It has to be the community doing it for themselves, the way communities always did. Most of the time you are reassuring the person that what they are doing is right".



On the day Ronan Smith, Jacinta Dixon, Kathy Ryan, members of the Irish Dementia Working Group and Maire-Ann Doyle from the Dementia Carers campaign network described their experiences of living with dementia and caring for a person with dementia, and how important "understanding communities" are to their health and well-being.

Two of our own Community Champions, ASI Meath Home Care Coordinator, Jamie Sherlock Walsh

and ASI Eastern Operations Manager, Donal Murphy have followed the call to action and have pledged to make the community of Ashbourne, County Meath, dementia inclusive. They have identified all local businesses, sports clubs and community groups and are inviting them to participate in dementia awareness sessions. They will support them in making their services dementia inclusive. By sharing stories of actions taken they in turn hope to inspire more and more champions to join this movement.

One small action can make a big difference to the quality of life of people with dementia and their families.

Find out more about the campaign and how you can get involved at www.understandtogether.ie/get-involved/ or contact Fiona Foley at fiona.foley1@hse.ie

STAFF PROFILE



Dr Bernadette Rock,
ASI Policy & Research
Manager

I started working as Policy & Research Manager with The ASI in mid-2017. Prior to that I worked in the National Children's Hospital, the Childhood Development Initiative, Tallaght West, and the National Disability Authority, delivering research projects and developing policy initiatives. In these roles I worked

with families and younger people to understand their challenges and how we could best meet their needs. It was a very rewarding and I thoroughly enjoyed it. My PhD is in Sociology and my thesis explored fatherhood and families. It was quite challenging, especially as I juggled my new-born daughter, with academia.

In my work I enjoy working closely with research participants and I've always had a deep interest in the 'lived experience' and real-life stories. I work with an amazing and supportive team in The ASI, and my role involves supporting people with dementia and carers to be involved in research. Currently, we're involved in 14 research projects. One such project

is called 'Promoting Assisted Decision-Making in Acute Care'.

It aims to develop an educational tool for healthcare professionals which will promote understanding about assisting patients in acute setting to make decisions.

We're implementing a new research strategy and taking a lead on dementia research prioritisation in Ireland. It's exciting to see our research function develop within The ASI. Recently we published a new policy position paper on dementia and loneliness in Ireland, which highlights how people with dementia experience loneliness and how we can address and alleviate loneliness and social isolation.



I'm delighted that we recently received funding from Genomics Medicine Ireland to hire a new researcher, Dr Laura O'Philbin to develop our work. Previously Laura was Project Manager in evaluating the National Dementia Strategy with UCC. Laura will support people with dementia to engage in research activities, and we're delighted to have Laura's expertise.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Corporate Partners

2018 was a very busy and successful year with our corporate partners and we'd like to thank them all for their amazing support throughout which allows us to continue to support the 55,000 people living with dementia in Ireland.



In 2019 we hope to continue building our corporate charity partners and are delighted to announce our first partnership for the year, Capital Credit Unions.

We look forward to a busy year ahead.

Alzheimer's Wild Atlantic Cycle

This wonderful journey begins in Westport and heads west along the shores of Clew Bay with its 365 islands. Croagh Patrick dominates the skyline while our route stays low and flat along the coast to Louisburgh.



Our route turns south and heads along one of the most scenic roads in Ireland through the Doolough Valley to the shores of Ireland's only Fjord, Killary Harbour.

Two routes:

- The **100km route** climbs over the lower slopes of Bunacuneen Mountain and skirts the shores of Lough

Mask before climbing over the Partry mountains to descend all the way back to Westport.

- The **135km route** traverses Joyce Country following the northern shore of Lough Corrib to Clonbur.

The two routes converge in Tourmakeady to cross the Sheffery Hills before descending into Westport.

For information please contact Jarlath on **01-2073826** or email jarlath.coyle@alzheimer.ie

Coastal Camino Challenge

This September, join Team ASI and take on the Coastal Camino Challenge.



Follow the coast from Baiona to Nigran and onwards to the city of Vigo. Enjoy fantastic views of the Bay of Vigo with the magnificent Illas Cies and its natural park on the horizon. If you are interested in joining the team or would like information please contact Jarlath on **01-2073826** or email jarlath.coyle@alzheimer.ie

Alzheimer's Tea Day

Please mark this in your calendar and get your kettles ready!



MAY 2ND, 2019

Your fun and powerful way to help.

BRANCH NEWS UPDATE

Drogheda - Over the last decade, over €10,000 has been raised by the pupils of St Paul's National School in Drogheda through a variety of fundraisers. St. Paul's in Rathmullen have been a great friend to the Drogheda ASI Branch and consistently donate helping the branch towards its goal of €800,000 needed for a new Day Care Centre at Greenhills. At Christmas, 70 pupils aged between 8 and 12 years were carol singing and raised €2,450 and at a recent ceremony, the pupils presented their fundraising cheque to the Drogheda ASI Branch. **Pictured** with St Paul's pupils at the cheque presentation is L-R, school principal, Mary Stephenson, teacher Niall Boyle, who conducts the school choir and Ann Shortt, Drogheda Branch.



Cork City - Our Cork City Branch does tremendous fundraising and advocacy work for Bessboro Day Care Centre in Blackrock, Cork. The Cork City Branch also runs a very successful Social Club where people with Dementia and their carers or family members have the opportunity to meet others in a supported environment. The Social Club runs every second Saturday at Bessboro Day Care Centre. Please contact **021 497 2504** for further details.

Pictured at The ASI Cork City Branch meeting were L-R, Davina Smith, ASI Branch Development Officer, Barbara O'Connell, Tess Hogan, Branch Secretary, Deirdre Healy, Branch Chairperson, Jon Hinchliffe, ASI Southern Region Operations Manager, Ann Toomey, ASI Board Member and member of DCCN.



North Tipperary - Branch was founded in 2007 and provides invaluable support and services in North Tipperary including Nenagh, Thurles and Roscrea and surrounding areas. We also provide a specialist Home Care services in North Tipp communities co-ordinated by Home Care Co-ordinator, Jennifer Woods - 067 41278, Email: jwoods@alzheimer.ie The Branch hosts a support meeting for family carers the last Wednesday of every month from 11am at the Nenagh Branch Office and they've regular social club meetings for families and their loved ones with Dementia. For further information, please call 067 41278.

Pictured: Back L-R: Nora Hill, Toni Brophy, Bridget Hackett, Mary Hogan, Mel McKibbin, Mary Dwan, Jennifer Woods. **Front L-R:** North Tipperary ASI Branch Treasurer, Joan Buckley, Chairperson, Mary Ryan and Secretary, Aileen Cahalan.



Kildare - A massive thank you to Margaret Nolan who stepped down as the Kildare Branch Chair, after 13 years of tremendous work. Margaret always showed total commitment and dedication as Chair and strived to increase awareness of Dementia across Kildare communities and to ensure that people with Dementia and their families are supported and represented. We are delighted that Margaret will still be involved as a Branch Committee member. Also sincere thanks to Oliver Looby for all his work as Treasurer. We wish our new Branch Chairperson, Marie Conlon, best of luck in her role and welcome our six new branch committee members including new secretary, Emer Cully.



Wicklow - Branch held their first meeting of 2019 in Arklow. Thank you to all the branch members who volunteer their time to support, lobby and advocate for people with dementia and their families and also to Laurence Collins DC Manager who greatly supports the Branch in his own time, in a professional and enthusiastic manner.



ASI SERVICES UPDATE

Each week, the Clients from St. Clare's Day Centre in Bray head over to Festina Lente to visit our Burns-sponsored allotment and check on the various veggies and flowers they are growing.

Occasionally, if the weather is too wet or cold, they still go to the Garden to have a picnic in one of the heated chalets.

Once the weather picks up again the Gang have chosen a variety of colours and will start painting the raised beds.



The Burns Foundation Better Tomorrow Programme has been invaluable to our Clients over the past 12 months. The fresh air, variety of tasks including gardening, crafts, painting and picnicking plus the general thrill of satisfaction from yielding their crops - like cabbages, rhubarb and carrots - enhances the sense of belonging and community already fostered in our Day Centre.



Paul & Pedro at Festina



Dorothy & Maura at Lavender Workshop

We've had nothing but positive feedback from our Clients and their families on these outings!

Further info on Burns is available here

www.burnspet.co.uk/burns-in-the-community

We are delighted to announce that The Alzheimer Society of Ireland's Orchard Respite Centre in Blackrock, Co Dublin, which provides 11-respite beds for people with dementia, is reopening shortly under the management of Mowlam Healthcare.

They are the largest private healthcare operator of quality nursing home care in Ireland, and have signed an Operating Agreement with the ASI to manage The Orchard Respite Centre on a not-for-profit basis.



Pictured above: CEO Mowlam Healthcare, Pat Shanahan and ASI CEO, Pat McLoughlin.

This specialist residential respite centre offers weekly stays for persons with dementia in a safe, friendly environment with stimulation and activity. This provides a short break from caring for the caregiver and also for the person with dementia.

If you wish to enquire regarding respite funded by the HSE please contact your local public health nurse.

You may also like to contact Mowlam Healthcare in relation to booking a private bed you can phone **01 278 3830** or by emailing managerorchard@mowlamhealthcare.com

Every Friday morning Bethany House Day Care in Carlow host a Music Therapy Session.

These sessions have proved to be very effective in the relaxation and enjoyment for our members. Our staff love taking part also and reap the benefits as they are very chilled out after the hour. We want to continue to offer these sessions and have applied for an Arts Grant from Carlow Arts

Office to support 20 sessions in 2019. Fingers crossed!



Thank you to everyone at K Leisure in Naas who held a 60 calorie challenge in December to raise funds for the Kildare Home Care Service.

Members and staff took on the challenge on the assault bike with over 100 people taking part and helping to raise awareness of the work the ASI do in the Kildare Area. Several members of K Leisure team have been affected with family members living with the dementia and have been in receipt of our services.



Event organiser Dylan presenting the cheque for €315 to Mary Bolger, ASI Home Care Manager for Kildare.

Thank you to our Dementia Adviser Maeve Montgomery who provided a stand at the 'Wellbeing and Mental Health Awareness Evening' organised by the Rotary Club in Enterprise Centre in Castleblayney. If you would like further information on our Dementia Advisers please go to www.alzheimer.ie



NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

CLARE

Thank you to everyone who attended the fundraising luncheon organised in the Old Ground Hotel, Ennis, by the Mayor of Ennis, Clare Collieran Molloy and raised €1,700 for the Clare Branch of the ASI.

In the photo are L-R Rachel McMahon, DCCN & guest speaker, Rhonda Murphy, Clare Branch, Marie Moloney, Clare Branch, Helen Rochford Brennan, IDWG & guest speaker, Bridget Hoey, Claire Branch and Nollag McNamara, Clare Branch.



GALWAY

Everyone at the Galway Day Care had a great time at their Christmas party.



Thank you to all the Staff at Cogaslann Chasla Pharmacy who presented a cheque for €1,100 to Galway homecare coordinator Bernadette O'Grady which they raised at their Tea Day event.



Well done to Henry Geraughty who organised a "Wren Boys" fundraiser for Galway Day Care. They spent an evening singing, dancing & playing music in venues across Galway City. Henry and the gang raised €1,175 which will be used to develop our Galway Day Care services.



Staff from Glan Aqua MEIC presented Galway Dementia Adviser, Maureen Mannion with a cheque for €10,500 after a recent fundraiser. Thank you to everyone involved.



DROGHEDA

Well done to Jack Bogue a 6th year student from St Mary's Diocesan School in Drogheda who shaved his head and with his fellow students and raised €2,100 in aid of Tredagh Day Care Centre in Drogheda. Pictured is Jack with St Mary's Diocesan School Principal, Ciaran O'Hare presenting the cheque to Drogheda ASI Committee members, Ann Shortt and Gerry Leyden. Thank you to everyone involved.



MEATH

Margaret Kelly (L) one of our clients from Ashbourne went along to see Phil Coulter with ASI Home Care Worker Patricia Gallagher (R). Margaret's daughter Áine treated Patricia to this as a thank you for all her continued help over the years. After the show Phil was delighted to pose with the ladies for a picture.



Thank you to John Dwyer (pictured on the left) for organising 'The Professionals Hamper Day' at his local Golf club. It's a very popular event with 32 teams of four players participating over a 12-hole Shamble format. John's Mum Philomena uses our services and they raised €1,980 for Meath Home Care.



CORK

Thank you to all the sixth class pupils of Eglantine National School, Douglas (pictured) who performed for the clients at Bessboro Day Care during their Christmas festivities.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

MONAGHAN

Thank you to all the local business who are selling our 'Taste to Remember' cookbooks and for their continuous support. Maurice Graham's gift shop has so far raised €200 - Pictured Alister Graham and Martina Duffy ASI.



And Ronaghan chemist for raising €160 to date – Pictured Peter Ronaghan and Martina Duffy ASI.

KILKENNY

Thank you to all the HSE Community Care Staff of Kilkenny who raised €470 at their Tea Day event. The money raised will be used to fund the running of The Village Day Centre for people living with dementia. For more information about the services available for people with Dementia in Kilkenny please call **056 777 1230**.



Pictured at presentation L to R - Anne Ging, HSE Community Care Staff, Ruth Maher, ASI Nurse Manager, The Village Day Centre, Maureen O'Hara, Former HSE Community Care Staff and Service User at The Village Day Centre and Susan Olden, The Village Day Centre.

CAVAN

A big thank you to the McCusker family who donated a television to the Cavan Day Care centre. The only problem now is who's in charge of the remote!



TIPPERARY

Thanks to all the Argos Managers from all over Ireland who gave up their valuable time to help give Waterman's Lodge a little makeover. They did baking, painting and had a massive sing song which everyone enjoyed immensely.



There were great celebrations in Waterman's Lodge over Christmas as the boys and girls from the Boher Primary School (pictured in Navy) and the Ballina Primary School (pictured in Red) entertained all the clients and staff with their carol services.



LAOIS

Thank you to everyone in McGreals Pharmacy in Portarlinton who hosted a Coffee Morning and raised €746.

Pictured - Back row L-R Christopher and Nuala from McGreals, Mary Fitzpatrick, Laois Branch, Ann Munnely, Laois Home-care Coordinator. Seated L-R Breda Dunne, Laois Branch, Maura Lawlor, supporting the coffee morning and Jacintha Byrne, Laois Branch PRO.



Well done to everyone who took part in the recent fundraiser at the Heath Golf club to raise funds for the Laois Branch. L-R back Andrew Byrne Branch, Liam Delaney Captain of Heath Golf Club, Sadie Ging, LadyPresident of Heath Golf Club, Breda Dunne Branch, Jacintha Byrne, Laois Branch PRO, Mary Cushen Branch.

Seated L to R Imelda Monaghan, Heath GC, Kate Brickley, Heath GC, Frances McCormack, Laois Chairperson, Ann Munnely, ASI Homecare Coordinator and Norma Booth, Branch and Heath GC.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY LILLIAN

A very Happy Birthday to Lillian Sullivan who was 90 years young on Monday, 28th January.

Lillian was a former director of The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, a founding member of the Limerick Branch and is still a very active Limerick Branch committee member.



Here she is pictured at her birthday celebrations with Interim Operations Manager Catriona Lavelle, Board Member Donal Malone and CEO Pat McLoughlin.



Then again with Back Row L- R Gabrielle Malone, Mary O'Donnell, Robin Bowe, Hilary Hurley, Phyllis Brockert, Niall McCarthy, Marilyn Sheehan. Front row: L to R, Anna Casey, Lillian Sullivan, Jo Stack.

SOCIAL MEDIA SHOUT OUTS...

On Twitter Wendy Moyle commented on our policy position paper on dementia and loneliness...

"This new @alzheimersociirl policy position paper on #dementia & #loneliness recommends opportunities such as engagement in meaningful social activities, communication tips & need to address stigma. I hope they also included #technology opportunities."



Wendy Moyle

On Facebook Eilish Downes commented on our Family Carer Training courses...

"It's a brilliant course, you learn so much. I'd recommend it to everyone looking after a loved one with dementia."



Eilish Downes

If you want to get in touch with the Alzheimer Society on Social Media you can find us on Twitter and Facebook



@alzheimersociirl



TheAlzheimerSocietyofIreland/



THE ALZHEIMER
SOCIETY of IRELAND

If you have any queries or would like to submit a piece for The Voice please email - thevoice@alzheimer.ie

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