



Saint John of God Community Services
Liffey Services
Hospitality - Compassion - Respect

New Directions Newsletter September 2023



**Sharing Liffey
Services Good News!**

Uasile Day Service



Uasile Day Service in Ballyfermot have a wonderful garden project where the group planted, nurtured and harvested vegetables to make lunch in cooking class, which was then consumed by those who attend the centre.

The group grew lettuce, potatoes, onions, garlic, rhubarb, mint, strawberries and tomatoes from seed to plate. An amazing achievement and many thank you for the wonderful photos sent in from staff member Vivian.





The AAATE conference in Paris 2023



RightToConnect
Digital inclusion for persons
with intellectual disabilities



Saint John of God
Research Foundation
Hospitality - Compassion - Respect

Maria Slattery from Leixlip and Patrick Fitzgerald from Hazelwood in Tallaght both attended and presented at this years AAATE conference on Assistive Technology and Digital Inclusion. Patrick is a paid Co-researcher. It was a great honour that these two strong self-advocates not only wrote the paper but also presented their important research among world leaders. The conference has started two new partnerships that will allow more co-researcher to be hired in the future.

Watch the video

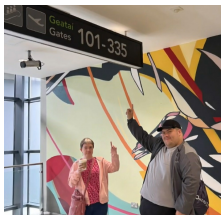
<https://vimeo.com/sjogliffeyservices/aaate2023>



Avoca Day Service!

The team in Avoca have been very busy these past few weeks. I have been sent some fantastic images of recent excursions and see Oisín enjoyed an ice cream on Bray seafront whilst Paul enjoyed a wander around Castletown Grounds and House.





We guided the way through the airport. In the evenings we got to explore Paris checking out all the sights. We met with Evert Jan who has been great support to us over the past 8 years and he will come to Dublin in November to talk at our Research Day



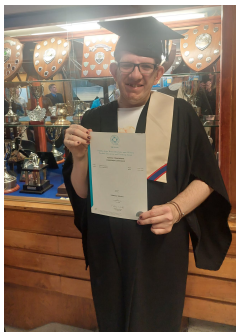


Derek visited the National Stud Farm and Japanese Gardens, Gavin and Jennifer were spotted at Avondale's newest attraction 'Beyond the Trees' in beautiful Wicklow.





Doris from Ash Tree



Doris Delaney who attends Ash Tree Day Service graduated recently from Inchicore College of Further Education. Doris received a certificate in Communications and Work Experience which ties in well with the New Directions support we are discussing this month around vocational training and work opportunities. Well done Doris!

Green Gables



Abbie who attends Green Gables Day Service was involved in the Emerald Cup Boxing Competition in August. Abbie won herself a medal and the golden glove for helping to organise and run the weekend event for her club, Westside Boxing Club.

Abbie demonstrated sparring matches in the ring, was the MC for the event, announcing the fights and ensuring everyone was enjoying themselves. Great job!





The second Liffey Voices Meeting took place in Celbridge. The committee started to plan their work for this year. The first thing they wanted to do was support the MakeWayDay. A national campaign to support better access for everyone in our cities and towns by not blocking footpaths. Thanks to everyone who got involved in the campaign last week. Members of the committee will meet the Management team in October to address some Rights Issues .



One of the first community campaigns that Liffey Voices would like your help to support is the **MakeWayDay** campaign that is starting this Friday 22nd September 2023

Details about Make Way Day can be found on [MakeWayDay.com](https://www.makewayday.com)

Please follow and post to **#MakeWayDay23**



The campaign asks people to fill out this survey when they find anything that blocks them.

<https://www.makewayday.com/about>

You can submit what happened, how it affected you and a photo of what got in your way.

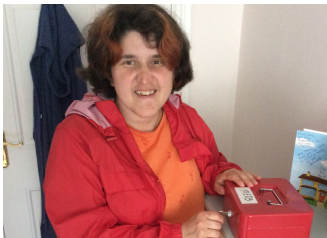


You can print off the **MakeWayDay** posters and put them on anything that gets in your way. Then take a photo and send it to us LiffeyVoices@sjog.ie or WhatsApp 0370311421



To keep up to date on the Work of the Liffey Voices
<https://new.express.adobe.com/webpage/iFhA0qgj84zE7>





Florina Makes her Move...



Florina who attends Pathways Day Service moved into her new home in Castledawson at the end of June.

Florina was supported with her transition in advance of the big move and visited the house for an evening meal and then gradually had some sleepovers to get used to the new surroundings.

Florina likes having her own keys to the front door and her room and is enjoying getting to know the others whom she shares a house with.

Florina enjoys using the exercise equipment in her new house and is currently learning to cook. Florina has jobs which she does around the house every evening and has settled into her new premises very well. We wish you all the luck in the world in your new home.

Last but not least;

I wanted to inform you all about the Fast Friends Halloween event which is happening on October 26th in the Hilton Hotel on Malahide Road...

Fast Friends aims to host events where people will have the opportunity to make new friends or to reconnect with friends they no longer see regularly. The process is loosely based around speed dating and allows each attendee the opportunity to connect with their peers who will be sat opposite them for a period of 3 minutes. On the evening, each person who attends has the opportunity to talk to between 5-10 people.

Following the initial meeting on the night, each attendee will be given a form, where they put their name and contact information, it is at this stage that the attendee can approach another person at the venue giving them this information and indicating their interest.

Anybody who would like to know more about the event or for ticket information, please contact me directly: Donna.hughes@sjog.ie or on 0871734186

**ST MICHAELS HOUSE
FAST FRIENDS
HALLOWEEN**

Party



**FANCY DRESS
HILTON HOTEL
Malahide Rd**

OCT 26TH
7pm to 10pm

€20 per ticket

available from 2nd Oct

Contact: Caroline flynn 087 3676658

Shannon fagan; 0860760569



Food not included

Welcome along to the September 2023 New Directions newsletter which explores the topic 'Support for Accessing Vocational Training and Work Opportunities'. We will hear from individuals who attend our Day Services across the Dublin and Kildare Liffey Services region. Please continue to keep your amazing success stories coming in as I feel that promoting positivity creates a better culture all round.

What do we mean by the term 'Work Opportunities'?

A job/career opportunity refers to work that provides an individual with the chance to use his/her training, develop extra skills and have a realistic potential for future advancement. It could also be an internship opportunity or a training programme that would help one to excel in their career.

Check out the following link to learn more about training centres in your local community and what courses they offer;

<https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/education/vocational-education-and-training/training-courses/>

