

Christmas is around the corner. Autumn leaves lay windswept on the ground as we huddle up and turn up the heating for cosy winter evenings. Lots happened in St Doolagh's over the past few months with a number of fantastic new initiatives taking ground. Loads of new activities and fun filled surprises planned for the next few months.

Ciara

Doo-lots Guardian

Oct Nov 2010



Drama classes started recently at St Doolagh's. A wonderful means of self expression, humour and fun. Pic. shows Ciara, Michael and Ray with Acting coach Oonagh Mc Laughlin of The Gaiety School of Acting.

Shop 'til you drop...

We recently trialled our own "in house" shop at St Doolagh's on Friday afternoons. Popular with many residents and it will soon be replaced by a trolley service – handy!!



Joe & Augustine flash the cash

You must remember this....

We were delighted to host the wonderful show Casablanca by Carnation theatre last month here at St Doolagh's to great applause.



Poet Genevieve Farrell



You're invited to a wedding

We will have a very special wedding show here at St Doolagh's. Carnation Theatre will be here on the 15th of December to perform their special show '*Getting hitched*' and there will be some special invitations – and proposals – preceding the big day. Expect your invitation from the post man any day now....



Singer Michael Ryan entertains

Culture day has become an important fixture in the National calendar over the last few years. Last month we also celebrated our cultural entitlements with a special culture day to mark the occasion. We had Van Gogh painting in the morning followed by a musical act in the afternoon which was topped off ably by the poet Genevieve Farrell who read to us from her new book "A touch of Simplicity". Roll on next year.

Our Pedigree Chum!



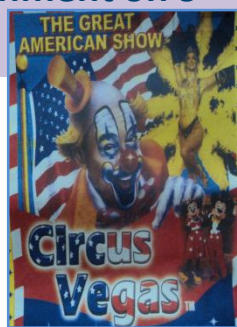
Daisy and Lorraine having a chat

This is Daisy the newest, cutest and furriest member of the St Doolagh's Team. She is a four year old labra-dinger (cross between a springer and a Labrador) and has been taken into the hearts of everyone here with her gentle nature and friendliness. We're very thankful to Irish Pet Therapy and Daisy's owner Lillian for our much enjoyed weekly visits.

There was a great sense of excitement when the Vegas Circus set up tent down the road at Portmarnock. A big gang from St Doolaghs boarded taxis and cars and headed down for a great afternoons entertainment on 9th October.



Trip to national history museum

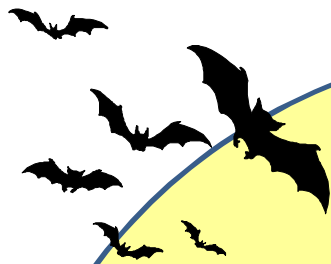


Gang enjoying a wheel chair dance show at this year's Dublin Fringe festival

Other trips included the leprechaun museum, GPO Museum, Movies, Driving range, Zoo, bowling, dance house, theatre and more....



Colin and John at the zoo (zebras in background)



October was a busy time in the activities room with many hours dedicated to preparing Halloween decorations. The Halloween party this year was a very fun and tradition filled affair with tasty brack, toffee apples and snacks from the kitchen. Bobbing for apples, pass the parcel, raffle, magic tricks ,music and lots of fun.



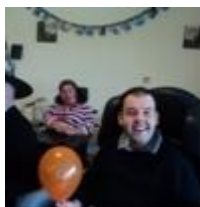
Busy in the art room



Rasa our carer loses the game and has to face the flour



Aidan doesn't seem to mind his floury fate!



Pass the parcel



Michael's not a scary witch





Move over X Factor – here comes Doolagh’s

Christmas planning started early this year in St Doolagh's as the residents have a very special surprise up their sleeves. With Halloween barely a memory, work had started on our very own Christmas carol being recorded to CD. With the help of music maestros Songcraft, the residents wrote, sang and recorded a brand new Christmas carol “Waitin ‘for Santa to Come”, which has even attracted the attention of some local media who want to cover the story. The CD and ‘the making of’ video will be officially launched in St Doolagh’s on the 18th of November at 3 pm. All are welcome to the first playing of this fun filled jolly Christmas ditty! Do Do Do Do Doolaghs!!!!



Michael having his moment



Keith on iPhone drums

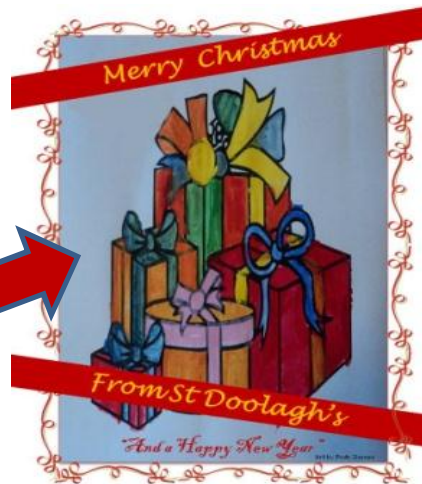


Theresa’s got the X factor



Hi! This photo wasn't taken by a camera but by a web cam connected to a computer. We have installed a programme called camera mouse which allows users to control a computer mouse by moving their head. A wonderful new technology which we are bringing on stream at the centre shortly. This will be very useful for our residents who have difficulty controlling a conventional mouse. We look forward to updating you.

Karen



The finished card design ready for the printers

Piotr proudly shows his design for this year's Christmas Card!



The gang surprise Helen on her ...em 21st Birthday

We are delighted to welcome on board Cormac O'Connor our new psychologist and wish Ann Marie Scott the very best as she embarks on exciting new challenges.

Sonas is a multisensory activity group that has been running in the centre since October. Specially aiming at improving communication, *Sonas* groups are fun, soothing and very comforting for some of our older residents. Three staff have received the *Sonas* training. The programme is now established and is running weekly.