

# LIANA



Life in a New Age | Leopardstown Park Hospital Newsletter

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## A Week in May

By *Noirin Scully*

And what a week it was. A week when the dark clouds of bankers, builders and bail outs were banished from radios and TVs and instead we watched our visitors as they were welcomed to our shores.



Perhaps the most astonishing feature of the visit of Queen Elizabeth was the way our perception of the British Monarch changed. Her respectful bow in the Garden of Remembrance, her solemn demeanour at the War Memorial, her visit to Croke Park, her interest in the history of the Rock of Cashel together with her obvious enjoyment at the English market in Cork showed us the human side of Banríon Eilís a dó.



Although President Obama was only here for a few hours, he brought with him such an air of energy, enthusiasm and optimism which has been in short supply lately in Ireland. Whether downing the obligatory pint in Moneygall or giving that great speech

in College Green, his message was the same. There are better times ahead. Dare we say it? Is feidir linn!



In that same week, on the 19th May, we said goodbye to Dr Garret FitzGerald who died in the Mater Private Hospital after a short illness aged 85. A man of great intellect, he was a historian, a writer, an economist, a barrister and a politician who was elected Taoiseach in 1981. We remember him not only for his great achievements but also for his integrity. He was unique.

Photographs of Queen Elizabeth and President Obama by kind permission of Maxwells Photo Agency.

Photograph of Garret FitzGerald courtesy of the Irish Examiner.



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## Veterans in the News

During the visit of Queen Elizabeth to the War Memorial in Islandbridge, some of the Veterans in Leopardstown Park Hospital were featured on the RTE News. John Crisp was one of the Veterans and later he received the following letter.

We are glad to report that John and George have arranged to meet for a chat about times past.

Rathdrum  
Co. Wickow

June 2011

Dear John,

While watching the Queen's visit on TV they did a segment when you came on the screen at Leopardstown. Are you the John Crisp who lived in Glenageary Hill in the 1930's and were you a friend of my late brother Eric Taylor? We lived down the road from you and I understand you and Eric were good friends. As I was only five I really did not get to know him, but I have vague memories of you calling to the house.

After all these years it would be great if you are that John Crisp.

*George Taylor*

P.S. I understand you had a sister Pat and that you served in Tank Corps in W.W.11. One of my aunts - Florence Barrett, was a sister in the Ministry of Pensions Hospital, as Leopardstown Hospital was known in the 1950's and 1960's.

## The Day Care Centre

By: Noirin and Rita

One of the great pleasures of working on Liana is the opportunities we have of meeting people and hearing their stories. We hear about those who have lived their lives in inner city surroundings, in rural settings, or perhaps in military life. All stories have been interesting, absorbing and entertaining and we feature three of them here.

### MARIE CUMMINS



Positivity would best describe Marie's outlook. Two years ago she travelled to Lanzarote to attend the wedding of her niece. Coming out of her bathroom in her hotel, she tripped over a vacuum cleaner carelessly left outside the bathroom door and as a result Marie suffered a bad fall and broke her hip. She was taken to hospital where she spent some time before being airlifted back to Ireland for treatment.

Marie is from Tuam, Co Galway. Her father, Mark Killilea, was a well known politician and her brother, also Mark Killilea, also followed his father into politics. He was appointed Minister of State at the Department of Posts and Telegraphs and subsequently appointed to the European Parliament. He has now retired.

After leaving school, Marie worked in the Irish Tourist Board. She married Jimmy (James Joseph) Cummins, a doctor from Mayo, and in 1958 he commenced in private practice. They had one daughter, Sharon, who is married and lives in Deansgrange, Co Dublin. Unfortunately Jimmy died in 1988 at the very young age of 56.

Marie and her extended family enjoyed a wonderful party recently. It was arranged by her nephew and held in a hotel in Mullingar and Marie reckoned

that approximately forty adults plus children attended. A game of golf was arranged with prizes donated in Mark Killilea's (Snr.) name. The festivities went on until the small hours with a sing song and at which Marie was persuaded to give a solo performance, as she used to belong to the choral society in Ballinrobe.

Following Marie's unfortunate accident, she moved to Deansgrange to her daughter's home and she commenced attending the Day Care Unit at Leopardstown Park Hospital on one day a week. She has the height of praise for the friendly staff and for the care she experiences at the hospital and has a special mention for the Physiotherapists who have worked hard to help her to regain some of her mobility.

## JOHN WRIGHT



Born in Liverpool in 1930 John most certainly does not look his age. He had one brother and eight sisters so it goes without saying it was a busy household. Being small in stature and a lightweight, John overheard a remark made by the family GP that perhaps he should think of becoming a jockey when he left school. On leaving school, he remembered what the doctor had said and he went to work as an apprentice jockey in stables in Wiltshire. Working a seven day week, he was up at 6.30 am and worked until midday, then back on the job again at 4 pm and he worked until 6pm. The work was hard and involved cleaning out the stables, looking after the horses and of course,

riding out. His apprenticeship lasted for nine years.

Conscription was still in force at this time and young men had to spend two years in the armed services. However those in certain categories of jobs were exempt and one of these exemptions applied to farm workers. John's employer stated that John was just such a worker and so would not have to join up. While attending a race meeting, the police came looking for John, presumably with the intention of arresting him but John managed to make his escape and he made his way to Ireland

During his racing career here John became very well known to the racing community and was a much sought after lightweight jockey. He rode many winners in race courses throughout Ireland, including the Curragh, Baldoyle, Leopardstown, Naas, Phoenix Park, Killarney, Limerick Junction, Sligo, Listowel and Tralee (to name but a few). He also rode in the Cesarewich where he had two winners Sword Flash and Height of Fashion. John regards the 1500 in the Phoenix Park riding the two

year old Vestogan as his best race. The horse he most loved was Height of Fashion (who came second in an Irish Grand National twice, on one of these occasions to Arkle.)

He was retained by the McGraths, but was permitted to ride for other stables as the need arose.

John retired from racing at the age of 38. In 1956 he went to work for Seamus McGrath, Trainer and son of Joe McGrath. He became Liaison Officer in the Publicity Department of Irish Hospital Sweepstakes and he held this position until 1966.

Married to Margaret, originally from Blanchardstown, they have five daughters and ten grandchildren. John attends the Day Care Centre which he finds a great help as he battles a (serious) medical condition which has resulted in the loss of sight in one eye, but he considers himself lucky as he had a career that he loved and has a good family and he looks forward to his once a week visit to the Day Care Centre which he enjoys immensely.

## TERESA MCGOVERN



We met Teresa, a retired nurse from Belmullet, Co Mayo who now lives in Deansgrange, Co Dublin and attends the Day Centre in Leopardstown Park Hospital once a week. Teresa's father was originally from Cavan, and the family moved there where Mr McGovern opened a drapery business.

It was a busy home as there were nine children. Teresa attended school nine miles away until she suffered a

traumatic experience after which her mother took her out of that school and she went to a convent school in Enniskillen.

On finishing school Teresa applied to Belfast City Hospital to do nursing. Her training was hard as it was in those days where she had one day off a month and was paid the princely sum of £3 a month. Teresa remembers that she and her companions were always hungry because WWII was still raging and her mother's food parcels were particularly welcome.

On finishing her training, Teresa went to London to work and after some time she decided to set sail for Canada where she spent three years. She worked in Southern Alberta, Montreal and Vancouver.

She travelled by Greyhound bus to San Francisco, Arizona, New Mexico,

Washington and New York and then sailed back to Ireland to visit her home.

But her travels didn't stop there. After three months at home she set off again and over the years her travels ranged far and wide across the globe. The countries in which she worked included Bermuda, Jamaica, Hawaii, Fiji, Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand. We listened awestruck as we pictured Teresa venturing, sometimes alone, to these countries and realising that travel in those days was not just a matter of hopping on and off airplanes, but travelling by sea was often the only option.

By this time, Teresa's lunch was ready and she had to go, but her story is so interesting that we hope to feature more about her experiences in future issues. So, readers, watch this space.

# The Tailor of Termonfeckin

By Tom Harmon

A tale from the banks of the River Ballywater which flows through the village of Termonfeckin and of Paddy Henry, the tailor.

There were very few villages in Ireland that did not have a tailor and Termonfeckin was no exception in years gone by. So enter Paddy Henry. Paddy was not a big man. Little would describe him as he was five foot nothing in height. Paddy lived in a house at the butt of Tawney Hill which is on the road to Baltray village, passing the ICA college and on to Drogheda. The Roman Catholic Church looked down into the back of Paddy's house where there were a few sheds, one containing a few cows, perhaps three or four, as Paddy and his wife kept a small dairy which supplied milk and butter to some people in the village. Now this is only an introduction to the main story, which, by the way, is absolutely true.

In my father's time, as the story-teller puts it, very few people from the country went to town to purchase a suit of men's clothes, including trousers, waistcoat and jacket. Instead, when in town, they bought from the drapers, what was called a suit length or, in other words, the makings of a suit. This was taken to the local tailor who measured the person for the suit and got instructions as to how they liked their waistcoat and buttons done.

On this occasion, a local farmer named Jack, surname I will leave out for obvious reasons, came to Paddy to have his suit made. He wanted it for a special occasion that was to take place in his home village of Stabannon where his favourite team, the Parnells were playing another team in the County final GAA match. The team was named after Parnell, who, as far as Jack was concerned, was the greatest national leader of them all. Jack was a noted trickster was renowned locally and outside the parish as well.

About this time there came to the village a travelling show. They pitched their tents and sideshows on the green

beside the old hall which has since been demolished. They had swingboats, jugglers, acrobats, stilt walkers, two clowns and travelling players who acted in plays. There were two plays which I think were "East Lynn" and "Murder in the Red Barn". But the main attraction was a very dark-skinned man, unusual in those days. He was called "The Contortionist" and could tie himself in knots, he was a kind of Houdini. There was a younger boy with him who collected the money before he put on his act.

Now in those times, a tailor's shop was a place where a lot of people met and discussed the news of the day both local and national, as TV's were unknown and radios few and far between. Jack came to the tailor, Paddy, for a fitting and the talk came up about the show and the man who could tie himself in knots. So Jack saw his chance to get one up on Paddy and he said, "Sure Paddy, you could do that." Now Paddy was the time of person who would say "anything you can do I can do better". As the tale progressed Paddy sitting on his bench, now proceeded to put his legs at the back of his neck with plenty of encouragement from Jack. Now the return journey to his former position was a disaster. He was locked and panic set in as to what to do next.

Now, after some thought Jack suggested to Paddy's wife to send for a bone setter named Brian. This was done and in just over an hour or so the bone setter arrived. Then Irish hospitality meant that he was offered a drop of the "Craythur", which meant whiskey, and after that the fun started.

Brian took one look at Paddy and asked for a good quantity of butter to rub on Paddy's limbs to make them supple. At that Paddy said "I'm not going to waste butter" which to Paddy meant money as he was as tight as two pence in a rag. So Brian looked at Jack and asked him what should he do. After a little thought Jack with a grin, suggested cart grease. This grease was used on cart axles and on the hooves of horses. So this black and very greasy substance was obtained and



liberally applied to Paddy's limbs.

As Brian was doing this Jack would say "Grease the so and so well". As this was going on Paddy was fit to be tied and swore he'd get his own back on Jack. After much greasing and manipulation he got back to his original position but he was a sorry sight and not a pretty one. Now the cleaning had to be done and a bath was run with plenty of near boiling water and a big bar of carbolic soap and after a vigorous scrubbing he must have been the cleanest tailor in the country bar none. Of course all this made Jack's day. After a week the show left the village and things got back to normal.

Jack went back for the final fitting of the suit and paid for it so Paddy said he would send it to him in time for the big day. The suit arrived in time and Paddy was as proud as punch. His friends were coming to collect him in the morning with a fast pony and trap. The morning came and Jack went to put on his trousers but found he could not get his feet through the bottom of the trouser legs as they were stitched together with a note attached saying "you will need some grease for this job. From Paddy".

Jack's vocabulary was colourful to say the least and as you can imagine the air turned several shades of blue. Worse still his friends had arrived and viewed Jack's predicament. Of course Jack's wife had to rip out the stitches and then the trousers had to be quickly pressed. After that all went well and Jack still got his suits made by Paddy and as far as I heard they remained good friends.

# Frankie Hennell's Corner

Dear Readers

Just a few lines, hoping you are all keeping well. I'd like to tell a little joke before I forget it.

*The breathaliser was only new on the scene. Paddy was zig sagging along the road driving very recklessly. So a Garda went after him on his motorbike and pulled up alongside him and asked him to pull over. The Garda said "Get out of the car and blow into this." Paddy said, "I can't, as I have asthma." "O.K." said the Garda. "I'll take a sample of your water". Paddy said, "I'm sorry I can't because I'm a diabetic." The Garda said, "well then, I'll take a sample of your blood." Paddy says, "I'm sorry I can't*

*because I'm anaemic." So the Garda says, "You'll have to come back to the station." So they went back to the station and the Garda says "I want you to walk straight along that white line". Paddy says, "I'm sorry, I can't, because I'm drunk!*

I was sorry to hear about Helen (Glencullen) who passed away and Aidan's wife who also died. All our thoughts are with Aidan and his family. I know God will comfort them.

I would like to thank Geraldine Lee (Patient Services) for arranging the Kilmacud Choir in concert.

I will now close with my three questions:



## The Quiz

1. From whom did Thierry Henry join Arsenal?
2. What is the name of the café in the TV series Friends?
3. What colour is saffron?

The Answers to the Quiz in the last issue...

1. Cast
2. The Misfits
3. Gough Whitlam

*All the best, Frankie*

# A Eulogy for Margaret Comiskey

By Elaine Flanagan

Henry James once said:

"Sorrow comes in great waves, but it rolls over us and though it may almost smother us, it leaves us on the spot, and we know that if it is strong, we are stronger in as much as it passes and we remain."

This April morning, one month after Margaret's death we have come here for two reasons:

- No. 1: To celebrate Margaret's wonderful life
- No. 2: To share in her loss with Cathal.

Margaret touched each and every one of us in a different way as her partner, as her friend, as her work colleague, or as an excellent nurse, a credit to her profession.

Albert Einstein said, "The value of a man should be seen in what he gives and not in what he is able to receive." In one word, Margaret was a lady who gave. Whether we were residents in

Leopardstown Park Hospital, respite residents in Djouce ward or clients in the Day Care Centre, Margaret treated us equally with her professional care, compassion and love that only Margaret could give. That is why we are gathered here to say goodbye to Margaret but I would also like to speak in celebration of her life

I have personally known Margaret since 2006 when I joined Leopardstown Park Hospital but there are those of you here, that knew Margaret since she commenced employment here as a young staff nurse in 1987. Margaret reached us all on a deeper level of care, which allowed her to develop her nursing knowledge. When others would sit back and not stretch to further develop skills to reach our residents needs, in a more person centred, individual way, Margaret progressed forward, - she trained in acupuncture, massage, dementia and management and she was very much in tune with the

holistic care aspect which we actively pursue here. As a CNMI, she generously gave us her knowledge, her expertise and her skills. She was a strategic thinker, a calm visionary who was innovative and creative. She had a tremendous love of nature – in particular dogs and horses and they also gathered at her funeral in Wexford to bid her farewell. She would certainly have approved of the hospital's new developments with pet therapy and nesting boxes which is bringing nature back to our residents here. So in a way, I suppose, her star continues to shine brightly amongst us.

I consider myself to be very lucky in my role here. Whilst I acknowledge the role that operationally our multi-disciplinary colleagues play at the hospital, it is the nurses and the carers who ultimately provide the core strength. We have developed our core management team to recognise and actively encourage individual care for

our residents – to recognise that life in addition to being physically well, also has to possess social elements with our peers and nature, to reflect our spirituality and has to be fun ultimately, I believe what I'm saying is that our core team has to provide, teach and encourage love to those who trust in our care. I do believe that my core team, of whom I am very proud and in which Margaret played a vital role, actively encourages the concept with Ann, Fergus, Elma, Jackie, Pom, Ramya, Linda, Cynthia, Deirdre, Bridie, Helen, Iris, Florence, Pam and Liz all playing their own individual and crucial roles. As a great sorrow fills our hearts at this sad moment, a sorrow that is deep and personal to us, Margaret has silently closed the door of life and departed from us and our lives are empty in the

areas that she once brightened for us.

As Director of Nursing, when I do my rounds, there is not a morning that Margaret is not mentioned, with regard to her loss, her special touch in complimentary medicine and her fun loving personality from her colleagues in the day care centre. Margaret always had a smile on her face, she bounded around the corridors of the hospital with great vitality and you could often hear her infectious laugh echoing from the Day Care Centre. And from Matron who as a student nurse was once sent to Matron's office for engaging in laughter with patients on a ward – that always made me smile and remember.

Margaret was a deeply private person who came to work to care. But she was also very concerned that we would look

after Cathal when she was gone and her last phone call to me echoed those sentiments. Cathal knows that we are with him during this dark process but we must take comfort from the fact that even though Margaret is not with us any more she is now without fear or pain. This is epitomised by a short poem by Sharon A. Bryington

She leaves us then a living legacy, the stories she told, the lives she touched, and the Day Care Centre she transformed. So here in this chapel in the hospital that she loved, on this beautiful Dublin morning, no goodbyes. Margaret's influence was much too profound for words of such finality. Instead, a simple thank you to a colleague, to a friend, to a partner, and a loving nurse who enriched our lives and passed through town all too quickly.

## While Waiting For Thee

by Sharon A. Bryington

Don't weep at my grave  
For I am not there,  
I've a date with a butterfly  
To dance on the air.  
If I'm missed, find a flower,  
I'll be there too,  
Sniffing it's fragrance  
Right next to you.

Don't be sad  
When you remember me,  
For I'm singing in the sunshine,  
Wild and free,  
Flirting with the lighting,  
Playing tag with the wind,  
Chasing the thunder  
Time and again,  
Soaring with the eagle,  
Swimming in the sea,  
Enjoying all of nature  
While I'm waiting for thee.

## A Poem for Margaret

By Cathal O'Donovan

### Margaret by the way

When you meet someone for the first time,  
You may feel apprehensive,  
perhaps a little shy,  
But that was not how you felt  
when you met Margaret,  
And I will tell you why;

She sauntered straight up to me,  
And the first words I heard her say  
As she smiled stuck out her hand and said,  
Hi, I'm Margaret by the way.

She had so many qualities,  
That none of us will ever achieve,  
Like how to meet a total stranger  
And make them feel at ease,

Like a blinding ray of sunshine,  
She'd light the darkest day,  
With her beautiful smile, cheery hello  
That was Margaret by the way.

Some days you'd come to work,  
Feeling down not at your best,  
Thinking to yourself, oh my god  
I want to go home to my bed  
and rest,  
But then you'd see your colleagues  
And you'd know it was going to be okay,  
Why! Because your working with

Margaret by the way.

She touched the hearts of all she met,  
Each in her own special way,  
She filled them full of happy memories,  
That we carry with us every day,  
That is why we will never forget,

My Margaret by the way

# A Deadly Storm

By Noirin Scully

Walking the East Pier in Dún Laoghaire on a fine summer evening, watching the yachts peacefully sailing across the calm waters of the harbour, it is impossible to imagine how this scene could change during a fierce winter storm.

Such a storm occurred in February 1861. The wind rose on Friday 8th and soon became one of the severest storms experienced on the east coast for many years. The gale, accompanied by rain and hail caused huge waves that battered the shore and caused many ships to founder all along the east coast.

HMS Ajax, a guard-ship, was stationed in the recently constructed harbour in Kingstown, (the old name for Dún Laoghaire). The ship was under the command of Captain John McNeil Boyd who was born in Derry in 1812. During his career in the Royal Navy Captain Boyd had served on many ships before being appointed Captain on HMS Ajax in 1858.

On Saturday the 9th of February the storm continued unabated and when ships were seen drifting helplessly towards the rocks at the back of the pier, Captain Boyd and his men went to render assistance.

One can only imagine the scene. Although it was midday, the lowering sky, the mountainous seas and the howling of the wind meant that trying

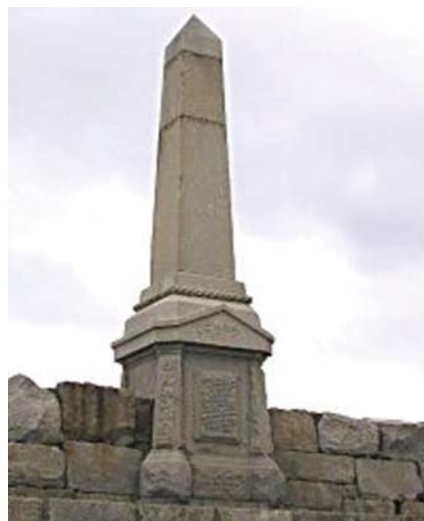
to get ropes on to the stricken vessels was almost impossible. To avoid being smashed onto the rocks, sailors jumped into the seas and Captain Boyd and his men formed a chain so that some might be pulled from the water; Their valiant efforts were in vain as a huge wave crashed over the pier and Captain Boyd and his crew together with many people from the town who had come to help were swept into the sea and drowned.

Then the sea began to give up the dead. The bodies of the brave crew of HMS Ajax, the crews from the shipwrecks and the townspeople who had lost their lives, all were taken from the sea and following their funerals were interred in Carrickbrennan Graveyard in nearby Monkstown village. This graveyard, which may be visited, contains the remains of many of the victims of the maritime disasters which occurred over the years in Dublin bay.

Captain Boyd's remains were not recovered for some weeks and he was interred in the small graveyard in St Patrick's Cathedral and a memorial was erected in the Cathedral in his memory. Another memorial to Captain Boyd and his crew can be seen in Carrickbrennan Graveyard. At the scene of the tragedy on the East Pier in Dún Laoghaire, there is a obelisk monument commemorating the bravery of Captain Boyd and his crew.



Memorial in Carrickbrennan Graveyard, Monkstown, Co Dublin



Memorial on East Pier, Dun Laoghaire

# Poetry Corner

A poem submitted by Marie Collins,  
Tibradden Ward

## I Love to Live

**Today Dear Lord I am 80 and  
there's much I haven't done,  
I hope Dear Lord, you'll let  
me live until I'm 81.**

**But then if I haven't finished  
all I want to do,**

**Would you let me stay awhile  
until I'm 82?**

**So many places I want to do,  
so very much to see,**

**Do you think you could  
manage to make it 83?**

**The world is changing very  
fast**

**There is much in store,  
I'd like it very much to live  
until I'm 84.**

**And if by then I'm still alive,  
I'd like to stay till 85.**

**More planes will be up in the  
air,**

**So I'd really like to stick**

**And see what happens to the  
world when I am 86.**

**I know Dear Lord it's much to  
ask**

**And it must be nice in heaven  
But I would really like to stay  
until I'm 87.**

**I know by then I won't be  
fast, and sometimes will be  
late,**

**But it would be so pleasant to  
be around at 88**

**I will have seen many things  
and had a wonderful time,**

**So, I'm sure that I'll be willing  
to leave at 89 ... maybe.**

**Just one more thing I'd like to  
say, Dear Lord, I thank you  
kindly**

**If it doesn't put you out too  
much I'd love to live past 90**

## North Irish Horse Regiment Dinner – 20 May 2011

John Crisp, A Squadron and Gerry Chester B Squadron, North Irish Horse Regiment attended the Battle Of The Hitler Line 67th Anniversary Annual Celebration Dinner on Friday 20th May 2011 at the Belfray Co House Hotel.

The Drums are the Ceremonial Band Drums of the Band the old North Irish House Regiment. (The Regiment has been reduces to 2 squadrons in the Queen Own Yeomanry)

They have the Names of the various "battles" that the Regiment participated in, painted on rather like the Regimental Flag. Our thanks to Brian Crawford who supplied the photographs and details.



The Ceremonial Drums



John Crisp and Gerry Chester

## Woodies

By Rita Conroy

If you need a new shears, where do you go?

If you need a new ladder, where do you go?

A mirror, some plants for your garden, a kettle, a garden seat – where do you go?

You go to your local Woodies store for all DIY and gardening needs and their stores are nationwide so there's sure to be a branch near you.

However, in early May Woodies came to us.

Our new Art and Craft Centre was transformed for a day by Woodies horticulturalists Marie and David (with the blessing of Simon Farrell, Manager, Woodies, Sandyford) and all for free. A wonderful thoughtful gesture, for which we are extremely grateful.

The following photos bear testament to their wonderful work, with lush plants lavishly displayed, water feature, greenery of all description which gave us the ideal background for Eric Dempsey's beautiful DAWN CHORUS presentation which included stunning pictures of a great variety of birds.





# The Dawn Chorus

By Johnny Wetherall

**Wednesday 11th May at  
Leopardstown Park Hospital,  
Woodview Art and Craft Centre**

A bit late for dawn at 10am, still allowances have to be made for oldies.

Well, believe it or not we did have a dawn chorus and attendance was

remarkably high. Eric Dempsey of Birds Ireland had set up a projector and audio equipment and was able to give a show of pictures of more common birds backed up by the sound of their songs – a very informative presentation, well received by the capacity audience.

The main area of the Craft Centre had been turned into a wonderful colourful garden by Woodies (the hardware and garden centre in the estate “just across the road”.) This garden was a riot of colour of heart stopping magnitude and it was difficult to drag oneself away – beautiful white rhododendron, Australian bottle brush standards, dark blue iris and a corner feature water cascade, a really glorious display and we who enjoyed this wonderful display must be grateful to Woodies for their kindness and effort in bringing such a joy to us all and thanks to Vera and her army of helpers for a lovely day with an extended dawn chorus.



## Advocacy Group

Martin McGarry of the Advocacy Group sent the following letter to Woodies.

To Management and Staff at Woodie's Sandyford.

A very special thanks to all your staff who worked so hard creating our “Woodlands Garden Experience” at Leopardstown Park Hospital. It brought so much enjoyment to all our residents. It was a great pleasure to see the smile the garden brought to the faces of all our elderly residents, some of whom haven't seen such a magnificent display of garden and woodland arrangement in many years. The stimulation from the noises of the birds, scents of the flowers, and the tastes of the fresh strawberries, will leave a lasting impression in their hearts and memories for many a year to come be it long or short.

In particular, special thanks are owed to horticulturists, Marie and David, who gave up their valuable time to help us out. It is very much appreciated.

Also to the manager, Simon Farrell for his kind and generous offer to allow the use of his stock, equipment and staff for this to take place. We wish all your staff all the best for the future and hope your business blooms in future.

Finally once again, a very warm hearted thanks from all at LPH.

Kind regards,

*Martin McGarry  
Advocacy Group Pr.*

# The Breeding Season

By Eric Dempsey of Birds Ireland

Summer has at last arrived and all around us our resident birds are busy proclaiming their territories and selecting suitable nest sites. Even now, the first of our summer visitors are reaching our shores and shortly they too will be nest building. The nesting season is upon us.

But what are nests? Put simply, nests are where birds lay their eggs, incubate those eggs and, for many species, where the chicks remain until they are fledged (ready to leave the nest).

The egg is a life support system for the baby bird. It has everything the baby needs except a heating system. The yolk is a store of food for the growing chick. This is surrounded by egg white, a thick sticky fluid which cushions the yolk and which will also be eaten by the chick.

Forming eggs is demanding for the mother so only one egg is released at a time. It is immediately attached to a yolk and begins its journey down a long passage called the oviduct. It is fertilised along the way, the white protective cushion is added and finally the shell. Cell division begins as the egg progresses and the early embryo begins its development. The entire process, from release to laying, takes a day in small birds, two days in larger ones.

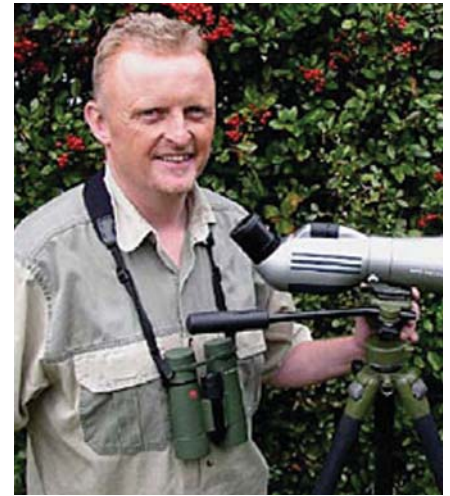
The early embryo, on top of the yolk, can be seen as a white spot about 4 mm in extent on top of the yolk. Cell division stops after laying and won't resume until incubation begins. The egg is dormant at this stage and it does not need heat to survive.

Most small birds won't start incubating until the entire clutch has been laid. The weight of a clutch of blue tit eggs is greater than the weight of the mother. It would make too great a demand on the bird to gather enough resources to form eggs and to sit and incubate at the same time. Some species, however, manage to do both. To incubate her eggs, a bird must raise their temperature almost to that of her own body.

Eggs are fragile and their rich store of nutrient attracts rats, cats and magpies, so birds must nest in inaccessible places. Most species build a protective structure, a further demand on a bird's time and resources. Nests are built therefore well in advance of the release of eggs. Most people, if asked what a nest was, would describe a cup-shaped object made of grasses wedged in between branches in a tree. Such a description would be right... many birds do build nests exactly like that. However, as there are many species of birds, there are equally a vast array of nest designs and nesting places. In fact there are some birds that don't even bother to build nests at all! It is also important to remember that nests are a purely summer residence for birds...once the breeding season is over, they are no longer required and are abandoned. Nests vary from highly elaborate and beautiful constructions to simple hollows scraped in ground. The following is an introduction to some of the different nesting strategies that our birds use.

## Ground Nesters

Many birds choose to nest on the ground and employ many different strategies for nesting. Some birds like Guillemots and Razorbills simply lay their eggs on the ledges of the steepest cliffs. There is no attempt to even pretend to build a nest. The eggs are pointed and oval shaped so that, if a parent bird should knock against it when leaving the ledge, the egg will simply roll in on itself in a tight circle...if it were more rounded, it might roll off the edge! Other seabirds like Gannets nest on similar steep cliffs but do construct a large cup-shaped nest of seaweed and other coastal material...including discarded fishing netting. These birds rely on the fact that their nests are on such steep cliffs for protection. Potential predators simply can't reach them. Many birds of prey like Kestrels and Peregrine Falcons also



Eric Dempsey – Birds Ireland

nest on ledges of cliffs and, in some cities, on high-rise buildings. They can build quite large nests of twigs, grasses and straw but in some cases, Kestrels will also use old crow nests or even nest in large, open nest-boxes. These boxes can be erected where there are no other suitable locations. Kestrels are also known to nest in holes in trees on occasions.

Other birds that nest on the ground tend to rely on camouflage to protect their nest location. Many ground nesting birds like Little Terns, Ringed Plovers and Skylarks sit tight on the nest and simply blend into their surroundings. When they leave the nest, their eggs and chicks are also perfectly camouflaged. Other ground nesting birds like gulls also rely on camouflage with their patterned eggs and chicks making them almost impossible to see. One ground nesting duck, the Eider, lines the nest with her dense down feathers...one of the warmest naturally produced substances in the world. Swans also nest on the ground and build large nests of weed and feathers. Like all wildfowl (ducks, geese and swans), the chicks are hatched with down feathers (most chicks are hatched bald). Within a day, the nest is abandoned and all the chicks take to the water with their parents.

# Malnutrition in the Elderly

Authors: Glenda O'Connor, Senior Dietitian, Dr Joseph Yazbeck Medical Officer/UCD Clinical Lecturer

The elderly are the fastest growing sector of society, with those aged 65 years or more accounting for approximately 11% of the Irish population in 2010. A satisfactory nutritional status is of paramount importance in establishing quality of life and positive aging in older people. However, malnutrition is a major problem amongst this population group.

## Causes and consequences of Malnutrition

The causes of malnutrition in the elderly are many and may be divided into medical, physiological, socioeconomic and psychological conditions. Malnutrition occurs where dietary intake is insufficient to meet nutritional requirements (the latter of which will be increased during illness or metabolic stress), increased nutrient losses, poor nutrient absorption or a combination of these factors. Up to 25% of cases will have no identifiable cause despite extensive investigation.

Food intake naturally declines with age, heralding the onset of what has been called a “physiologic anorexia of aging”. This is characterised by a reduction in chemo-sensory function (affecting taste and smell), reduced efficiency of chewing, delayed gastric emptying and increases in satiating hormones. These changes are associated with anorexia, early satiety and reduced enjoyment of food. Such a decline in food intake, coupled with the characteristic loss of lean body mass associated with age leaves the elderly at nutritional risk when psychological or physical disease processes come into play.

The consequences of malnutrition can be profound, and affect every organ system. Involuntary weight loss leading to decreased muscle strength, mobility and impaired immune function. Increased susceptibility to infection, delayed wound healing and pressure sores ensue, leading to increased risk of clinical complications. As a result malnourished patients spend 30-75% longer in hospital, and require more frequent re-admissions, out-patient

appointments and GP visits. Such outcomes greatly compromise quality of life and increase dependency and the need for long-term care, as well as imposing a high economic cost. In 2010 the cost of malnutrition in Ireland was estimated to exceed €1.5 billion per annum, representing more than 10% of the healthcare budget.

## Identification of Malnutrition

Within any healthcare setting malnutrition and risk of malnutrition can be identified by the use of nutritional screening or assessment tools. Screening is a rapid, simple and general procedure that involves the identification of patient characteristics known to be associated with malnutrition (e.g. unintentional weight loss over a defined timescale, lack of nutritional intake, current BMI etc) and the initiation of a defined care plan outlining how to treat and monitor the patient thereafter. It precedes nutritional assessment which is a more in-depth and specific evaluation of individuals at risk, typically undertaken by a dietitian. Nutritional screening is a multi-disciplinary responsibility and can be undertaken by nurses, doctors, dietitians or other health care professionals.

In the absence of a screening tool, clinical judgement will play a vital role in aiding doctors to identify malnutrition. The following questions should be considered when assessing any elderly patient:

- Has the patient *unintentionally* lost weight recently? If so, how much and over how long? How does their current weight compare to their usual weight?
- Check current BMI – is the patient underweight?
- Has the patient’s appetite declined over the past few months? Are there chewing or swallowing difficulties?
- Is the patient acutely unwell and will this significantly impact upon nutritional intake for > 5 days?
- Does a global assessment of the patient suggest undernutrition? Is there evidence of muscle wasting, loose clothes, poor wound healing?

## Management of malnutrition

Early detection is key to the successful management of malnutrition in the elderly. Once malnutrition is identified, prompt referral to a dietitian and commencement of nutrition support is a priority.

In malnourished elderly patients, the use of liquid oral nutritional supplements (ONS) is known to significantly improve energy, protein and nutrient intake, weight gain, functional capacity (muscle strength, ADL’s, mobility) and to cause significant reductions in mortality and complications (e.g. infections, pressure ulcers). It is important, however, that the goals of treatment with ONS be identified for an individual patient at the start of treatment. Thereafter, regular and frequent monitoring of patients receiving ONS should be undertaken to:

- Assess ONS acceptability.
- Monitor ONS effectiveness by monitoring the patients’ progress towards the treatment goal (s). Goals could include energy and nutritional intake, appetite, nutritional status, functional measures and/ or clinically relevant outcomes (pressure ulcer size, infection, quality of life).
- Encourage compliance with ONS where appropriate.
- Assess whether ONS are still required or if other forms of nutritional support (e.g. tube feeding) are warranted
- Monitor changes in clinical and nutritional status (10).

In Ireland, malnutrition has been identified as an urgent public health and economic issue, but there remains a distinct lack of awareness regarding the impact of malnutrition on the elderly population. It is widespread in all healthcare settings, and the adverse consequences are well documented. Malnutrition is treatable in the vast majority of cases but success depends on *early* identification of those at risk by the use of a nutritional screening program, and prompt initiation and management of effective nutrition support measures.

# Mary Sheridan

By Yvonne Sheridan



Mary Sheridan's Sweepstake Ticket 1959

Hi, I'm Mary Sheridan and I moved to LPH on 17 December 2010. I grew up in Westmeath before we moved to Dublin. After college, I worked at the Irish Hospitals' Trust (Ballsbridge) for many years – a job that I loved. I was selected to be on the Irish Hospitals' Sweepstake ticket for the Grand National in 1959, which was a great honour. The ticket shown (not the winning one!) was found recently in the back of a picture frame in Philadelphia. My brother Derry and I loved horse-riding as children and I'm fond of a 'flutter' to this day with my favourite jockey being Ruby Walsh. I also love music – the livelier the better (Elvis being my all time favourite)! I'm looking forward to a few upcoming shows - Neil Diamond in June and also Ronan Collins sings Joe Dolan in October.



Mary and her daughter Yvonne



Mary and Elvis

## A Letter from an Old Friend and Colleague



Major (Retd) Steve Elsey MInstLM

ANDOVER  
Hampshire  
SP10 3DD



Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2011

Dear Johnny

I thought I would write to say thank you for the last two editions of the wonderful LIANA newsletter that I have only just had forwarded to me. Having left the service last August I have moved to the address above and the new tenants have kindly forwarded the magazines on.

Having read through them this weekend I of course would very much like to offer my condolences for the loss of your good lady Audrey. I do hope that you are coping with your loss and can only try to understand what you are going through. However, it clearly shows that you have some wonderful friends at Leopardstown Park and I am sure that when times are difficult they come round as all good friends do.

I hope you are keeping well yourself, or at least as well as one might expect; you certainly seem to be keeping busy and writing some wonderful little articles for the newsletter.

In the latest edition the 'for you the war is over' article is interesting reading. I would be interested in hearing more about your days as a POW. These were difficult days I know through talking my good friend Peter Clarke's experiences through with him. It is times like those that you learn about yourself I should think. To have managed as you clearly did demonstrates your own inner strength and self belief and dare I say courage both moral and physical, but of course you GPs needed to have those qualities just to carry out your daunting work so I am not in the least surprised.

Anyway Johnny, if you could please let your newsletter people know my new address I would be grateful and look forward to some more interesting writing in the future.

Take good care my friend and again my condolences on your sad loss.

My very best wishes  
Steve

Johnny Wetherall received the above letter from Major Elsey expressing his condolences on the death of his wife, Audrey. Major Elsey also had some lovely comments about Liana which we thought we should feature.

Many thanks, Johnny and Major Elsey for allowing us to publish your letter in Liana.

# The Boston Globe

*The following article appears courtesy of the Boston Globe.*

## For Irish Vets of WWII, Royal Visit Fulfills Hope for Reconciliation By Kevin Cullen – Globe Columnist

Leopardstown, Ireland. – They sat there, three old soldiers, watching the television in a room lined with books and memories.

On the TV, Queen Elizabeth II was standing in the Irish National War Memorial Garden, 9 miles away at Islandbridge, paying tribute to the Irishmen who died in British uniforms in two world wars.

“I never thought I’d live to see this,” Jim Redmond said.

Redmond wore a British uniform, for the Royal Air Force. He flew 36 missions over Nazi Germany as a rear gunner.

“We’re watching history” Johnny Wetherall said, nodding.

Wetherall joined the British Army when he was 17 years old. Two years later, he flew a glider into Arnhem behind German lines on the Lower Rhine.

John Crisp was a student at Trinity College in Dublin when the Nazis invaded Poland.

“Ireland was neutral, but I couldn’t be,” he said.

He left the safe confines of cobbled Trinity College and not long after he was driving tanks across North Africa, chasing Nazis with his French and American allies.

And so they sat there, in the Leopardstown Park Hospital, which opened in 1917 to take care of Irishmen who wore the British uniform. Having been part of history, now they were watching it, a British Queen welcomed in Ireland, a bitter history buried like so many of their friends who never made it back to Ireland from war.

Redmond is 89 years old. Crisp is 87, Wetherall is the baby at 86. They were part of the Greatest Generation. They saved the free world. But when they came back to Ireland, they weren’t celebrated. They weren’t appreciated.

“We were made to feel invisible,” Redmond said.

Those who fought in World War II didn’t fight for Ireland, but the free

world. The Irishmen who fought in World War I, including the 49,000 who died, fought for a different reason. They thought that their decision to join the British war effort would lead to home rule for Ireland. But it didn’t happen that way, and instead the Irish fought the British for their independence.

The three old soldiers watched the screen as the Queen walked onto the deep green pitch at Croke Park, home of Ireland’s national games of Gaelic football and hurling. It was there, in 1920, that British soldiers opened fire on unarmed spectators, killing 14 of them, a reprisal for the Irish Republican Army’s assassination of a dozen British agents in Dublin.

Earlier, the Queen sat with Enda Kenny – Ireland’s Taoiseach, or Prime Minister – under a portrait of Michael Collins, the IRA leader who orchestrated the wipeout of the British agents.

“She’s drawing a line under all of it,” Crisp said. “It’s about reconciliation, and it’s about time.”

Wetherall is a war hero. After landing his glider at Arnhem, he got out and started firing. He got shot in the face, losing his right eye. The Germans dragged him to a POW camp. And when they weren’t looking, he escaped.

But after the war, he got a job in a car factory here in Ireland and learned “that you didn’t go around talking about the war,” he said. “You just learned to keep your big mouth shut.”

Crisp came back to his native Dublin and initially sensed that Britain’s central role in defeating the Axis powers was appreciated. But attitudes hardened. Irish nationalism had not yet figured out a way to give the British credit for anything.

“Eventually, I ended up being quiet about my military past,” he said. “It just was something you didn’t talk about. It invited abuse. And when I thought about how many of my friends died in the war, it was very difficult to accept that it was not socially acceptable to say you fought the Nazis.

Women who went door to door in Ireland, selling red poppies that raised money for British forces veterans “were often greeted with terrible abuse,” Crisp said. “You couldn’t wear a poppy on the streets.”

“We were unwanted people,” said Redmond, who came back from war, became a doctor, and spent 35 years in Africa helping poor people.

The three old soldiers give most credit to Ireland’s last two presidents, Mary Robinson and Mary McAleese, for leading the cultural change, so that Irish service in British uniforms can be accepted and honoured. After she was elected in 1990, Robinson attended an Armistice Day ceremony, breaking a taboo.

McAleese shattered the taboo by wearing a poppy soon after her election in 1997, showing that it could be an Irish custom as much as a British one. She and the Queen went to Belgium to honour the Irish and British dead.

“The two ladies, the two Marys, have done us proud,” Crisp said.

The three old soldiers were proud that the Queen had gone to the Garden of Remembrance a day earlier to honour Irish rebels who fought British forces.

“It’s perfectly correct that we should honour the founding fathers of this country,” Crisp said, “just as we should honour British veterans and the fact that joining the British Army does not make you anti-Irish.”

Crisp looked up at the TV, and the Queen was walking around Croke Park, a place once defined by atrocity, now defined by reconciliation.

“For too long, it was not respectable to be us,” he said, and Redmond and Wetherall were nodding. “Now it’s respectable again.”

I left them in the afternoon light. Three old soldiers. Three great men who don’t have to hide in their own country anymore.

# Leopardstown Park Hospital Trust

By Larry Walsh, Chairman, Leopardstown Park Hospital Trust

As Chairman of Leopardstown Park Hospital Trust I am delighted to have this opportunity to publicise through your Liana Newsletter, the history of the Trust and how it relates to the Hospital and war veterans today.

The Leopardstown Park Hospital Trust originated in 1917 when the House and grounds belonging to the late Mrs. Gertrude Dunning at Leopardstown Park were conveyed by Trust Deed to the then British Minister for Pensions for the purpose of providing care and treatment for officers and men disabled or invalided during service with the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom or discharged from such service by reason of that disability.

At that time the Minister for Pensions duly arranged for the conversion of the House and for the construction of additional Hospital buildings. The Hospital opened in March 1918 with accommodation for 32 patients suffering from 'shell shock' or battle fatigue. After the trauma of war, the peace and tranquillity of Leopardstown Park was a wonderful haven to the war weary soldiers. By 1924 the number of beds at the Hospital had increased to 136 but by the early 1970's the number of patients had dropped considerably and the cost of running the Hospital was therefore out of proportion to the number of patients. Legal advice was sought at the time and it was agreed that the original Trust Deed be amended to allow civilians or indeed ex service personnel other than those previously specified to be admitted. In 1979 a Deed of Licence was drawn up between the British and Irish Governments agreeing to transfer the use

of the Hospital to the Irish Department of Health, with the proviso that priority of admission at all times be given to war veterans. A Board of Management appointed by the Irish Minister for Health now runs the Hospital under Licence from the Board of Trustees.



From the front, Mr. Peter Davies, The O'Morchoe, Dr. Anne Montgomery, Ms. Margaret Orr, Rita Purcell (Admin. Assistant), Mr. Larry Walsh (Chairman of the Trust), Ed Hillan (Administrator to the Trust), Ms. Margaret Edwards and Mr. Jimmy Duggan

The Board of Trustees consists of myself as Chairman and six other trustees, we meet regularly with representatives of the Board of Management and we are acutely aware of the many difficult challenges facing the Board of Management particularly the lack of adequate funding for essential improvements required to meet future standards. In recent years the Trust has made substantial financial contributions amounting to €373,000 towards the development and upkeep of the Hospital and we will continue to work closely with the Board in the interests of the Hospital.

As well as the Trust's interests in the Hospital the Trust also provides financial

assistance to disabled war veterans who have served in the UK Armed Forces and who are resident in Ireland. This fund was originally created from the sale of Trust land around 1980 and in recent years has been added to through the proceeds of two compulsory purchase orders resulting from the M50 Motorway and the LUAS rail system extension along the perimeter of the Hospital. Since the introduction of the fund some 30 years ago the Trust has approved over 13,000 grants to beneficiaries totalling more than €1.7million in the Republic of Ireland and Stg£1.4million in Northern Ireland.

In recent years it has become increasingly more expensive to administer the fund and as a consequence the trustees have decided to discontinue making grants directly to disabled war veterans and to transfer this function to another ex service organisation who are already in the business of providing financial help to the ex service community here in Ireland. To this end the Trust has entered into an agreement with SSAFA Forces Help to take over this important function on behalf of the Trust later this year.

This major change in funding will allow the trustees to focus more closely their efforts in supporting the Hospital's Board of Management. We are proud of our long association with the Board and as owners of Leopardstown Park Hospital I would like, on behalf of myself and the other trustees, to assure all those associated with the Hospital of our continuing support for the Board into the future.

## Condolences

*Our sympathy to the families and friends of the following recently deceased residents.*

Raymond Fagan	Anne Burke
James (Bert) Callery	Helen Levis
Ann Proctor	Katherine Smyth
Charles Carrick	Bridget (Rita) Harding
Margaret Brandon	Eileen Hackett

*We offer our deep sympathy to:  
Aidan Traynor on the death of his wife,  
Maxine Doran on the death of her mother,  
Thomas Mullen on the death of his mother.*

Our congratulations to Mary McAuliffe on becoming a grandmother when her daughter and son-in-law Sarah and Cillian, became proud parents to Alma Mary on the 21st June.

Congratulations must go to the following happy couples who announced their engagements recently:

Colm Sorohan our Engineer and his fiancée Niamh

Derek (staff member) and his fiancée Leona

Best wishes from all your friends, colleagues and residents here in Leopardstown

# Results of Children's Art Competition



Adam Hederman's Entry



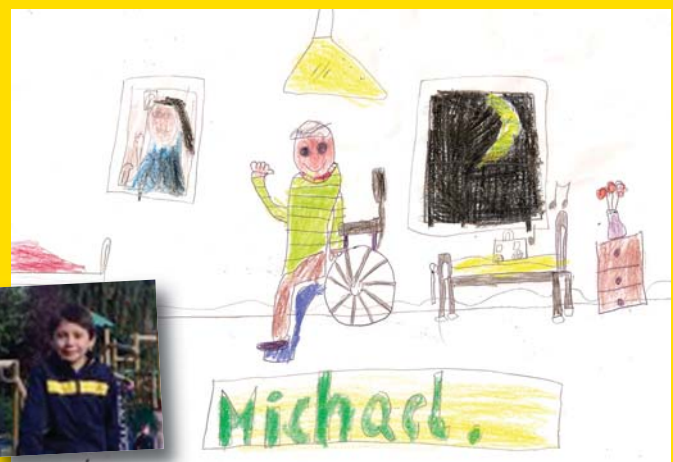
Andrew Beaver's Entry



Tori McGrath's Entry



Emily Ferguson's Entry and her baby sister Florence



Mark Nyland's Entry



Conor O'Brien's Entry

**Congratulations to all our winners, very well done.**

**We hope you have enjoyed spending your gift tokens as much as we have enjoyed receiving your entries, they were so good we decided to print them here for all to see.**

## Memorable Events for Residents and Day Centre Clients

By Geraldine Lee and Mary O'Toole

The Occupational Therapy and Patient Services Departments have been very busy during April and May, jointly organising and hosting several events in Leopardstown Park Hospital to celebrate national and international events of major significance.



The Royal Wedding

It began on the 29th April 2011 with the hosting of an opportunity for residents and Day Centre clients to watch highlights of the Royal Wedding while enjoying queen cakes and Victoria sponge etc.



Residents enjoying an afternoon of American Song in celebration of President Barack Obama's visit to Ireland.

We held a dance on the 12th May as part of the "Bealtaine Festival" which celebrates Creativity in Older People.



Residents and staff dancing in celebration of "Creativity in Older People" during the Bealtaine Festival



Residents enjoying the "Cream Tea Afternoon" in honour of the historic Queen's visit to Ireland

On the 19th May we had an extremely successful "Cream Tea" to honour the historic events of the Queen's visit to Ireland.

Finally to bring these special few weeks to an end and to also celebrate the visit of President Barak Obama we hosted an afternoon of American song on the 24th May. To help with the American theme and to coincide with the Presidential visit Andrea Cooper, friend of the family of Larry Butler from our O.T. Department, kindly baked some tasty American cup cakes for our enjoyment.



Some of the tasty American Cupcakes kindly baked by Andrea Cooper to add to enhance our American theme

As all of the above were such memorable celebrations we have included some photographs of the various events. We would like to take this opportunity to give a special thanks to all those who assisted, supported and attended these occasions. Your help and participation greatly added to the success of these proceedings. Thank you!

In particular we would like to acknowledge our Catering Department for their wonderful contribution to our Cream Tea event. Well done guys, the scones were thoroughly enjoyed by all!

Photograph of the Royal Wedding courtesy of Nightcap965



# Rounders and Astounders

By Johnny Wetherall, Glencullen



The Blue Team pose for the Press



The Yellow Team discuss tactics



The Blues version of the Haka



No – you don't all get to join in – it's two teams, remember?



Amicable meeting of Blues and Yellows



Will somebody please tell us what do we do now!



Happy spectators



The Director of Nursing gets to home base to score

June 29th, a Wednesday and at Leopardstown Park Hospital the sporting event of the year was held in the afternoon. A game of Rounders (a milder version of baseball?) took place on the pitch between the car park and the Luas Central Park stop.

The teams were Blue, captained by Gerard McEntee and Yellow, captained by Colm Devine with boys and girls on both teams, (see photo of the scoresheet). Paul Kelly was referee and

kept a fair eye upon scoring. The Blues went into bat first and set a cracking pace. Carrie and Florence showed an incredible turn of speed (in fact a team of 4 girl runners chosen from both teams would have a good chance of bringing home Gold in the 2012 Olympics 400m relay). Mary O'Grady made some of the best strikes of the game by using the bat one handed. The dives for "base" by both girls and boys were spectacular – better than dives for

tries at the Aviva.

Each side had two innings and the Blue team won. Player of the Day which went to Dylan Egan who ran backwards to keep his eye on the ball, caught it in one hand in the outfield – he would do well on the Irish Cricket Team.

A lovely afternoon's fun for both players and spectators and the general opinion is DO IT AGAIN PLEASE

# Veterans Report

By Geoffrey Medcalf

We regret to report the passing of Charles Carrick on the 6th May and we send condolences to his family. Charles was a resident of the Clevis and was a regular attendee at the Wednesday night socials. We shall miss his company.

We also send condolences to Eugene Magee, Chairman of the Hospital Board on the death of his brother recently.

The A.G.M. of the Veterans' Support Group took place on May 5th chaired by Major Ed Hillan who expressed his appreciation of the support groups work during the year. He read the list of obituaries and paid a special tribute to the memory of Aileen Kerr and the valuable work she did for this group.

Many veterans of the hospital were interviewed for the RTE News on the visit of Queen Elizabeth. Those

interviewed included the writer John Crisp, Jim Redmond, Johnny Wetherall, Leo Caffrey, Stella Hill, Frank Hetherington and Joan O'Neill. The interview by Philip Bronwell lasted for just under an hour and we managed to appear on the screen for approximately 5 to 10 seconds! Arising out of the Queen's visit, there were several presentations of flowers to her Majesty. We are grateful to our Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, T.D., who presented these flowers to the hospital with a letter of appreciation to our veterans.

On the 31st May, Joan O'Neill organised an outing to the Leopardstown Inn which was enjoyed by our veterans. The Army No. 1 Band played in the hospital on the 8th of June to a large gathering. The weather was

rather mixed so it all took place indoors.

We welcome Leonie O'Neill to the Veterans Committee. Leonie needs no introduction to those associated with the hospital for the past number of years. She will be a great asset to our Committee.

John Crisp, one of our Veterans, attended a dinner of the North Irish Horse in Derry last June. John, served in the North Irish Horse Regiment during the 1939/45 War. Mr Brian Crawford also attended and according to reports all had a good time.



## Remembrance Ceremony



Back row - John Crisp, Group Captain Rick Hobson, Defence Attaché, Nick Kelly. 2nd row - Johnny Wetherall, Jean Turvey, Elaine Flanagan. Front row - Olive Rowe, Stella Hill and Jim Redmond who attended the recent Remembrance ceremony at Islandbridge.

The following letter has been received from An Taoiseach Enda Kenny, T.D.

19 May 2011

Mrs Ann Fitzpatrick  
Patients Services Manager  
Leopardstown Park Hospital.

Dear Ann.

I happened to catch the piece on the 6.1 News on Tuesday and the marvellous pictures from the hospital. I was struck by the great dignity and the tremendous positive attitude those interviewed had towards the Royal visit. It was wonderful and very uplifting.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh visited Government Buildings yesterday, a building to which her Grandfather and her Great Grandfather have historical connections. The flowers decorated the building yesterday and were remarked on by many people. I thought the patients might enjoy them.

Please pass on my very best wishes to all at the Hospital, to the patients and to all your colleagues who provide such fantastic care.

With my very best wishes.

Enda Kenny T.D.  
Taoiseach.

Our gratitude and appreciation go to:

Jacinta Slattery: Ger Lee, Patient Services: Pam May, Welcare Centre: Stan Conroy for technical assistance: Ann and Ger, Ward Administration for their help with photography.



## Royal British Legion Dun-Laoghaire & Irish Metropolitan Branch



Are Holding a Garden Party  
on  
Saturday 27th August 2011  
from 3pm to 5.30pm  
To Celebrate the 90th Anniversary  
of **The Royal British Legion**  
**1921 - 2011**  
at  
Leopardstown Park  
Hospital  
(by kind permission)  
Wines & Savouries  
Donation €10  
Free Car Parking  
Medals may be worn  
**PLEASE BRING  
A FRIEND**  
Proceeds in aid of Irish  
Poppy Appeal





# LEOPARDSTOWN PARK HOSPITAL GARDEN FETE

**Sunday  
11th September 2011  
1pm to 5pm**

Events will include Bric-a-brac, Bouncy Castles, Thomas the Tank Engine, Book stall, Bottle stall, Cake stall, Clothes stall, Nearly new stall, Wheel of Fortune, Bathroom Stall, Plants, Barbecue, Refreshments, etc. etc. and

**A SUPER  
BUMPER RAFFLE**

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT  
BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS  
ALONG FOR A FUN AFTERNOON**

**Ample Car Parking  
or come by Luas (to Central Park Station)**

**Admission €2**